The World of Rare Books

By Frederick M. Hopkins

SALE OF STANDISH LIBRARY

L IBRARY sets of standard authors, extra-illustrated works, first editions of sixteenth to nineteenth century English authors, mediæval and modern illuminted manuscripts, many choice volumes in sumptuous bindings, together with some fine autograph letters and manuscripts, including the private library of the late Mrs. Hannah M. Standish of Pittsburgh, were sold at the American Art Galleries, March 3 and 4, 594 lots bringing the handsome total of \$88,656.

The three sessions were well attended by collectors and dealers, buying was well distributed, and competition, especially for the rarer lots, was very keen. The highest price, \$2,700, was paid for an extra-illustrated copy of Irving's "Life of Washington," large paper copy of the first edition, New York, 1855-59, 5 vols. extended to 15, by the addition of views, portraits and autograph letters and documents. Eight leaves from the Gutenberg Bible, with a bibliographical essay by A. Edward Newton, bound in levant, brought \$1,750.

Other important lots and the prices realized were the following:

Alken Colored Plates. The Sporting Repository, with colored plates by Henry Alken and others, 8vo, calf, London, 1822. Fine copy of this short-lived periodical. \$675.

Alken. Surtees's "Jorrock's Jaunts and Jollities," with colored plates by Henry Alken, 8vo, original green cloth, London, 1843, second edition but first with Alken plates. \$770.

"American Statesmen," first series, 32 vols., 8vo, morocco, Boston, 1898. Large paper, with an autograph letter or document of the subject of the biography inserted. \$1,300.

Audubon (J. J.). "Birds of America" and "Quadrupeds of North America," in 131 original parts, 1840-54. One of finest copies known, and extremely rare in this condition. \$1,050.

Binding. John Keats's "Poems," 2 vols., small 4to, London, 1904. In a magnificent binding by Reviere. \$600.

Boccaccio (Giovanni). "Il Decamerone," etc., 4to, morocco by Bozerian, Firenze,

1527. Robert Hoe copy. \$500. Clemens (Samuel L.). "Writings," 37 vols., 8vo, levant, New York, 1922-23. Definitive edition. \$500.

Cruikshank. "German Popular Stories," collected by M. M. Grimm, and illustrated by George Cruikshank, 2 vols., levant by Reviere, London, 1823-26. First issue of

the first edition. \$325.
Defoe (Daniel). "Robinson Crusoe," 2 vols., 8vo, original calf, London, 1719. Rare first edition. \$925.

Dickens (Charles). "Works," 60 vols., royal 8vo, levant, London, n. d. Extraillustrated copy, extended from thirty volumes. \$850.

Franklin (Benjamin). A. L. S., 2 pp., 4to, Boston, September 5, 1763, to Joshua Babcock, chief justice of Rhode Island.

Heywood (John). "The Spider and the Flie," small 4to, morocco by Rodwell, London, 1556. Fine copy of the first edition.

Homer. "Iliad," folio, vellum, Florence, 1488. Large paper copy of the editio princeps. \$550.

Manuscript. The Sermon on the Mount, modern manuscript of 13 leaves, with miniatures, 4to, London, 1911. Executed by Alberto Sangorski shortly before his death. "Works," 40 Irving (Washington).

vols., 8vo, levant, New York, n. d. Joseph

Jefferson edition. \$700.

Jonson (Ben). "Workes," 2 vols., folio, original calf, London, 1616-40. First col-

lected edition. \$510.

Kipling (Rudyard). "Schoolboy Lyrics," 16mo, wrappers, Lahore, 1881. First edition of Kipling's first book. \$1,300.

Presidents of U.S. A complete collection of autograph letters signed, letters signed, and autograph documents signed of the presidents of the United States from Washington to Wilson neatly mounted and bound in a folio volume. \$900.

Scott (Sir Walter). "Waverley Novels," 51 vols., royal 8vo, autumn leaf levant, London, and New York, n. d. Extraillustrated. \$800.

The Sporting Magazine, over 2,000 engraved plates, 156 vols., 8vo, half calf, London, 1792-1870. Fine complete set.

Surtees (Robert). "Sporting Novels," 5 vols., 8vo, all in original parts, in cases, London, 1853-65. \$1,525.

Symonds (John Addington). "Works," 68 vols., 8vo and 12mo, three-quarters levant, London, Oxford and Bristol, 1857-1902. First editions. \$900.

SALE OF DROUET LETTERS

THE report comes from Paris of the sale at public auction of the letters written by Juliette Drouet to Victor Hugo, numbering, it is said, many thousands. This actress, whom Hugo loved, retired from the stage and lived a life of seclusion for fifty years. Almost every day during that period she wrote the famous author a letter, as he had asked her to do, although they were seeing each other regularly as well, and this collection was carefully preserved. Victor Hugo spoke of these letters in one of his letters to Juliette, in which he said: "Our life is there, recorded day by day, thought by thought. Every dream of thine, every suffering, is there. The letters are so many charming

little mirrors, each one of which reflects a view of thy splendid self." This collection of letters associated with the memory of one of the greatest French authors, unique in literary history, brought \$700. If they had been offered in New York, beyond a doubt they would have brought many times this figure.

