

## Points of View

Sterling and P. J.

To the Editor of *The Saturday Review*:  
Sir:

Since your correspondent, Mr. G. H. Cunningham, has disclosed an interesting, and it may be important, episode in the early life of George Sterling, it may be worth while to correct some points in which Mr. Cunningham's memory is certainly at fault. I was the youthful minister of the church in question at the time, and had other connections with Sterling's migration to California which qualify me to bear accurate testimony as to the facts. Since Mr. Cunningham does not reveal the name of the "chum" it will be sufficient to designate him as P. J.

I was in New York at the time, and was astounded to read in the *New York World* that a pirate flag was flying from the steeple of my church, which, by the way was Presbyterian, and not Episcopal. On my return to the village of S. there was the flag, sure enough, with its scull and crossbones flying from the tall wooden steeple of the church. I said at once that it must come down before Sunday, and it did. No scaffolding was built for the purpose. A painter, who had been a sailor, took it down for the sum of five dollars, and said he would like permanent employment at the same rate. The feat of placing it on the steeple was much more hazardous than Mr. Cunningham intimates. There was no lightning rod to aid the climbers. They went up by a stairway to the peak of the steeple, climbed out of a small window, and with nothing but the frail wooden ornaments which had been nailed there fifty years before, reached the top at the dizzy height of nearly 200 feet.

One of the young ladies connected with the enterprise talked, and soon the whole story was known to everybody. And everybody laughed, even the church treasurer who paid the bill. No further attention was paid to the matter. Nobody thought of prosecuting the lads.

But a little later there was a series of incendiary fires, culminating in one which threatened a serious conflagration. This was no laughing matter. At the time I and some gentlemen with whom I was asso-

ciated had in our employ a brace of detectives who were working on a different matter altogether. We thought it worth while to divert them temporarily to the matter of the incendiary fires. They soon had evidence enough to warrant them in interviewing Sterling and P. J. How far they went with the methods of the "third degree" I do not know. They reported to us that Sterling weakened soon, but P. J. maintained his nerve without flinching. Then Sterling's grandmother left town. I do not think that there was sufficient evidence against the boys to warrant an arrest. But this sudden departure, under the circumstances, confirmed the suspicion which had fastened on the pair. P. J. held out a few days longer, and then he too left town. The two of them went to California to an uncle of Sterling's, who, by the way, had left the Long Island town under precisely similar circumstances many years before.

It was always understood that P. J. was the master mind in these escapades. Sterling was regarded as an amiable lad, bent on mischief, perhaps, but without the disposition to reckless adventure without his leader. If P. J. had broken into the world of high finance, or had otherwise distinguished himself, we would not have been surprised. When "Wine of Wizardry" appeared, sponsored as it was by the extravagant praise of Ambrose Bierce, I for one was amazed. And I have wondered what would have happened if P. J. had not led Sterling into an escapade which sent him far away from the sleepy old Long Island town in which he was born and reared. I have even flattered myself with the notion that I had helped in a small way to fling him into fame.

CLARENCE H. WILSON.  
Belgrade Lakes, Me.

Professor F. Baldensperger of the Sorbonne is writing a biography of Alfred de Vigny and would appreciate letters by or information about him. If originals are sent, the greatest care will be exercised in returning same. Communications may be addressed directly to him at 55 Rue Vaugirard, (6e), Paris, France, or to Edward Larocque Tinker, 449 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y., U. S. A.

## The Compleat Collector.

RARE BOOKS · FIRST EDITIONS · FINE TYPOGRAPHY

Conducted by Carl Purington Rollins and Gilbert M. Troxell

"Now cheaply bought for thrice their weight in gold."

THE LITERARY CAREER OF JAMES BOSWELL, ESQ. By FREDERICK A. POTTLE. New York: Oxford, University Press. 1929.

