

**Emily Bedwell**  
**September 16, 2018**  
**Apex 2.2. Trace Editions**

For this assignment, I chose Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. It is the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the book, so it is everywhere right now. I thought it would be interesting to compare an older edition of the book with a new edition to see what has changed. For the older edition, I chose the 1869 edition printed by Sever, Francis & Co. (Boston and Cambridge). For the newer edition, I chose the 2003 Barnes & Noble Classics Edition (paper copy I had at home).

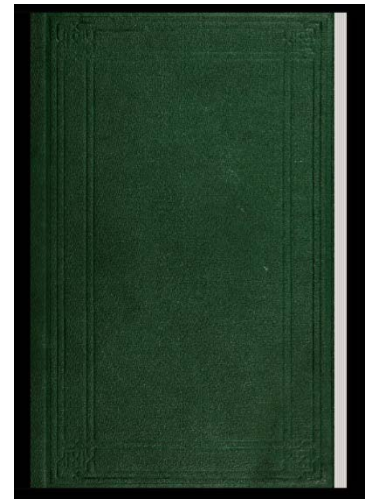
#### **1869 Edition:**

Note: archive.org was used for this project.

The 1869 edition, pictured here, has no graphics on the cover, but instead is a lovely dark green color.

#### **Physical Properties:**

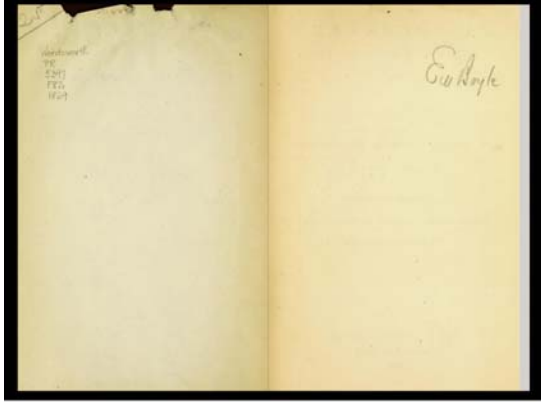
- Is a part of the Cornell University Library Wordsworth Collection (Funded by Cynthia Morgan St. John) and was a gift by Victor Emanuel from the Class of 1919.
- Some wear and tear on the inner covers
- Proof that it was once owned by an "E Boyle" in the inside cover
- Front matter is well laid out, including title, author, a quote, publisher, locations, and year.



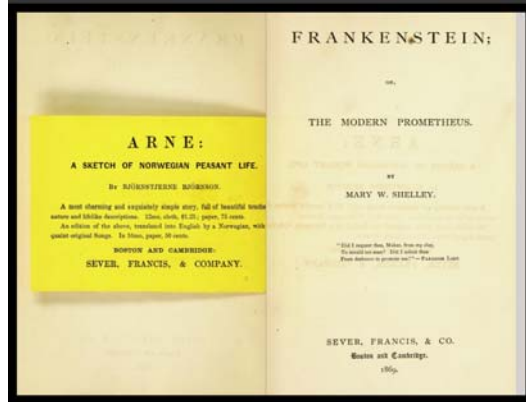
Production Elements and Technical Notes: Unknown due to viewing the book online.

#### **Contents:**

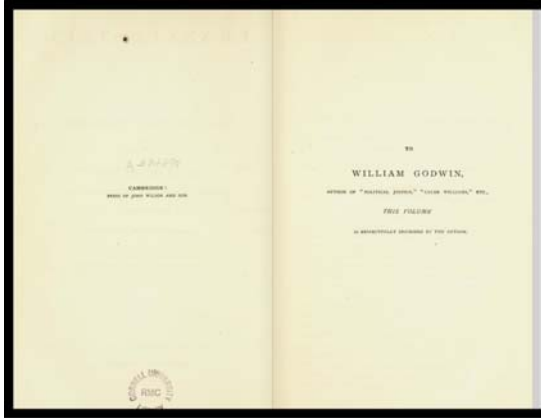
- Preface, written by P.B Shelley
- Preface to the Last London Edition, also seems to be written by Mary Shelley, and talks a little more about how *Frankenstein* came to be and why Shelley wrote the story.
- Letters: The story begins with four letters from Robert Walton to Mrs. Saville
- Contents: the story runs for just under 200 pages, with no images or pictures to break up the text. Chapters end and begin on the same page.
- End: After the story, there are ads for a Children's Poetry book and a Jest Book



