

The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

MEDIEVAL LYRICS

AIDED by a contribution from an anonymous donor, the University of Pennsylvania is preparing to publish a complete collection of all the lyrics of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, a period rich in lyric creation. The monumental musical work will be compiled by Professor Jean Baptiste Beck, of the university's department of romance languages, who, in 1909, made the first effort at a systematic revival and restoration of the music of the troubadours when he published in Paris his volume entitled "La Musique des Troubadours," and is considered the best living authority on the music of the Middle Ages. Since this important publication appeared, Professor Beck has extended his research on the evolution of music into the field of ethnological music and folksong, and in 1919 he gave a course on this subject at Columbia University.

The twelfth and thirteenth century compositions for one voice only, and two, three, and four part songs, and will be systematically published in Professor Beck's work in a collection entitled "Corpus antilenarum Medii Aevi," in four series. The first series will begin to appear during the early part of 1927 and will be devoted to the songs of the troubadours and trouvères. The first volume will contain the complete collection of the songs of the troubadours, and the facsimiles of the manuscripts containing the songs of the trouvères will form volumes two to ten of the series. The second series will contain polyphonic compositions of the same period and will fill eight additional volumes. The third series will comprise musical plays and the lyric parts of mediæval drama, outside of liturgy. This series will include three volumes. The fourth series will be made up of a sys-

tematic collection of reproductions of musical instruments, followed by a glossary of musical terms of the time. The publication will be homogeneous in plan, size, and type. Each volume will consist of two parts: the exact reproduction of the manuscript in rotogravure, and the transcription into modern musical notation, with commentaries. It is clear from the prospectus that this publication will not only be of great value to students of music of the period, but to antiquarians who are interested in its literature and customs.

IMPORTANT LONDON SALE

THE library of Richard Bull, formed at the end of the eighteenth century, since removed from Northcote, Isle of Wight, will be sold by its present owner, Lord Burgh, at Sotheby's, June 28 and 29. The character of the library lies in the fact that it is an untouched example of a collection formed by an eighteenth century dilettante and man of letters. Of such collections, whatever their quality, very few now exist. Unlike Michael Wodhull and many others of his contemporaries, Bull gave little attention to the classics. Dividing his interest between books and engravings, he devoted his greatest industry to the combination of the two; and as a pioneer of extra-illustration, produced works rivalled only by such as the late Mr. Crisp's monumental "French Engravers and Draughtsmen." Mr. Bull was also on intimate terms with Horace Walpole and gathered a remarkable collection of the Strawberry Hill publications. Many of the rarer leaflets are bound together in a volume with sets of the head and tail-pieces, notes by Walpole and Kirgate, and a water color drawing of the printing office at work, showing Kirgate setting up type.

COMING SALE AT HEARTMAN'S

THE auction season is considered at an end in this city, but some of the smaller houses will continue to hold occasional sales during the summer. A sale of Americana, consisting of autographs, broadsides, and pamphlets, selections from two private collections with additions, will be sold under the management of Charles F. Heartman, at Metuchen, N. J., June 29. The printed material includes rare imprints, Indian captivity, rare tracts on the American Revolution and the French and Indian War; the Indians and the Early West; some very important items relating to New Jersey, also some rare Connecticut pamphlets, and miscellaneous items of interest. There are many fine autograph letters, historical, literary, American, and foreign. The more valuable lots comprise fine letters of Benedict Arnold, Benjamin Franklin, Robert Fulton, General Greene, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, General Lafayette, Zachary Taylor, and General Washington. In short, this is an important sale well worth the attention of collectors.

NOTE AND COMMENT

A ROOM containing relics and manuscripts of Joel Chandler Harris has been established at Emory College, in Georgia.

The story of "Christie's: 1766 to 1925," by H. C. Marillier, illustrated in color and monochrome collotype, has just been published by Constable of London.

The first volume of the Julian edition of Shelley's "Works," to be completed in ten volumes, has come from the press. A second volume will soon follow, and the edition will be quickly completed.

A collection of 325 books and pamphlets relating to Jean Jacques Rousseau, formerly owned by Hippolyte Buffanoir, the French critic, has just been purchased for

Princeton University library and received from France.

The first part of the 1925-26 volume of "Book Auction Records" published by Henry Stevens, Son, and Stiles, of London, has appeared, well ahead in matter of time, which will be appreciated by subscribers. This part brings the British sales up to nearly the end of last year. Perhaps its outstanding feature is the large amount of space given up to the record of first editions of modern authors.

The first two volumes are in the press of a new and greatly enlarged edition of Halkett and Laing's "Dictionary of Anonymous and Pseudonymous Literature," and will soon be published by Oliver and Boyd, of London. The work, which will contain three or four times the number of entries of the first edition, and is to be completed in seven of eight volumes, has been edited by Dr. James Kennedy, Librarian, New College, Edinburgh; it was nearing completion when he died last year. W. A. Smith and A. F. Johnson, of the printed books department, British Museum, has undertaken to edit and complete the work.

