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Write for Illustrated Catalog of  
Putnam Books for Fall



NOW we know of what it has reminded us! There is an excellent up-to-date bookstore on lower Fifth Avenue that we often haunt. Down in its basement (as *Don Marquis* once put it, "underneath the city") it has a swell second-hand and rare book department. The name of this firm has always, somehow, seemed lyrical to us. And probably many people have heretofore been struck by the same reminiscence, and have chanted it softly to themselves; but only this morning did it come to us. The reason for the lyricism resides, of course, in the fact that the firm-name recalls *John Hay's* "Jim Bludso."

With a nigger squat on her safety-valve,  
And her furnace crammed, dauber and pine.

... William Edwin Rudge, the fine printer, of 475 Fifth Avenue, has published a little gem of a book. It is the commonplace book of *Horace Walpole*, containing anecdotes of Art, Men, Women, and Manners. It is the first of a series of three replicas. The tiny book is enclosed by, and inset in a larger case, neatly lettered. The exact facsimile of the original *ms.* is followed by a printed copy and the original "Advertisement." The period covered is 1780-83. The price is fifteen dollars. The jottings are variously amusing. . . .

In connection with *Edwin Arlington Robinson's* "Tristan," which has lately proved such a sensation as a poem, it is interesting to compare with it *John Masfield's* version of the same story done in dramatic form and brought out here by Macmillan. Masfield calls his play "Tristram and Isolt." A special edition of his fine Spanish Armada poem, "Philip the King," with its flavor of *Michael Drayton*, is also now available. We have always had a special fondness for Philip. The special edition is autographed by Masfield and sells for twelve-fifty, while the edition lasts. . . .

Harper & Brothers will be glad to consider for possible purchase single copies of any book issued under their imprint prior to 1870. Anyone owning such volumes and desiring to dispose of them should address Book Editorial Department, Harper & Brothers, 49 East 33rd Street, sending full details as to title, date of issue, and condition of each volume. . . .

Again we receive the *Laughing Horse*, *Willard Johnson*, editor, from Taos, New Mexico. Woodblocks from which the cover and the endpiece are printed are by *Howard Cook*. The editor himself has set up and printed this issue of *Laughing Horse*, "by hand." *Witter Byner* and *Mary Austin* are among his contributors. So is *Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant*. And *Mary Hunter* reviews as "Two Southwestern Novels," *Willie Cather's* "Death Comes for the Archbishop" and *Harvey Fergusson's* "Wolf Song." . . .

*Louis Golding*, author of "The Miracle Boy," is now in this country, and so is *Douglas Goldring*. And both are finding themselves startlingly waylaid as the authors of each other's books. New York appreciators take notice. Mr. Goldring is no more Mr. Goldring than is Mr. Goldring Mr. Goldring. And, believe us, authors are sensitive! . . .

"Status Rerum" is a manifesto by *James Stevens* of Washington and *H. L. Davis* of Oregon, which has been "privately printed for the craft" (The Dalles, Ore., Box 512, 25 cents), and lights into the present condition of literature in the Northwest in slashing fashion. Hot stuff! . . .

*The Figure in the Carpet: A Magazine of Prose* is the magazine that was recently announced by the New School for Social Research. Its contents are the work of registrants in Mr. *Gorham B. Munson's* course of lectures, at the New School, on "Style and Form in American Prose." The magazine is edited by *Hansell Baugh*, *Elva de Pue*, and *William Tracy*. In the first issue there is fiction by *Waldo Frank* and a sketch on contemporary economics and conscientious authorship by *Alfred Kreyenborg*. Mr. Munson himself outlines some psychological "Possibilities for Readers" in an article dealing with style as a form of behavior. . . .

*Sylvia Satan* sends us the following poem:

### LOOMS

With delicate fear  
I look upon the trees of wintering year  
Seeing black bough and latticed twig, divest  
Of leafage, pluck the gold from out the West.

Reduced to bareness now  
Thinned! branch and waving symmetry of  
bough  
Weave in their interspaces crystal bright  
Ovals of blue; oblong of amber light.

With delicate dread I lose myself in these  
Quivering quiescences of winter trees,  
Seeing how, secret in their fragile stress,  
They grasp at stars for bloom on barrenness.

The Young Writers' Groups of the Community Church at 12 Park Avenue are of interest. These are classes which you can attend for certain sums. They began on October 17th and will run for fifteen weeks, except for the Long Prose Unit which runs a year and covers the novel, play, and feature film. The other units are the Short Prose Unit, covering the short-story, short film, and one-act play, writing for Children, The Timely Article, and the Production of Good Reading, covering the general points of technique and the markets for writing. Entrance to these classes will be accepted at any time, and you should address *Gertrude Brecoort Tucker*, the Director, at 12 Park Avenue, The Community Church. . . .

*Miss Elizabeth Marbury* is presenting *Agnie Enters* in her "Episodes," compositions in dance form. Seats are on sale at the Plymouth Theatre, 236 West Forty-fifth Street. You can also secure them by mail from *Mrs. Charles Hopper*, 222 West Fifty-ninth St. Miss Enters has received encomia from such acute minds as those of *Paul Rosenfeld*, *Glenway Wescott*, and *Stark Young*. . . .

