##  <br> The Compleat Collector. <br> RARE BOOKS•FIRST EDITIONS•FINE TYPOGRAPHY <br> Conducted by Carl Purington Rollins छ' $^{\circ}$ John T. Winterich <br> " Jow cheapk bought for thrice their weight in gold."

Michigan Printing
EARLY PRINTING IN MICHIGAN. By Douglas C. McMurtrie. Chicago: John Calhoun Club. 1931. 250 copies. $\$ 8$ EARLY PRINTING IN WISCONSIN. By Douglas McMurtrie. Seattle: Frank McCaffrey. 1931.

THESE two ample volumes represent a study of the early typoTerritory of Michigan, now the two states of Michigan and Wisconsin. They constitute a very substantial portion of that study of the early history of printing in America which Mr. McMurtrie has undertaken, a study which has already brought forth many pamphlets and smaller volumes.
The history of printing in Michigan, hitherto believed to have had its inception in 1809, has been carried back to a sixteen page pamphlet of an Act of Consixteen page pamphlet of an Act of Con-
gress, printed by John McCall at Detroit gress, printed by John McCall at Detroit
in 1796 , discovered by Mr . McMurtrie in in 1796, discovered by Mr. McMurtrie in the preparation of this volume. In Wisthe author gives the Chippewa almanac the author gives the Chippewa almanac of 1833 with a query, leaving the political bro
The Michigan volume is unhappily a most ugly piece of book-making-printed on paper so heavy and stiff as to make the book almost impossible to use. It is difficult to understand what should have prompted the use of such paper, since the value of the volume to historians and students is so great that every care should have been used to make it usable
There are chapters on the history of
printing in Michigan, a bibliography, many illustrations (properly reduced as line blocks), and a full index
The book devoted to Wisconsin printing is in every way a pleasanter one to handle. It is a good-sized quarto, the biographical, bibliographical, and reference portions printed in double column-a good bibliographical custom. The addi tion of the biographical index by Mr. Ar thur H. Alen is a useful feature. There Michigan volume-lists of books and Michigan volume-- lists of books and newspapers an introductory essay of some
length, and a good index.
As I have pointed out before, printing in pioneer countries suffers as do all the arts: nevertheless it is of first importance that the records of the press should be minutely examined and recorded by competent hands. Only a student of the particular subject is qualified to gauge the accuracy of these accounts, but so far as a fairly careful examination would fow M. Mc Murtrie has done his work show, Mr. McMurtrie has done his work in a thorough and painstaking manner He has gone to original sources in practically all cases, and his bibliographical lists seem to meet all ordinary requirements. The illustrations are numerous and the indices are full. These two vol and the in well as the one devoted to Utah und as well as the one devoted to Uta and issued recently, bring the records o the state presses in three American commonwealths up to about the middle of the nineteenth century, and form a contribution of very great value to students of printing in a field hitherto ignored or very inadequately covered.

## Tom O' Bedlam

TOMI O' BEDLAM AND HIS SONG. By Arthur Machen. New York: Apellicon Press. 1930. 200 copies. $\$ 7.50$.
TOM OF BEDLAM'S SONG. Introduction and Notes by David Greenhood. San Francisco: Helen Gentry. 1931 $\$ 5.75$.

]I seems not wholly an inappropriate time to issue the mad man's song in the present state of the world's
affairs. And Arthur Machen, whose book was issued last year, may have had in mind in writing his introduction the futile realism of great engineers, captains of industry, investment bankers, who have solemnly allowed the world to slide into chaos; at least Tom o' Bedlam cannot be accused of having had any influence in the practical world's affairs! And Bedlam itself--the familiar diminutive o Bethlehem Hospital for the Insane in London-cannot be essentially different from a table of College and City at the Graduates' Club trying to explain how the depression came about and how long it will last!
Out from Bethlehem Hospital, crowded beyond endurance, went the harmles lunatics who roamed England until early in the eighteenth century, who were called "Tom o' Bedlams." Supposedly one such lunatic in the days of Queen Elizabeth wrote the essence of this song, whereto were added some few lines at a later date. The first appearance is in "Giles Earle's Song Book," a British Museum MS. dated 1615, whence it has been lifted for use in succeeding books, notab ly by Mr. Frank Sidgwick in an article in the London Mercury of March, 1923 Both of the editions now under review acknowledge indebtedness to that essay The importance of Mr. Machen's edition is in his essay which introduces ita caustic arraignment of realism. The printing is by Richard Ellis of the Georgian Press, the type being a modified Bodoni letter which appears to advantage here.
The edition printed by Helen Gentry is a small volume, interestingly set in Poliphilus type, with pertinent decorations by Lowell Hawk. This volume is very completely edited, and contains some poems inspired by Tom's song, and a bibliography