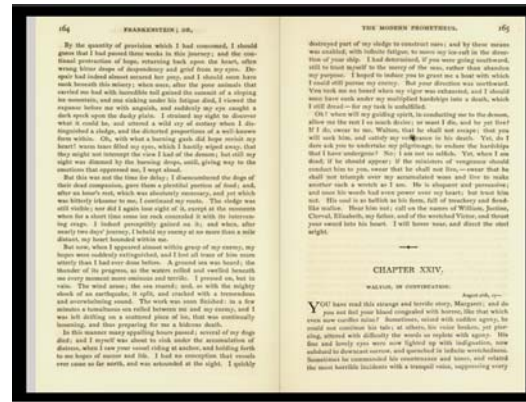
Above: proof of ownership of this edition



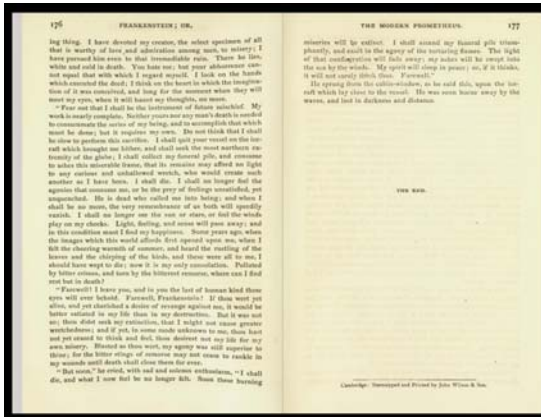
above: Front Matter



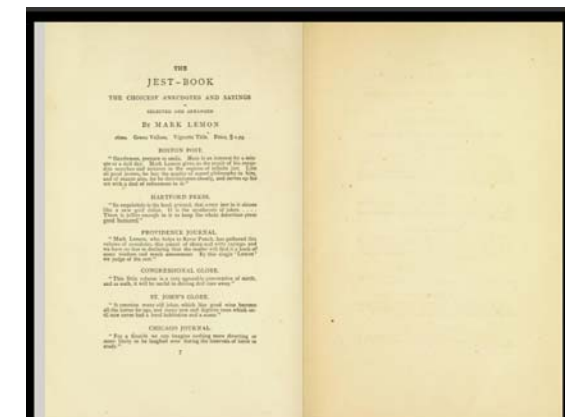
Above: Dedication



Above: Sample of Chapter Flow



Above: End of Book



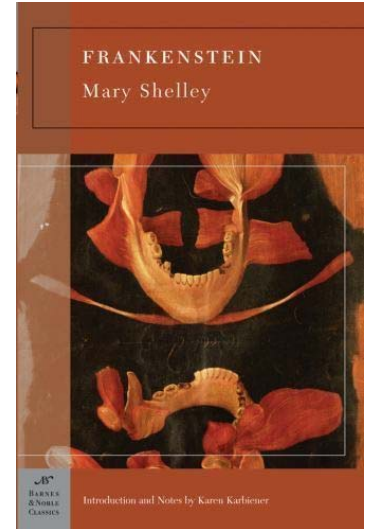
Above: Last page of Book

## 2003 Barnes & Noble Edition:

The 2003 edition, pictured here, has heavy cardstock cover with an exposed jawbone and pieces of muscle/organs. It is also designed to look like a library book/hardback with colored “taped” edging and even a place where a Dewey Number could appear.

### Physical Properties:

- Part of my personal library collection
- Information and Identification: Printed by Barnes & Noble Classics in 2003 in New York, NY. By Mary Shelley, based on her edition in 1831, not the anonymous version printed in 1818. (2003 1)
- Contains an updated introduction, biographical information, study questions, etc. by Karen Karbiener
- Published in conjunction with Fine Creative Media, Inc, in NYC.

