

# The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

## "THE BOOKMAN'S GLOSSARY"

**"THE BOOKMAN'S GLOSSARY,"** by John A. Holden, published by R. R. Bowker Company of this city, is a handbook that every printer, librarian and collector, who desires to be well informed or who needs this information, should own and keep easily accessible. It is an octavo, containing 127 pages, well printed and substantially bound and is intended for those interested in any branch of book production, distribution, collecting, or selling. It is a compendium of information, a glossary of bookish terms used in the several industries allied with book publishing: paper making, printing, binding, illustrating, and cataloging, much of which would be difficult to find elsewhere, and it brings a great deal of material into compact space that has heretofore been widely scattered through various works of reference. Mr. Holden's definitions are concise, clear, and comprehensive, and one will be surprised to see how thoroughly his book covers its field. A well-known cataloguer of this city in a letter says: "I keep the useful volume within hand's reach and find frequent use for it. I have read it from beginning to end and find it admirably comprehensive and well done. You should tell the young collectors and cataloguers about it for it will be invaluable to them." These are the words of a well informed bookman. In the course of a year scores of letters are sent to this department containing questions that this book is planned to answer. To this class of readers we would say by all means add "The Bookman's Glossary" to your shelf of books about books, for it will help you to a clearer and more accurate knowledge of bookish words and terms that will give you great satisfaction to understand. Mr. Holden has given us a reference that will be widely useful and many will be grateful to him for making it.

## MSS. OF SCOTT'S "ANTIQUARY"

**AMONG** the rarities to be sold at Sotheby's in London this month is the original manuscript of Sir Walter Scott's "The Antiquary," comprising 310 quarto pages, numbered by the author, together with several letters in regard to the manuscript, one by the author himself. This magnificent manuscript was sold at Evans's, together with twelve other manuscripts of Scott's works in August, 1831, and came into the possession of Captain Basil Hall, the friend who in the same year, when the author's health was failing, ob-

tained permission from the British Admiralty for him to take a voyage in one of the ships of the navy and accompanied him to Portsmouth to see him off. Captain Hall mentioned to Scott that he had become the possessor of the manuscript and the author remarked that he "preferred it to any other he had written" and if he could see the manuscript for a few minutes he would give his reasons why.

The manuscript was placed in Scott's hands and in a letter dated "27th October, 1839, Portsmouth," he goes into details as to the original of the Antiquary:

"Among the numerous creatures of my imagination, the author has had a particular partiality for 'The Antiquary.' It is one of the very few of my works of fiction that contains a portrait from life and it is the likeness of a friend of my infancy, boyhood, and youth—a fact detected at the time by the acuteness of Mr. James Chalmers, solicitor-at-law in London. This gentleman . . . when he read 'The Antiquary,' told my friend, William Erskine, that he was now perfectly satisfied that Walter Scott, of whom personally he knew nothing, was the author of these mysterious works of fiction; that the character of Jonathan Oldbuck, of Monkbarrow, was drawn from the late George Constable of Wallace Craigie of Dundee, who dined, when in Edinburgh, twice or thrice with my father every week & used to speak of my sayings and doings as a clever boy. . . . I owed him much for the kindness with which he treated me . . . he taught me to read and understand Shakespeare. . . . The sort of preference which I gave and still give this work is from its connection with the early scenes of my life."

The manuscript is closely written in Scott's customary regular and rapid hand, with small inner and no outer margins. Numerous additions, some of considerable length, appear on almost all of the blank pages opposite the main body of the text; erasures and interlinear and marginal corrections are as usual few. The condition is excellent throughout. The cataloguer says that "probably this is the finest existing manuscript by Sir Walter Scott, the manuscript of 'Waverley' being incomplete."

## "BOOK AUCTION RECORDS"

**"BOOK AUCTION RECORDS,"** established in 1902 by Frank Karslake and recently under the new management of Henry Stevens, Son & Stiles, London, will be published for the American

market by the office of the *Publishers' Weekly*, and the first bound volume under the new editorship will be ready for distribution this month. The index now completed covers 15,000 books of the auction year ending July, 1924. The new publishers plan to increase the speed of publication, so that the next yearly volume will be closer to the date of the completion of the season. In the meantime, many improvements of typography and arrangement have been worked out, so that the book is of much more value than heretofore. The reception given to the index of "Book Auction Records," for the first ten years, covering 200,000 entries, published a year ago, has encouraged the undertaking of a second decennial index which is being pushed forward rapidly by a large staff.