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袁線This month marks the peak of for the entire year．Although still program Cor the entire year．Although still adhering
steadfastly to the founders＇policy of a small list intensively promoted，your cor－ respondents find themselves（owing to the exigencies of editorial and production de－ lays）crowding seven new books into the


越我 A complete Inner Sanctum col－ each of these new books，but for the mo－ ment this department will become a three－ ring show，in order to salute three of the authors whose latest works are released this week．All hail，then，and a renewed presentation of laurel and palm to

（who made a profession out of a racket） that King－maker of Broadway，that Rip－ leyesque producer of phantom fame，who
look up America＇s liveliest art where P．T BARNUM left it off．．．．who made a handcuff king out of a man who couldn＇t even get out of his owen nightshirt，．．．who＂put over＂ SEPTEMBER MORN，THREE WEEKS，THE virgin of stamboul，tarzan of the APES，RUDOLPH VALENTINO，et al：．．．and Who，with the aid of an adroit collaborator， DAVID FREEDMAN，set down the true anat－
omy of bally hoo（and sometimes vice versa） odes hilarious secrets of his incomparable exploits in manipulating the gullibilities of the American herd．


OCDEN NASB－murderer of the King＇s
that prince of poets and incorrigible perpe－ Arator of HARD LINES who like Abou Ben Adeace，to find himself famous，．．．who dis－ closed the private life of the oyster in a coup let that was heard around the world，．．．and who now offers to a breathlessly impatient universe the new．NASH，called，and equipped with，Free wheeling，plus four－wheel
brakes；Frigidaire，buill－in bookcases brakes；Frigidaire，buill－in bookcases，
Gotham adjustables，guarantee against sheep－dip，wood－burning freplace and maid service．


WILL dURANT－a bhilasopher who wants
to do something about it
the man who made metaphysics live and dance and sing，who now practices what he preaches by stepping from the sacred groves alities of the world we live in ．．．who now analyzes the present economic crisis and suggests a way out ．．．who views America in its totality，and endeavors to put to rout the counsel of despair so rampant in high places．．who now finds that basic plans which he set down in manuscript last Spring
are now actully being studied and tested by are now actudly being sludied and tested oy
bankers and statesmen ．．who puts before the bar of public opinion a genuine Pro－ gram for america．

Essandess．


THE most beautiful book we have seen of late is A．Tolmer＇s＂Mise－ en－Page：The Theory and Prac－ ice of Lay－out，＂published by Studio Ltd．，London，and William Ed－ win Rudge in this city at 475 Fifth Avenue－and also，we may add，at twelve dollars．But the gorgeousness of the book is certainly worth the price． We first saw the volume down at Bill Hall＇s，as did our Mr．Morley of The Bowling Green and Marcella Burns Hahner of Marshall Field in Chicago，not to mention other eminents．We think that advertising has more crimes lying upon its doorsill than we could well number－ but this book is a dream．It is advertising raised to an art．Monsieur Tolmer himself designed the format and lay－out of the book．If you desire a deep and lasting esthetic pleasure，just look through its pages．
We wish to quote one little bit of text in it which should be pasted up in the manufacturing departments of all pub－ lishing houses．It concerns title－pages：

