

In a note that appears on page 24, for instance, Jefferson bracketed off a section of books, writing “to be inserted between the history of Italy, Spain, Portugal, and France, and that of the northern nations of Europe.” While a number of the titles in the bracketed section were excised (evidently rubbed out prior to Jefferson’s annotation), Trist executed this marginal instruction in making up his copy: the bracketed books appear between the histories of southern and northern Europe, as specified. In a similar note on page 29A of the 1783 catalog, Jefferson wrote that books on southern European subjects were to be arranged in the following order, “General works, Italy, Rome, Florence, Naples, Venice, Spain, Portugal, France.”³¹ Tellingly, Trist used this idiosyncratic geographical and national order throughout the 1823 catalog when applicable, with books on Italian subjects preceding titles on Spanish, Portuguese, and French subjects. A related note on page 31 of the 1783 catalog specifies the arrangement of books on Northern European and non-European cultures. This arrangement proceeds from “general works,” to works on Lapland, Russia, Poland, Hungary, Sweden, Denmark, Prussia, Germany, Flanders, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Geneva, Turkey, Asia, and finally Africa. This typical, if sometimes variable, progression from south to north, from west to east, from general to particular, and from ancient to modern in Jefferson’s historical chapters recurs in his literary and linguistic chapters and was often adopted by Trist seemingly by default. With basic verbal or written instructions from Jefferson, Trist would have been able to construct this geographical arrangement unaided. No marked copy text would have been required to produce Trist’s 1823 entries that relate to these cultures, languages, or regions.

Unsurprisingly, there are many exceptions to the patterns and textual parallels we describe here. Most entries in the 1783 catalog lack Jefferson’s clarifying ordinal numbers or marginal comments, for instance. In these cases, Trist could have departed from the verso-recto ordering of the 1783 catalog and instead employed the order provided by Jefferson’s shelving numbers as they appear in the 1815 printed catalog.³² As Gilreath and Wilson note, “the initial number assigned to each entry [in the 1815 catalog] refers not to its catalog order but to its shelf position” on Jefferson’s shelves.³³ Jefferson arranged books at Monticello by size, and each chapter of the 1815 printed catalog numbers entries accordingly by bibliographic format.³⁴ In a way, then, an unannotated copy of the 1815 printed catalog was already “annotated” with helpful ordinal guides. Trist could rely on

31. 1783 Catalog of Books, page 29A.

32. Watterston’s catalog records the shelf marks that Jefferson’s books bore upon arrival at the Library of Congress. Judging by Jefferson’s 7 May 1815 letter to Watterston, the 1812 catalog also included shelving numbers: “on every book is a label, indicating the chapter of the catalogue to which it belongs, and the order it holds among those of the same format. so that, altho’ the N^{os} seem confused on the catalogue, they are consecutive on the volumes as they stand on their shelves,” “Thomas Jefferson to George Watterston, 7 May 1815,” *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Jefferson/03-08-02-0376>.

33. Gilreath and Wilson, *Thomas Jefferson’s Library*, 7.

34. These shelving numbers, which precede each entry in the 1815 printed catalog and are copied out by Trist in Trist’s 1823 manuscript, were devised and affixed to Jefferson’s books during the production of the 1812 fair copy. The 1783 catalog only loosely reflects the order of Jefferson’s shelves and none of the 1783 entries include shelf marks or numbers.