EVEN before the absorption of the entire eighteenth century by collectors, James Boswell had, to a certain extent, been an object of interest—it was never quite possible to overlook his one great contribution to English literature, and even though the book itself was not scarce in the sense many others have always been, it at least commanded respect and attention. To generations carefully trained for college entrance examinations on Macaulay's lurid descriptions, poor James Boswell was less than dirt, a creature of notebooks and no mentality, who suffered from a hero-fixation of the worst sort, and who, merely by an accident of Providence, happened to be able to write anything at all. If he ever had published other books, Macaulay and his readers felt no desire to be aware of the fact: they had to acknowledge in one instance the presence of a heavenly gift no matter how much they might question the wisdom of its bestowal, but that, for their purposes, was sufficient. Boswell was a fool, and there the subject ended for them. Boswell, however, more fortunate than any one else in his interpreters of the past few years, has survived all this, and now in the present time has begun to find his greatest importance.

The present notice pretends only to speak of Dr. Pottle's book from the point of view of a contribution to bibliography—for anything further, a degree of scholarship equal to his own is essential in order properly to evaluate the distinction of his achievement. That he has produced a volume of inestimable value to both dealers and collectors, in spite of the explicit statement in the introduction, "I did not write it primarily for [their] benefit," must be made clear at once; it is obvious that Boswell items in the future will bear the Pottle reference numbers quite as serenely as English books published before 1640 carry those of the Short Title Catalogue. Out of an amazingly complicated subject, Dr. Pottle has created an orderly, intelligent, and even fascinating work—he has omitted nothing of importance to collectors, even though it may have seemed useless to him as a scholar, but on the other hand, with an unusual appreciation of his duties as a bibliographer, he has included details that they alone would wish to know. It is impossible to over-rate his book, or to be grateful enough to him for this additional proof that bibliography, exactly as history, depends for the quality of its success quite as much upon the manner of treatment it receives as it depends upon the accuracy of the facts presented to the reader—it is seldom possible to find as satisfactory and as brilliant a piece of work as this.

It may be interesting to quote Dr. Pottle on the over-worked "give" point! "At least one leaf appears in two 'states.' Page 135, line 10, second word, reads in some copies 'give'; in other gve." Of the four copies in the British Museum, two have one reading and two the other. There can be little doubt that 'gve' is the earlier state. The first proof shows the word correctly spelled, but the lines are punctuated as follows:

*Short, O short! then be thy reign,  
And give us to the world again.*

Boswell passed this in the proof, but in the revise (both proof and revise are in the possession of Mr. [R. B.] Adam) he directed the printer to remove the exclamation point in the first line and substitute it for the period at the end of the second, which is in fact the punctuation of the printed text. When the changes were made the 'i' dropped out, and the printer, not noticing what had happened, filled up the line by inserting a space between 'gve' and 'us.' After a considerable part of the edition had been printed, the error was discovered and corrected in the press. The booksellers have given this rather uninteresting 'point' more attention than it deserves."

G. M. T.

THE Luttrell Psalter, one of the most finely illuminated manuscripts in English, was withdrawn from the Sotheby's auction block recently with the announcement that it had been privately bought for the British Museum, where it has rested for thirty years. The price paid, \$157,500, was lent, interest free, to the British Museum, it is thought, by the Messrs. Quaritch, who "felt it was only right that the Psalter should remain in England."

With its withdrawal, interest centered in the "Bedford Book of Hours" which went to Messrs. Quaritch for \$165,000. This famous English manuscript will also be held for the British Museum by the purchaser as soon as the price paid can be raised. No interest will be charged as the Messrs. Quaritch are anxious that this volume also remain in England.

The chief American bidder was Gabriel Wells of New York, who stayed to \$140,000 during excited bidding from all parts of the room. It started at \$25,000.

The Luttrell Psalter was the property of Mrs. Alfred Noyes, wife of the poet, who inherited it from her grandfather, Sir Frederick Weldin, to whose family both the Luttrell and Bedford had belonged since the seventeenth century.

The Luttrell Psalter is one of the most lavishly decorated manuscripts existing. It is famous for the marginal drawings illustrating the life and customs of medieval England, and was executed in 1340 for Sir Geoffrey Luttrell of Lenham, Lincolnshire.

The book contains 309 leaves and is illuminated in colors and gold.

It is understood that a public appeal for a fund will be made by the British Museum, which has a year in which to pay. The manuscripts will be exhibited in the British Museum.

