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The New Books

Brief Mention

"Summer is icumen in" and with it not only journeyings but books of travel and volumes dealing with nature and the open. In "Lords of the Wild" (Morrow: \$2) Samuel Scoville, Jr., gathers together spicy stories of adventuring animals all over the world. Mr. Scoville is at his best on his home ground of Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. When he gets to the tropics or the arctic he inclines toward the sentimental or the sensational. But he is always a good story teller. Nature enters by reflection into the biography by Raymond Gorges of "Ernest Harold Baynes" (Houghton Mifflin: \$4), for Mr. Baynes, an ardent naturalist and conservationist, was largely responsible for the preservation of the last of the buffalo, was a successful critic of the nature fakirs, who ran riot some decades ago, a champion of birds, and a defender of scientific vivisection. In writing his life Mr. Gorges has chronicled the career of a lovable and useful man.

Those many city workers whose thoughts turn when spring sets in to the mountain lands where they hope to spend their summer holidays will find in Walter Collins O'Kane's "Trails and Summits of the Adirondacks" (Houghton Mifflin: \$2.50) a useful guidebook to the tramps and climbs of that section. It is a compact little volume, which amplifies its information as to routes by adding historical and descriptive accounts of the mountains and a sketch map of them. It contains an index. Adventures in the open undertaken not in mere holiday spirit but in the thirst for wealth are given description in R. M. Macdonald's "Opals and Gold" (Lippincott: \$4), a book of prospectors' tales, rather stiffly written but containing very interesting accounts of mining for gold, opals, molybdenite, and diving for pearls in Australia and New Guinea. And going still further afield from the book that deals with nature, we find a volume that is a pleasant narrative guidebook in Stephen Gwynn's "Ireland" (Doubleday, Doran: \$2). The volume is not good for specific detail of prices and distances, but it is a useful book to take along on a journey to Ireland for atmosphere, background, and things to see and enjoy. Much more information than Baedeker affords for those who go abroad for "a big time," is to be found in Karl K. Kitchin's "Pleasure if Possible" (Henkle: \$2.50), an amusing travel guide which enumerates the sprightly places to go to in Europe, and gives the "low-down" on famous watering places and notorious hotels. The traveller to England, who is interested in its monuments and statuary, will find a classified guide, with dates of erection and other details, descriptions, and criticism in Edward Gleichen's "London's Open-Air Statuary" (Longmans, Green: \$8). The book is lavishly illustrated. Not so much for the tripper as for the traveller who takes his journeying vicariously is Junius B. Wood's "Incredible Siberia" (Dial: \$4). This is a journalistic account of Siberia, rich, however, in observation, anecdote, and statistics.

Apparently for the moment we have exhausted the nature and travel books, and "what'll we do now" (in the words of a volume just issued by Simon & Schuster)? Survey cursorily some of the volumes of biography that have come in such large numbers from the press of late. Houghton Mifflin have reissued under the title "Soldier of the South" (\$2.50) and under the editorship of Arthur Crew Inman, letters of General Pickett to his wife. Pickett of Pickett's charge was a romantic Southerner, brave, generous, and a little sentimental. His letters are vivid and appealing, especially those written upon the battlefield and in the difficult days of reconstruction. Rear Admiral Albert S. Barker's "Everyday Life in the Navy" (Badger: \$5) is also the record of a fighting man. It is one of those rambling compendiums of an active life which are full of information and adventure, sometimes exciting. From such books as this history is often corrected, if not

(Continued on page 959)

The Compleat Collector.

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TUCKED away on the pages of a sectarian periodical, couched in all the typical phrases of a tribute from an enthusiastic disciple to a teacher upon his fiftieth birthday, is a brief account of a man whose quiet, inconspicuous life has already left a significant mark upon American scholarship. The striking thing about the tribute is that the writer of this note, alien by inheritance, training, and environment, shares in fullest measure the enthusiasm of the disciple for Alexander Marx, as "one of the few great Jewish scholars of this generation."

Dr. Marx has spent just half of his life in America, as Professor of History and Librarian of the Jewish Theological Seminary on One Hundred and Twenty-third Street in New York. There he had his reward when, some years ago, a group of devoted friends of the institution made up their minds to take advantage of an opportunity to give New York the greatest library of Hebrew books in the world. Two other theological seminaries in New York, the Union and the General, have libraries of very high quality, but they cannot compare with the treasures, printed and manuscript, which his friends have placed under the care of Dr. Marx. The interest in these books, which are both old and rare, is limited by the subject matter and by the language, but they are illumined by the presence of a custodian whose profound learning is enlivened by the broadest humanism.

The tribute to him, by Boaz Cohen, in "The United Synagogue Recorder," is documented by a bibliography of 206 titles of publications from Dr. Marx's pen.

