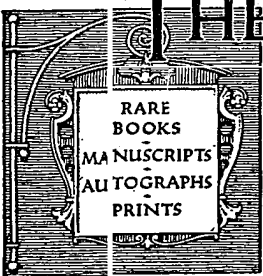


# THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE



In this section the readers of **THE BOOKMAN** will find the latest announcements of reliable dealers in Rare Books, Manuscripts, Autographs and Prints. It will be well to look over this section carefully each month, for the advertisements will be frequently changed, and items of interest to collectors will be offered here. All these dealers invite correspondence.

**EVERYBODY** concerned with printing has been looking forward for some time to the holding of the Graphic Arts Exposition in Boston from August 28 to September 2. This third annual convention of printing craftsmen affords an unusual opportunity for the student of printing, as the exhibition, to be held in Mechanics' Building, will be the largest of the kind ever given in this country, and practically everything used by printers will be shown. That it will be a success is indicated by the general public interest already aroused. There is no question that the matter of good printing is receiving more attention in this country than ever before. Book making is improving. Standards of workmanship are being elevated. Many publishers have learned that a good book, even at a higher price, sells better than a poor one. In stimulating this movement, the coming exhibition promises to be a potent factor. The men who compose the membership of the Printing House Craftsmen are not banded together as a union or as an employers' society, but are concerned in the improvement of printing craftsmanship. The first national convention in Philadelphia three years ago was a small affair. Last year at Chicago, in connection with the convention, which had grown to considerable size, an exhibition of printing craftsmanship was held. This year the exposition, which has three times the space given to the Chicago exhibit, has invited the allied trades, and the exposition will cover printing, engraving, illustration, and binding. Inasmuch

as the enterprise is not a money making affair, and is conducted solely for the purpose of making the public appreciate the value of better craftsmanship, its success will show that the public has "caught on".

Particular timeliness attaches to the appearance now of "Printing Types: Their History, Forms and Use" by D. B. Updike of the Merrymount Press, issued by the Harvard University Press. Mr. Updike's book is monumental, and has been declared, by those who have seen the proofs, to be "the most important work on printing published in the last half century". It deals with the history of type printing far more exhaustively and authoritatively than Mr. De Vinne's "Historic Printing Types", and not only considers the multifarious forms of types, but their use in craftsmanship. The two bulky volumes, profusely illustrated (from specimens in public and private libraries), go into the subject so thoroughly that little seems to be left for subsequent research work. The erudite Mr. Updike, who is one of the world's great printers, says that the familiar lines of Cicero's oration, "Quo usque tandem", etc., doubtless had considerable influence on the shape of the capital letter "Q". This sentence became so consecrated to type specimens that most eighteenth century type foundries felt it necessary to employ it, and to outdo one another they elongated the tails of the "Q" more and more, so that ultimately with its companion "u" it became a logotype. "I do not say that 'Q's' have

long tails because Cicero delivered an oration against Catiline", writes Mr. Updike, "but that the tails of some 'Q's' would not be as long as they are if the oration had begun with some other word!"

Another work which commands not only the attention of printers and lovers of beautiful books, but especially appeals to collectors, is "A History of Printing in Colonial Maryland" by Lawrence C. Wroth, assistant librarian of the Enoch Pratt Free Library of Baltimore. The volume contains a list of books, newspapers, and broadsides printed in Maryland from 1689 to 1776, and has line for line titles, with a list of libraries or private collections where the books may be consulted. Quite apart from its bibliographic merits, which are great, the volume has especial interest as having been undertaken by the master printers' organization of Baltimore, not from a desire for profit, but from pride in the craft which its members practise. It is a beautiful specimen of printing, and an important contribution to the history of the press in America.

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Several midsummer book sales, held by Henkels in Philadelphia, the Walpole Galleries in New York, and Heartman at Perth Amboy, New Jersey, have shown that book collectors, although they may take summer vacations, still keep a watchful eye on catalogues, lest some unexpected bargain should escape them. Mr. Henkels sold many important letters of Dr. Thomas Ruston, an old Philadelphia physician, including letters of Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, and Monroe, many of which went to the Library of Congress at about the same prices which such letters brought in important sales of last season. For the coming season the problem of the book auctioneers appears to be to find, not purchasers for the books offered, but books to sell. One auctioneer ventures

the prediction that forty per cent of the valuable material to be offered in the American auction rooms next season will come from England. Already a considerable amount of English material has found its way to these shores for dispersal. One great American private library of Americana is now being catalogued for sale next season, and among the rare items to be offered are some which have not appeared in the auction room for many years. The English dealers, however, have been able to obtain a great deal of valuable material selected from the libraries of old country houses, and sold at auction in London at prices which will enable them to ship the material to this country and sell it at the current prices, with a reasonable

*(Continued from Collectors' Guide)*

profit. For the last few seasons the American dealers and collectors have been heavy buyers in the London market; they will buy still more heavily if the books are brought to this country for dispersal.

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