THE record sum of £1,220 (\$5,917) was paid recently by Maggs Bros., London booksellers, for "The Life of Samuel Johnson," by James Boswell, London, 1791. This copy, which belonged to Mrs. Alan Gough, came out of the Duke of Roxburghe sale in 1812 for £1 11s 6d.

An autograph letter from George Washington to John Paul Jones, dated July 22, 1787, in which the Father of his Country mentions Lafayette and Rochambeau, brought £920 (\$4,462), Maggs Bros., being the purchasers.

A letter from Abraham Lincoln to his Secretary of War, written on August 19, 1861, recommended James Shields, Brigadier General George S. Thomas and Colonel Michael Corcoran for promotion, brought £220 (\$1,067).

A PLEASANT little book, possibly of some interest to collectors, is Haselhurst Greaves's "The Personal Library: How to Make and How to Use It" (London, 1928, Grafton & Company.) The author, for many years a public librarian, writes so much from the point of view of his profession that, at times, he seems to be addressing himself to persons rather unacquainted with English literature, but his manner is so simple and unpretentious that it possesses an individual charm. His ideas are practical and very sound—he is never startlingly original, nor does he try to produce the impression of great learning. Beginning with reading itself, he goes on to discuss the different means of forming a library, the collecting of first editions, the cataloguing of books and articles from periodicals, and finally the problem of selecting books. His enthusiasm and his genuine love of books are so apparent that they give a real value to his work.

The Chocorua Press (30 West 24th Street, New York City) has announced its intention of publishing, in unlimited editions, a series of bibliographies of American authors, as well as books dealing with bibliography in general. These are to be known as the "Chocorua Bibliographies" and the first of the series, to be issued early in the autumn, is to be Mr. Vest Orton's "Notes to Add to a Bibliography of Theodore Dreiser." Mr. Orton for this edition has completely

**"A delightfully written story which one reads with increasing admiration."**  
*London Sunday Times.*

**"A brilliantly successful novel of modern life."**  
—Eve, London.

**"Light-hearted, good-tempered, witty and wise; the sort you recommend to your friends."**  
*Bystander, London.*

**"Very clever and sensitive indeed; I felt that I was going to enjoy myself, and I did."**  
*London Evening News.*

**"Intelligent, charming."**  
*The Nation and Athenaeum, London.*

**"A delectable treat."**  
*London Evening Standard.*

**ROLLO HOWES**  
takes up the used car trade so as to make money quickly; his sister Catherine works spasmodically in a "high-brow" bookshop; Richard is Rollo's unbusiness-minded partner and friend. This is the absorbing tale of their reactions to love and life.

**BY BARBARA BLACKBURN**

For sale at all bookstores \$2.50

**LITTLE, BROWN & CO.**  
Publishers, Boston



revised the material included in the pamphlet he brought out last year, and has made of it a much more comprehensive and valuable work; as the publishers believe books of this kind should be made available, at the lowest price, to as many people as possible, it is to be sold for \$2.50. These bibliographies are to be printed at the Stratford Press, with typography by S. A. Jacobs.

In addition to these, the Press has announced for the autumn "The Palette Knife," by Christopher Morley, designed and printed by the Pynson Printers, and signed by the author (450 copies, \$20 each), and Brian Hooker's translation of "Cyrano de Bergerac," with a new preface by Mr. Hooker.

G. M. T.

FOR some years past a committee chosen from members of the American Institute of Graphic Arts has selected fifty books of the year which, having regard to the conditions under which they were produced and the problem facing the designers, seemed to the committee the best examples of American printing for that period. The books so chosen are shown every year in the Grolier Club, in the Metropolitan Museum of New York, and also in most of the larger American cities. These exhibitions have been of very great service to

the printing community in the United States by emphasizing for publishers, as for readers, the possibilities of better production open before them; they have helped printers by increasing the demand for good work, and they have also helped those book-collectors who wish to have on their shelves the best examples of contemporary typography.

