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The Phoenix Nest

WELL, last week we gave O'Reilly his day in court—every mouse should have its day—and certainly we wish him the highest success in his new profession of following the sea. . . . May he go far! . . . But now is the time to buckle down to work again and to try to purvey to you something more in the nature of news concerning the fall book season. Before we go into that, however, we wish to refer to the fact that *Louis Graves* is proprietor of the Orange Print Shop and *The Chapel Hill Weekly*, down at Chapel Hill, North Carolina. He sends us a copy of the latter containing some verse addressed to *Howard Mumford Jones's* "The Bull's Head Book Shop" in the same vicinity, also the following communication:

The Bull's Head Bookshop was established by Howard Mumford Jones in a small room in the building where the English department is quartered, at the University of North Carolina in the village of Chapel Hill. His friends, most of them, were doubtful about the project. They said that in a community where people were used to taking their books from the library the purchase would not be large enough to justify a shop. The success of the venture has been a surprise. The room is out of the way, inaccessible—except to persons who have work in this building—yet the sales have amounted in a few months to many hundreds of dollars. The duties of librarian are performed by volunteers—faculty members and students. Heavy emphasis is placed upon the welcome to browsers, whether their browsing is or is not to lead to purchase. The severity of the room has been alleviated with colored curtains and other adornments. Mr. Jones contributed a column about the shop every week to the village newspaper.

We like to spread the good word concerning such ventures, and also concerning such as that of T. W. Huntington, Jr., Director of the Italian Literary Guide Service of the Italy America Society of 25 West Forty-third Street, this city. Mr. Huntington is publishing an Italian Bibliography in the first week of November. It will contain approximately 1,200 titles classified under major headings such as History, Art, Literature, etc. It will be brought out by The Italian Literary Guide Service of Darien, Conn., and will sell for one dollar. . . .

Louis Untermeyer fairly postalled us that, after a six-weeks' stay in a tiny village, Weggis, on the lake of Lucerne, he was onward and northward bound flying across the Alps over Belgium and the Channel to England. "What price," he adds, "Lindbergh now!" . . .

A month ago *Maudie Radford Warren* kindly wrote us:

Dear Phoenixian:

Since even the brilliant staff of *The Saturday Review* has trouble in naming its cars, I incline to think that my own simple scheme is a time-saver. When my car is new, I call her Kathleen ni Houlihan; when her joints wax creaky, she becomes the Shan Van Vogt. . . .

A. B. of Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, writes to O'Reilly:

I note that you correct "coupla" into "couple of." It seems to me that I have noticed some tendency in perhaps less recondite writers to omit the "of"—writing "a couple days," etc. May I ask your advice?

Well, we leave such philological matters to O'Reilly himself. Wherever you be, O'Reilly, come forward and answer this correspondent like a mouse! . . .

Harriet Monroe's esteemed magazine, *Poetry*, reaches its fifteenth birthday with its October issue. Looking toward you, Miss Monroe! The number, which begins the thirty-first volume, opens with a group of poems by *Herbert Gorman*, and two poems by *Hart Crane* close the verse section. Miss Monroe's anniversary editorial is of interest. The financial underwriting of this magazine has, from the beginning, been carried on by over seventy annual subscribers to its Fund, of whom all but eight of the present list are Chicagoans. . . .

An original little pamphlet in bright yellow, called "Surprising Statements," has been issued by the Newark Public Library. *John Cotton Dana*, the Librarian, states in a note of introduction that the statements are printed merely as news and as suggestions of things that may seem worth reading. "The Library does not offer any opinion about their value." All sorts of subjects are touched upon, the biological improvement of the race, the nature of morality, why it is easy to attend college in America and hard to get an education, women's improvement of their political position, and so on. . . .

"Ye Gods and Little Fishes" is a book especially for fishermen, written by *Eugene Slocum* and published by Dodd, Mead. *Tom Mason* has offered it the following tribute:

In the presence of his (Slocum's) book you are in the presence of a fish itself. He gave me the proofs to read and the cat ate them!

We are cast into a trance by the announce-

ment that in a recent questionnaire conducted among the young women students at a California college, the order of preference as to authors was tabulated as: *Elinor Glyn*, *Michael Arlen*, *Theodore Dreiser*, *Shakespeare*, *Louis Bromfield*, *Katharine Brush*, *Joseph Conrad*, *Ethel M. Dell*, *Philip Gibbs*, *Peter B. Kyne*, *de Maupassant*, *Margaret Pedler* and *Booth Tarkington*. This surely captures completely the metaphorical jelly-roll. . . .

