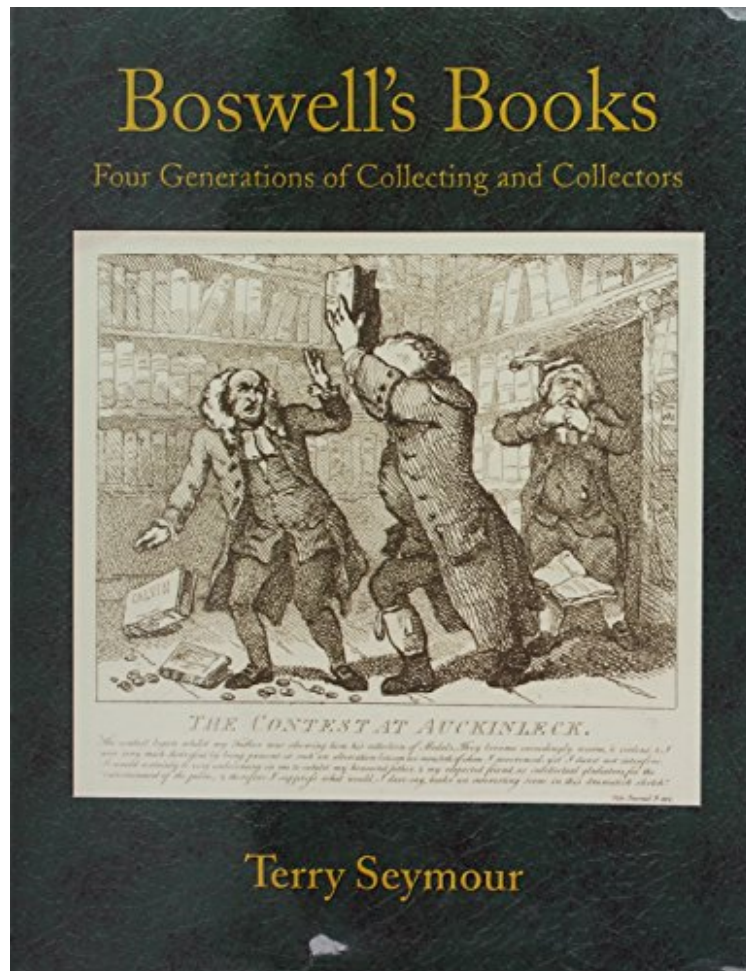


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## Boswell's Books: Four Generations of Collecting and Collectors

*Terry I. Seymour*

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**Terry I. Seymour : Boswell's Books: Four Generations of Collecting and Collectors** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Boswell's Books: Four Generations of Collecting and Collectors:

Since the day in 1791 when *The Life of Johnson* was published, James Boswell has ranked among our greatest authors. With the discovery of Boswell's journals and other papers in the twentieth-century, and their subsequent publication by Yale, armies of scholars have dissected his life, methods and manners. Yet until now, no one has attempted to document the books in his personal library. Terry Seymour has combed Boswell family inventories, the four Boswell auction sales, evidence from the Boswell papers, and two centuries of auction records and dealer catalogues to provide a remarkably complete reconstruction. The more than 4,500 entries, each one representing a title,

document not only James Boswells library, but also that of his father, grandfather and two sons. The books of these four generations were inherited and shared within the family to such an extent that the Auchinleck library must be studied in its entirety. The Preface is by James J. Caudle, Associate Editor of the Boswell Editions at Yale. The extensive introduction narrates the history and migration of the Boswell library from the 14th century until the present day. Using forensic methods to study the flow of books held in Edinburgh and London, Seymour breaks new ground that uncovers what happened to these books after Boswells death. Many of the entries are article-length, describing all known provenance of each book, including stories of stolen and missing books. The entries also contain a complete transcription of Boswells own handlist of books, the inventory of Auchinleck books prepared by his wife, and the rare Greek and Latin Classics catalogue printed by his son. Boswells Books is illustrated with many Boswell ownership inscriptions, all the known bookstamps used by the Boswell family, a family portrait never before published, and bookplates of prominent Boswell collectors and members of his circle.