



Title 73

I always liked **Mary Curie's doctoral thesis**, one of the rarer items in my collection of scientific publications. Although it was only the second edition, also published in 1904 like the first, it must have been popular at the time, as it was the first printed document about the newly discovered "Radioactive substances".
photograph from the Author's collection.

Collecting old scientific books is really quite easy in London, one must know the scientific temper. Then one must spend as much time as one can afford in book shops, likely to have desirable books at a reasonable price. Continue for a decade, and a collection of beautiful leather bound books will cover one wall in your home. See my article on this, *New Scientist*, 24 Dec. 1970.

There were many other subjects apart from the Moon, of which I tried to find early scientific books. Here, I shall give a list of some subjects and one special book in each:

ARCTIC AND ANTARCTIC		
J. Franklin	<i>The Polar Sea</i> 1823	+ 123 other early books
ASTRONAUTICS		
H. J. Oberth	<i>Wege zur Raumschiffahrt</i> 1929	+ 200 books
ASTRONOMY		
Apianus	<i>Quadrans</i> 1532	+ 108 early books
AVIATION		
S. P. Langley	<i>Memoir on mechanical flight</i> , 1911	+ 66 books
GEOGRAPHY		
Anderson	<i>Cook's Voyages</i> 1781	+ 18 other early books
INSTRUMENTS, SCIENTIFIC		
Bion	<i>Traité des instruments</i> 1725	+ 60 other early books
OCEANOGRAPHY		
M.F. Maury	<i>Physical Geography of the Sea</i> 1855	+ 60 books
PHYSICS, EARLY		
I. Newton	<i>System of the World</i> 1728	+ 141 other early books
RADIOACTIVITY		
Marie S. Curie	<i>Thèse</i> 1904	+ 54 other early books
SUN AND PLANETS		
P. Lowell	<i>Mars and its Canals</i> 1906	+ 49 other early books

It was quite a good collection, and was later acquired by the Hochschule Holzen.

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