For years there has been no American edition of *James Thomson* on the market. Nor has anyone either here or in England ever undertaken to winnow his best from his worst. Now *Gordon Hall Gerould*, of Princeton University, has made a new edition of impressive size. He endeavors to present Thomson to poetry-lovers as he has never been presented before. To most of us he is known merely for the "City of Dreadful Night" and some short pieces in anthologies. Mr. Gerould's endeavor earns our gratitude, and we await with high hopes a perusal of his volume. Thomson has always been a superb literary figure to us.

Sylvia Satan, sister to *Suzanne Satan*, of Newark, N. J., sends us this most delightful satanic and yet unsatanic poem:

PLUME

Write with a gull's quill sibilant words,
Dir-ec-tion-iz-ed whis-pers on silk of the birds;
Write with aerial, foam-tipped feather
Stabbed to the depths of hurricane weather.

Write with a gull's quill; taut navigation
Will scale you down through fog inundation,
And smooth-preened balance with pearl-spring-vein
Waft you dry through savannahs of rain.

Write with a feather blown down the blue
Tapered Ethereal reaching to you;
Take sprayed iris the light shaft brings
And toss back sunrise and ocean and wings!

"Boy in the Wind," by *George Dillon*, is claimed by the Viking Press as its first poetic discovery. Mr. Dillon is an associate editor of *Miss Monroe's Poetry*. He was born in Jacksonville, Florida, in 1906, and entered the University of Chicago at the age of seventeen. There, belonging to the group that included *Glenway Wescott* and *Elizabeth Madox Roberts*, he became known for the fine quality of his lyric poetry. His phrasing is sensitive and fortunate. . . .

Paul Jordan Smith, author of "Cobweb," etc., has prepared "A Key to the Ulysses of *James Joyce*," with a Map of Dublin, published by *Pascal Covici* of Chicago. They say that it is a remarkably informative piece of work. All who have been puzzled by *Joyce* should look into it. It will be an item to interest all *Joyce* collectors. . . .

Willett, Clark & Colby, of 440 South Dearborn Street, Chicago, publish "The Outlawry of War," by *Charles Clayton Morrison*, editor of *The Christian Century*. It carries a foreword by *John Dewey*. Senator *Borah* calls it "A great book . . . clear and courageous thinking." . . .

Joseph T. Shipley calls our attention to the listing of an item in *William H. Allen's* (of Philadelphia) book catalogue. It is *GISBORNE, THOMAS*.—*Walks in a Forest*. London, 1803. Engr. by S. Gilpin. Joints weak. \$1.50.

Mr. Shipley adds, "He couldn't have been much of a walker! I am reminded of that little volume in A. & C. Boni's Science Series, where the lapse of an 'I' made a jacket read, 'The Love of Pants.'" . . .


With which we beg to close for this sennight!

THE PHOENICIAN.


Paul Morand, who once held diplomatic office himself in Bangkok, and so can be assumed to know his Orient, has built his latest novel, "Bouddha Vivant" (Paris: Grasset), about the theme of the incompatibility of Western and Eastern ideals. The hero of his novel is Heir-Apparent to an imaginary kingdom, a personality endowed with high spiritual qualities, who is thrown into intimate association with a young post-war Frenchman, too young to have taken part in the struggle. Renaud d'Ecouen has grown up in the period of disillusionment that followed upon it. He takes the Indian Prince with him to Europe that he may there see Western civilization, and dies leaving his friend resolved to redeem the world he has been introduced to. Prince Jali, however, before long becomes convinced of the futility of his efforts, and returns to his own land sadly persuaded that East and West are irremediably different and that each must work out its own salvation.


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 "The whole truth of the matter is that falling into this book, head first, which is the only way one can fall whether he wants to or not, is like finding yourself suddenly in a gold mine, surrounded on all sides by riches to which you have only to turn your eyes and they are yours, gleaming and solid and rare, in deep veins and strangely-shaped nuggets. This book is the best thing that has hit the reading world in years. There is not on any book-shelf, anything quite like it. . . . All we plead is that no one with a spark of imagination, of life, of intelligence will hesitate to send today for this book. No, we are not agents for this book. We almost wish we were, for then we could with propriety go through the country in a gayly be-postered wagon shouting through a megaphone:


"Here you are! Here's your copy! Step up ladies and gentlemen. Don't push!"


 This review from the current issue of the *Elks Magazine* refers to *Trader Horn*. It is restraint such as this which has kept *Trader Horn* in second place on the best-seller list, just behind *COL. LINDBERGH'S WE*. If the reviewers really let themselves go, the book would be further ahead than its 51st thousand in three and one-half months. . . . *The Inner Sanctum* will just have to grin and bear it philosophically.

