

# The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

## SALE OF WATSON AUTOGRAPHS

AUTOGRAPH letters and documents, including the collection of the late Elkanah Watson, author of "Men and Times of the Revolution," with additions, were sold at the Anderson Galleries, May 4, 237 lots bringing \$10,426. These collections included many fine letters, mainly literary and historical, and good prices were realized.

A few of the rarer lots and the prices which they brought were the following:

Adams (John). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to, Quincy, July 15, 1812. To Elkanah Watson, about George Washington. \$585.

Adams (John Quincy). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to, Washington, March 16, 1827. In regard to letters written by his father. \$75.

Franklin (Benjamin). Original passport printed and issued by Benjamin Franklin at Passy to Elkanah Watson, September 7, 1782, to carry confidential dispatches to England relating to the Independence of the United States. One of five known copies of personal passports printed by Franklin at Passy, and one of the two known copies of this issue. \$1,775.

Fulton (Robert). A. L. S., 3 pp., 4to. New York, August 14, 1813. Letter seeking funds to carry on his experiments with torpedoes. \$75.

Gerry (Elbridge). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to. Cambridge, February 4, 1811. To Elkanah Watson. Promising to promote in every way he could the raising of merino sheep. \$150.

Irving (Washington). A. L. S., 3 pp., 4to. Greenburgh, July 8, 1837. To Elkanah Watson relating to the publication of a collected edition of his writings. \$42.50.

Jefferson (Thomas). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to, mounted. Monticello, May 8, 1817. Declining to take any part in the National Association for the advancement of agriculture owing to advancing age. \$115.

Livingston (Robert R.). L. S., 3 pp., 4to, mounted. Paris, June 25, 1803. Containing an account of his negotiations with Napoleon for the purchase of Louisiana. \$185.

Alexander (William, Lord Stirling). A. L. S., 1 p., folio. Aquaknock, October 12, 1778. To Col. Dayton. Fine war letter. \$60.

Dickens (Charles). A. L. S., 2 pp., 8vo. July 7, 1862. \$17.50.

Fitzgerald (Edward). A. L. S., 4 pp.,

8vo. May 5, 1874. To Thomas Constable. Relating to the Scott-Constable crisis. \$25.

Franklin (Benjamin). D. S., 1 p., small 4to. August 12, 1776. To the Council of Safety of Pennsylvania. \$375.

Gluck (Christopher W. von). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to. January 31, 1777. Interesting unpublished letter of the great composer. \$275.

Lee (Robert E.). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to. Lexington, Va., March 6, 1866. To Hon. Reuben Johnston. \$57.50.

Lincoln (Abraham). A. D. S., 1 p., 4to. March 10, 1835. Survey while acting as deputy surveyor for John Calhoun. \$390.

Lincoln. Portion of an autograph manuscript, 6 lines, oblong 8vo. Washington, December 6, 1864. Portion of the last annual message to Congress. \$530.

Liszt (Franz). Autograph manuscript music, 15 pp., large oblong folio. Arrangement for two pianos of his symphonic poem "Hungaria." \$155.

Marshall (John). A. L. S., 3 pp., small 4to. Richmond, September 25, 1823. To C. P. Wayne, his publisher. In reference to a second edition of his "Life of Washington." \$120.

Monroe (James). A. L. S., 2 pp., small 4to. Richmond, April 4, 1788. To his agent at home. \$50.

Morris (Robert). A. L. S., 1 p., 4to. February 5, 1798. To John Nicholson. Announcing the climax to his financial troubles. \$120.

Washington (George). Original autograph manuscript of a surveying exercise, written when 12 years of age. 2 pp., 24mo, Pope's Creek, 1744. \$140.

## SALE AT SOTHEYBY'S

SOME of the most important book sales in London are held each year after the season has come to an end in this country. Many American dealers are then abroad and give special attention to them. A very important sale will be held at Sotheby's on May 30 and 31 and June 1 and 2. It comprises selections from a long list of consignors and includes books, maps, atlases, autograph letters, and manuscripts, many of which are in fine condition and of extreme rarity. There are 1,093 lots, among them books on alchemy and occult sciences, incunabula, books with early woodcuts, rare Stevensonia, Americana, and rare first

editions including Gray's "Elegy," 1751. The autographic material comprises letters of Fanny Burney, Horace Walpole, a fine series of naval documents signed by Samuel Pepys, and an autograph manuscript of Sir Philip Sidney's Defence of Leicester. The early maps include a fine set of Van Keulen's maps of Southern Asia, Australia, and South Africa; atlases published by Abraham Ortelius and J. Bleau; the map of the Atlantic Ocean made for Bigge's summary of Sir Francis Drake's Voyage, 1589, and others quite as rare.