## FORTHCOMING LONDON SALE

**THE** last catalogue received from Sotheby's of London is that of a sale occurring July 27, consisting of selections from a number of consignments, comprising highly important manuscripts, books, bindings, and autograph letters. The manuscripts include an Italian Psalter of the fourteenth century, one of the finest of its kind known; an English "Concordance of the Bible" of the twelfth century; a twelfth century Seneca; a thirteenth century Bible; and leaves of fine miniatures and several from the Orient. Rare early English literature is represented by such items as George Chapman's "Phillis and Flora," 1598; Nicholas Breton's "An Olde Man's Lesson," 1605; Thomas Campion's "The Description of a Maske," 1607; Thomas Lodge's "An Alarum Against Usurers," 1584; and Captain John Smith's "The Sea-Man's Grammar," 1653. Among bindings by the masters is a fine large type Grolier example and two choice Maoli bindings. Rarities of a later period include tracts of Erasmus, a book annotated by Gabriel Harvey, the first issue of the first edition of Defoe's "Robinson Crusoe," first editions of Smollett, Fielding, Sterne, a fine copy of Kipling's "Schoolboy Lyrics of 1881," and many choice modern French bindings. Among the autograph letters are fine specimens of Washington, John Eliot, Carlyle, Thackeray, Stevenson, Lamb, and Napoleon.

## NOTE AND COMMENT

**COLLECTORS** are looking forward with interest for the index of "The American Book Prices Current" for the ten years of 1912-1922 promised early publication by E. P. Dutton & Co.

The announcement comes from J. B. Lippincott of a memorial edition of the "Life of Charles Dickens," by John Forster,

which will be sumptuously illustrated with 500 portraits, facsimiles and other illustrations collected by B. W. Matz, editor of *The Dickensian*. It will be handsomely bound in blue buckram, stamped in gold, and issued in two volumes in the Fall.

\* \* \*

After much comparing of notes, it appears that the oldest retail bookselling organization in New York is the Methodist Book Concern, which was formed in 1789 in Philadelphia and removed to this city in 1804 where it has remained. It began business in Gold Street. After several changes in location it became established at 200 Mulberry Street where a printing plant was added. In 1869 it moved to 805 Broadway and twenty years later into its own building at 150 Fifth Avenue. This unbroken record of 120 years of retail bookselling is one hard to beat in this country.

\* \* \*

The death of Col James H. Manning, editor of the Albany *Argus*, ends the career of a great autograph collector, the outstanding feature of whose collection is a magnificent set of the autographs of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. Some years ago he paid the then sensationally high price of \$4,600 for a Button Gwinnett signature, which completed his set. When interviewed, he said that he expected to live to see the Gwinnett signature double in value. He called attention to this prediction last winter when a Gwinnett signature brought \$14,000 in the same Philadelphia auction room in which he had made his purchase only a few years ago.

\* \* \*

American interest in the Gutenberg Museum at Mainz is shown in the practical efforts being made to put this international monument on a firm and enduring basis. The American fund of \$25,000, and more if it is needed, will be raised, and the first instalment of \$5,000 has already been forwarded. Edward E. Bartlett, who has awakened interest in this country in the museum, has been elected to the governing board of the Gutenberg Society. The American patrons include the Grolier Club, American Institute of Graphic Arts, the Printing Arts Club of Evansville, Indiana; New York Employing Printers' Association, Franklin Typothetae of Cincinnati, Rochester Typothetae, Southeastern Master Printers' Federation, and the Houston-Galveston Typothetae, Inc., and the work has only just begun. Contributions for the fund are steadily coming in from authors, printers and booklovers. Checks should be made payable to John A. Wilkins, Treasurer, 461 Eighth Avenue, New York.

