

The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

NONESUCH PUBLICATIONS.

THE Nonesuch Press of London has just issued a list of its forthcoming publications for Christmas, 1925, and for the Spring of 1926, together with a handlist of the books hitherto published by the press. The Nonesuch Press maintains its policy of limiting not merely the number of any one book, but also the total number of its publications. Nonesuch limited editions amount to no more than six for the year.

The publications this winter include "Histories or Tales of Past Times told by Mother Goose, with Morals," written in French by M. Perault, Englished by G. M. Gent, and newly edited by J. Saxon Childers, an octavo, limited to 1,250 copies; Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" with illustrations by E. McKnight Kauffer, 2 vols., royal octavo, limited to 750 copies; the "Collected Works of John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester," crown quarto, limited to 750 copies; "The Tale of Mr. Tootleoo," by Bernard Darwin and Elinor Darwin, crown quarto, the fourth unlim-ited edition published by the press.

The publications for the spring of 1926 include the "English Poems" of John Milton, with 53 illustrations by William Blake in colotype, many reproduced for the first time, 2 vols., royal octavo, limited to 1275 copies; "Ulick and Soracha," a new novel by George Moore, royal 12mo, limited to 1250 copies; the "Works" of Thomas Otway, edited by the Rev. Montague Summers, 3 vols., crown quarto, limited to 875 sets; and "The Mistress and Other Poems," by Abraham Cowley, royal octavo, limited to 900 copies.

The Nonesuch Press emphasizes the fact that it sells its editions down to the last copy at the published price. The demand for its books grows with every new publication, and the removal of any uncertainty as to their sale enables the press to give an increasing value, whatever the price of the book.

AMERICAN BOOK COLLECTORS.

R. R. BOWKER & CO. has just published a new edition of "Private Book Collectors in the United States and Canada," with mention of their hobbies, compiled by John Allan Holden, with an introduction on "Modern Tendencies in Book Collecting," by George H. Sargent.

It is three years since this invaluable list for the rare book trade was last revised. In this period the percentage of changes is probably greater than in any other classified list. Collectors as a rule average well above the middle years and deaths are consequently more frequent. Again, collectors will stop buying when their hobbies are satisfied or when circumstances dull the spirit of book-buying. Since the last edition, issued in 1922, fully 150 former collectors have died; the names of 400 no longer interested in book-buying have been dropped at their personal request, and changes of address number about 150. These figures emphasize the large percentage of alterations in a list that numbers but 2,000 names. To replace the eliminations, 580 names of new collectors have been added. This volume is a royal octavo, 275 pages, bound in blue boards and with cloth back. The 2,000 collectors' names and addresses are first arranged geographically, then alphabetically, and finally by hobbies. The edition is limited to 300 copies. It is interesting to know that this important trade publication has reached a point where the edition is soon exhausted after publication day. It shows an appreciation that is well deserved.

FORTHCOMING SALES.

ON DECEMBER 7 the library of the late Clarence E. Williams of Short Hills, N. J., selections from the library of Mrs. Isaac Guggenheim of Port Washington, Long Island, together with other consignments, will be sold at the Anderson Galleries. This sale includes library sets of standard authors, first editions, presentation and association copies, early English literature, manuscripts, colored drawings, and colored plate books.

On December 8 a very important sale will be held at Anderson's which includes a New York collection of first editions and autograph letters and relics of Lord Byron; first editions and original manuscripts of Charles Dickens from the collection of Newbury Frost Read of this city; original drawings for Dickens with inscriptions in his writing, first editions of Tennyson, and other choice books, the property of an English baronet; a New York collection of Shakespeare quartos and source books; books in beautiful bindings, the

property of a famous New York collector; and early printed books from the bankrupt estate of John J. Phelan. This is a collector's sale and there is scarcely an item that is not of special interest.

On December 12 and 13 a long list of important consignments will be sold at Sotheby's in London. The rare items include the only known copy of Samuel Rowlands's "Theater of Delightful Recreation," 1605; a collection of the works of W. H. Hudson, the author's own copies; a collection of drawings by Randolph Caldecott; a Fourth Folio of Shakespeare, 1685; fine French and English bindings; autograph letters of Charles Kingsley; together with fine letters of Carlyle, Thackeray, Tennyson, and manuscripts of Thomas Hardy and Torquato Tasso, the Italian poet. In a carefully selected group of nuggets like those in this sale a paragraph can give little idea of the wealth of material comprised in it.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

A FIRST edition of Housman's "A Shropshire Lad," was recently sold to a collector in this city for \$400, which is we believe the high record price for this book.

The first edition of the authorized narrative of the "First World Flight" has already been sold out in advance of publication and the publishers, Houghton Mifflin Company, are ordering a new printing.

A. Edward Newton, famous as an author and bibliophile, whose latest volume is "The Greatest Book in the World and Other Papers," has been elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Library Club for 1925-1926.

"The First Napoleon: Some Unpublished Documents from the Bowood Papers," by the Earl of Kerry, provides some curious sidelights on the Napoleonic period that have never been published before. Moreover many of the papers contained in this interesting volume, recently published by Houghton Mifflin Company, were written by persons who happened to come in contact with the great emperor and were eye-witnesses of the events related.

Robert Underwood Johnson, of the editorial staff of *The Century Magazine*, 1873-1913, and ambassador to Italy, 1920-1921, opened the exhibition of Joseph

Pennell's autobiography, "The Adventures of an Illustrator," in which will be shown the various processes of manufacture, at the Anderson Galleries, on December 4. The exhibition following this private view will be open to the public until December 20.

The current catalogue of James F. Drake, the rare book dealer, is an unusually interesting and attractive one. Among the rarer items is an association copy of the first edition of Fitzgerald's translation of "The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam," listed at \$2,500. This copy was given by Fitzgerald to his housekeeper, Mrs. Howe, who has written her name, "Bessie Howe," in purple ink on the front cover. Laid in is a two page letter, with initials written by Fitzgerald to his housekeeper. Fitzgerald himself has corrected the word "Lightening" in Stanza XIV to "Lighting." This association copy is probably one of the finest of this issue in existence.

Two sets of signers of the Declaration of Independence will probably come into the auction room early next year. One of these will be the set of Dr. George C. F. Williams of Hartford, Conn., and the other of the late James H. Manning of Albany, N. Y.

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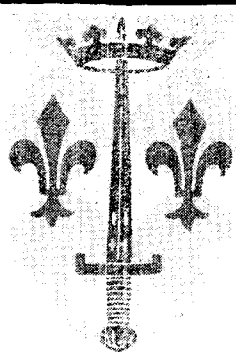
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