

The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

THE INFLUENCE OF CAXTON

THE new work of the first of English printers, "Caxton, Mirror of Fifteenth Century Letters," by Nellie Slayton Aurner, published in a special limited edition by Houghton Mifflin Company, is written from a new point of view. After a survey of Caxton's books as an outgrowth of his life and the life about him, one feels that his influence in the development of English literature has had scant recognition. The influence which he introduced and extended over an ever-widening circle of readers sprang from the very heart of the most vital force of fifteenth-century England. As governor of the merchant adventurers abroad, Caxton was for years the central figure of that company, remarkable for its vivid life, which made successful war against the monopoly of the staple and fostered the spirit of initiative in civic and commercial affairs. This spirit of initiative Caxton carried into his activities as editor and printer. Too simple-minded and humble to dream of reforming the taste of his countrymen, or of remolding their ideas according to some foreign pattern, he made use of the wonderful new invention of printing to express and preserve what seemed to him best in the literature of his time. A very large amount of this literature was available only to the limited number of Englishmen who knew French and Latin. Caxton's translations, together with those he obtained from others, revolutionized English prose. A great deal has been written about Caxton the printer, but this work gives special emphasis to his great ability as publisher and editor. Both in quantity and quality the contribution of his press was remarkable, and will always be worthy of study, not merely for its effect on the English language, but for its significance in the general development of English literature.

GREATEST BUSINESS LIBRARY

THE greatest business library in existence will have been created in Boston next June, as the result of an agreement on the part of the trustees of the Boston Public Library and the faculty of Harvard University, which was recently formally announced. The new George F. Baker Library, central building of the group now

nearing completion on the Brighton side of the Charles River for the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, will house this great collection of books, records, and pamphlets. The new library will combine the resources of the Boston Public Library, one of the three great libraries of America, and the Harvard Business Library, which has made phenomenal strides in the last seven years, and of the Business Historical Society, an organization comprising some of the most eminent captains of industry in the United States. Starting with something in excess of 150,000 volumes, when the three collections have been merged, it is expected that within a decade the collection will more than have been trebled. Every citizen of Boston will have the right to avail himself of this wonderful collection, for, under the agreement drawn up, the Harvard Business Library becomes in fact a branch of the Boston Public Library. Fortunately, the new business school is on the Boston side of the river. If it were on the Cambridge side, the Boston Public Library could not legally make it a depositary for its books.

SALE OF ISHAM COLLECTION

THE important collection of seventeenth and eighteenth century English books formed by Lieut.-Col. Ralph H. Isham of this city comprising 215 lots was sold at the American Art Galleries January 7, bringing \$21,715. The gem of the collection was Lovelace's "Lucasta," 1649, said to be the finest copy known of the first issue of the first edition which brought the record price of \$4,900. Other important lots and the prices realized were the following: "A Brief Account of the Intended Bank of England," small 4to, morocco, London, 1694, probably unique, \$1,250; Fielding's "Of True Greatness," 16 pp. folio, wrappers, uncut, London, 1741, first edition and of utmost rarity, \$1,050; the same author's "The History of Tom Jones," 6 vols., 12mo, original sprinkled calf, London, 1749-50, first edition, \$600; Gay's "The Beggar's Opera," 8vo, calf by Reviere, London, 1728, first edition, \$120; Gray's "Stanzas Written in a Country Churchyard," from *Magazine of Magazines*, London, 1751, first printed appearance of Gray's famous poem, \$425; "The Psalms of King

David," the translation of King James, small 12mo, morocco by Bedford, Oxford, 1631, \$1,250; Milton's "Paradise Lost," small 4to, old sprinkled calf, London, 1668, first edition, third title-page, \$300; Combe's "English Dance of Death," 2 vols., royal 8vo, with colored plates by Rowlandson, morocco by Bedford, London, 1815-16, McGeorge copy of the first edition, \$525; Shelley's "Prometheus Unbound," 8vo, calf by Bedford, London, 1829, first edition, \$130; Smollett's "Humphry Clinker," 3 vols., 12mo, calf by Reviere, London, 1753, first issue of the first edition, \$110; Sterne's "Tristram Shandy," 9 vols. in 5, original calf, London, 1760-67, first editions of all volumes, \$520; by same author, "A Sentimental Journey," 2 vols. in 1, 12mo, full contemporary calf, London, 1768, first edition, \$230; Suckling's "Fragmenta Avrea," 8vo, levant morocco by Lortic, London, 1646, first edition, \$360; Swift's "Gulliver's Travels," 2 vols., 8vo, calf by Coverly, London, 1726, first edition, \$270; and Tennyson's "Poems, by Two Brothers," 12mo, original boards, London, 1827, first edition of the poet's first book, \$390.

