celebrity: *An Enquiry into the Nature of Certain Nineteenth Century Pamphlets*, written in collaboration with Graham Pollard, a bookseller with the firm of Birrell & Garnett. The story of how Carter and Pollard uncovered the Wise-Forman forgeries has been told often; indeed, it is one of the best-known episodes in bibliographical history, familiar to many people outside the book world (as a result of such treatments as Richard D. Altick's, in his 1950 book *The Scholar Adventurers*, and Dwight Macdonald's, in a 1962 *New Yorker* article, as well as Carter's own accounts). Its wide appeal is understandable, as the story of two young booksellers who, through persistent research, were able to bring down a dominant and respected figure (for Thomas J. Wise was a distinguished collector and widely known book-world symbol, the author of many bibliographies, and a former president of the Bibliographical Society). It also has the elements of a detective story, with parts of a puzzle gradually, but inexorably, falling into place. And in the *Enquiry*, given the panache of Carter's prose, the story was given a presentation that increased its appeal.

Many of the people who are attracted to the story for all these reasons, however, do not recognize its important contribution to bibliographical scholarship. Identifying the perpetrators (which the book did not explicitly do) is a different activity from proving that the pamphlets are indeed fraudulent. In the absence of explicit documents, the former involves circumstantial evidence, such as the fact that the suspected pamphlets entered the market from the stock of a single dealer (Herbert E. Gorfin). But the latter requires physical evidence from the items themselves. The use of such evidence for investigating books of earlier periods was well established by this time, but the bibliographical analysis of nineteenth- and twentieth-century books was in its infancy. The attention paid to "points" in modern books by collectors, dealers, and the writers of author bibliographies was a form of physical examination, but it was often undisciplined and lacking in a concern for uncovering book-production history. Publishers' bindings, however, were beginning to be seriously studied, under the leadership of Sadleir and Carter. And the *Enquiry* took a major step forward in demonstrating ways in which the analysis of paper and type could also be applied to post-1800 books.

It is possible that Carter's collecting of detective fiction played a role in inspiring the analysis of paper reported in the *Enquiry*. He was certainly aware of the detective stories of R. Austin Freeman (discussed in his essay in *New Paths in Book Collecting* as reaching "a new level in scientific detection"), and it is not unlikely that he knew "The Apparition of Burling Court" (1923; collected in *The Puzzle Lock*, 1925). In that story, the detective, Dr. Thorndyke, proves a book to be fraudulent through several physical tests, the decisive one being a laboratory examination of the paper, which showed that the paper contained mechanical wood-pulp and