It has long been felt that some such demonstration of English printing was very desirable. General exhibitions of recent books put out by publishers were, until last year, organized by the Bibliographical Society; but it was felt that the element of selection which was the chief feature of the American scheme was to be preferred. The Bibliographical Society of England is not to hold any exhibition during the present year, and has shown its good will by offering a contribution to the cost of those of the First Edition Club, to which its members will now be admitted. A committee has therefore chosen, from the books submitted by the English publishers, fifty volumes which seem to them best to deserve a place. In making the selection a given number of marks has been allotted for the paper used, the binding, the typographical arrangement, the machining, the general effect, and the relation to price.

These fifty books have been on exhibition

in the First Edition Club, last month, side by side with a set of the American books which had been sent over by the American Institute of Graphic Arts. It is intended to make this exhibition an annual one, so that from this time onward the best American and English books of the year will be shown simultaneously side by side in London and New York.

The recent sale at Sotheby's which had as its principal attraction the Luttrell Psalter and the Bedford Book of Hours included nine very fine illuminated manuscripts from the Holford library. One of the most important of these was a charmingly decorated Florentine manuscript of Petrarch, "Triumph," circa 1490, on seventy leaves small quarto. Another was a Book of Hours, by a French artist circa 1420, on 245 leaves small quarto, with twenty-one very fine miniatures by two or more artists, one of whom is closely related in manner to that one of the brothers De Limbourg who executed the devotional pictures in the famous "Très-riches Heures," of Jean Duc de Berry at Chantilly. And yet another was the "Bible Historiée et Vies des Saints," a Northern French manuscript of about 1300, one of the most profusely illustrated volumes of its kind; it is a folio of 154 leaves, and has

846 miniatures painted with panels in red, blue and green. The manuscript belonged to the Percivals of Enmore Castle, and came into the possession of Payne and Foss, the eminent London booksellers, in whose catalogue No. 72 of 1835 it was listed, and then again in that of 1837, and from the latter sold to Mr. R. S. Holford.

On the same day another very fine early manuscript was offered for sale at Hurcomb's Calder House, Piccadilly, a French translation of Boccaccio, "De cas des Nobles Hommes et Femmes," a folio "translate de latin en français par moi cozens," and finished April 15, 1409, by one Laurence, clerk of the diocese of Troyes. An inscription in the volume reads "Ex Bibliotheca de Nicolai Joseph Foucault Comititis Consistoriani," while another inscription reads "Ce livre moi été donné par M. Labé de Sausenage Abbé de St. Jean des Vignes [?] de Soissons le 10. dec. 1711. foucault."

**JAMES F. DRAKE, Inc.**  
Rare Books :: First Editions  
Autographs  
CATALOGUES ISSUED  
14 West 40th Street, New York

## Counter Attractions

NEW & OLD BOOKS :: COLLECTORS' ITEMS :: STAMPS & PRINTS :: LITERARY SERVICES

### AUTOGRAPHS

COLLECTOR OF AUTOGRAPHS, rare books, modern first editions, etc., should write to The Autograph Agency, 31 and 33 High Holborn, London, England, for catalogues which will be sent free on request. With each catalogue will be sent particulars of The Young Collectors Club, a newly formed organization to help young collectors who have not yet left school or college.

### BARGAIN OFFERS

DAUBER & PINE BOOKSHOPS' Semi-annual 20% Cash Discount Sale on their entire large and choice stock of new, old and rare books, first editions, fine sets, choice bindings, old, rare curious books, etc., offers collectors, librarians and booklovers in general a unique opportunity to acquire desirable books at bargain prices. All new books advertised in this paper less 20%, plus postage, on orders with remittance. Visit our attractive shop or write for free catalogs. Following few items, picked at random, have the discount already deducted on orders with remittance. Money refunded if not satisfied — Aristophanes Comedies, complete translation, illustrated by Bosschere, limited edition, 2 volumes, \$20.00—Rabelais, complete works, new translation by Putnam, illustrated by Bosschere, limited edition, 3 quarto volumes, \$40.00—poems of Oscar Wilde, illustrated by Bosschere, limited edition, \$8.00—Balzac, Droll Stories, illustrated by Ralph Barton, limited edition, 2 volumes, \$20.00; Boccaccio, Decameron, John Payne's complete translation, limited edition, 2 volumes, \$16.00—Esoterica Americana, sophisticated stories by well-known American authors, edited by Van Doren, decorated by Rockwell Kent, limited edition, \$3.00—thousands of other bargains. Dauber & Pine Bookshops, Inc., 66 Fifth Avenue, at 12th Street, New York—visit our annex (around the corner), 8 West 13th Street, open until 6 p. m.) Thousands of good books, 10c to \$1.00.

