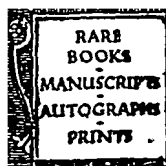


# THE COLLECTORS' GUIDE



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.

WITH the sales of American first editions from the Stephen H. Wakeman library at the American Art Galleries and the Putnam sale at the Anderson Galleries last month, the American book auction season is drawing to a close. Considering the prevailing unsettlement of business conditions by numerous and sundry "investigations" it has been a fairly good one. The outstanding dispersal of the season in popular interest was that of the library of first editions collected by John Quinn, disposed of at Anderson's in five sales, ending on March 20. The five sales included 12,096 lots, realizing a grand total of \$226,351.85. Almost half of this—about \$111,000—was realized at the

session at which the first editions and original manuscripts of Joseph Conrad were sold. At the closing sale the original manuscript of "Monmouth" and some autograph letters of Robert Louis Stevenson formed the feature. These letters and the manuscript were sold at Christie's in London in 1922, and brought about the same prices at the Quinn sale, to the surprise of many collectors who have watched for some years the growing prices of Stevensoniana. The Yeats manuscripts in this sale brought prices which compared favorably with those paid for the Stevenson. To put twelve thousand volumes of modern first editions on the market in one season, from a single collection, is an event which is not likely to occur again for some time. While much has been said and written about the extraordinary demand for the works of present day authors, the prices at the Quinn sale, taking the catalogue through, show that hundreds, if not thousands of volumes, were sold at less than their published prices. The collecting of modern first editions as a speculation, therefore, is not likely to continue for long, since the dealers are pretty well supplied with the most desirable items, and other harvests will be gathered before some of this material goes into the hands of the genuine collector who is going to keep it because he likes it, and not with a view to resale.

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The five volumes of the catalogue of the Quinn sale make the most interesting book auction catalogue ever pub-

lished. Of a large number of the authors there are critical appreciations or biographies by Charles Vale, brilliant characterizations showing an almost uncanny insight into the mental working of the authors named. Some day this catalogue is likely to be sought by collectors, and whatever the information gained from its prices may be worth, its biographies will be treasured by a generation which now looks upon the Victorian era as inconsequential, or by a later generation which will regard the present in the same light.

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An interesting association copy of Woodrow Wilson's "Mere Literature" presented to Miss Arnold, daughter of the English poet, recently appeared in Goodspeed's catalogue. Mr. Goodspeed bought the book from the list of a north of England bookseller who accompanied it with the note:

By the greatest of American presidents: the man who saved the Allies in the World War, and who, had he not been basely deserted by his countrymen, would have ended war forever and become the second Saviour of the world.

Mr. Goodspeed, in advertising the book, reprinted this note and added parenthetically, "Hasty readers are asked to observe that this is not our note."

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The Wakeman library of American first editions was the most notable of its kind ever gathered by a private collector. Although Mr. Wakeman did not succeed in getting everything produced by the authors selected—Poe, Hawthorne, Thoreau, Whittier, Emerson, Holmes, Bryant, Lowell, and Longfellow—he secured an extraordinary number of association items and many things of which he had the only known copy. The prices of these, in comparison with those paid for modern first editions, show that the rare book with real merit will always bring a good price. Mr. Wakeman,

after twenty years of research, aided by that "Columbus of first editions", Mr. P. K. Foley of Boston, succeeded in getting a collection which surpassed those of Chamberlain, Arnold, and Meier, assembling about 1,600 volumes in choice condition. The presentation copies sent by one to another of the famous American authors represented, are of peculiar interest as showing literary friendships, and many volumes bore manuscript corrections which indicated the changes to be made in later editions.

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"The Bookplate Annual" for 1924 has made its appearance, with a number of valuable papers on bookplates by specialists and many interesting illustrations of bookplates, among which those of A. Edward Newton, Josiah Minot Fowler, and the American Antiquarian Society are printed from the original copper plates. The Annual contains a check list of Sidney L. Smith's bookplates and a list of people who exchange bookplates. It is published by Alfred Fowler, the secretary-treasurer of the American Bookplate Society.