

Dagmar A. Riedel – 30 September 2020

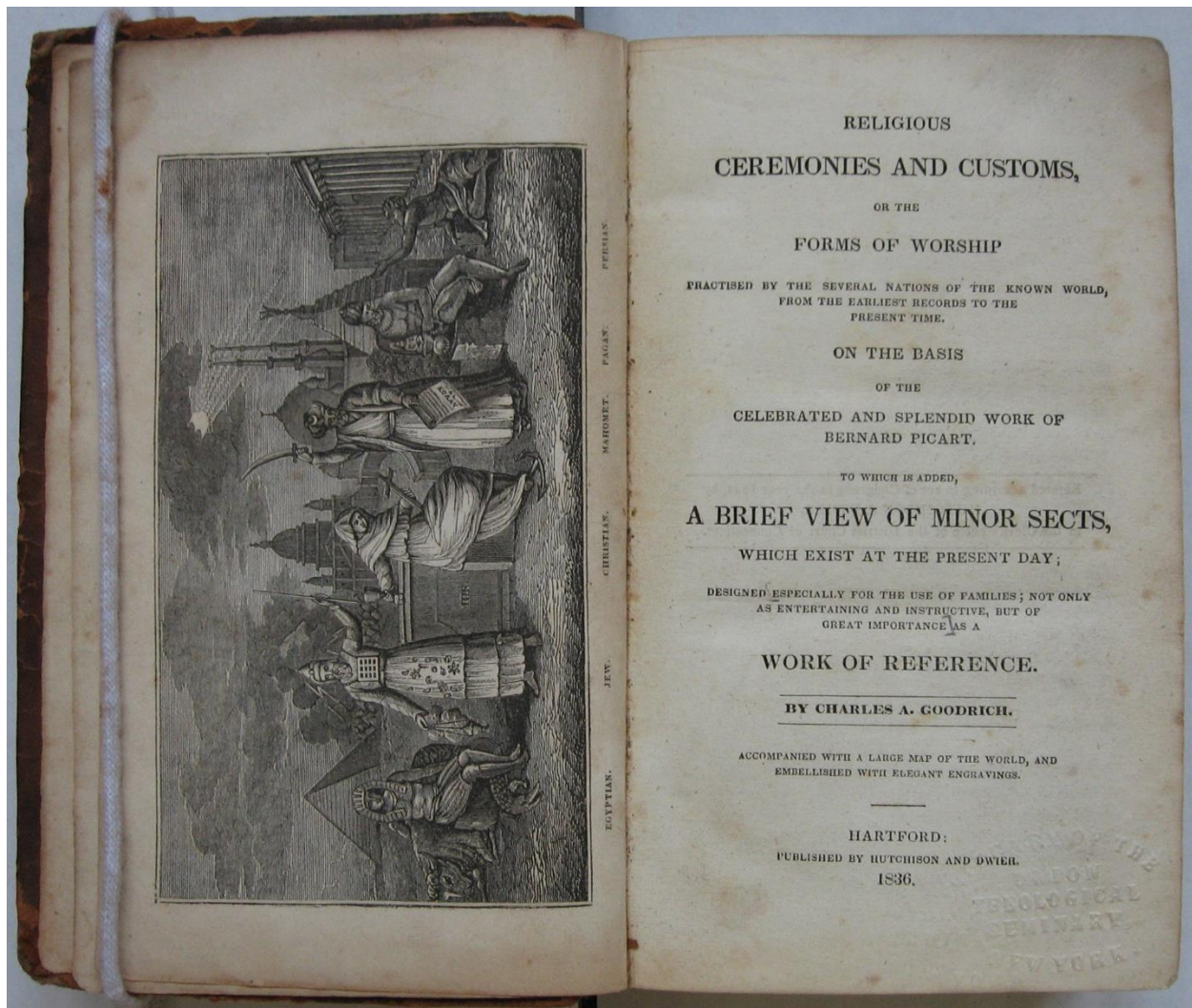
Image used for conference websites and poster



The detail is taken from the frontispiece of *Religious Ceremonies and Customs or the Forms of Worship Practised by the Several Nations of the Known World: From the Earliest Record to the Present Times*, ed. Charles A. Goodrich, Hartford, Conn.: Hutchinson and Dwier, 1836 (Columbia University, Burke Library, Union Rare OD30 G65; h = 20 cm). This is an American abridgement of the *Cérémonies et coutumes religieuses de tous les peuples du monde* (illustrations by Bernard Picart, 8 vols. in 9, Amsterdam: J. F. Bernard, 1723-1743), which, according to its preface, draws on the British abridgement *The Religious Rites and Ceremonies of Every Nation of the World* (eds. Robert Huish and Colin MacKenzie, London: John Williams, 1828 [1829?] – *nondum vide*).

Charles A. Goodrich (1790-1862) was born into a New England family of Congregational ministers. After a tumultuous stint as clergyman in Worcester, Mass., Goodrich changed careers in 1820 and took to the writing of popular books on religion and travel (for more information on Goodrich and his family, see their respective entries in the *American National Biography*).

The people in the frontispiece are identified by captions outside the frame, from left to right, as Egyptian, Jew, Christian, Mahomet, Pagan, and Persian. In this line-up of believers, the Muslim is the only one shown with a weapon and a book; his book bears the legible title *Alkoran*, a loan word documented in English since the late fourteenth century (*Oxford English Dictionary*, s.v. "Alcoran"). The source of the frontispiece is not yet known, but it is salient that in the 1930s Adolph Weinman (1870-1952) portrayed the prophet Muḥammad in the same manner in the North Wall frieze in the courtroom of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.



The information is also available in

Dagmar Riedel, "Masthead, Banners & Gravatar," in *Islamic Books: A Research Blog about Manuscripts, Printed Books, and Ephemera in Arabic Script*, <https://researchblogs.cul.columbia.edu/islamicbooks/masthead/>, accessed 30 September 2020