Two days before he died the Rev. Herbert F. Westlake, minor canon and custodian of Westminster Abbey, completed the first volume of the Westminster Abbey Documents upon which he had long been engaged. The collection of manuscripts at Westminster Abbey is probably the largest and most important in private or semi-private possession in England. With the double object of rendering the documents accessible to historical students and constituting a worthy memorial to the scholar who had labored so devotedly among the Abbey antiquities, it is now proposed to continue and complete the task. P. B. M. Allan, who was closely associated with Mr. Westlake for many years, has undertaken to edit the remaining volumes, with the help of an associate.

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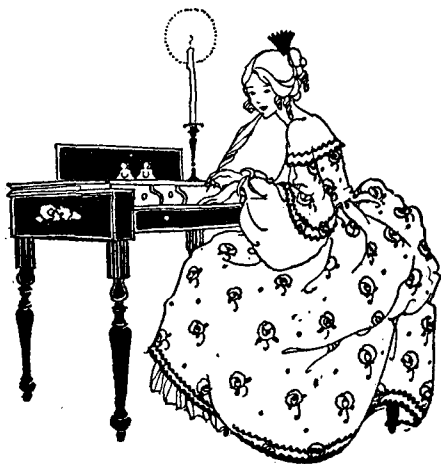
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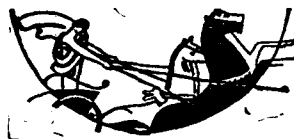
WE understand that the first editions of *Stephen Hudson* have become rare and sought-for items among book-sellers. * * * Mr. *Edwin Muir* has characterized his work as rare and economical * * * We ourselves have taken no inconsiderable interest in his chronicling of Richard Kurt and Myrtle and Elinor Colhouse and so on. Now his latest novel has wandered our way a little belated. * * * It is "Richard, Myrtle and I." Here we have an exploration of the kingdom of artistic creation and a study of the relationship between woman and the artist. * * * Mr. Hudson works deftly and with keen insight. Don't forget him among modern writers. * * * On May 9th last died *Joseph Mallaby Dent*, a man to whom America is more indebted than it is aware. * * * If we say, J. M. Dent, you recognize immediately the famous English publishing firm. And you may or may not remember that Mr. Dent planned the Temple Shakespeare. * * * America as a matter of fact came to the rescue of his first large publishing enterprise, when his firm was still small. This was the publication of *Balzac's* entire "Comédie Humaine" under the editorship of *George Saintsbury*. * * * An order for a thousand sets from America, and another larger order, prevented this work from being a financial loss. * * * But there is one series through which J. M. Dent became known the world over. Yes, you've guessed it, "Everyman's Library." * * * Dent wished to see one thousand volumes of the world's best literature printed in this series. Well, seven hundred and eighty volumes have appeared and plans for many of the volumes to come had his careful consideration before he died. * * * The removal of the Temple Press to the Garden City at Letchworth, and a new undertaking, the "Kings' Treasures of Literature," occupied Mr. Dent's last years. The future of his dreams lies now with his son *Hugh Railton Dent*, who has been his father's right hand in all his later mechanical and spiritual enterprises. * * * On the first of April last the Menorah alumni of the City of New York offered a prize of fifty dollars to that student in any of the colleges or universities in the City and State of New York who, during the academic year ending in 1926 produced the best original and distinctive work of Jewish interest in the fields of drama, poetry, literature, or Jewish problems. * * * Manuscripts should be in the hands of the Menorah Alumni Prize Committee, 167 West 13th Street, New York City, by October 1, 1926. Inquiries may be addressed to the same committee concerning the terms of the contest. * * * *Gerald Bullett*, who wrote "Mr. Godley Beside Himself," published in May "The Baker's Cart," a collection of thirteen stories of the grotesqueries of everyday life. * * * Two new stories by *Eden Phillpotts* are "Circe's Island and The Girl and the Faun." They are whimsical satire with a classic background. * * * Now that you've all read *Cameron Rogers's* "The Magnificent Idler," and have formed one opinion of *Walt Whitman*, look up one of the latest volumes in the new series of "English Men of Letters," and see what *John Bailey*, an Englishman, has to say of the immortal Walt. * * * This is a more conservative study of that genius. * * * We haven't read *William Bolitho's* "Italy under Mussolini," but if you wish to know the secret beginnings of the Fascist movement and its course to date, few better books could be found. * * * *Louis Bromfield*, still abroad, implies that his new novel "Early Autumn" will hit the happy mean between "The House of Seven Gables" and "The Little French Girl." Figure that out. * * * Two of *Percival Christopher Wren's* earlier books are being brought out by Stokes in the fall. They are "The Snake and the Sword," and "Father Gregory." * * * *Franz Werfel's* next work,—he who wrote "Goat Song," and "Verdi"—will be "Juarez and Maximilian, a Dramatic History in Three Phases and an Epilogue." * * * The play will be produced this fall by the Theatre Guild, and will be published in book form by Simon and Schuster, who also brought out "Verdi." * * * The translation has been made by *Ruth Langner*. * * * In Berlin and Vienna the play has made a great impression. The German production was under the supervision of *Max Reinhardt*. * * * The play is, of course, based on the tragedy of Maximilian, Archduke of Austria, who was shot while he was Emperor of Mexico. * * * Which reminds us that the best poetic drama we ever read of that exciting historical incident was one

