

The Compleat Collector.

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By Carl Purington Rollins & George Parker Winship.

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THERE are many famous "Association" volumes in American private libraries, but few of them set the imagination going on stranger trails than a neat little quarto which reposes on the shelves of a Columbia University professor. Its title, "Odi di Labindo," followed by a quotation from Horace, Od. xxx, L. iii, means little. The dedication to Catherine the Second of Rus-

sia, from her most devoted and affectionate admirer, Labindo, adds nothing informative. It is the imprint that awakens curiosity: "A Bordo del Formidabile MDCCCLXXXII. Con Permesio dell' Ammiraglio Rodney." The second Ode is headed: "Per la Vittoria riportata il di 12. Aprile 1782. nell' Indie Occidentali Dalla Flotta Inglese, comandata dall' Ammiraglio Rodney, sopra la Flotta

Francesca del Conte di Grasse, fatto Prigioniero nell' axione." Another is "Al Formidabile Vascello dell' Ammiraglio Rodney."

These Italian poems, dedicated to the Russian Empress, then, were written and printed on the Admiral's flagship, and in all probability very soon after the famous victory. This is enough to make this little book, of which no other copy has been recorded, an important bit of Americana. It has however one other point of interest, for inside the front cover is an armorial book plate, on which the original owner wrote his name: Lord Rodney.

A photostatic "edition" of ten copies has recently been made for distribution to the libraries where it is likely to be most appreciated.

The work of the printing presses on the vessels of the French fleet in American waters during the Revolutionary war has long tantalized students. While the fleet lay in Newport harbor, its press was especially active, albeit on shore. One fairly sizable volume was printed here, the original edition of the account written by

Chastellux of his trip from Rhode Island to Philadelphia, and several copies of this are known, at the New York Public Library, Harvard, San Gabriel, and most appropriately in Dr. Terry's library at Newport. Two copies exist also of an Almanach printed at Newport, for the year 1781.

Much more interesting is a newspaper, of which a file, complete from the beginning, was discovered not long ago and reproduced in facsimile by the Grolier Club, with an introduction by Mr. Howard M. Chapin of the Rhode Island Historical Society.

When it comes to making a comprehensive work of reference, the French have
(Continued on page 695)

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A GREETING to Alfred Aloysius Horn, who landed here last Tuesday! To you, "Zambesi Jack," great trader and follower of the true romance! . . .

Margaret Widdemer postals us from Bermuda that she is there at work on a new novel and, with Louise Driscoll, another American poet, is collaborating on a "Sophisticates' Dictionary. . . ."

Scanning a couple of the English catalogues, we note that Elinor Wylie's "Mr. Hodge and Mr. Hazard" and Herbert Gorman's "The Place Called Dagon," are on the Spring list of William Heinemann. So is Christopher Morley's "Translations from the Chinese." Jonathan Cape has W. E. Woodward's "George Washington," Ernest Hemingway's "Men Without Women," Fannie Hurst's "A President is Born," and Elizabeth Madox Roberts's "My Heart and My Flesh." But what interests us even more about Cape's list are the following items. (1.) *Laura Riding* (Gottschalk), the Southern ultra-modern poet who is now living in England, has three books on the roster, the last being in collaboration with Robert Graves. First comes "Contemporaries and Snobs," three essays on contemporary poetry and criticism. The second essay is said to give a clue to the work of Gertrude Stein. In the third "The Poe Cult" is taken up as an extreme example of literary snobbery. The second book, "Anarchism is Not Enough" (and who, by the way, said it was?), is described as "an amiable collection of demonstrations, narrative, critical, philosophical, literary, sociological, etc. (Whee!) of an unamiable point of view." And then there is Miss Riding's and Mr. Graves's "A Pamphlet Against Anthologies," which sounds interesting. . . .

We are glad to see in the "Poetry and Plays" section of this same catalogue that Roy Campbell, whose "The Flaming Terrapin" is one of the most exhilarating longer poems we have read in our latter days, has produced a satire which "lashes South African provincialism,"—only we are sorry he did not command a wider territory. Among the fiction we apprehend "Silver Circus" by A. E. Coppard, an excellent writer of stories; Ronald Fraser's new "The Vista: A Novel" (his "Flower Phantoms" is one of our prime favorites, a most beautiful and unusual tale,—but why did he not choose a better title for his novel, which is sure to be good?); Naomi Mitchison's "Black Sparta," published here by Harcourt—we have enjoyed her "The Conquered" and "When the Bough Breaks" inordinately in the past; and the famous "The Bullfighters" by Henry de Montherlant, translated by Edwin Gile Rich. . . .

That eighteen-year-old Irish girl, Myrtle Johnston, the author of "Hanging Johnny," seems to be quite a portent. She started writing when she was five. Appleton publishes her novel. . . .

From American Spring catalogues we direct your attention to the following items: Norman Tealby's illustrations to that bois-