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## The Phoenix Nest

THE view from the roof of *Harold Bell Wright's* house in the Arizona desert (which we have been permitted to share via photographic publicity) appeals to us as being quite a nice desert view. \* \* \* But, upon the whole, we should prefer at present to stare across a nice cool ocean. \* \* \* For two years Mr. Wright has been hard at work upon "A Son of His Father," which will appear in about a week. \* \* \* If we had been at work upon a book that long, seems to us we could have evolved a title with more originality. \* \* \* Still, it's logical. \* \* \* This is Mr. Wright's eleventh novel and it is advertised as "The Book that Sells by the Carload." \* \* \* Such is life. \* \* \* We will comfort ourselves with "Barber Shop Ballads," the only book we know in which phonograph records are slipped inside the front and back covers. This is a vol. of incomparable close harmony. *Sigmund Spaeth* has edited it, *Ellison Hoover* has decorated it, and *Ring Lardner* has foreworded it. \* \* \* Every man is, as the publishers truly say, "at heart a barber-shop-ballad singer," and the many will rejoice in this masterly discussion of "swipes" and "parts" so usefully presented in a fascinating brochure,—and the actual phonograph records of the songs give the finishing touch to words, music and notes. \* \* \* Dutton is bringing out in America an unusually interesting military autobiography, "Memories of Forty-Eight Years' Service," by *General Sir Horace Smith-Dorrien*. General Smith-Dorrien's military career began in the Zulu war of 1878, and his account of Isandhlwana, at the beginning of the book, is graphic and exciting. \* \* \* *Robert Bridges*, the British poet laureate, is publishing a book of poems (probably his last) this coming fall, containing his experiments in a new prosody. \* \* \* *Eden Phillpotts's* "The Country Wife" is the most successful play now on in London. \* \* \* *Nathalia Crane*, the young author of "The Janitor's Boy," sends us a postal from Haines Falls, N. Y., saying that her book is now out in London. \* \* \* Another book of poems that appeals to us, and to which we are looking forward, is *John G. Neihardt's* "The Song of the Indian Wars," illustrated by *Allen True*. This is part of an Epic Cycle of the West upon which Mr. Neihardt has been working for eleven years. "The Song of Three Friends" and "The Song of Hugh Glass" were the former volumes. \* \* \* In the new book is staged the last great fight for the bison pastures of the plains between red man and white. "The Yellow God," the story of the gold craze in the Black Hills, and "The Death of Crazy Horse," the story of how the last great Sioux was betrayed to his end, are section titles from the book that seem to us to promise stirring things. \* \* \* *Vachel Lindsay's* "Collected Poems" with drawings by the author will soon demonstrate this poet's success in two mediums. \* \* \* At Christie's in London, on July

24th, the executors of *John Singer Sargent* will sell pictures and water colours from his London studio, both his own compositions and pictures owned by him. \* \* \* "May Days," the anthology of *Mastes-Liberator Verse*, 1912-24, will be published by Liveright in the fall. *Genevieve Taggard* is its editor, and it will be illustrated with twelve wood-cuts by *J. J. Lankes*. \* \* \* And here comes *Rex Beach's* "The Goose Woman," a collection of five of Beach's short stories. \* \* \* *May Lamberton Becker*, the wizardess of the *Reader's Guide*, is in England and reports that recently, when there was only one day's rain in three weeks, Londoners seemed shocked at the spectacle of June weather in June. Then, when it rained, after the coldest Midsummerday in fifty years, they were reassured, as though, "if the rain's on the roof all's right with the world." \* \* \* We congratulate *Hervey Allen* upon his "Earth Moods," a recent book of poems that has flashes of remarkable imagination. \* \* \* *William A. Lorenz*, who once made a map of *Jules Verne's* "Mysterious Island," is still very much alive and sends us a blue-print of the map. It is a fine piece of work and we wish we could reproduce it here. \* \* \* The *Scott Fitzgeralds*, with daughter, Patricia, have taken an apartment in Paris. A volume of short stories by Scott will appear in the fall under the title of "All the Sad Young Men." \* \* \* *Bernice Lesbia Kenyon* is finishing her first novel at Bellagio, Lake Como, Italy. \* \* \* And *Sidney Howard* is completing his first novel at Wiscasset, Maine. \* \* \* If you want to contribute toward a forty thousand dollar statue or other memorial of *Wall Whitman* to be placed in some public park of this city, address The Authors' Club Whitman Memorial Committee, 34 Nassau Street. The Authors' Club is sponsoring a movement with this intention. \* \* \* *William Gerhardt* has recently explained that he was born of English parents in Russia, was at a Russian school and an English University, and served in the British Army. During the Revolution he was with the English Military Attaché in Petrograd and later served on the staff of the Military Mission to Siberia. \* \* \* Out of all this experience emerged "Futility." He refers in a letter to the Siberian campaign as "a stupendous comic-tragedy acted in epic surroundings." \* \* \* Mr. Gerhardt has prepared a critical study of Anton Chekhov. \* \* \* A professor of rhetoric in the University of Michigan is using *Elinor Wylie's* "Jennifer Lorn" in his classes as an example of model English. \* \* \* *Heywood Brown* has a crimson silk shirt in which he fishes on Hale Lake. Seen at a distance he resembles a beautiful woodland sunset. \* \* \* *Carl Brandt* held a barn-dance at his country place on the Glorious Fourth. It was multitudinously attended. \* \* \* *Herbert S. Gorman* and *Jean Wright Gorman* have gone aboard and abroad. Herbert probably has several dozen literary works in progress.