20% DISCOUNT SALE. SCHULTE'S Thirtieth Semi-Annual Cash Discount Sale. Following items with 20% discount already deducted. These prices only when cash accompanies order. James Branch Cabell by H. L. Mencken, first edition pamphlet, original wrappers as issued, special 40c post-paid. Beaumont and Fletcher, Variorum edition, illustrated, 4 volumes, \$10.00. Bloch's Sexual Life of Our Time, \$4.80. Malchow's Sexual Life, \$2.00. Westropp-Wake's Ancient Symbol Worship (Phallism in Ancient Religions) illustrated, \$2.40. Experiences of Flagellation, (remarkable instances of whippings inflicted, on both sexes) privately printed, \$2.80. History of Flagellation, illustrated, \$1.20. Heptameron, Unexpurgated Translation, illustrated, \$1.20. George Moore's Daphnis and Chloe and Perronik the Fool, Limited Carra edition, \$2.80. Mark Twain's Fireside Conversation in 1601, \$2.00. Stiles' History of Bundling (unusual colonial courtship custom) \$2.00. Ferguson's Philosophy of Witchcraft, \$1.00. Mixer's Old Houses of New England, profusely illustrated, Colonial architecture, \$2.00. Thousand and other bargains. Catalogues free. Schulte's Bookstore, 80 Fourth Avenue, New York.

### BARGAIN OFFERS

BARGAIN BOOK BULLETINS MAILED free monthly. Send for them. Congressional Bookshop, Washington.

NEW CATALOGUE of special bargains now ready. Wyman C. Hill, 9 Haynes Court, Leominster, Mass.

UNEXPURGATED TRANSLATIONS at drastic reductions. Decameron; Rabelais; Droll Stories; Satyricon of Petronius, etc. Renaissance Book Co. (Room 3), 131 West 23rd Street, New York.

### BACK NUMBERS

BACK NUMBERS OF ALL magazines. Magazine excerpts. List free. Salisbury, 78 East 10th St., New York.

BACK NUMBERS OF MAGAZINES AT Abraham's Bookstore, 145 Fourth Avenue, New York.

### BOOK BINDING

EXPERT HAND BOOKBINDING AND Casemaking for First Editions or Autographs, Exclusive Best Imported Materials Restoration and all forms of Scientific Book Reclamation. Period Modernist and Conventional Designs. Prices on request. Bennett Book Studios, Inc., 240 West 23rd St., New York City.

### BOOK PLATES

COPPER PLATE STYLE \$4 TO \$5 PER hundred. Send 10c for sample. Frank E. Bittner, 251 High Street, Nutley, N. J.

### FIRST EDITIONS

FIRST EDITIONS AND AUTOGRAPH material of modern authors. Advise us of your particular interests and we will send specially prepared lists of quotations. Catalogues issued. Phoenix Book Shop, Inc., 41 East 49th Street, New York City.

SEND FOR OUR CATALOGUE OF modern First Editions, Old and Rare Private Press Books. Ready shortly. The Holiday Bookshop, 49 East 49th Street, New York.

THE WALDEN BOOK SHOP, 410 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, issues catalogues of modern first editions and monthly announcements of interest to collectors. Catalogues listing Shaw, Galsworthy, Huxley, Barrie, Wells, Williamson and Hearn first editions will be sent on request.

NOTABLE ADDITIONS IN MODERN first editions, and collectors' items. Advise your special interests. Gelber, Lilienthal, Inc., 336 Sutter Street, San Francisco.

### FOREIGN BOOKS

VISIT THE FRENCH BOOKMAN, 202 W. 96th Street (near Broadway). "Headquarters for French Books and Magazines." Low prices. Catalogue 5 cents (stamps).