FORTHCOMING SALES

ON February 14 the library of Percy Winter of Boonton, N. J., and Napoleoniana from the collection of the late Miss Georgiana Blunt of Florence, Italy, will be sold at the Anderson Galleries. This sale includes many choice library books in good condition, a few first editions and a notable collection of Napoleoniana, including the original plaster cast made from the death mask by Dr. Antomarchi, and from which the bronze replicas were made, and a lock of Napoleon's hair secured by his sister while at the Isle of Elba with an autograph certificate signed by Pauline Bonaparte.

On February 14, 15, and 16 the library of Major W. Van Whitall, of Pelham, N. Y., comprising first editions, manuscripts, autograph letters, and inscribed copies of nineteenth century authors, will be sold at the American Art Galleries. This is one of the outstanding sales of the season and its 1,501 items include a wide range of rarities of the last century, including many first editions of authors now living. Among the rarer lots are Blake's "The Book of Thel," cov. F. of the twelve copies known; an important series of George Borrow first editions and manuscripts; Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning first editions and as-

sociation copies; first editions and presentation copies by Lord Byron; first editions and association items of Coleridge; first edition of Fitzgerald's translation of "Omar Khayyam" in wrappers; first editions and presentation copies of George Gissing; important series of books, mainly first editions, and a manuscript of John Keats; first editions and letters of Charles Lamb; and an extensive collection of the publications of the Grolier Club and books designed by Bruce Rogers.

NOTE AND COMMENT

THE original manuscript of Thomas Hardy's "The Return of the Native," owned by the late Clement Shorter, has been bequeathed to the library of Trinity College of Dublin.

Messrs. Ernest Benn of London will publish this Spring Dr. Walter Peck's "Shelley: His Life and Work," an exhaustive biography taking advantage of new source material, together with the inclusion of hitherto unpublished poems, letters, essays, and ballads.

A volume entitled "Prayers for the Use of the Philadelphia Academy," which was printed by Benjamin Franklin in 1753, and a deed bearing Franklin's autograph, were among the recent gifts to the University of Pennsylvania's extensive collection of Frankliniana.

D. Appleton & Co. are bringing out a facsimile of the first American edition of Lewis Carroll's "Alice in Wonderland," with Sir John Tenniel's illustrations, which they published sixty years ago. The publishers would like to have the names and addresses of those who own copies of that early edition.

The most valuable botanical gift ever made to the Smithsonian Institution, says the *Washington Evening Star*, has just reached the institution, arriving, for a curious reason, twenty-two years after its presentation. This is the botanical library of Captain John Donnell Smith of Baltimore, consisting of some 1,600 carefully selected and beautifully bound volumes. Captain Smith, who at the age of ninety-seven is the most venerable of American botanists, presented his library and also his plant collection of more than 100,000 specimens to the Smithsonian in 1905.

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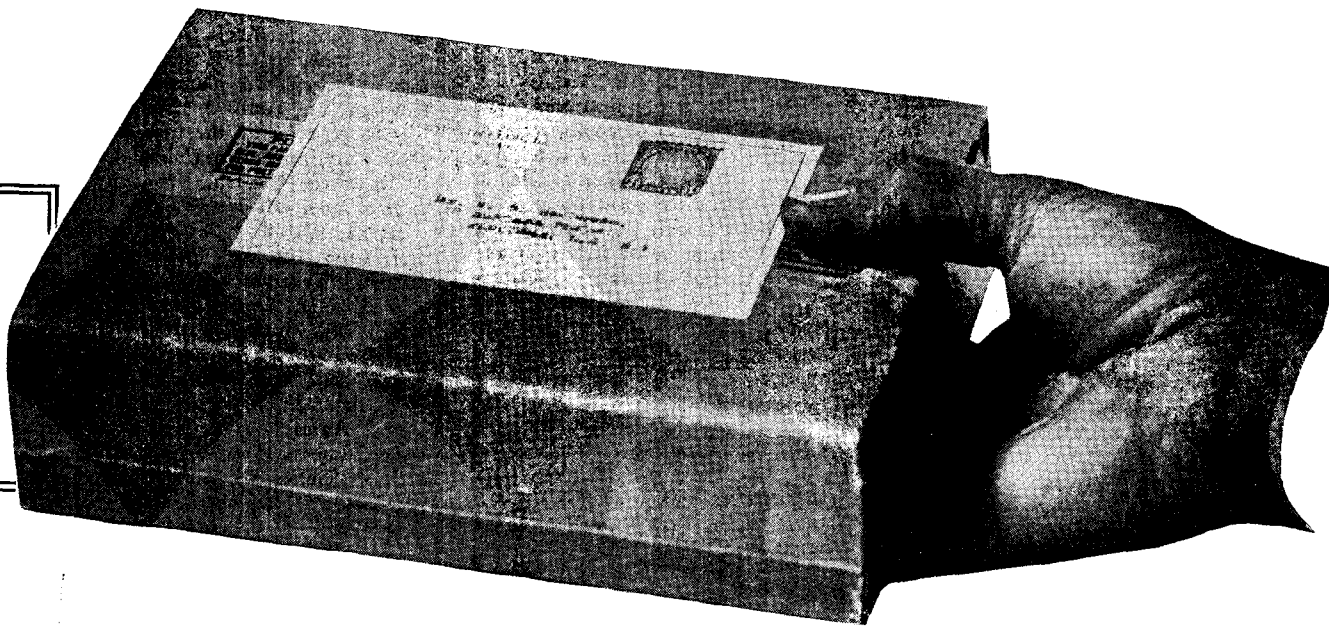
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BOTH THE BOOKS SENT TO SUBSCRIBERS AND OTHERS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.