G. P. W.

THE news that Henry C. Folger has made up his mind to proceed forthwith with his plans for a permanent home in Washington for his Shakespeare collection, gives added interest to a group of items that have been awaiting notice. From the Bodleian Library comes a catalogue of some of the chief treasures at Oxford, modestly entitled "Specimens of Shakespeareana." Falconer Madan is largely responsible, which means that it is gotten up with a refreshing originality in the style of the entries, and that the notes are readable as well as informing.

Mr. Madan also contributed some notes and a preface to an impressive catalogue of Shakespeareana issued by Michelmore and Co. of next to the Carlton Hotel in London. There are 734 items, listed at prices which imply that customers are expected to make an offer, from which a compromise may be reached. In certain cases, however, the price is more reasonable than the Shakespearean interest. £200 is not bad as prices go nowadays for Grolier's copy of Basle edition of Cato's "Disticha," a book (but not the edition) which is mentioned by Douce in his "Illustrations." Another far cry is a letter from Professor Robert Chambers written in 1854, ordering a number of books, among them being Knight's "Shakespeare," priced £3. The catalogue entries are generously annotated, and the high percentage of manuscripts and autograph letters gives it permanent value.

American scholarship exhibits itself in a study of "The Variant Issues of Shakespeare's Second Folio," issued by The Institute of Research attached to one of the middle-aged Universities. A younger, albeit larger, sister institution not long ago gave two Ph. D.'s as a reward for the discovery that if a piece of type falls out from between two words in a line, the letters in those words are likely to wriggle back and forth under the pressure of printing. By counting each wriggle a separate edition, the two young students conceived a bibliographical portent. They received their degrees really, however, for interpreting this evidence as proof that their professor knew a great deal more than another professor in a much older University. There are certain parallelisms to this story, in the publication on the Second Folios. The researcher already has his Doctorate and a Professorship safely in hand, so that fame

and an international reputation should be his next goal. This maybe explains why he was so completely carried away by the discovery of a dozen errata in a book by Alfred W. Pollard, late "Keeper" of the British Museum, that he did not give any thought, that appears in his publication, to the meaning of the data which had been most laboriously compiled.

By securing detailed information regarding 124 copies of the Second Folio, the investigator has increased the number of recorded variants to nine. This is a thoroughly creditable piece of work, for which other students will be duly grateful. He has also erected an elaborate scheme in which each of the nine is given a carefully prepared place. Everything is arranged in accordance with the most orthodox rules of bibliographical science, as practiced in a previous century. Since then, bibliographical authorities have come to a number of very confusing opinions, of which perhaps the most troublesome is that allowance must always be made for human nature, when dealing with human handiwork. Things were much simpler when, as in this study, it was taken for granted that the correction of an error meant that the corrected form was later than the incorrect. Unluckily, the precise contrary is usually the fact. Similarly, an elaborate argument to determine the priority of certain title pages might have been true, although not necessarily, if there had been only one printer, with only one press, in London in 1632. If, as is known, the printer had several presses and plenty of type, and if it was a common practice to hasten the completion of a piece of work by setting up duplicate texts and putting these on two presses simultaneously, the whole effort becomes a mare's nest.

Bibliographical

THE dispersal of what there is left of the stock accumulated by George D. Smith, and the death of Herschel V. Jones, mark the close of an era in American book collecting. Commercialized collecting, which was its most easily recognized characteristic, did not begin nor end with Smith nor with the men whom he induced to buy books. His personality and career, and his methods of dominating the rare book business, were picturesque, but they seemed novel to his contemporaries only because there was no tradition to preserve the memory of the elder Quaritch, beside whom Smith was the veriest piker. None-the-less, "G.D.S." held the center of the rare book stage in New York and London, and had appeared at Paris, for two spectacular decades.

The alliance between Smith and Henry E. Huntington coincided with economic changes which affected the structure of English life, and opened the way for a succession of memorable coups. Even more fundamental changes, seventy-five years earlier, helped a very similar alliance between Henry Stevens, G. M. B., and James Lenox and John Carter Brown. There were precisely the same complaints about extravagant prices, then as there are now. What is more, the identical moral had been drawn, because of an identical manifestation of the fondness of a few individuals in every age for nice books, at recurrent intervals since the time of Prince Henry, and Duke Humphrey, and Richard de Bury.

Meanwhile, the sales of the George D. Smith stock provide an appropriate culmination to the current auction season, which has been far from spectacular. The catalogues of these sales are well worth studying. They ought to be preserved for use in library schools where there are courses in book purchasing. Here is the record of the books that could not be worked off on customers. With Smith, they were merely by-product, for the most part, often taken in trade, and are not to be interpreted as evidence of errors in judgment. They do reveal the heavy load which accumulates to weigh down a business of

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this character, and there are many illuminating illustrations of the seemingly insignificant things which spoil the market for an otherwise desirable volume.