 The *Inner Sanctum* policy of never using rejection slips may be suspended temporarily, now that we have unearthed the following form used by a Chinese editor of pre-revolutionary days:

"We have read thy manuscript with infinite delight. By the sacred ashes of our ancestors, we swear that we never before have reveled in so enthralling a manuscript."

"If we printed it His Majesty the Emperor, our high and mighty master, would ordain us to take it as a model, never henceforth to print anything inferior to it. As it would be impossible to find its equal within ten thousand years, we are compelled, tho' shaken with sorrow at our action, to return thy divine manuscript, and for doing so we ask of thee a thousand pardons."

 WILL DURANT's new book *Transition, A Mental Autobiography* was written before *The Story of Philosophy* was published. DR. DURANT says of it: "The accompanying 'remembrance of things past' was written in a pleasant vacation time, as an indulgent relief from a year of historical research, but it was done *con amore*; and there are some passages in it which I am afraid will remain to the end the best that I have written."

 REV. EDGAR WHITE BURRILL, whose *Literary Vespers* are well known to the booklovers of New York, has this to say of WILL DURANT's new book, *Transition, A Mental Autobiography*:

"I have this moment finished reading WILL DURANT's fine book, *Transition*, and I want you to know that I feel it to be even a greater thing than his *Story of Philosophy*. It is one of the finest and most grippingly told life stories that I have ever read. There is an epic width to this panorama of an unfolding soul, and while America can produce men and masterpieces like this, it cannot fail nor fall. Here is hope for the future, sentiment that is sane, and vision born of the soundest thought. I expect 200,000 sales!"

—ESSANDESS

OIL!

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The World of Rare Books

By FREDERICK M. HOPKINS

ORIGINAL BOSWELL PAPERS

THE documents left in the famous ebony cabinet of James Boswell arrived in this city last week as the possession of Colonel Ralph Isham, of Glenwood, Long Island. The new owner declined to place a monetary value on the papers and the purchase price is unknown, but the insurance of \$570,000 while in transit throws some light upon what they are considered to be worth. The purchase was made from Lord Talbot de Malahide, great-great-grandson of James Boswell, the biographer of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

It is too early yet to give a full description of this important collection. It is now known that the manuscript of the "Life of Johnson," except for thirty pages in a poor state of preservation, was destroyed. From Boswell's ebony cabinet, mentioned in his will, we now have in America the entire manuscript of "An Account of Corsica," letters from Boswell to William Pitt the elder, later Chatham; letters from Boswell to Burke, Malone, William Tenison, and others; replies to the correspondence; the biographer to his wife, to Lord Talbot, and other family correspondence; a splendid letter from Robert Burns, two letters from Oliver Goldsmith, manuscripts of poems by both Johnson and Goldsmith, and a vast amount of other material of the greatest literary importance.

It is said that the sale was made to Colonel Isham because it was felt that in this country the material would be edited and published than if it remained in Ireland. Negotiations have been going on for several years for the purchase of this collection and they have remained intact. Lord Talbot, the late owner, inherited sometime ago the ancient Boswell estate of Auchinlach Castle in Scotland. He discovered there the famous ebony casket, full of private papers as Boswell left them, and carried them back to Malahide Castle, in Ireland. He also discovered other papers in Boswell's handwriting scattered about a disused lumber room in Auchinlach Castle. These he carefully gathered up and also took back with him. They had suffered much from damp, and this is believed to be the fate of the manuscript of the "Life of Johnson," only thirty pages of which were found. Recognizing the literary value of this find, Lord Talbot decided to sell them in the hope that they would be published under the right conditions and for the benefit of the world.

Collaborating with Colonel Isham, who

is one of the best known of the collectors of Boswell and Johnson material, will be Geoffrey Scott, who has but recently published "A Portrait of Zelide," one of the women with whom Boswell fell in love. Chauncey B. Tinker, of Yale University, it is said, has pronounced the collection the greatest literary discovery of the century. The collection is now at Colonel Isham's Glen Head home, and the new owner says:

"This magnificent collection may be dissipated by my heirs, but so long as I live they will remain intact. They will always be available to students, even before they are ready for publication, and as soon as I can, I will give them to the world."

RARE COTTON MATHER ITEM

AS an interesting by-product of a family history and genealogical investigation, William J. Hamilton, librarian of the Gary (Ind.) Public Library has recently obtained a copy of a very rare Cotton Mather pamphlet, "A True Survey & Report of the Road . . . Lecture at Boston on a Special and Mournful Occasion," printed at Boston by B. Green for Benjamin Eliot at his shop in King Street, in 1712.