The first page of a book should open with the same effect as the rising of the
curtain at a theatre．Before the actors curtain at a theatre．Before the actors want to hear them．．
We have been having the most awful time getting our curtains hung，and we have also been grappling with the prob－ lem of getting a chair covered．Large de－ partment stores have funny ways of do－ ing these things．First they send some material to cover the chair．Then they send a man to cut the material；but we are out；so the man who came to cut the material goes away leaving a notice that he has been and gone and will return on Monday．On Monday we stay in so that we can let him in，but he doesn＇t come on Monday and on Tuesday，when we are out，he is in，so to speak，and so on． Finally we happen to coincide and the material is cut and fitted．It is then all thrown into a bag and the man departs， dusting his hands and informing us that the store will call for the bag as well as for the package of scraps that he had removed from our rug after the fitting was com－
pleted．But so far，though we have left pleted．But so far，though we have left notices with the superintendent of the house，no one has come to remove the material in order to make up the chair－ cover．Again，we receive a most official－ looking communication，informing us that the curtains will arrive on a certain date， when they must be paid for on delivery， but that they cannot then be hung in the windows，though an appointment will be made by telephone for some one to wait on us at an early date in order to hang them．The curtains do not，of course， arrive on the certain date；three days later they arrive when we are，again，in the midst of taking a shower，and we get to the door just in time to prevent the boy from taking them away again．We then have to sit down at our desk and draw al order to pay for them．Inasmuch as we feel pretty lousy anyway，and it is a miz－ zling morning，this just about extingu－ ishes in our breast any spark of belief we may have in the brotherhood of man or the considerateness of large corporations． In desperation we ask the boy if he couldn＇t hang the curtains anyway，but he says no，he can＇t do nothing，he＇s from the warehouse．After he has gone we re－ proach ourself for visiting the sins of a large department store upon the head of an innocent and blank－minded boy who only came from the warehouse．But it makes us awfully irritable jumping in makes us awfully irritable
and out of showers that way！
We have finished＂The Silver Eagle：A Chicago Novel，＂by W．R．Burnett，pub－ Chicago Novel，by W．R．Burnett，pub－
lished by Lincoln MacVeagh，and if we lished by Lincoln Mac veagh，and if we
read any more books or see any more pic－ read any more books or see any more pic－
tures that end with an automobile com－ tures that end with an automobile com－
ing round the corner and bumping off ing round the corner and bumping off
several of the principal characters－well， several of the principal characters－well，
all right，you see if we don＇t！After an all right，you see if we don＇t！After an
orgy of reading about and witnessing orgy of reading about and witnessing
gangster and racketeer fiction we are gangster and racketeer fiction we are
completely fed up．Most of the people in it are of a mentality which bores us to ex－ tinction．In the present novel the society people Burnett introduces are little better than the others．At first it was interesting to read how this animalia that makes such a lot of the money，talks and walks
around．But a little of it goes a long way It is always exciting to read about sudden death．Otherwise this book seemed almos as boresome as the actual lives of the ac－
tual people．Which says something for its tual people．Which says something for its
verisimilitude；but verisimilitude is a verisimilitude；but verisimilitude is
long way from first－base in literature．
Recently came the deaths of two gen－ lemen to whom the United States owes much．William A．Rogers was probably the most influential political cartoonist since Thomas Nast．He used also to draw for Harper＇s，The Century，Life，and St． Nicholas in the old days．He developed a style that said＂W．A．Rogers＂all over it． He won deserved fame．Rev．Dr．Everett T．Tomlinson wrote boys＇books that sold n toto about two million copies．He was born and died in New Jersey．He was a Baptist minister．His last book was issued about ten years ago，but all who were boys about the time we were remember his books．The adventures of the young－ sters of whom he wrote usually took place against an historical and martial back－ ground；the Revolutionary，the Civil，or the Indian wars．Peace to his ashes！
And，speaking of boys＇books，Ward Greene，author of＂Cora Potts＂and＂Ride the Nightmare，＂tells us something con－ cerning one of our prime favorites among writers of boys＇books，namely Kirk Mun－ roe．One evening it turned out that both Greene and ourself had been addicted to this author at different times．Ensued reminiscences．We have great memories of＂Rick Dale＂and of＂The Painted Des－ ert．＂Kirk Munroe was a boss writer for boys．Now it seems that the widow of this notable writer is endeavoring to get in touch with Mr．Munroe＇s old friends and touch with M．Material for a biography f her husband which she is writing In his time he corresponded with his time he corresponded with a great man of his jors Round Table in＇80＇s and＇00＇s．We hope that all former the bod and friends of Kirk Munroe will send to and friends of Kirk Munroe will send to Mrs．Munroe any letters or reminiscences they may possess．Address her at 3760 Weary Way，Cocon hay We a in mod den Smith，who recently published through Lippincott a novel，＂The Eagle＇s Shadow，＂had never read the early novel by James Branch Cabell which originally bore that title，and afterward tried his best－as did his publishers－to find an－ ther name for his book．All we can say is，having rather rabid views on this mat－ ter of titles，＂Nevertheless－
Our grandmother，like all grand－ mothers，used to have a scrapbag from which she could fish various pieces of all sorts of material for all sorts of uses in household sewing and patching．We have been putting things into our own sort of scrapbag lately，bits of verse that occur to us now and then；and we intend from time to time to introduce them here under that general title．So here goes

SCRAP－BAG（Instalment One） meditation
I marvel on the devastating quarrels， The poisoned passion，the bitter endless throes
Of folk who pride themselves upon their morals．
But then there＇d be no novelists，I sup－ pose．

POSTSCRIPT
And if no novelists，who are so bewilder $i n$ ，
Perhaps the bedevilled brain could take a rest
And settle down simply to wife and chil－
dren
And a little gray home in the West． manifesto
Communication is not the artist＇s func－ tion！＂
But one is led to doubt，I grieve to state Whether the framers of that fond injunc－ tion
Really have anything to communicate． the trouble with life
The trouble with life is partly seeing double
And liking ladies quite as much as fizz； But then beyond that there＇s the old，old trouble
Of not quite knowing just what the trou－ ble is！

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