

phlets (by fifteen authors) is given a thorough account, reporting (among other things) the history of references to it, the location of known copies, the results of tests, and a conclusion. The book as a whole not only demonstrates the use of certain paper and typographical tests in bibliographical analysis but also provides a model of how to draw conclusions cautiously and present the results responsibly.

Another attraction of the book is its prose style. Although the book was a true collaboration between Carter and Pollard, Carter's voice emerges plainly at many points, and some chapters are clearly his work, especially those in part II. The opening one, "The Modern First Edition Market, 1885-1895," is an expert survey of the development of interest in literary first editions (a preview of the more detailed account in *Taste and Technique in Book-Collecting*), providing the necessary context for understanding why the kinds of pamphlets that Wise produced were sought after. It has many characteristic touches, such as this: "New vistas were opening before the collectors' eyes, each with a glint of Eldorado at the end" (p. 107). In "these feverish and speculative conditions," Carter added, "it would have been almost surprising if there had *not* been some collateral descendant of Annius to perceive this golden opportunity. . . . At this time, the thing was, comparatively, easy money: the fish were rising, he [the forger] found (after a few experiments) the right fly, and they swallowed it with a regularity and unanimity which must have been to him exceedingly satisfactory" (pp. 108-09).

The chapter on "Establishing the Pedigrees" shows Carter at his most skillful, for he convincingly points the finger at Wise without saying outright that Wise created the forgeries (which could not be said, since the documentary evidence that later turned up—incriminating Harry Buxton Forman as well as Wise—was not known at that time). Wise could be criticized in other ways, however, especially for his supposed failure to be suspicious of the pamphlets, given the circumstances of their appearance and his bibliographical expertise. His behavior, Carter suggests, "savoured of Nelson with the telescope to his blind eye" (p. 134). Carter was unsparing in his condemnation of the "shocking negligence" of Wise (even though he had to call the forger "anonymous") and of the resulting damage:

Mr. Wise, by his credulity, by his vanity in his own possessions, by his dogmatism, by abuse of his eminence in the bibliographical world, has dealt a blow to the prestige of an honourable science, the repercussions of which will be long and widely felt. . . . Like the thirteenth stroke of a faulty clock, which discredits the accuracy of the hours which have gone before, the spuriousness of these books must inevitably cast aspersions on many similar books which are, in fact, genuine. . . . If Mr. Wise, one of the most eminent bibliographers of our time, can be so extensively wrong, who can we be sure is right? (pp. 141-42)