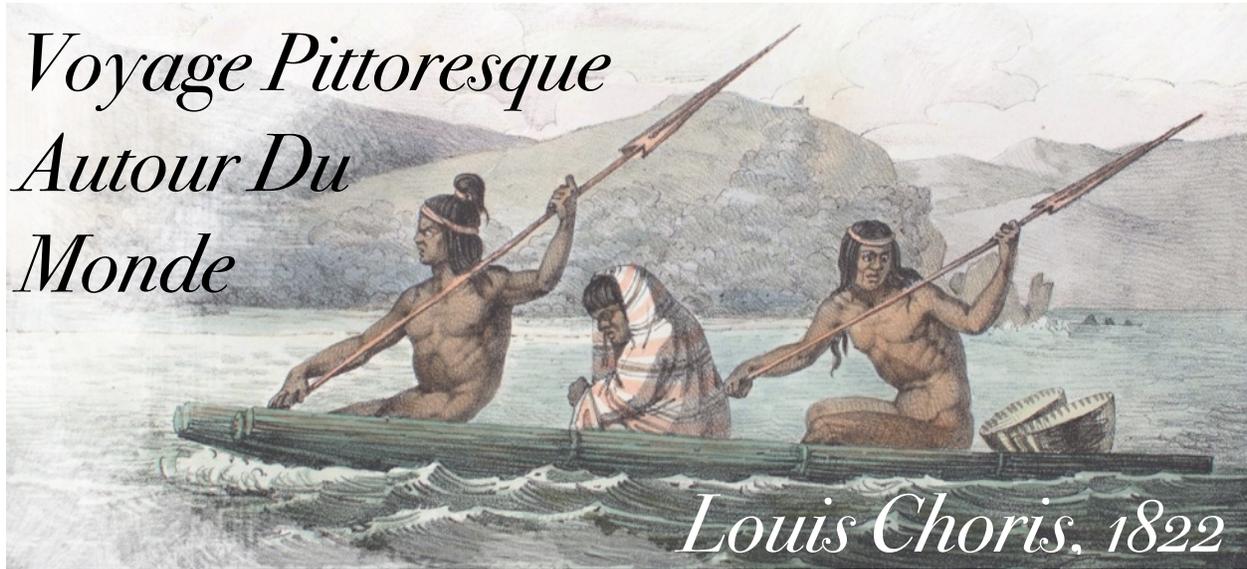


*Voyage Pittoresque
Autour Du
Monde*



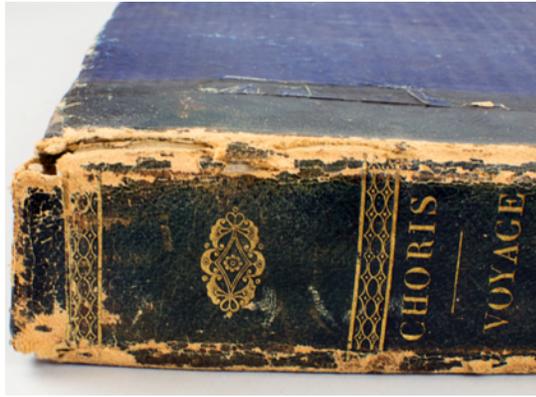
Louis Choris was appointed the official painter on a three-year scientific expedition led by Russian explorer Otto von Kotzebue in 1815. Choris was among the first trained artists to depict what would later become the west coast of the United States. This work, published in 1822 represents an important collaboration among his French contemporaries. The volume is primarily composed of a number of highly detailed lithographs based on Choris's original watercolor paintings along with text written by J.B. Eyries. The work was expertly executed in France by important printer of the day, Firmin Didot.

The publisher's rolls suggest a possible 188 copies and the Kings of France and Prussia were listed as subscribers. Extant copies are held at about 36 other institutions, the nearest at the Oregon Historical

Society in Portland, Oregon.

Voyage Pittoresque was originally issued in 22 separate parts and consisted of 105 plates that depicted the places, people and animals from the expedition. Subscribers would then have the parts bound into a complete volume that reflected the individual collector's taste and fashion. Representing much of the Pacific Rim including Alaska, California, and Hawaii, this volume is a beautiful and fundamental view of the early 19th century on the West Coast. Issued in uncolored, partly colored, and fully colored editions, the University of Washington's copy is highly prized for the full color plates found throughout.





Conservation

The physical condition of the UW copy presented a number of conservation challenges. The covers were detached from the textblock, board corners were broken or lost, and board edges were heavily damaged. The textblock, including the complete set of gorgeous lithographs, was still in good condition but at risk for future damage without the full protection of the covers.

Since the binding was unique and contemporary to the volume, we felt it was important to retain as much of it as possible. The textblock and cover were treated separately; the text block was cleaned and flattened and the case was rebuilt and consolidated. They were then joined together in a durable yet sympathetic fashion. The book is now able to be handled without incurring damage to the textblock and plates.



Sources:

Lada-Motarski, Valerian. *Bibliography of Books on Alaska Published before 1868*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1969. Print.

Forbes, David W. *Hawaiian National Bibliography, 1780-1900*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, 1998. Print.