GIFT OF RARE BOOKS TO YALE

A COLLECTION of rare editions of thirty-five sevententh century English poets recently given to the Widener Library at Harvard is now on exhibition in the Treasure Room. The gift was made in memory of Lionel de Jersey, Harvard '15, 2 lineal descendant of John Harvard, who was killed in action at Boisleux-au-Mont on March 30, 1918. The donor has requested that his name be withheld. The poets represented includes John Cleveland, Abraham Cowley, Thomas Stanley, Sir John Suckling, Sir John Taylor, George Wither, Frances Quarles, Henry Vaughn, Samuel Daniel, Michael Drayton, John Davies, John Taylor, the Water-Poet; Giles Fletcher, the younger; Sir William Davenant, James Harrington, Richard Crawshaw, Sir John Denham, Francis Hubert, Robert Anton, Thomas Nabbes, George Buck, John Hepwith, Samuel Rowlands, Nicholas Hooker, Alexander Rosse, Thomas Carew, Robert Stapleton, Joseph Hall, Richard Lovelace, Ben Jonson, George Chapman, Richard Flecknoe, and Nicholas Breton.

NOTE AND COMMENT

FORMER Premier Venizelos of Greece has finished his trnaslation into modern Greek of Thucydides's "History of the Poloponnesian War." A prologue, a commentary upon the text and a political disquisition will complete this work of fifteen volumes. The work will be unique, because never has a practical statesman commented upon the kork of the greatest and most difficult Greek historian.

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The Phoenix Nest

A FEW recommendations, kind people,—
a few recommendations! * * * First, fiction! D. H. Lawrence can be infuriating, as he starts out to be (from the point of view of any good American) in "The Plumed Serpent." But the book is nevertheless one of the new novels you can't afford to miss. * * * The Plumed Serpent is the English name of Quetzalcoatl, one of the old Aztec gods. The scene is modern Mexico. The theme is an attempt among the peasantry to revive the ancient deities. * * * And then, Lord love us all, here is "Love us All!" by A. Neil Lyons. Have you ever read "Arthur's"? If not, you have missed one of the particular plums of literature. * * * And Lyons has a bundle of other books to his credit. * * * He calls this new collection of his stories "Some Exclamatory Notes." Be that as it may, they are sure to be gorgeous fragments of life. * * * Albert and Charles Boni have brought out this new Lyons volume. Don't miss it, if you have any humor and human sympathy under your waistcoat. * * * "Clara Barron" is a new novel by Harvey O'Higgins, who has come to the fore as one of the most penetrating psychological writers of our time. * * * His "Julie Cane" was well worth reading, and we hear that "Clara Barron" is better yet. * * * His studies of some distinguished Americans supposedly in "Who's Who," published some years ago, were unusually interesting portraits,-imaginary and yet done with such subtlety and insight that one could hardly believe they were not actual biographical sketches. * * * When "The Spanish Farm" appeared, it received much encomia. Now R. H. Mottram has produced "The Crime at Vanderlynden's" which Lincoln MacVeagh brings out at The Dial Press. * * * "The Spanish Farm," you will remember, was awarded the Hawthornden Prize for 1924. It proved to be the first book of a trilogy, the whole constituting the saga of Madeleine and her farm in war-worn Flanders. * * * Next appeared "Sixty-four, Ninety-four." * * * "The Crime at Vanderlynden's" completes the saga. Mottram's work is excellent. * * * The novels of youth by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Stephen Vincent Benét, and Cyril Hume now recede into what may be called their "earlier manner." "This Side of Paradise," "The Beginning of Wisdom," and "The Wife of the Centaur," with all the reckless lavishness of youth upon them, have been succeeded in each instance by the more firmly-knit and controlled work of the respective authors' maturity. * * * But new youth is ever pushing to the front. Here comes Mr. F. W. Bronson, with "Spring Running" (Doran). * * * Certain characteristics of this new first novel remind one slightly of Fitzgerald, of the younger Benét, of Hume. And yet Mr. Bronson's own personality dominates his story. * * The young man can write. It is perhaps natural that his treatment is often staccato, his style impetuous and headlong. But he has energy and vitality. His story is always interesting. * * * His hero is one of the sad young men (to adopt Fitzgerald's phrase) that blunder through adolescence and various adventures of the heart with mingled folly, cowardice, heroism, stupidity, absurdity, pathos, and grit. * * * One can never tell from a first novel, but Mr. Bronson seems to us to have got away to a good start. Up the back-stretch it will be harder going. * * * New books of poetry we can recommend are Virginia Moore's "Not Poppy" (Harcourt) and more of C. Fox-Smith's sea songs and ballads collected under the title "Full Sail." We have a decided weakness for Miss Cecily Fox-Smith (if it be a weakness). She can chant of the sea and the great ships with any of them, from Kipling to Masefield.