\* \* \* *Louis Untermeyer* and *Jean Starr Untermeyer* are at the MacDowell Colony in Peterboro, as are *Robert Haven Schauf-ler*, *Maxwell Bodenheim*, and others. \* \* \* We are going up there ourselves if we get a chance. \* \* \* Because we are tired of writing these literary notes. \* \* \* Still, and all, we might be working harder than we are. \* \* \* Our favorite ghost-story writer is *M. R. James*, provost of Eton since 1918, author of "Ghost Stories of an Antiquary," more of same, "A Thin Ghost," etc. We see he had a new ghost story in the *May London Mercury* which was recently reprinted in the *Living Age*. \* \* \* Next Monday at 8:30 P. M., at "The Shipwreck Inn," 107 Claremont Avenue, *Alf Kreyenborg* will give a recital. In Chicago, where he recently visited, Alf was tendered a great reception. \* \* \* Get your tickets at the Sunwise Turn Bookshop, Washington Square Bookshop, Penguin, Columbia University Bookstore, or Unicorn Bookstore. \* \* \* We call your honorable attention to the "Poems of John Skelton," edited by *Richard Hughes* and published by Heinemann last year, a great selection of the early sixteenth century author of the famous "To Mistress Margaret Hussey," etc. \* \* \* Which reminds us that *Charley Evans* of Heinemann's has been staying with *Frank Doubleday* in this country. \* \* \* Bonnier's store on Third Avenue, near our office, has certain sheet music in its display window. We have been attracted by the Danish title, "Varförl Jag Kysste Dig?" \* \* \* Well, why? \* \* \* *James Bone's* book about London (illustrations by *Muirhead Bone*) is to be called "The London Perambulator" and will be out this fall. \* \* \* *A. Edward Newton* has written a preface for the Lambskin Library edition of "Parnassus on Wheels," by the S. R.'s own C. D. M. \* \* \* And now, gentles, with the remark that *Rosalind Moses's* "The Life after Death in Oceania and the Malay Archipelago" seems to us the prize title of the week, we are going to suddenly, silently vanish away. \* \* \* But, alas, we may be heard of again! THE PHOENICIAN.

Recently under the direction of Miss Jane Robertson, London playgoers had the opportunity of hearing in the English language two plays by Czech authors, the first being Vrchlicky's "Above the Chasm" (Nad Propasti), the second being "The Ninth Night" (Devátá Noc), written by Victor Dyk and translated into the English language by Cyril J. Hrbek. It is interesting to note that the latter play was translated by Mr. Hrbek, who resides in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, when he was a student at the University of Nebraska and formed a part of the work required of students in the literary course of the Slavonic Department of that University. Another rather striking fact is that this production on the London stage of "The Ninth Night" represents the first time that the play has ever been actually put on the stage, for as yet Dyk's play has never been presented in the Czech language in which it is written. Its success on the English stage has made the Czechs eager to have the play given a hearing in Prague.

### FISHMONGER'S FIDDLE

When they got to the work-house, the first thing they did was to undress Alice and put her into a hot bath. Then they put her to bed, and she never got up again. George's Mollie went to her funeral, and when she returned to the village she was full of resentment and full of scorn: "They said she died of a concert in her throat, but they'd no call to put an old woman into a bath—not all at once. She was too old for that sort of treachery. Wash when you can and when it's wanted, that's what I believe in. I washes up as far as I can, and the next time I washes down as far as I can, but I wouldn't be put in no bath for fifty shillings. If God in heaven meant us to drown'd ourselves in water we'd a bin made like fishes."

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A. E. Coppard is a name you should not soon forget.—N. Y. World.

## FISHMONGER'S FIDDLE

By A. E. Coppard

Always there is humor in his tragedy and pathos in his farce. The stories, too, show his vigorous versatility with an equal distinction in each variety. To the readers of *Adam and Eve* and *Pinch Me* and *The Black Dog* there is no need of pointing out that Mr. Coppard's stories are unequalled in their quaint fantasy, poignant irony and poetic narration.

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