### GENERAL

ODD CURIOS, unusual and extraordinary Books and Autographs. Write for catalogue. State your own interest. Union Square Book Shop, 30 East 14th Street, New York.

O'MALLEY BOOKSTORE, 329 Columbus Ave. (57th St.) Large stock of good books on many subjects. Prices reasonable, expert service. Open evenings.

THE NIEL MORROW LADD BOOK CO. (formerly of 646 Fulton St., Brooklyn) is now located at 265 Flatbush Ave., only one block from the Bergen St. subway station. Twenty-five thousand used books, like new, carefully classified and priced plainly. A modern, well kept, well lighted bookstore it will be a pleasure to visit. Open evenings until 9 P. M. Niel Morrow Ladd Book Co., 265 Flatbush Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y. (Phone Nevins 6920.)

### LITERARY SERVICES

ROBERT CORTES HOLLIDAY SCHOOL of Writing. *The Saturday Review*: "Needless to say, we can recommend Mr. Holliday most heartily to any aspiring writer who really wishes to look the facts in the face." *Theodore Maynard*: "The thing I like about the whole scheme is its eminent practicability." *Englewood Cliffs*, New Jersey.

MANUSCRIPTS ANALYZED, critized, revised, prepared for publication, marketed. Book manuscripts a specialty. Twenty-five years' experience as writer, editor, publisher. Thirty helpful text-books. Catalogue. James Knapp Reeve, Box A, Franklin, Ohio.

MATHILDE WEIL, LITERARY advisor. Books, short stories, articles and verse criticized and marketed. Special department for plays and motion pictures. The Writers Workshop, Inc., 125 East Fifty-eighth Street, New York.

YOUR MANUSCRIPTS SHOULD BE sold? This office sells plays, novels, short stories, published books or produced plays for motion pictures. International connections. Publications planned. Editor, literary adviser. Grace Aird, Inc., 551 Fifth Ave., New York City.

STORY IDEAS wanted for photoplays, talking pictures, magazines. Big demand. Accepted any form for revision, development, copyright and submission to markets. Established 1917. Free booklet gives full particulars. Universal Scenario Company, 411 Western and Santa Monica Bldg., Hollywood, Calif.

### MANUSCRIPT TYPING

TYPING MANUSCRIPTS—EXPERTLY, intelligently done. Pauline Resnikoff, 1400 Broadway (38th Street), New York. Wisconsin 1777.

EXPERT MSS. TYPING—Perfection at detail. Personal service; no assistants. E. S. Pratt, 1531 Edith Street, Berkeley, Calif.

### MANUSCRIPTS WANTED

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS WANTED—All subjects; especially Southern Reconstruction stories; booklet on request. Meador Publishing Co., 27 Beach Street, Boston, Mass.

### NEW YORKIANA

BOOKS AND PRINTS on the quaint and strange manners, customs and frivolities of our ancestors in New York State and City. Catalogue inquiries not solicited, but private correspondence graciously welcome. Arthur Carlson, New Yorkiana Specialist, 503 Fifth Avenue, New York.

### OUT OF PRINT

OUT OF PRINT Books promptly supplied. National Bibliophile Service, 347 Fifth Avenue, New York.

### PRIVATE PRESSES

MODERN PRESS BOOKS. Bruce Rogers, Merrymount, Golden Cockrel, Nonesuch. Peter Davies. Advance orders solicited. Grolier Book Shop, 6 Plympton Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

### RARE BOOKS

RARE BOOKS AND AUTOGRAPHS for sale. Interesting catalogue free. Atkinson, 188 Packham Rye, London, England.

### TYPOGRAPHY

10% OFF, LIMITED TIME. BOOKS OF typographical interest. List. A. Leland Ziglitzki, 168 Wethersfield Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

### SCHEDULES OF RATES

ADVERTISING RATES for this classified page are as follows: For twenty consecutive insertions of any copy, minimum twelve words, 7 cents a word; for any less number of insertions, 10 cents a word. The forms close on Friday morning eight days before publication date. Address Department GH, The Saturday Rev West 45th Street, New York, or to BRYant 0896.