

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.

TO those familiar only with "Alice in Wonderland" and similar popular books of "Lewis Carroll" it may seem that a bibliography of his writings would not be a large affair. But Sidney H. Williams, F. S. A., of London has written a volume of more than 150 pages with the title of a "Bibliography of the Writings of Lewis Carroll (Rev. Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, M. A.)" which comprises not only admirable descriptions of the works issued under this author's pen name, but his many mathematical and other writings. Lewis Carroll's works have been sought by collectors of books for more than forty years, and the need of an accurate bibliography has long been felt, especially since the late George D. Smith paid \$1,000 for a first edition of "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" at a London auction sale in 1914. The book was suppressed by the author on account of the poor printing of the illustrations by Tenniel, after only a few copies had been issued

bearing the date of 1865. What was long known as the first published edition was issued by Macmillan with the date of 1866. The late Luther S. Livingston, however, discovered that the American edition issued by Appleton with their imprint and the date of 1866 consisted of the sheets of the suppressed London edition with a new title page. The few copies of the 1865 "Alice" are therefore the first issue of the first edition, the Appleton copies of 1866 are the second issue of the first edition, and the Macmillan 1866 issue is the second edition. All of which, with much more valuable information for collectors, is set forth in the pages of Mr. Williams's book, which is published in London by *The Bookman's Journal*.

An unusual honor was paid to E. Byrne Hackett of New York by the Oxford University Press in allowing his imprint to be placed upon a strictly limited edition of 100 copies of "The Letters of James Boswell" edited by Professor Chauncey Brewster Tinker of Yale University. The publication of this work, which is to be in two royal octavo volumes, has long been awaited by Johnsonians. The publication of a single unpublished letter of James Boswell has been considered important in a literary way. The edition now to be issued brings together upward of four hundred and twenty letters of Boswell, more than one hundred and fifty of which will be made public for the first time. No better editor could have been found than the author of "Young Boswell", who demolishes the current popular impression that Boswell's claims to literary genius rested wholly upon his immortal biography of Dr. Johnson. He has edited the work in the spirit which he believes would have controlled Boswell himself, and has restored the

deleted passages in many of the published letters, revealing Boswell as a man of extraordinary character apart from his ability as a biographer. This is the first occasion on which the Oxford University Press, in its long career, has allowed any portion of its works to bear another imprint.

Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach returns from a victorious tour abroad with an unquestioned title of "The World's Greatest Book Buyer" if not that of the world's greatest bookseller. At the Britwell Court sales his purchases amounted to a total of £63,000 out of the £77,000 brought by the whole of this part. For four books alone he paid something like \$35,000 — Alexander Barclay's "Egloges", Henry Constable's "Diana", Thomas Lodge's "Phillis", and Shakespeare's "Rape of Lucrece" in the seventh edition of 1632. The comments of some of the English papers regarding Dr. Rosenbach's quiet manner of bidding are amusing to one who has seen this noted dealer in the auction room. His failure to become excited as the bids ran into hundreds of pounds impressed the English dealers, who evidently expected the American's methods to be spectacular. Dr. Rosenbach undoubtedly "made the sale" at the dispersal of the thirteenth and fourteenth portions of the Britwell Court library, as he has done on other occasions. He has not only a knowledge of commercial values of books, but is generally familiar with their contents before bidding.

When Captain Martindell's sale of Kiplingiana was held at Sotheby's in April, 1921, one of the most important items, which brought £128, was a crown octavo volume entitled "With Number Three, Surgical and Medical, and New Poems by Rudyard Kipling. Also Letters from Julian Ralph, Charles E. Hands and Douglas Story. Santiago de Chile; Hume & Co. 1900." Captain Martindell's bibliography gave little information about this, and the catalogue of the sale said: "The existence of other copies appears to be doubtful." "The London Mercury" prints the account of a recent correspondent at Valparaiso — the man who made this item a rarity. The

leading English bookseller in Santiago was an ardent admirer of Kipling and published these poems, drawn chiefly from American periodicals, during the Boer War. The venture was not a success, and in 1910, when the correspondent joined the staff of the store, he found the edition on the shelves. The next year, he says, he was set to reorganizing the book department, "and since no copies of 'With Number Three' were ever sold, and their bulk was a nuisance in the shop, he obtained permission to sell the whole stock as waste paper at about five cents (Chilian) a kilo". But since the Martindell copy was sold two others have appeared, and in the sale at the American Art Galleries in New York of the private library of Herbert J. Rothchild of San Francisco, last month, there was an immaculate uncut copy of this Kipling rarity. It is probable that the correspondent was mistaken in saying no copies had been sold. If these four copies came from the stock secured by the paper mill, it is likely that others will appear. It is, however, an exceedingly rare item, and is genuine, unlike the faked "In Sight of Mount Monadnock" which brought £85 in the Martindell sale and only fifteen dollars after the fake was exposed.