## NEW VATICAN CARD INDEX

THE Vatican archives covering many centuries are at last to have a complete analytical inventory with a cross index system on the lines used by the Library of Congress. Mgr. Angelo Mercati, prefect of Apostolic archives, has the work in hand, and a part of the index will soon be available for students, and it is predicted that the research work that will follow will result in the rewriting of much medieval history. So vast is the Vatican collection that for the time being work is confined to four sections: Vatican registers, registers of Lateran archives of the period when Popes occupied the Lateran instead of Vatican palace, records of the Papal court and a record of consistories. Of these the first three virtually have been shut to historians because of the archaic system of indexing. The Vatican register, in 2,040 gigantic volumes, contains records of the Papal reigns of John VII in the ninth century and Gregory VII in the eleventh century and uninterruptedly thereafter from 1198 to 1572. The Lateran register, in 2,460 volumes, contains among other things all Papal bulls from 1389 to 1897, court records in 1,111 volumes dating from 1276 until 1700, consistorial records from the fifteenth century to the Napoleonic period, which are expected to throw new light on the lives and activities of many cardinals who had a hand in making European history. At the same time that the Vatican index is in preparation, Cardinal Gerampli is making a complete directory of the Christian world entitled "Orbis Christianus," wherein will be recorded all dioceses, monasteries, churches, hospitals, and ecclesiastical and lay personages. The undertaking requires great patience, industry, knowledge of European languages, and bibliographical knowledge. The work is progressing rapidly and will be pushed to completion.

## FIRST BOOK OF RANDOM HOUSE

THE first volume from Random House, Inc., 20 East Fifty-seventh Street, is promised next fall. It will be an edition of Voltaire's "Candide," made by the Pynson Printers, with illustrations by Rockwell Kent. Charles E. Merrill, Jr., has prepared a new and complete translation and written a bibliographical note. The book will be set by hand in a new Roman type face designed by Lucian Bernhard, and will be printed on a French handmade paper. Each page will be illustrated with a drawing by Mr. Kent, printed in a different color from the type. The edition will be limited to 1,300 copies, 900 for America and 400 for England. Seventy copies will have the illustrations hand-colored by the artist and will have his autograph. All details will be given the most careful attention in order that the edition may be one of distinction.

## NOTE AND COMMENT

AN exhibition in memory of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the Polish patriot of Revolutionary War fame, comprising autograph letters about him by prominent American leaders of the American Revolution, also oil paintings, medals, engravings, books, broadsides, and other relics, a collection formed by Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Kahanowicz, will be held at the Anderson Galleries from May 15 to June 11, a part of the net proceeds of which will be donated to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc., of New York.

A remarkable collection of Goethe's water-colors and black-and-white drawings, about 100 in number, mainly German and Bohemian landscapes, has just come into the possession of the Goethe Museum at Weimer. This collection was given by the poet to Princess Caroline of Saxe-Weimer, who in turn willed them to her intimate friend, Christiane von Reitzenstein. The collection was well known and Professor Hans Wahl, of the Goethe Museum, made an extensive search covering many years, hoping to find them. A short time ago the Reitzenstein family submitted the drawings to the museum in order to get an opinion as to their genuineness. They had been found in an old trunk containing family relics. Dr. Wahl at once recognized the prize for which he had been long in search and lost no time in purchasing it.

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## The Phoenix Nest

WE hear from Chicago that the publication of the first two volumes of *Albert J. Beveridge's "Life of Lincoln,"* originally planned for the fall of 1928, will probably be advanced somewhat in response to the desire of Mrs. Beveridge. They will be published by Houghton Mifflin. Beveridge completed the first two volumes after five years' work. . . .

We have enjoyed the pictures of the Whoops sisters in the *New Yorker*, but when it comes to the book, "Whoops Dearie!" we haven't been able to get into it very far. The pictures told their story, any number of stories, and, to our way of thinking, didn't require any elaborated text. We learn from *Edwin Valentine Mitchell's Book Notes* that Peter Arno's real name is Curtis Arno Peters and that he graduated from Yale in the Class of 1922. He also plays the piano and composes music. . . .