The only other copy of this 46-page item is that in the possession of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester, mentioned in Evans's "American Bibliography." Mather's name does not appear on the title page or elsewhere in the pamphlet although the title is listed in Samuel Mather's life of his father and in other Mather bibliographies. Mr. Hamilton's copy belonged to his great grandfather, Robert Hamilton, of Aberdeen, and his signature and date appear on one of the end-papers, inside the front cover of the volume. It is one of a group of four sermons bound together that came into the possession of Robert Hamilton sometime prior to 1812.

Two of the sermons are of the Covenanting period, 1660-1685, unfortunately the title pages of both are missing and as yet they have not been identified. The third is a sermon of Ebenezer Erskine, the leader of the Free Church movement of the time. It was preached in 1734 "upon the Occasion of the violent Ejection of the Four Brethren from Ministerial Communication with the Established Church." Erskine and Mather had many views in common as to theology, Church polity and an undying belief in the reality of witchcraft as proven by the Scriptures. Mather had in 1711 been given an honorary degree by Glasgow University of which he was very proud and the binding of this Boston sermon into a Scotch col-

lection shows some further degree of interchange of theological opinion between these pious representatives of Scotland and New England.

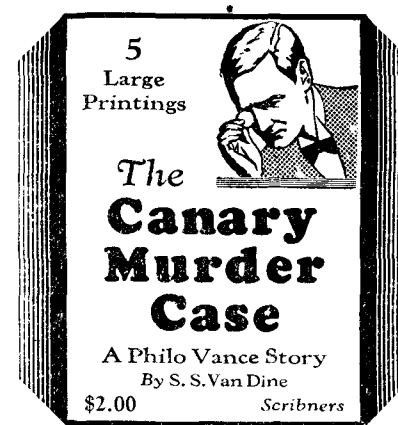
The volume remained in the possession of Robert Hamilton until his death in a farm cottage in Northern Scotland in 1866. As none of his children were then living in Scotland, the book and other papers were taken by an old friend who had helped with the last friendly services. In his family it remained for the sixty years intervening. By a series of coincidences the Gary librarian, whose family in the meantime had lost even the name of the little hamlet, recently succeeded in getting in touch with the neighborhood, and the old pamphlet has crossed the Atlantic again and come to its present owner.

THE CLINTON PAPERS

ON July 30, 1777, General George Clinton was inaugurated the first governor of the State of New York. It was particularly fitting for the New York Public Library to commemorate this anniversary by presenting, in its *Bulletin* of last July, the calendar of the Clinton Papers presented to it by George F. Baker, a member of its board of trustees. This calendar, printed in the library's *Bulletin*, has now been issued in a pamphlet of thirty-one pages, with a portrait of General Clinton for a frontispiece. The documents, proclamations, etc., included in the volume of Clinton Papers, contain 190 items on 112 leaves, among which are two printed broadsides; the whole forming a fundamental record of the State of New York, during its most critical early years. The collection is a recent discovery, its existence not having been known to historians. As not all of the documents seem to have been printed, an indication has been made in the calendar when they have been discovered in print. Undoubtedly others were printed in the original legislative journals, or in the contemporary newspapers, and the proclamations as broadsides. Some twenty-nine of these documents have the personal signature of the governor. Mainly, they are in the handwriting of Stephen Lush, an officer in the Revolution, private secretary to the governor, or of Robert Benson, a secretary of the Council of Safety and a clerk of the State Senate. Besides these there is some writing by Richard Hatfield, acting secretary for a while to the governor in 1778, and there are some attested papers by Evert Banker, secretary, or Pierre Van Cortlandt, president of the State Senate. This collection of original source material of the State of New York, in its earliest years, is of great interest and importance, and the New York Public Library rightly cherishes it as among its most valuable possessions.

LAWRENCE C. WROTH of John Carter Brown Library is building a very secure foundation for a reputation as the best informed productive student of the early history of printing in the United States. Last year he provided the William Parks Club of Virginia with a monograph on the printer whose name the club honors, who enjoys the distinction of being the only American colonial printer, with one possible exception, whose English trade antecedents are known. This has been followed by a similar study of Abel Buell of Connecticut, for the Acorn Club. It is an outgrowth of the essay on the first work with American types, which was Mr. Wroth's contribution to the Tribute to Wilberforce Eames, and brings together widely scattered data concerning Buell's ups and downs as silversmith, type founder, and engraver of maps and college diplomas.

The fourth volume of the German official history of the war, "Der Weltkrieg 1914 bis 1918," (Berlin: Mittler), has recently made its appearance. It covers the period of the battle of the Marne, the retreat of the German forces to the Aisne, and their taking up of a defensive position behind that river. The book is in the nature of an apologia, and quite openly offers the statement that the Marne was not the scene of a defeat for Germany, but that the battle was broken off through misunderstanding at a moment when the Kaiser's forces were winning a victory.



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