

1721 - 1750s

Publication and Original Owner

Published by William Bowyer in 1721, the book was sold by subscription to an unknown buyer. William Bowyer was a famous early english printer, known as “the learned printer” due to his extensive education as well as his vast and opulent library. Bowyer was the official publisher of the Royal Society, as well as parts of the House of Lords and the House of Commons.

~1790 - 1823

Sir Mark Masterman-Sykes

Around 1790, the book entered the famed Sledmere estate in Northeastern England. The Baronet of the estate at the time, Sir Mark Masterman-Sykes, was a famous collector of many things, and after his death his library alone sold for the modern equivalent of around 1.2 million dollars.

1864 - 1950s

Unknown

Unlike previous owners, Charles Par Burney was not a famed bibliophile whose collection warranted an extravagant auction. After his death in 1864, there are no clear records of where the book went, other than the assumption it was passed with his estate to his heirs. This century of the book's history is nearly unknowable, fallen into the cracks of history.

~1980s - 2025

Harpur College Library

The acquisition records for this book are incomplete, but at some point around the 1980s it made its way to the general stacks of the Binghamton Library, at the time still referred to as the Harpur College Library and the Library of the State University of New York at Binghamton. Not too long afterwards it was transferred to its current location, the Binghamton Library Special Collections.

1750s - 1789

Chrétien-François [II] de Lamoignon

By the 1750s, the book was in the Bibliotheca Lamoniiana, the house library of the Lamoignon family in Central France. The head of the house at the time, Chrétien-François [II] de Lamoignon, was a vocal supporter of the monarchy and was found dead in his estate a week after the Estates General of 1789, which signaled the start of the French Revolution.

1823 - 1864

Charles Par Burney

In 1823, the book was sold at auction to a “Dr. Burney,” most likely Charles Par Burney. At the time, Burney was in the service of the Church of England. He would eventually become the Archdeacon of Colchester, where he helped to establish the Essex Archaeological Society.

1950s - ~1980s

William Salloch

The book eventually ends up amongst the sale shelves of William Salloch, a Prussian-American rare bookseller who was forced to flee from pre-WWII Prussia due to increasingly anti-semitic pressures against his Jewish wife. In 1943, he was drafted and served in the US Army Medical Corps until the end of the war. He and his wife continued to run and expand their bookselling business until Salloch's death in 1990.

Keeping and maintaining a proper **record** of events and objects, no matter how **insignificant**, allows **scholars** of both the **present** and **future** to draw and explore **otherwise unidentifiable** connections.

The Batrachomyomachia: a short lived battle with a long lasting legacy

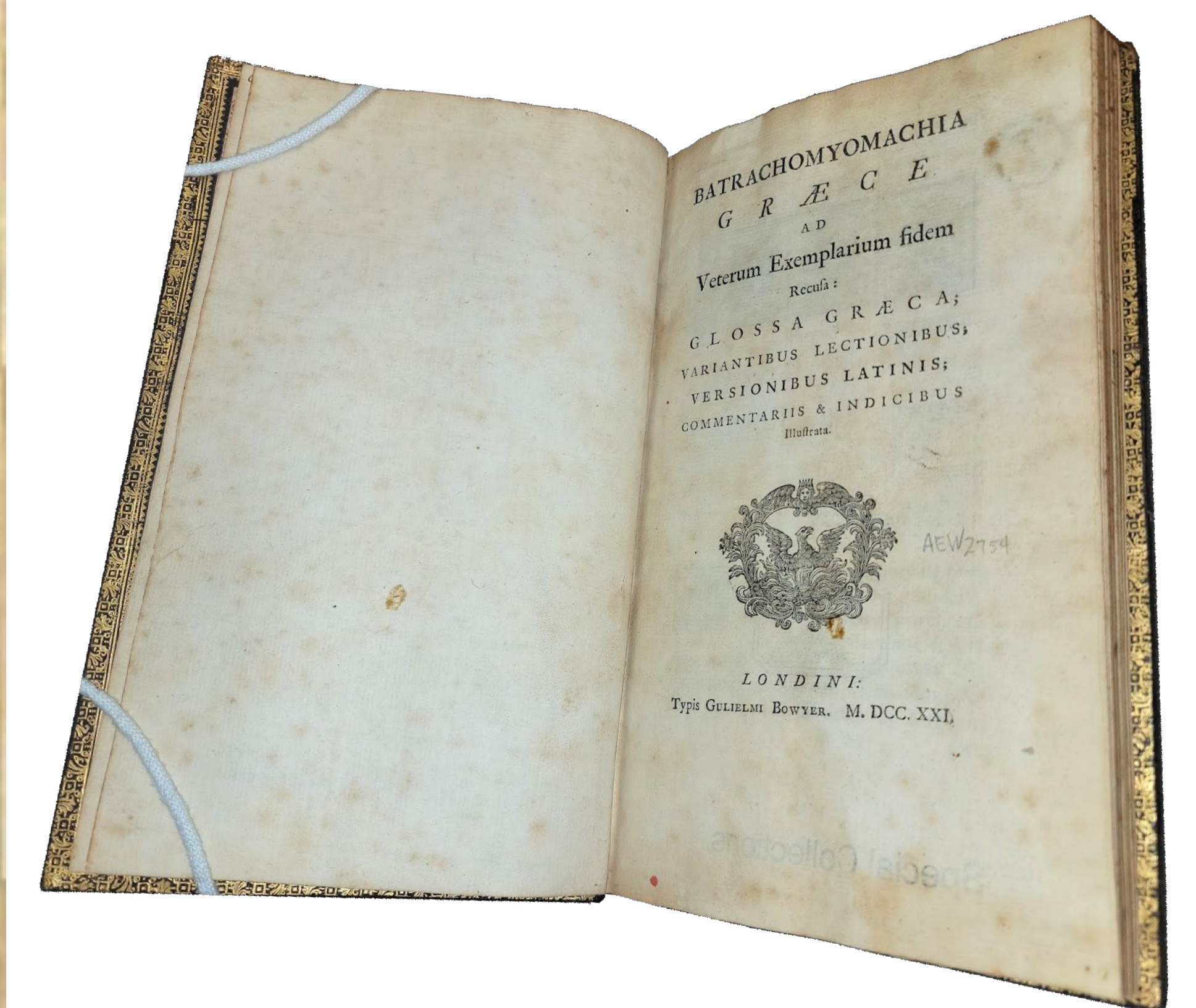
PRESENTER:

Dexter Navage



About this book:

- **Batrachomyomachia**
 - Is an ancient Greek parody of the Iliad
 - Translates to “Battle of the Frogs and Mice”
 - Describes the one day war between the kingdoms of frogs and mice, ended by Zeus’ intervention
 - Attributed to Homer, but most probably actually written by Pigres of Halicarnassus
 - Is used in modern contexts to mean “a trivial altercation,” for example, in a 20th century german debate over the specific grammar of a mathematical axiom
- **This publication**
 - Is a collection of various forms and translations of the poem
 - Includes commentary on specific verses, comparing them between versions
- **This copy**
 - Currently resides in the Binghamton Library Special Collections, a section of the Binghamton Library dedicated to the preservation and study of old and rare books.
 - Went through a long and exciting journey to reach Binghamton, with a wide array of unique owners.



Learn how this book connects:

- Isaac Newton’s Laws of Motion
- The French Revolution
- The Creation of the Palestinian State
- James Cook’s Discovery of Hawaii
- WW2 and The Holocaust
- Binghamton University

Scan to view the full paper

