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The Phoenix Nest

THE Retail Bookseller of the Baker & Taylor Company wafts to our desk a slip listing the best selling fiction and non-fiction for the month, August 22 to September 22. Of course, in the fiction, *Gertrude Atherton*, *Kathleen Norris*, *Mary Roberts Rinehart*, and *Gene Stratton-Porter* are going strong, but we did not realize that *W. J. Locke* was still in the running. Yet his "The Great Pandolfo" ranks fourth. * * * Of course "Soundings" by *Arthur Hamilton Gibbs* is in the ten, and we expected to find—as we do—*E. Barrington's* "Glorious Apollo" there. But, good as the book is, it is quite a surprise to see *Anne Parrish's* "The Perennial Bachelor" up in second place and *Willa Cather's* "The Professor's House" running fifth. * * * Last, and just squeezing into the first ten, comes *Galsworthy's* collected short stories, "Caravan." * * * In the Non-Fiction *Amy Lowell's* "What's O'Clock" gallops fourth, *Milne* still leading this bunch handily with "When We Were Very Young". In fact, Dutton has just got out a new gift edition of this book, which book buyers of the various book stores throughout the country were enthusiastic enough about to give the firm large advance orders for the Christmas trade. * * * *Charlotte Kellogg*, the wife of *Vernon Kellogg*, has just sent us the following verses apropos of *Kathleen Norris's* "Little Ships". They are addressed directly to the author:

*Now glory be to God, Kathleen,
For Kate and Mag and Tom and Mart,
And all the romping Irish brood
That haven in your heart!*

*You give the measure of the west.
Inclusive as its wind and sun
Your love, which gathers to your knees
The least, the frailest one.*

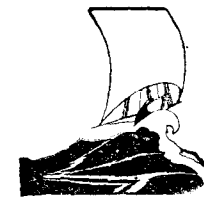
*The aureole but faintly glimpsed
A flaming circle here appears;
You are the voice that speaks for us,
Our laughter and our tears.*

*Thus "Mother", "Noon", their promise fill
While saints and angels guide your hand.
And far upon your destined way
At "shadder's turn" you stand.*

* * * *Willum Beebe's* "Jungle Days" and *Brousson's* "Anatole France Himself" are well up in the best-selling non-fiction. "Winged Defense" by *Mitchell* is there too, and shows how much to the forefront today are the problems of aviation. *Papini* and *M. R. Werner*, of course, still qualify in the non-fiction division. * * * And at this point some one asks us, of the books we have read, which would we qualify for our own list? * * * Well, our reading has been hurried and spasmodic lately, with great gaps, and we'll have to take hearsay for some choices,—but here's a list of ten in which we think there won't be many disappointments for the reader. Of course we're bound to duplicate a bit! As for the order, we can't arrange 'em in order: "The Professor's House," by *Willa Cather*, "The Venetian Glass Nephew," by *Elinor Wylie*; "The Song of the Indian Wars," by *John G. Neihardt*; "Foolish Fiction," by *Christopher Ward*; "Samuel Drummond," by *Thomas Boyd*; "The