From the Stratford Company in Boston comes "Cleopatra's Private Diary," by Henry Thomas. We found it dull. It seems to us an evident attempt to cash in on the success of "The Private Life of Helen of Troy." But wit is required to do that, and Thomas's cultivation and wit are not Erskine's. And we hate this flocking in the wake of a success. . . .

In "Saints in Sussex" (Dutton), Sheila Kaye-Smith has bound up some poems and plays. The poems are few. There are a nativity play and a passion play laid in Miss Kaye-Smith's part of rural England. Poems and plays are devout and simple, rooting New Testament episode in English soil, but there seems to us no superlative power in the work. . . .

Cyril Hume is a young man we are always interested to read. "Street of the Malcontents" is his latest book, a collection of his short stories. We have read four of the stories so far, and found the opening one "Elizaveth" the best. But why not leave out the two paragraphs on page 30 at the end altogether? They furnish a happy ending to an otherwise relentless tale, but surely to let it end at the bottom of page 29 would have been infinitely more artistic. And "Cowards of Conscience" is strangely sophomoric for Hume at this stage of his development. The title story isn't bad, the story of "The Head" has points. But none of the stories we have read are as good as they should be, judged by flashes. And judged by such a novel as Hume's "Cruel Fellowship" these stories are simply nowhere. Now probably we have read all the worst ones and not yet touched the really good ones—there are fourteen stories in all—so we shall shut up until we have read the book through. . . .

We are glad to hear that H. Phelps Putnam's poems are to be brought out by Doran. We have heard of Putnam from the time he was in college, and have seen some of his stuff in manuscript and a very occasional poem in a magazine. What might be called his underground reputation has been steadily building, though the public knows practically nothing of his work. He calls his volume of poems, "Trinc,"—and John Farrar either doesn't know or wouldn't divulge to us what in thunder that means. . . .

"Readings" (Knopf) is a delectable looking compilation, selected by Walter de la Mare and Thomas Quayle. The woodcuts are by C. T. Nightingale. De la Mare has got these birds to collaborate with him. The book is the size of "Come Hither" with a similar decorative title on the cover, though the color of said cover looks to us like old rose or puce or cherry or something like that—we aren't much good at naming colors. These are prose selections ranging through all English literature. They are for children young and old. We wouldn't mind curling up by the fire with the book any inclement winter evening. . . .

The recently published "Riddles in Rhyme," by LeBaron Russell Briggs (Charades New and Old), will be bought by all loyal Harvard men,—but outside of that the average reader will find much entertainment in them. They are published at Cambridge by Washburn and Thomas and retail for a dollar seventy-five. . . .

At the Anderson Galleries there is an exhibition open until June eleventh (weekdays 9-5, Sundays 2-6 P. M.), a memorial exhibition of the patriotism, vision, and zeal of Thaddeus Kosciuszko, the revered Polish and American hero, as revealed in a collection of autograph letters by him as well as autograph letters about him by prominent leaders of the American Revolution and others,—also oil paintings, medals, engravings, books, broadsides, and other relics. This is the collection formed by Dr. and Mrs. Alexander Kahanowicz of Brooklyn.

The admission is fifty cents and one-third of the net proceeds will be donated to the Kosciuszko Foundation, Inc., New York. . . .

The first issue in a special edition of two delightful Dickens papers, "The Christmas Tree" and "Christmas as We Grow Older," will be a special de luxe edition of two hundred numbered copies, to be sold by private subscription, the design and typography being under the personal supervision of William A. Kittredge of the Lakeside Press, Chicago, the publishers being Remington & Hooper, 1502 Knickerbocker Building, this city. This will be the first publication of "The Holly Editions" featured by Remington & Hooper. It will be brought out on October fifteenth of this year, at three dollars and a half. . . .

The centenary of William Blake occurs on August 12th. Among the new volumes of Everyman's Library is the most comprehensive collection of his "Poems and Prophecies," edited by Max Plowman, with a key to the series of poems in which Blake developed his epic of the soul: "Songs of Innocence," "The Book of Thel," "Songs of Experience," and "The Marriage of Heaven and Hell." . . .