called, we think, "Maximilian," by the southern poet *Olive Tilford Dargan*. * * * In the lives of Maximilian and Carlotta there is certainly great dramatic material. * * * that excellent book-seller, *Edwin Valentine Mitchell* of Hartford, who has recently turned publisher, has edited a miscellany for voyagers on all seas, entitled "The Steamer Book." Dodd, Mead publishes it. It's now in its third printing. * * * And Mitchell, at 27 Lewis Street, Hartford, publishes himself *Thomas Hunt Martin's* "The American's London." * * * And we hear that *Ethel Barrymore* may appear in the dramatization of *John Erskine's* "Helen of Troy," which *Winthrop Ames* is doing. * * * In the autumn a new novel will come from *May Sinclair*. Its title is "Far End." * * * You can buy *Leon Trotsky's* "Whither Russia" of the International Publishers at 381 Fourth Avenue. * * * A few writers in America make so much money out of fiction that the youngster is apt to think the rewards of creative writing are almost sure to mount up considerably after a few years. * * * Such is all too seldom the case. * * * It is usually a long road and a hard one. * * * As we have glanced through it, we think we can safely say that the actualities of publishing—and editorial—offices are set forth in this volume without any buncombe. * * * What advice is given is based on thorough experience and is full of sense. * * * In collaboration with *Grant Overton*, *Michael Joseph* has produced "The Commercial Side of Literature," a book about how to sell the things you write. It comes from Harpers. * * * It is a better book than most of its kind we should say. * * * Want a thriller? Well, you doubtless know the work of *Edgar Wallace*. * * * In "The Terrible People" (Doubleday), Wallace provides something that may, if you are delicately constituted, keep you up nights. * * * How come that the prosecuting counsel, the judge, and the hangman who hanged one Clay Shelton, world-famous murderer, all died within three months after his hanging? And who were the murderer's final curse? * * * We guess that will hold you! * * * Such books as "Catherine the Great," and "Peter the Czar" have recently aroused interest in the early life of the Russian Empire. Well, "The Ninth Thermidor" (Knopf), lately published, translated from the Russian of *M. A. Aldanov* by *A. E. Chamot*, finds part of an historical trilogy, which embraces the period between the years 1793 and 1821. * * * The concluding part of "The Thinker," which is the name of the trilogy has already appeared in a French magazine. * * * The general title is taken from the chimera "Le Penseur" (otherwise "Le Diable Penseur") which is on the summit of the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris. * * * Another of those college novels, this time the story of a girl's college career at a mid-western State university, is "Co-Ed," by *Olive Deane Hormel* (Scribners). * * * *Haldane MacFall*, who gave us "The Wooings of Jezebel Pettyfer" has produced one of the best of Oriental novels, a tale of Eleventh Century Persia, called "The Three Students." * * * *Herbert S. Gorman's* "Notations for a Chimera" is published by Milton I. D. Einstein, at 295 Fifth Avenue. This is a limited edition of one hundred copies, with designs by Mary Small. * * * Gorman's poetry has a fragile and subtle distinction entirely its own. He achieves some striking effects. * * * Let's go fishing,—but probably you know far more about brook and brown trout than we do. * * * If so, and you're off to meadow, brook, river or lake, take along *Edward Ringwood Hewitt's* "Telling on the Trout." * * * This is not a manual of fishing, as Mr. Hewitt explains, "but the answer my study and experience give to some questions that linger with the tried and true fisherman." * * * And Mr. Hewitt has had fifty years' experience. All fishermen may well value his contribution to the lore of the trout. * * * We haven't been reading the novel by the author of "Flaming Youth" now running serially in the new *McClure's*, which has burst out into such a great picture magazine, but we *did* read an instalment or so of *Cyril Hume's* new novel, "The Golden Dancer," which is running serially in, of all periodicals, *College Humor*. * * * And we were much taken with it. * * * We shall be back across the bounding wave now almost before you know it,—in fact,

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