Chicken-Wagon Family," by *Barry Benfield*; "The Sailor's Return," by *David Garnett*; "Fire-crackers," by *Carl Van Vechten*; "Tiger Joy," by *Stephen Vincent Benét*, and "Cold Harbour," by *Francis Brett Young*. * * * There are four solid novels of various types, by *Cather*, *Boyd*, *Benfield* and *Young*; three fantasies, by *Elinor Wylie*, *Van Vechten* and *Garnett*; two books of poetry by *Neihardt* and *Benét*, and a book of parodies by *Ward*. * * * With respect to *Neihardt's* "Song of the Indian Wars," we can only say that he has done admirably what we ourselves always wanted to do. He makes the battle of *Beecher's Island* live again, and the *Custer* affair. * * * *Sinclair Lewis*, we hear, is now engaged in writing a romance of the Canadian Northwest, the result of a canoe trip to the *Red River* region last year. * * * But we wonder if any member of the *Royal Mounted* will suddenly appear in the doorway? They do in all the Canadian Northwest novels we've ever read. * * * We have been approached by the "American Thank You League." This is the very latest; they are to "broadcast a Nation-wide campaign of courtesy and bring the pleasing words, 'Thank You!' into universal use." * * * And they warn us in a postscript, "Ere you smilingly crush and transfer this to the waste-basket, pause and reflect! It may be a courtesy test." * * * Thus we are aroused to mayhem, arson, assassination, barratry, and all the crimes of which we heretofore believed ourselves incapable! It's a terrible thing to do to a peaceful citizen,—what they have done to us! We sit staring into a red haze. We would like to knock somebody cuckoo! * * * We have thought up a novel—but no, we're not going to give that away! * * * But we're going to frame the "American Thank You League's" letter. *Honest*, we didn't believe it would come to this! * * * Those interested in the crossword puzzle of collaboration should see "Outside Looking In," by *Maxwell Anderson* at the *Greenwich Theatre* and "The Buccaneer" by the same in collaboration with *Laurence Stallings*, at the *Plymouth*. The first is a tramp play full of magnificent expletives, and with a very interesting story that is more chronicle than drama; the second is a pirate romance with highly picturesque expletives, a weak first act, and a tense and dramatic finale. Both men can sling language. Which is the playwright? We bet on *Stallings* for literary "cussing" and *Anderson* for playmaking. * * * *Albert* and *Charles Boni* are going to move to 66 Fifth Avenue on January first. There they'll spread out on almost an entire floor. It's the old *Macmillan* building completely rebuilt. * * * The first floor contains the only theatre on Fifth. *Albert Boni* is the director of it, and will open it with a repertory company in November. * * * With the *Baker & Taylor* Company across the street, the new *Macmillan* building next door, *The Viking Press* and *McBride's* around the corner, as well as the *Dial Press*, this part of town makes a bid for a publishing centre. * * * Well, now the evening shades are falling fast. A fond farewell until next week.

THE PHOENICIAN.



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AT THE AMERICAN ART GALLERIES.

THE library of Mrs. Hamilton Fish of this city, sold by her order, will be the first book sale of the season at the American Art Galleries. It has been scheduled for the afternoon and evening of November 4 and 5. It comprises art monographs, French illustrated books of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, books designed by Bruce Rogers, and standard library sets, many in fine bindings.

Part I of the Charles F. Gunther collection of books and manuscripts, the property of the Chicago Historical Society, will also be sold in November. It is unusually rich in Oriental manuscripts, palm strips from India, Ceylon, Burmah, Tibet, written in Sanskrit, Singhalese, and other Eastern languages; and rare Tibetan Buddhist scriptures only three or four complete copies of which exist outside of the religious houses of Tibet. The manuscripts include an unpublished ballad by Robert Burns, Pope's original epitaph for Swift, compositions by Liszt, Handel, Shumann, Rossini, Schubert, Beethoven. The association volumes include John Milton's copy of Frischlin's "Comedies" with the poet's initials on the title and his markings in the volume. An extensive collection of Shakespeareana includes the first quarto of "The Taming of the Shrew" and also the Second and Fourth Folios.

Other sales to be held in the early Fall and Winter include the important library of the late W. W. C. Wilson, of Montreal, which will be sold in two parts: first, general literature with many rare first editions, books on art, books with colored plates, and illustrated books; second, an extensive collection of Americana and Canadiana, the latter comprising many rare and important works; an extensive collection of autograph letters of Francis Bret Harte, being the correspondence addressed to his wife, consigned by its owner, Geoffrey Bret Harte, of London; first editions of modern authors, American and English, the property of Vincent Starrett of Chicago; selections from the library of W. R. Browne of Wyoming, N. Y. comprising an important collection of books

being bound together with illustrations and publications; important items from the library of Alexander Hamilton of Chicago, including autographs, first editions and standard library sets, some of which are in three-quarter and full leather and morocco bindings; the well known collection of New York views and Americana formed by Henry Goldsmid, said to be the most important collection in its field offered for sale since the sale of the Peter Pine collection; the well known collection of first editions of Herman Melville formed by the late Charles Kozlowski and the library of the late J. Hood Wright of New York comprising art and illustrated books that seldom appear for sale, together with many standard sets, many in fine bindings. These are to be sold before the holidays.