The "Carthaginian" of the Dido Cave keeps on with his or her column, and we have now received Vol. I. No. 5, shot like an arrow into the air. In this she says in part:

And why are goldfish so really exciting?  
And all aquatics? And all sequined, silvered  
—(supply synonym for fish)? And all waters  
that pool themselves, and greenly, whitely,  
bluely lie in caves and caverns? And all  
mammoreal deeps? And all mossed shallows and  
down-dropping mists? (Tivoli d'Este). And all  
drenched slabs of slanting granite, and all  
downpouring shafts and showering columns, and  
all brown dusty deeps? (Woodstock, N. Y.) . . .  
Dusty? dusty? Where have we heard that  
word before? . . . Sorry. We really didn't  
intend to do a Lehmann. . . .

We haven't the slightest idea what the Carthaginian is about, nor, we suspect, has the Carthaginian,—but we like such writing as the above. . . .

A most exhilarating item is referred to by *Peter Davies*, the London publisher, in his catalogue from 30 Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, W. C. In another part of this issue a reduced page from the book referred to is reproduced. The explanation is this,—and to our mind it was a beautiful idea:

Poking fun at the Victorians, (explains Mr. Davies), is possibly rather *vieux jeu* nowadays; but the typically Victorian woodcut illustrations which R. D. has abstracted from forgotten novels and magazines of the day are for the most part so irresistibly and unintentionally comic in themselves, that it is almost impossible to make them any funnier by putting them in the pillory. R. D., however, has succeeded in doing so: he has made each the subject of a witty limerick, in which the artist's intentions are very far from being respected. Scenes designed to illustrate pathos, tragedy, and the thrill of passion are hilariously travestied; dashing, bow-tiskered gentlemen, and incredibly lady-like young persons in chignons, bustles, and corol-aces—"Less Eminent Victorians" of either sex—are mercilessly saddled with broad comedy parts, and forced to play them on every page. There is a small *édition de luxe* of "Less Eminent Victorians" on rag paper, appropriately bound after a fashion of the period, in bevelled boards covered in orange cloth, stamped with an actual binding stamp of circa 1865, and with electric blue end-papers and gilt edges.

We advise everyone to get a copy of "Less Eminent Victorians" at once, if not sooner! . . .  
So saying, we drop our theorbo.

THE PHOENICIAN.

## from THE INNER SANCTUM of SIMON and SCHUSTER

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Some months ago *The Inner Sanctum* suggested to *CARL DICKEY*, editor of *The World's Work*, that he ask eminent persons in all ranges of American life, excluding only professional critics, to state frankly what books they were reading—and why. Thus originated a fascinating and spirited innovation in book reviewing. And yet the idea is haunting and embarrassing *The Inner Sanctum*, for it seems to be working out like a Machiavellian publicity stratagem for SIMON AND SCHUSTER.

The October roll-call, for example, reveals five out of ten notables reading *The Story of Philosophy*—and in most cases featuring it first. Note the range of interests represented:

JUDGE BEN LINDSEY  
BERNARD M. BARUCH, financier  
DR. P. P. KIEPPEL, President of the Carnegie Corporation  
PRESIDENT MAX MASON, of the University of Chicago  
MAJOR GENERAL JOHN F. O'RYAN

For years we have been trying to find out what kind of automobile HENRY FORD drives, what species of delicatessen Mr. HEINZ privately fancies, and what a great big librarian really reads for his intimate exhilaration after a hard day in the book-stalls. Thanks to *The World's Work* one boyhood craving is now appeased, for we are informed that CHARLES MOORE, acting chief of the Division of Manuscripts of the Library of Congress, is now enjoying the salty stingo of *Trader Horn*. "It is a trump," he announces, "I shall miss none of *Trader Horn's* forthcoming philosophy."

While confessions are in order, *The Inner Sanctum* breaks down and owes up to reading this week:

The Selected Papers of Herbert Russell  
My Life in Advertising, by CLAUDE C. HOPKINS  
Studies in Trees, by J. J. LINTON  
The Martyrdom of Man, by WILSON READE  
Daybreak, by ARTHUR SCHNITZER

This was a particularly turbulent and thrilling day for *The Inner Sanctum*: in a few minutes we placed printing orders for 55,000 books, including:

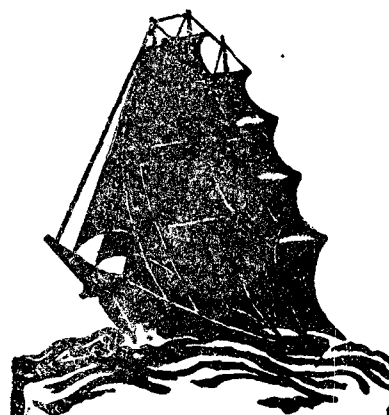
20,000 more *Trader Horn*  
18,000 more *Story of Philosophy*  
10,000 more *Transition*  
5,000 more *Cross Word Puzzle Book No. 8*

Printings on *The Story of Philosophy* now total 200,000 copies.

For *Trader Horn* the figure is now 92,000 copies.

The advance sale of SAMUEL CHOTZINOFF's forthcoming BEETHOVEN biography, *Eroica*, is coming along staunchly, but it took a sudden spurt this week when an astigmatic middle western dealer thought he detected a "t" in the middle of the title.

—ESSANDESS



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## Christmas Number

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VOLUME IV New York, Saturday, December 3, 1927 NUMBER 19



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