Canada—or rather The Graphic Publishers Limited of Ottawa—speaks of the fact that, though Canada is now a nation and has its own minister at Washington, though it possesses a wonderful national museum and national gallery of art, it has no national library. China and Czechoslovakia produce twice as many books each year as Canada. In order to show, however, that all the Arthur Stringers, Gilbert Parkers, Frank Packards, Harvey O'Higginses, Martha Ostensos, and Robert W. Services have not emigrated from their country, The Graphic Publishers are determined to make their Thunder Bird emblem stand for Canadian Books of Consequence. "We have the backing and support of the Canadian Authors' Association, we have the support of the Canadian Press," they say, "and we are gradually receiving the support of the Canadian people. And it is these last who are the hardest! As a people we are suffering from a terrible inferiority complex. Nothing can be good unless it is praised in the papers of New York and London!" . . .

All literary people know of the Keats-Shelley Memorial at the foot of the Spanish Stairs on the Piazza di Spagna in Rome. The Library was established in 1904 in the house in which Keats died. The whole house had to be bought to save the apartment where he died, and since then the other floors have been rented. Today it is necessary to have more space for the memorial and the Board of Directors have decided not to renew an expiring lease but to occupy the top floor for its own uses. For this purpose \$4,000 is necessary and the American Committee has undertaken to raise at least half of this amount. Checks may be sent to the order of Harrison S. Morris, Pear Hill, Oak Lane P. O., Philadelphia, Pa. . . .

The Biblio Company, Inc., of Pompton Lakes, N. J., advertise old volumes of *Genealogy Magazine* and also that they have published "the most important genealogical reference work ever produced in this country," which is "American Marriage Records before 1699," edited and compiled by William Montgomery Clemens, editor of *Genealogy Magazine*. This is the first census of the American people. The first Government census was not published until 1790. . . .

Well, we see that Lloyd C. Griscom, former United States Ambassador to Italy and to Japan and a liaison officer to General Pershing during the War, is co-author of a play "Tenth Avenue," which lately opened in Detroit. Jack McGowan, a former musical comedy actor is Colonel Griscom's collaborator. . . .

An English scientist lately had a series of dreams of actual events that occurred on the following day. He feared insanity for himself. Finally, since he found he could sometimes perceive large blocks of otherwise normal personal experience displaced from their proper position in time, he set to work to examine the structure of Time. In a book by J. W. Dunne (Macmillan), entitled "An Experiment with Time," is an account of his investigations and conclusions. . . .

And now we must make our own experiment with Time and see how much of it we can waste this evening!

THE PHOENICIAN.

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If you were in Paris this week, how would you talk about the weather? McCarty-Lee's *France on Ten Words a Day* would solve all conversational impasses. After writing a charming explanation of talking about weather, he continues:

If you learn to pronounce *temps* correctly, "Quel temps!" is sufficient for all weather observations. It is very French, the exact sort of weather being indicated, respectively, by an approving look around, a sigh, a mopping of the brow, a slight shiver, or holding the palm out and upward to test the sky. Do not bother to learn the words for these gestures; they are given above only for recognition in case you hear them. Just say "Quel temps!"—no one can deny that!

Were publishers wealthy enough to take double-page ads in *The Saturday Evening Post*, we might well be tempted to plagiarize the Listerine Tooth Paste point of view, and label *France on Ten Words a Day* "A book for lazy people."

Now about PETER ARNO, who illustrated *France on Ten Words a Day*:

ARNO is on the stalls (as they say in England) today with his *Magnum Opus*, *Whoops Dearie!*, or the *Life and Times of the Two Whoops Sisters*. Those who have seen advance copies have expressed delighted glee. Especially because all the pictures that accompany the novel are brand new.

Three hurried advance-publication printings have been necessary on this book. A part of the second printing was used up last night, when 850 copies were distributed at the National Booksellers Banquet at the Commodore.

A large number of requests came in this week for our brochure on ARTHUR SCHNITZLER, as a result of our announcement in last Friday's *Inner Sanctum*, and the current interest in *Rhapsody*, his latest novel. Some copies of the brochure are still available. Price, four cents in stamps.

The *Inner Sanctum* was gratified this week to learn that it had four places on a list of twelve best sellers prepared by a prominent chain of retail stores . . . one place on fiction, and three on non-fiction. They are:

Fiction: *The Three Taps*

by RONALD A. KNOX

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