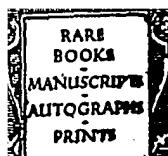


THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE



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.

THAT there has been a decided awakening of interest in the last year, among publishers of books, in the improvement of the quality of their mechanical product, was demonstrated last month at the Art Centre in New York at the second exhibition of "Best Books of the Year", given under the auspices of the American Institute of Graphic Arts. "Best" refers to excellence of book making rather than to literary content. At the first exhibition, a year ago, only two of the leading publishing firms submitted books to the jury, and only one eminent publisher was represented in the "Best Books of 1923". This year, with books to be given away for advertising purposes excluded, twelve leading publishers are represented. Two hundred and thirteen books printed to be sold were submitted this year, out of which fifty were to be selected. Last year, with books to be given away included, the total from which the selection was made was only eighty three. The figures indicate that support is developing in America for the well designed book, and these exhibitions are doing much to establish a high standard toward which progress is being made. Of the books shown this year nearly two thirds were from publishers of books for general sale as opposed to those printed only for subscribers and collectors. The interest shown by the public in these "better books" is a hopeful sign for the development of commercial typography in America.

of these forgeries had been found in the hands of American collectors, but they had been withdrawn by the dealers who sold them and were supposed to have been destroyed. In one of the auction sales in New York this season, however, the "original manuscript" of Wilde's "The Happy Prince", bought by a New York dealer for \$2,600, turned out to be one of these forgeries. Returned to the auctioneer, it was of course then returned to the owner, and by the owner to the bookseller who had sold it to him. The forgeries are cleverly done and would easily deceive one at a cursory examination. Careful comparison with genuine Wilde letters and manuscripts shows their character.

The discovery that forged manuscripts of Oscar Wilde are in circulation will make collectors of autographs more careful in dealing with this class of material. Several