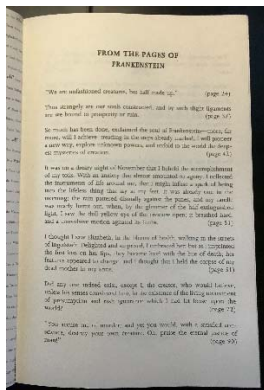


### Production Elements and Technical Notes:

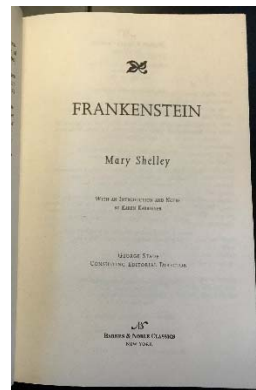
- Paperback edition, 8 individual sections bound together with glue.
- Approximately 4x8 inches.
- No images/plates
- Paper feels like “normal” book paper

### Contents:

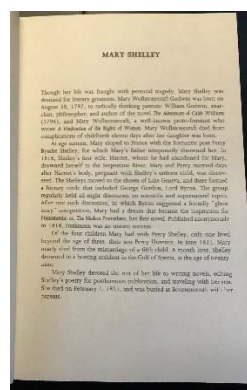
- Book opens with quotes from the book even before the traditional front matter
- Biography of Shelley, no know author
- Table of Contents



Quotes



Front Matter



About Shelley

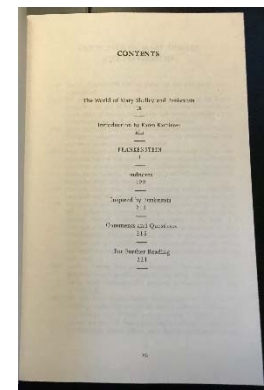
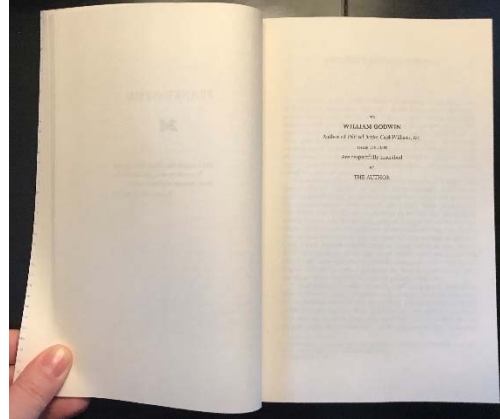
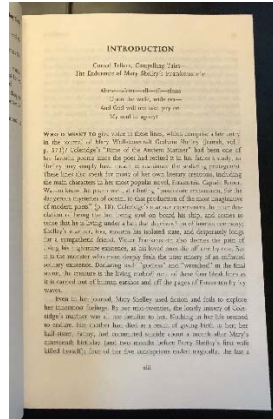
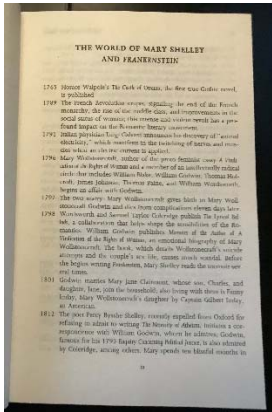


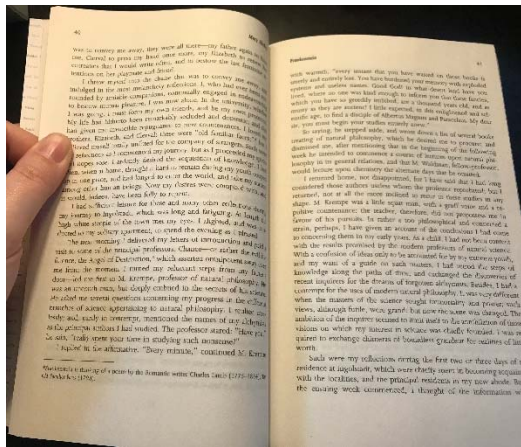
Table of Contents

- Timeline: The World of Mary Shelley and Frankenstein
- Introduction about the book and author by Karen Karibiener
- Start of book Title page with quote from Paradise Lost
- Dedication to William Godwin by Shelley