WALTER GILLISS, TYPOGRAPHER.

THE recent death of Walter Gilliss, famous American typographer and for over twenty years secretary of the Grolier Club, has brought out striking tributes from various directions. He began his career as a printer in 1869 when he and his brother purchased a small press with a limited assortment of type and began to print outside of school hours for local tradesmen. Two years later they formed the firm of Gilliss Brothers at 48 Nassau street. In the half century since, Mr. Gilliss was constantly identified with the best in American typography. The acquaintance that developed with the scholar and bibliophile, William Loring Andrews, led to the printing of many of his books. After 1908, Mr. Gilliss devoted his energies to supervising and designing the typography of books rather than to their actual production. In this capacity of adviser and designer he did some notable work for Doubleday, Page & Co.

In a tribute in the New York *Herald Tribune*, Douglas C. McMurtrie says: "Suffice it to say that he was endowed with a typographic taste and sense of

visualization of copy reduced to type which was excelled by no other man of his generation. Most of our distinguished typographic designers perfect their designs and lay-outs by setting type and criticizing and revising proofs, trying successively various arrangements until a satisfactory result is attained. Walter Gilliss did not work this way. With a manuscript in front of him he conceived the book in type before a line was set, and marked on it specific instructions for composition that were practically final. His eye for what the letter press printer calls 'color,' that is evenness and uniformity of ink and impression, was unsurpassed. When he passed a press sheet as satisfactory, it was beyond criticism. In any history of printing in America, the name of Walter Gilliss must always have a position of eminence."

A COLLECTOR'S FAVORITE.

DURING the last two or three years Anthony Trollope has been in the very front rank of modern authors who are popular with collectors. In the careful analysis of authors whose first editions are in most demand in England, according to the monthly tabulation printed in *The Bookman's Journal* of want advertisements printed in English trade papers during the last twelve months, Trollope has stood first in the sixty authors listed three times; second, four times; fifth, once; sixth, once; seventh, once; fourteenth, once; and sixteenth, once. This record has been a good deal of a surprise, for until recent years collectors paid little attention to Trollope. The first book of this Victorian novelist appeared in 1847. In thirty-five years, he wrote forty-seven novels, five books of short stories, four of travel, three of essays, a life of Cicero, and edited an edition of Caesar, in all 134 volumes. He had relations with sixteen different publishers. Most of his books were successful. The collector's difficulty is in finding copies in passably good condition because most copies of the first edition appear to have been read to death, or, on the other hand, have become obscure because they were not read at all.

NOTE AND COMMENT

THE first sale of the season at the Anderson Galleries was held October 5 and 6, and was well attended and fair prices

were realized. There were few rare items, the 524 lots bringing \$2,540.85.

The Bruton copy of Dickens's "Pickwick Papers," one of the finest copies of the first edition with collector's points in existence, was bought by Charles Sessler, the well known rare book dealer of Philadelphia, for £910, and was sold last month to Judge John M. Patterson, it is said, for about \$6,000.

Vol. VI of "Print Prices Current" just issued in London is a record of rare etchings and engravings sold at auction in London, Glasgow, and Edinburgh between October, 1923 and August, 1924. This record since its beginning has been accepted as authoritative, and with the growing interest in prints, has really become indispensable.

"The Literature of the Middle Western Frontier," by Ralph L. Rusk, published by the Columbia University Press, is a bibliographical work of the first importance. Frontier civilization in the great Middle West from 1700 to 1840 is mirrored in its rich but today little known literature. These two volumes must become one of the chief sources for investigators into the creative life of this particular region.

Douglas C. McMurtrie has published in an edition of 150 copies, "A History of Typefounding in the United States" by David Bruce, Jr. After a lifetime spent in the typefounding industry Mr. Bruce wrote this historical sketch, dated Brooklyn, November 14, 1874, which has since been preserved in manuscript in the library of the American Typefounding Company in Jersey City. The manuscript evidently had not been revised, and has required some editing, but it has been printed substantially as written in a beautiful quarto of thirty-eight pages. Mr. Bruce added to his personal knowledge a great deal of painstaking research, and this volume should be of competence to any one interested in the typographic arts in this country.

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