terous classic of pre-Napoleonic Spain, "The Three-Cornered Hat," by Don Pedro Antonio de Alarcon, translated by Martin Armstrong (Simon and Schuster); Thomas Beer's long-awaited third novel, "The Road to Heaven" (Knopf); "Tennis," by Helen Wills (Scribner); "The Midnight Mystery," by Bertram Atkey (Appleton),—you should know Prosper Fair, the Duke of Devizes, who wanders over the English countryside again, as he did in "The Pyramid of Lead," with dog and donkey (to which is now added a perfectly lovely elephant), meeting eerie and spectacular adventure; "Love Sonnets of a Cave Man and Other Verses," by Don Marquis (Doubleday, Doran—ready April 6th); "Fire and Sleet and Candlelight," a miscellany of poems written by Eleanor Carroll Chilton, Herbert Agar, and Willis Fisher,—the general title having been given to them by Elinor Wylie (John Day); "The Living Buddha," by Paul Morand, translated by Madeleine Boyd (Holt); all of "Saki's" works that you can lay your hands on—he's inimitable and superb—(Viking Press); "Down the Fairway," Bobby Jones's book of golf in collaboration with O. B. Keeler (Minton, Balch); "Words and Poetry," by George H. W. Rylands, M. A., Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, with an Introduction by Lytton Strachey (Payson & Clarke); Voltaire's "Candide" with illustrations by Rockwell Kent (Random House); "Tarka the Otter," by Henry Williamson, who, now that W. H. Hudson is gone, is the best English writer on nature (Dutton); "The Renaissance" by Arthur, Count Gobineau—a handy pocket edition of this gorgeous volume of impressions of the period, a jewel with manifold facets (Putnam); "The Meaning of a Liberal Education," by Everett Dean Martin (W. W. Norton); "The Eternal Moment," short stories by E. M. Forster (Harcourt). Your outlay for the above will be,—let's see,—\$36.50, irrespective of the "Candide," which is very special and sells for \$15. But you could omit the books on tennis and golf if you are not interested in sport, and you could omit "The Midnight Mystery" if you don't care for detective stories. Of course, the selections are highly idiosyncratic,—but what do you expect? . . .

By the way, about this fellow Henry Williamson, Thomas Hardy himself (no less!) called "Tarka the Otter" a remarkable book. John Galsworthy, Edward Gurnett, Arnold Bennett, and H. M. Tomlinson, all have praised Williamson's writing. His other volumes, all published by Dutton, are "The Lone Swallows," "Sun Brothers," and "The Old Stag." The entire collection is well worth having. . . .

We are glad to see that The Modern Library has recently added *Merejkowski's* "The Romance of Leonard Da Vinci" to its publications. This is one of the great historical novels of all time. . . .

And so, fair cozes and sweet chucks, farewell,—a fond farewell!

THE PHOENICIAN.

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“BOOTH TARKINGTON gives me the shivers,” says EDNA FERBER. “No man has any right to know so much about women!”

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Franklin Else
Beatrice Rhapsody
Daybreak

What ARTHUR SCHNITZLER doesn't know about women could be engraved, like The Lord's Prayer, on the head of a pin.

Here is some more cataclysmic news for EDNA FERBER: the four latest SCHNITZLER books listed above are all novelettes, but later this Spring The Inner Sanctum will release his first full-length novel in years, entitled *Theresa, The Story of A Woman's Life*.

The Inner Sanctum confesses an inordinate curiosity for personal letters, especially those marked *private* and *confidential*. A secret chamber in the innermost citadel of the sanctum sanctorum has been housing a choice stock of pre-war letters of rare literary flavor, communications too indiscreet or too revealing to see the light of day. Two such letters recently found their way into one of the most distinguished of current books—by a strange coincidence, a publication of The Inner Sanctum: *Aubrey Beardsley, The Clown, The Harlequin, The Pierrot Of His Age*, by HALDANE MACFALL.

Before the book was released, The Inner Sanctum was loath to direct special attention to these two letters, but now that many critics have commented on them with evident relish, and now that the first edition of the book is exhausted, and only a few \$12.00 autographed copies are available, The Inner Sanctum is tempted to Tell All:

[TO THE EDITOR OF St. Paul's]
Sir: No one more than myself welcomes frank, nay, hostile criticism, or enjoys more thoroughly a personal remark. But your art critic [HALDANE MACFALL] surely goes a little too far in last week's issue of St. Paul's, and I may be forgiven if I take up the pen of resentment. He says that I am "searless and unclean."
As to my uncleanliness I do the best for it in my morning bath, and if he has really any doubts as to my sex, he may come and see me take it.

Yours, etc.,
AUBREY BEARDSLEY

To this letter, HALDANE MACFALL sent an immediate reply, in the form of

A PUBLIC APOLOGY TO MR. AUBREY BEARDSLEY

Sir: When a cockrel sits overlong upon the egg of the spontaneous repartee, his labour runs the risk of betraying the strain to which he has put his untired skill in giving birth to gossamer or bringing forth the airy bladder of the scathing retort. To ape Whistler does not disprove descent from monkeys. But since Mr. Beardsley displays anxiety to establish his sex, pray assure him that I eagerly accept his personal confession. Nor am I overwhelmed with his rollicking devilry in taking his morning bath—a pretty habit that will soon lose its startling thrill of novelty if he persists in it.

Yours truly,
HAL DANE

"If catalogues come, can Spring be far behind?" asked The Inner Sanctum a few weeks ago. Now comes another incontrovertible evidence of the passing of winter—the early March flood of rhymed contributions, such as this quatrain from H. A. Dory, of Geneseo, New York:

I've just rounded Trader Horn
All I wish is
More of Aloysius,
Again, some September morn.

Believing, with Mr. STATLER, that the customer is always right, The Inner Sanctum announces that *Trader Horn* himself is already in America, completely surrounded by "convivials," and that his second book, also edited by Mrs. ETHELREDA LEWIS, will be out long before the specified September—on June 10th, to be exact. Meantime the first *Trader Horn* is keeping the printers and binders thoroughly busy and happy.

Unwearied by the rigors of a nation-wide lecture swing, refreshed by Santa Barbara and Palm Beach, WILL DURANT is now back at the Home Office. On checking in at The Inner Sanctum, he found the first copies of his one-volume Philosophers Library edition of *The Works of Schopenhauer*, and a huge copy of the latest R. H. BOWKER bestseller survey, covering 92 booksellers in 72 cities, from coast to coast, showing *The Story of Philosophy* and *Transition, A Mental Autobiography* in 3rd and 10th places respectively. (*Trader Horn* is first—Editor.)

—ESSANDESS

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