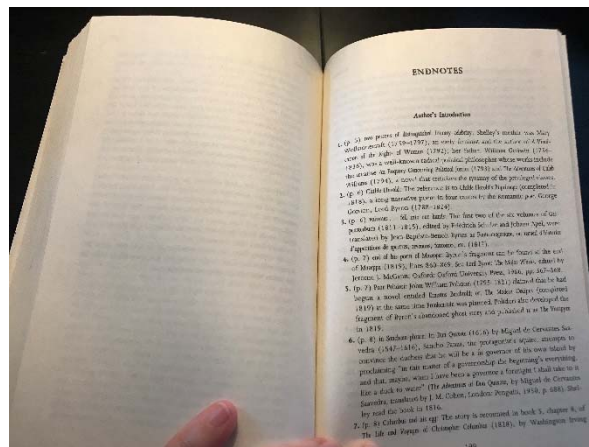


*Timeline Introduction (New) Dedication Page*

- Introduction, written by Shelley for a 1831 edition (per footnote)
- Preface written by P.B. Shelley in 1818, is identical to the 1869 book.
- Letters: The story begins with four letters from Robert Walton to Mrs. Saville
- Contents: the story runs for just under 200 pages, with no images or pictures to break up the text. Chapters always begin on a new page. Footnotes are included where the editor/publisher deemed them necessary
- Endnotes help explain the Footnotes and information that may not be relevant to a modern reader

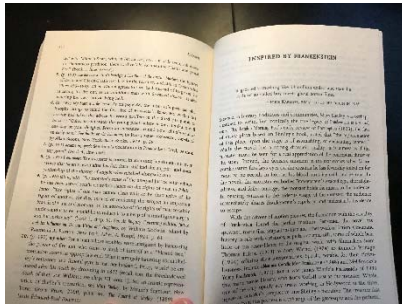


Example of footnote in the text

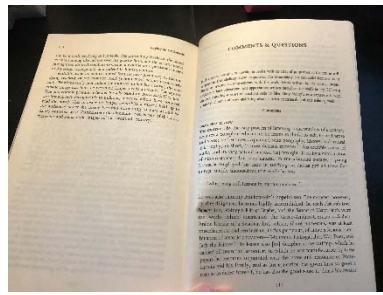


Endnotes at the end of the book

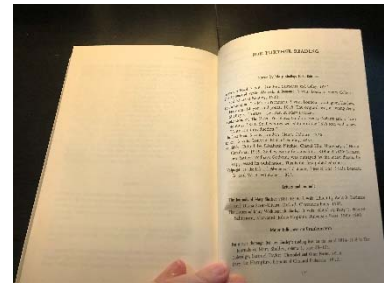
- Inspired by Frankenstein section talks about the lasting legacy of the story and other works readers might appreciate
- Comments and Questions section deals with divergent opinions/perspectives on the text. Also includes a dozen study questions
- Final section is for further reading, and deals with books and works similar to Frankenstein, as well as letters and journals from Shelley herself
- Last page is an ad for other Barnes & Noble Classic editions



*Inspired by...*



*Comments & Questions*



*Further Reading*

## Detailed Analysis

The two editions of the book are bound differently, are printed on different paper and with different covers.

The older book appears to be hardbound, while the newer edition is a paperback. While I cannot tell the differences in the paper viewing them online, the older book is almost identical in paper color to my 15-year-old edition, which makes me believe that the older one was printed/created with a higher quality paper than my mass market version from 2003.

The 1869 edition is beautiful on the outside, but contains no special information inside. I looked through several editions of Frankenstein, and they all contained the same introduction, preface, letters, and content.

The 2003 edition was made with the scholar in mind, on the other hand. This version of the book reminds me of a book you would have assigned in school or other required reading. In addition to the standard texts, this book contains more information about the world and life of the author. The timeline shows what exactly was happening while Shelley was writing Frankenstein, as well as its reception in the world, and her life. The additional readings, footnotes, and comments provide more context for the story, as well.

I believe the first edition I looked at was written and produced purely for the book-reader. It was the story, a captivating story, but nothing more. It was probably printed just to make the text available, especially after it was released as written by Mary Shelley and not anonymously. This was a book that was meant to be a part of a beautiful library collection and a piece to be kept.

The 2003 edition was written with not just the casual reader in mind. This edition was designed for people who not only want to know the story of Frankenstein, but also the cultural, social and political

context for when the book was taking place. While both books appear to be published in the US, the 2003 edition was published by an imprint that specializes in, according to the back of the book “new scholarship with commentaries, viewpoints, chronologies, notes, and discussion questions.” The 2003 edition isn’t just for readers, but for readers who want to know more.