COSTERIANA

DOUGLAS C. McMURTRIE, 2032 Clyburn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, writes to The Compleat Collector asking for information which its readers may have about examples of Costeriana.

"In connection with some studies I am making on the invention of printing, I desire to locate all existing examples of frag-

ments of early Dutch printing, which are known, roughly, under the title of "Costeriana." I should much appreciate advice regarding any such material in American ownership, outside of that in the Huntington Library, J. Pierpont Morgan Library, Ann Mary Brown Memorial, New York Public Library, and in the collection of Carl H. Pforzheimer."

A POOR THING

WHY is it that frequently privately printed books are so bad in format and execution? It would seem that a privately printed book were its own excuse for

fine printing, on the one hand, or for experimental typography on the other. "Privately printed for subscribers," New York, 1928, comes a tale of Solomon and his girl-love, Sulamith, translated out of the Russian of Alexandre Kuprin by B. G. Guernsey, with illustrations by Forbes-Felix. The note preceding the title-page gives the whole thing away: "Printed in 18-point Caslon on Villon antique laid paper. 1500 copies . . . issued for subscribers . . . type distributed after printing . . . illustrations especially designed." Bah! The type is *not* Caslon, the paper is ordinary book paper, the "subscribers" are obviously those who happen to

possess the price of copies, linotype slugs are never "distributed," and "especially designed" illustrations is just salesman's ballyhoo. R.

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Despite *The Inner Sanctum's* wild-eyed ballyhoo for *What'll We Do Now*, the trade seems to have found a clamorous demand for it, making necessary a second large printing, before the book went on sale. Moreover, the first edition was the largest initial printing of any Inner Sanctum publication in years—3 years, to be exact, and 7,500 copies.

The first edition of the first *Cross Word Puzzle Book* was 3,200 copies, of *The Story of Philosophy* 3,000 copies; of *Trader Horn*, volume one 3,000 copies.

Hearst—An American Phenomenon by JOHN K. WINKLER also went into a second printing before publication. . . . The first reviews, by the way, in *The New York Times*, *The New York Herald-Tribune*, *The New York World*, *The New York Sun* and *The Philadelphia Public Ledger* all confirm *The Inner Sanctum's* enthusiasm for the sheer fascination and the utter impartiality of this exciting chronicle of "a Modern Monte Cristo."

Who is WINKLER?

***The Inner Sanctum* is bombarded with inquiries regarding the author of that exciting biographical study of Hearst—*An American Phenomenon*, and hastens to explain:**

JOHN K. WINKLER is a newspaperman with more than eighteen years of reportorial and feature-writing experience, many of them on HEARST papers. His specialty has been interviewing men who never give interviews—the MORGANS and the ROCKEFELLERS, for example. To *The Inner Sanctum* JOHN K. WINKLER explains that he is most fascinated by personalities like LUCULLUS, MAECENAS, CASSANOVA, CACLIOSTRO, JOSEPH PULITZER, P. T. BARNUM and LORD NORTHCLIFFE, and in WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST he has found hints of this varied and colorful array.

WINKLER's celebrated series of five *New Yorker* articles on HEARST was just the first sketch for the full-length canvas now provided in this critical appraisal and human document published in book form.

So many readers of *The Inner Sanctum* have submitted hundred-word essays on the second anniversary of *The Story of Philosophy*, explaining the phenomenon of one million readers of WILL DURANT's book, that the winning contribution cannot be printed until next week.

—ESSANDESS.



WE have to thank Pascal Covici of Chicago for Richard Aldington's selections from the works of Remy de Gourmont, which he has also translated. Interesting photographs, drawings and woodcuts by André Rouveyre of de Gourmont illustrate the two volumes. Covici has also brought out a new edition of that price-less poet of the seventies, Mrs. Julia A. Moore, "The Sweet Singer of Michigan," with an introduction by Walter Blair of the University of Chicago. We have long revelled in the Sweet Singer's work, an early first, as we remember it, being a treasured possession of our family. This has, however, long been lost or stored away, and this new edition fills a long-felt need. . . .

Donald Friede, lately of Boni & Live-right, has now joined forces with Covici, and is vice president of Covici, Friede Inc., publishers, at 79 West 45th Street, this city. Their first book will be the first definitive edition in modern English of the complete works of François Villon, translated with an introduction by J. U. Nicolson, and illustrated by Alexander King. This will be issued in two volumes, limited to nine hundred and sixty sets, and sold at twenty dollars. The complete French text will be printed on the left hand page and the translation on the right hand page opposite it. The publication date will be June twenty-first. . . .