EACH month subscribers to the Book-of-the-Month Club receive the outstanding "book-of-the-month" chosen by our Selecting Committee. If it proves to be a book they would not have purchased of their own volition, they have the privilege of exchanging it. All the books listed here were described carefully for the purpose of enabling subscribers to make a discriminating choice. This list includes both the books chosen as the "book-of-the-month", and other books which were recommended for exchange, since last April. It does not include the books reported upon, for the current month of February. The titles set in larger type have been sent out as the "Book-of-the-Month." The others were recommended for those subscribers who wished to exchange the book they received.

THE HEART OF EMERSON'S JOURNALS

THE PLUTOCRAT
TAR
THE SUN ALSO RISES
PREFACE TO A LIFE
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
THE LENORE

Edited by Bliss Perry
Booth Tarkington
Sherwood Anderson
Ernest Hemingway
Zona Gale
Philip Russell
Terence O'Donnell

THE MAKING OF THE MODERN MIND

THE ORPHAN ANGEL
GALAHAD
YOU CAN'T WIN
MY MORTAL ENEMY
LORD RAINGO
GEORGE WASHINGTON
MURDER FOR PROFIT
MOSES IN RED
THROUGH MANY WINDOWS
THE BOOK OF MARRIAGE

Count Hermann Keyserling
THE ROMANTIC COMEDIANS
CHEVRONS
THE WORLD OF WILLIAM CLISSOLD
SUTTER'S GOLD
MOHAMMED
MINIATURES OF FRENCH HISTORY
SMOKY
THE TIME OF MAN
THIS BELIEVING WORLD
MARTHA AND MARY
MEDUSA'S HEAD
AN OUTLINE HISTORY OF CHINA
HISTORY OF ENGLAND
NIGGER HEAVEN
TAMPICO
BELLARION
SHOW BOAT

LETTERS OF LOUISE IMOGEN GUINEY,

2 VOLUMES
DAPHNE BRUNO—2 VOLUMES
BY THE CITY OF THE LONG SAND
THE UNEARTHLY
THE MURDER OF ROGER ACKROYD
THE MIND OF THE MILLIONAIRE
THE TESTAMENT OF DOMINIC BURLEIGH

THE SILVER SPOON
THE STORY OF PHILOSOPHY
JEFFERSON
BRAWNYMAN
LOVE IN GREENWICH VILLAGE
THE EXQUISITE PERDITA
THE CONNOISSEUR
THE GENESIS OF THE WORLD WAR
ITALY UNDER MUSSOLINI
THE DECLINE OF THE WEST
HUMAN EXPERIENCE
THE SAGA OF BILLY THE KID
MANTRAP
FRANZ LISZT
THE ARCTURUS ADVENTURE

FATHERS OF THE REVOLUTION

INTERNATIONAL ANARCHY
JOAN OF ARC
PRECIOUS BANE
TWO OR THREE GRACES
O GENTEEL LADY!
THE GREAT VALLEY
THE CABALA
EDUCATION AND THE GOOD LIFE
ROUGH JUSTICE
THE ADVANCING SOUTH
ROSALIE EVANS' LETTERS FROM MEXICO
THE POLITICAL EDUCATION OF WOODROW WILSON

TEEFALLOW
HILL-BILLY
THE LOVE NEST, AND OTHER STORIES
THE PLUMED SERPENT
FIX BAYONETS
OUR TIMES
THE MAUVE DECADE
THE PRIVATE PAPERS OF COLONEL HOUSE
LOLLY WILLOWES
MARY GLENN
CLARA BARRON
SPANISH BAYONET
MICROBE HUNTERS
ABRAHAM LINCOLN

IMPORTANT NOTE: Since the "book-of-the-month" is always sent to subscribers without previous notice, obviously a price limit is necessary. The Selecting Committee, accordingly, is not allowed to choose as the "book-of-the-month" any volume priced at more than \$3.00. Outstanding books, costing more than this amount, go on the recommended list, and any subscriber who then wishes to have them, may obtain them by exchange or separate purchase.



Henry Seidel
Canby, Chairman

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Heywood Brown



Dorothy Canfield

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