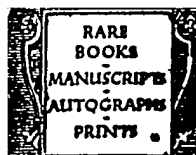


THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE



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 who is interested in books, of course, has been more or less thrilled by the announcement that the J. Pierpont Morgan Library has been placed in the hands of trustees as a gift to the city of New York, to be maintained—at least for a hundred years—for the benefit of those who are properly qualified to use it. Newspapers have been filled with descriptions, more or less accurate, of the treasures which have been hidden from the public in the splendid building on Madison Avenue and Thirty-Sixth street. Editorials have been written about the great service to be rendered to scholarship. But two very important points seem to have been overlooked by nearly all of these writers. One is that the library has in the past been at the service of scholarship, and the placing of it in the hands of trustees is only a guarantee that this policy will not be changed. The other is that while it undoubtedly will be of great aid to scholars, the Morgan Library will now become an aid to better book production. Here are the finest examples of book making of all time, and those in New York who are engaged in the production of beautiful books will find near at hand the examples which are necessary for their study. With two such libraries at either end of the country as the Morgan and Huntington, both scholarship and book production will be served as never before.

With the sales of the thirteenth and fourteenth parts of the Britwell Court Library of S. R. Christie-Miller now in

progress in London, another large lot of extremely rare and valuable works of early English literature is likely to come to this country. Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach of New York and Philadelphia sailed for London the first of last month with Sir Montague Barlow, Bart., head of Sotheby's, who made a short visit to this country to meet some of the leading bibliophiles of New York and other eastern cities. The sale now in progress began on

March 31 and will continue until April 9. Like its predecessors, it contains a large number of unique books, and we are informed that the end is not yet. Two sections of the Britwell Court Library have been sold privately, the Americana portion having been bought by the late George D. Smith for Henry E. Huntington, and the second section of religious books by Quaritch for his own account. Outside of these the sales have brought in something approximating two million dollars and the present sale promises to equal the last preceding portion, at the dispersal of which Dr. Rosenbach's purchases aggregated \$207,000 out of a grand total of \$316,000 realized from the sale.

An English sale at Sotheby's last month of books from various sources was remarkable for a number of Kipling rarities which have never before been in the auction room. An edition of "Letters of Marque" printed at Allahabad by A. H. Wheeler & Co., 1891, in the original red and blue cloth, bears the publisher's rubber stamped date of publication on the flyleaf: "Issued 5 Oct. 91." This is apparently the earliest issue of the first complete edition, two months earlier than the similar stamp dated copy sold in the Martindell sale in April, 1921. Another item was the extremely rare first "pirated" edition of "Barrack Room Ballads", thirty two pages, uncut and as issued, without wrapper,

cover, publisher's name, place or date. It was not in the Martindell collection. Nor was "The Phantom 'Rickshaw", original grey-green wrappers, a hitherto unknown issue. It agrees in number of pages with the first English edition, but differs in having only "Lahore" at the foot of the front cover, whereas the first English edition has "Lahore, Sampson Low", etc. Upon the title page is the stamp of the original publisher, A. H. Wheeler & Co., Allahabad, with the price, "8Rs." in the centre and the name of the place where this copy was sold, "Allyghur". There was also a copy of "The Story of the Gadsbys", in the same condition. Another rarity was the first separate edition of "The Settlers", four pages (1903), published originally in "The Five Nations."

The tide of books from foreign countries coming to this coast has always a backwash. English collectors and dealers are buying from American dealers, in spite of the tide's setting so strongly this way. Not long ago Byrne Hackett of the Brick Row Book Shop issued a catalogue of English literature before 1800, including old English plays and Johnsoniana. There were many extraordinary items in the catalogue, such as three Shakespeare folios, a Hamlet quarto, a Beaumont and Fletcher folio, a black letter Chaucer folio of 1661, and other rare works which have already been sold, besides some of equal interest which remain. In this catalogue was a copy of Lucretius printed at Bologna, 1511, in folio, bound with the arms of Philippe de Cospeau, bishop of Lisieux. More than a hundred years after Grolier's death the bishop had this rebound with his arms, but the signature of Grolier and annotations by the famous master binder appear in several places. More important, however, was a Grolier binding on a copy of "Platonis Opera", Venice, 1517, in folio. The

binding is of old calf, unrestored, the lower part containing the familiar "Io. Grolierii et Amicorum" and the back cover Grolier's motto.

The sales by auction of two lots of books catalogued as being "from the Library of the late Charles Eliot Norton" have led to a widespread belief that Harvard University was selling these as "duplicates", it being generally known that Professor Norton's library was presented to Harvard by a number of his old students. The books in question, however, had been given by Professor Norton to his children before the purchase for Harvard was made, and the sales have been in settlement of their estates. At these sales Harvard was a purchaser rather than a seller, securing among other things the original auto-

graph manuscript of Lowell's oration at the 250th anniversary exercises of Harvard in 1886, and the copy of the "Commemoration Ode" given by Lowell to Norton with additional verses in the poet's autograph.

In some of the minor sales of the season there have been unusual opportunities to pick up rare books at low prices. Many of these sales are unattended by dealers, who cannot afford to take the time to bid on low priced items; consequently the prices are determined by collectors present and by the mail order bids from the catalogue. As these order bids are generally low (the bidder not having a chance to examine the copy) those who are present cannot fail to secure some bargains. It pays the collector of moderately priced material to watch closely these minor sales.