Kenneth Slade Alling, the poet, sends us the following line from a ship of the Compagnie Generale Transatlantique:

This boat (ship) takes eight days and a
Have.

. . . . We read with interest of pilgrims from all parts of England attending the performance of John Masefield's miracle play, "The Coming of Christ," when it was given recently in Canterbury Cathedral. We understand that some objection was made in regard to the impossibility of recapturing the spirit of the miracle plays of the Middle Ages. True, doubtless but we should have liked to witness the play in such surroundings, we must confess. . . .

One afternoon recently Elliott White Springs, the editor of "War Birds" and the author of "Leave them with a Smile," invited Burton Rascoe, ex-editor of *The Bookman*, to fly to Richmond, Virginia, with him to have dinner with Ellen Glasgow and James Branch Cabell. They took off from Curtiss Field in Mr. Springs's plane and were in time for their dinner engagement. . . .

Dhan Gopal Mukerji's "Gay Neck" (Dutton) has won the John Newbery Medal for "the most distinguished children's book of the past year. *John Newbery* was an eighteenth century publisher and bookseller, one of the first to give special attention to books for children. . . .

Payson and Clarke call our attention to N. Ognov's "The Diary of a Communist Schoolboy." Of it Arnold Bennett has said, "I feel as if I had at last got some authentic news out of Bolshevik Russia. . . the book is simply all plums." It is out today, by the way. . . .

Joseph Auslander has in various stages of incompleteness as many as five books, all of which will probably be ready this fall. They will include a new volume of poetry by him, a volume of translations from the Italian, a novel in verse, an anthology on the plan outlined in "The Winged Horse," and a mysterious volume concerning which even his publishers have not an inkling. . . .

From Chatto & Windus, 97 & 99 St. Martin's Lane, London, W.C.2, comes the information that the longest and most notable of Mr. Wyndham Lewis's works is now to be brought out by them. It will be published in three sections; the first section will appear shortly and the second and third in the coming fall. It is a work of imaginative fiction entitled, "The Childermass." The title comes from the festival of Childermas-Day, or The Holy Innocents. The opening of Mr. Lewis's extraordinary work pictures the souls on the other side of Death, assembled, as it were, in concentration camps, to suffer judgment before being admitted into heaven. "Intellectual grasp, sardonic comedy, and apocalyptic grandeur," say the English publishers, are united in the progress of the work. It sounds to us like a masterpiece, and probably Harcourt will bring it out over here. We hope so, and soon. Meanwhile, from that firm, get the volume of Wyndham Lewis's short stories, entitled "The Wild Body," and published this year. . . .

C. E. Montague, for years chief editorial writer of the *Manchester Guardian*, whose retirement several years ago gave him the leisure to write some distinguished novels and short stories, died May 20th last of pneumonia. He was a great English stylist. In liberal journalism and in the wider field of literature he left his indelible mark. . . .

The Sacco-Vanzetti National League expects to publish in the fall a book containing a number of articles by well-known authorities in law, science, and philosophy, who will analyze the Lowell Report from various angles. The volumes will be edited by Professor Karl Llewellyn of the Columbia Law School. Robert Morris Lovett is chairman of the League's executive committee. The advisory committee contains such names as Jane Addams, Clarence Darrow, John Dos Passos, Bishop Paul Jones, Joseph Wood Krutch, William Ellery Leonard, Horace Liveright, Eugene O'Neill, John Nevin Sayre, Vida D. Scudder, Upton Sinclair, Genevieve Taggard, Oswald Garrison Villard, Norman Thomas, and Mary E. Woolley. . . .

We are delighted to see in *The Horn Book*, published four times a year by The Bookshop for Boys and Girls in Boston, an article on our old friend, A. Hugh Fisher, an English etcher and poet, a number of whose etchings now grace the walls of this our sanctum. The one we particularly adore is that of the carillon in Bruges belfry. The article is called "A. Hugh Fisher: A Comrade for Children," and is written by Elizabeth M. Whitmore. It is illustrated with reproductions of some of Fisher's work, the "Carcassonne" being particularly notable. Mrs. Whitmore conducts The Print Corner at Hingham. She has written a valuable monograph for amateur print collectors, entitled "Prints for the Layman, Their Use and Enjoyment in the Average Home." And the drawings and etchings of Mr. Fisher may be obtained through The Bookshop for Boys and Girls, Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 270 Boylston Street, Boston, Massachusetts. An outlay of ten or fifteen dollars procures you something extremely fine. We'd not take ten times that sum for any of the portrait etchings we have around our Phoenixnest Bookcase, of Sturge Moore, Gordon Bottomley, Lascelles Abercrombie, and Walter de la Mare. . . .

Well, "Goodbye," as Robert Frost said to the orchard, "and keep cold!"

THE PHOENICIAN.

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