

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.

HESE two ample volumes represent a study of the early typographical history of the former Territory 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 Congress, printed by John McCall at Detroit in 1796, discovered by Mr. McMurtrie in the preparation of this volume. In Wisconsin, the earliest date is uncertain, for the author gives the Chippewa almanac of 1833 with a query, leaving the political broadside of 1835 as the first sure date.

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 addition of the biographical index by Mr. Arthur H. Allen is a useful feature. There are also the same paraphernalia as in the 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 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 volumes, as well as the one devoted to Utah and issued recently, bring the records of 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. R.

Tom O' Bedlam

TOM 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.

T 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 of 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 harmless 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, notably 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 edi-

tion is in his essay which introduces it a 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. R.



A BOOK COLLECTORS' QUARTERLY

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This month marks the peak of The Inner Sanctum's publication program for the entire year. Although still adhering steadfastly to the founders' policy of a small list intensively promoted, your correspondents find themselves (owing to the exigencies of editorial and production delays) crowding seven new books into the month of November.

November 5-Piantom Fame, the Anatomy of Ballyhoo, by, HARRY REICHENBACE and DAVID FREEDMAN (Foreword by WAITER WINCHELL) November 6-Successful Living in the Machine Age, by ED-WARD A, FILENE November 7-Free Wheeling, by Og-DEN NASE November 12-Eyes on Russia, by MAR-GARET BOURKE-WHITE. (Foreword by MAURICE HINDUS) November 20-The Book of Ballyhoo. Edited by NORMAN AN-THONY and the BROTH-ERS ZILCH. November 27-Bernard Shaw, by FRANK HARRIS

A complete *Inner Sanctum* column might well be devoted to proclaiming each of these new books, but for the moment this department will become a threering 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



THE LATE HARRY REICHENBACH-(who made a profession out of a racket)

that King-maker of Broadway, that Ripleyesque producer of phantom fame, who took up America's liveliest art where P. T. BARNUM left ii off, ... who made a handcuff king out of a man who couldn't even get out of his own 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 anatomy of ballyhoo (and sometimes vice versa) ... too hilarious secrets of his incomparable exploits in manipulating the gullibilities of the American herd.



OGDEN NASH—murderer of the King's English

that prince of poets and incorrigible perpetrator of HARD LINES who like Abou Ben Adhem, awoke one morning, from a dream of peace, to find himself famous, . . . who disclosed the private life of the oyster in a couplet 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, built-in bookcases, Gotham adjustables, guarantee against sheep-dip, wood-burning fireplace and maid service.





HE most beautiful book we have seen of late is A. Tolmer's "Miseen-Page: The Theory and Practice of Lay-out," published by Studio Ltd., London, and William Edwin 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 numberbut 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 publishing 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 have spoken, the décor should make us want to hear them. . . .

We have been having the most awful time getting our curtains hung, and we have also been grappling with the problem of getting a chair covered. Large department stores have funny ways of doing 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 completed. 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 chaircover. Again, we receive a most officiallooking 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 all our money out of the bank by cheque in order to pay for them. Inasmuch as we feel pretty lousy anyway, and it is a mizzling morning, this just about extinguishes 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 reproach 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 and out of showers that way! . . We have finished "The Silver Eagle: A Chicago Novel," by W. R. Burnett, published by Lincoln MacVeagh, and if we read any more books or see any more pictures that end with an automobile coming round the corner and bumping off several of the principal characters-well. all right, you see if we don't! After an orgy of reading about and witnessing gangster and racketeer fiction we are completely fed up. Most of the people in it are of a mentality which bores us to extinction. 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 almost as boresome as the actual lives of the actual people. Which says something for its verisimilitude; but verisimilitude is a long way from first-base in literature....

Recently came the deaths of two gentlemen 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 in 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 youngsters of whom he wrote usually took place against an historical and martial background; 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 concerning one of our prime favorites among writers of boys' books, namely Kirk Munroe. 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 Desert." 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 readers to collect material for a biography of her husband which she is writing. In his time he corresponded with a great many of his juvenile readers. He was editor of Harper's Round Table in the '80's and '90's. We hope that all former readers and friends of Kirk Munroe will send to Mrs. Munroe any letters or reminiscences they may possess. Address her at 3760 Leafy Way, Coconut Grove, Florida. . . .

We are informed that Arthur D. Howden 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 another name for his book. All we can say is, having rather rabid views on this matter of titles, "Nevertheless—."...

Our grandmother, like all grandmothers, 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

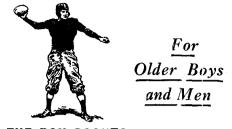
SCRAP-BAG (Instalment One) MEDITATION

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 suppose.

POSTSCRIPT

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Essandess.

And if no novelists, who are so bewilderin',

Perhaps the bedevilled brain could take a rest

And settle down simply to wife and children

And a little gray home in the West.

MANIFESTO

"Communication is not the artist's function!"

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 trouble is!

THE PHOENICIAN.

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