"Don't you take no sail off 'er,"
The Ol' Man said,
Wind an' sea rampagin'
Fit to wake the dead.

Thrashin' through the Forties In the sleet and 'ail, Runnin' down the Eastin' Under all plain sail.

"She's loggin' seventeen
An' she's liftin' to it grand,
So I'm goin below
For a stretch off the land.

"An' if it gits any worse, Mister,
You can come an' call me,
But—don't you take no sail off 'er,"
Said the Ol' Man—
Said 'e!

* * * We have now had the War in plays and pictures that have deeply impressed the public. And still a few books bring back the war vividly. One new one, that we have been looking through in galleys, is Hervey Allen's "Toward the Flame." * " This is an account of one man's experience in France that you certainly should not miss. The author, being a poet, makes us see what he saw, and feel what he experienced, with unusual vividness. He writes with great honesty and fairness. And he was in some pretty tight places. * * * "The Hounds of Spring," by Sylvia Thompson, has gone into its thirty-third thousand. * * * And Alfred Noyes, the English poet, has sold over 130,000 copies of his books to date. * * * But "What chances," postals Louis Untermeyer, "have us professional rhymers got when the business-men of Modesto (Cal.) put their couplets in an electrically lighted arch over their main thoroughfare (postal on reverse side exhibiting in colors a presentment of the Modesto Arch),

Water—Wealth
Contentment—Health

A perfect lyric, if there ever was one!"

* * * Play Bridge? Remember the kind
of rhyme by which, in your childhood, you
used to remember kings of England, and
so on? Well, Mary Swain Wagner has got
a book called "Auction Bridge Rhyme and
Reason," with such similar aids to the
memory as,—

Second hand low is a good old rule— And third hand high if you're no fool, But Dummy is there for your inspection Use common sense to make exception.

Of course, that last rhyme—! However -! * * * Stark Young, the dramatic critic, author of "The Flower of Drama," and so on, is now having his third book, "Theatre Practice," published by Scribner. * * * Golf soon again! And the same firm brings out "The Links," by Robert Hunter. It is principally about how to construct or change a golf course, but contains much general golf wisdom also. * * * If you are interested in the problem of the criminal, go tomorrow to The Community Forum, Park Avenue and 34th Street, for one of their Sunday evening meetings at eight sharp. Lewis E. Lawes, Warden of Sing Sing, and expert on penology, will speak, and Kathleen Norris, also, on "Capital Punishment." * * * And the Sunday following comes Scott Nearing, economist, on "The Economic Development of the United States since 1920." * * * To return to golf, however, one of the most entertaining new books on golf is published by Macmillan, written by Grantland Rice and illustrated by the celebrated cartoonist, Clare Briggs. It's "The Duffer's Handbook of Golf." Prepare yourself for the Spring * * * We witnessed the première of "Nirvana" by John Howard Lawson, and found astonishing fire and vigor in this successor to "Processionals." In it Mr. Lawson asks a fundamental question in striking terms.

Even across strictly scientific thought (he says) there comes the shadow of a new mysticism. Freud has dragged strange monsters from the bottomless sea of the unconscious, Einstein has deposed the straight line. Viewing the mental uncertainties of today, I am convinced that there is a religious need. . . .

The play moved rapidly, electrically forward that evening at the Greenwich Village Theatre. It was lavish of intellectual stimulus. It stamped itself forcibly upon the imagination. * * * Less tricky than "Processional," limpidly intelligent, burningly sincere, we found more food for thought in it than in any play we have seen this winter. * * * Lawson's star seems to us to be rising even as O'Neill's hovers to descend. At least, "The Great God Brown," from what we have heard of it, does not seem to be one-two-three with "Nirvana." * * * Christopher . Ward is now a parodist turned novelist, and his first novel, "One Little Man" (Harper's) will appear about the middle of April. We learn that he has even more fiction on the stocks. * * * Last week we spoke of the Theatre Guild's plans for repertory, and now here comes an announcement from The Neighborhood Playhouse that the success of "The Dybbuk" has afforded that organization an opportunity to establish a repertory theatre. * * * They have built up a permanent company and now wish to build up a permanent and increasing body of subscribers. * * * On the 23d of March, they say, they will become the first professional experimental theatre to adopt the repertory system. * * * And so, our salaam for this THE PHENICIAN.

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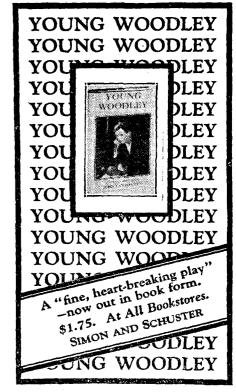
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