

Rare Books

English Dealers Talk in Dollars Rising Catalogue Costs Queen Victoria's Letters Sent Here

THE CLIQUE, the organ of the rare book trade in England, printed the following in its number of February 16:

"DOLLARS AND CENTS—How much British booksellers depend on American customers to buy their goods is exemplified by two catalogues which have reached us recently, both priced in dollars and cents. If this means there are but few English buyers now left we regret it deeply."

Here we have a demonstration of just how important the American trade is considered by our British cousins. And it might be as well to call their attention to the fact that no longer can they find the American with more money than judgment paying exorbitant prices for books.

Certain English dealers issue catalogues of American interest with prices so much higher than the same items may be had for on this side of the ocean that they are prohibitive. They do not fool anybody over here by so doing.

Catalogue Costs.

Dealers who issue catalogues have now to meet a condition that is not promising. The price of paper and printing has advanced so sharply and all the other fixed charges in conducting a business have so increased that it is doubtful if a profit can be figured out of a catalogue that does not carry excessive rarities.

Fixed charges in England are much lower than here, notwithstanding the four years of war.

A Queen's Letters.

In the earlier part of the season Robert H. Dodd received from the family of Lord Ronald Sutherland-Gower a remarkable collection of letters of Queen Victoria, together with some beautiful lace worn by her at her wedding and others carried by the father and mother of Lord Ronald at the ceremony. There are 118 pieces in the collection, the letters being especially fine in that they show the woman as well as the queen, forming what is the largest lot of her letters outside the British royal family.

Books for Soldiers.

THE SUN said some weeks ago that the book trade here could do much to supply books for our army in France. Just now

there is a big drive in progress in front of the New York Public Library, and it is a pleasure to see the generous response that is being made to the appeal.

Our people should recollect that we have 500,000 men more or less in France, and that while 100,000 volumes seem a great number they will not begin to meet the demands of the boys for reading matter.

These men are our men; let's make them as comfortable as we can.

Lo, a Poet.

The versatility of Oscar Wegelin was referred to recently in this column. Full justice seems not to have been done him, for he has just made an appearance as a poet, his recent contribution to one of the New York newspapers, *The Fantastic's Prayer*, clearly outitting him to that designation.

Further, Wegelin is an actor of no mean ability.

"The Sun" in the Desert.

A New York dealer who advertises in THE SUN recently received a letter from a section boss on the Southern Pacific Railroad, stationed in the desert region of California, saying that he had seen the dealer's advertisement in THE SUN and asking for a catalogue and making inquiry about certain books, which were subsequently bought.

Catalogues Received.

Albert A. Bieber, 200 West Twenty-fourth street, New York. A collection of books and pamphlets on American. Seven hundred and forty-nine items. The catalogue is rich in early American plays and poetry.

The World's Longest Title?

The original manuscript of a rare American poem written by the Rev. Mr. Williams of Newport, Rhode Island, has just been found by Albert A. Bieber. The title, which is somewhat formidable, is as follows:

The Prodigal Daughter or a Strange and Wonderful Relation Showing How a Gentleman of East Estate in Bristol had a Proud Daughter, who because her Parents would not Support her in her Extravagances, Was quitted with the Devil to poison Them. How an Angel informed Her Parents of her Design. How she lay in a Trance four days and She was put into the Grave and She was taken out again and related the Wonderful works that she saw in the other World, and some more.

Newport, R. I., 1770.

The poem had been privately published by the author, but copies seem to have disappeared.

Sales at Auction.

The sale of the Clark library on Tuesday and Wednesday, March 26 and 27, by Scott & O'Shaughnessy was very successful. Special items in the sale, with prices, were as follows: Elizabeth Barrett Browning, unknown poem, *Only a Card*, \$67; Victor Hugo's *Hans of Iceland*, \$18.50; Joel Chandler Harris's *Uncle Remus*, presentation copy, \$32.50; Hawthorne's *Scandal Letter*, \$35; Longfellow's *Evangeline*, \$37.50; Milton's *Paradise Regained*, \$50; *Nyctambula*, \$25.50; *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, \$60; James Whitcomb Riley's *When the Green Gills Back in the Trees*, presentation copy, \$19. Total for three sessions, \$5,600.

Coming Sales.

At Anderson's, April 1-5. Books and manuscripts from the estate of Benson J. Lossing, with additions.

This catalogue contains many extra illustrated books, incunabula, Bug Bible, 1549, much uncommon Americana and other interesting items not often found.

There seems to be no end to the treasures from the Henry E. Huntington collection, as part VIII. of the catalogue of duplicates will shortly be issued by the Anderson Galleries, the sale to take place April 24-26. The grand total for what has been sold in the previous seven parts was \$408,729, and it is announced that the offerings in the coming sale are much the most valuable and interesting of all.

Another copy of Milton's *Comus*; no less than twenty-eight Shakespeare quartos, an unprecedented number to appear in one sale; *Paradise Lost*, 1667; the works of Samuel Daniel, 1601, and *Gallucci's Treatise*, 1726, besides many other excessive rarities are to be sold, affording collectors an opportunity not likely to occur again soon.

A Precaution.

It is a frequent occurrence now for catalogues not to reach buyers until after sales have taken place. To expedite delivery Scott & O'Shaughnessy have had printed on wrappers a line in bold faced type: DATED AMERICAN CATALOGUE. NO GOOD IF DELAYED.

"Blown In by the Draft"

THE literature of these times, or some of it, is coming from trench and camp, and whoever with a trained pen and an understanding heart records the incidents and events of the life of our men in training is making a permanent contribution to the history of the great war.

When every one who thinks about the war is writing a book about it there is a certain relief, for the reviewer at least, in professional work. Frazier Hunt, whose *Yaphank Benny* stories have long been a feature of THE SUN, is a professional. He knows where to emphasize and, what is more important still, when to keep silent; also how to construct. In his *Blown In by the Draft* we get a vivid picture of National Army life.

Mr. Hunt has made each incident a little story in itself, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad, but always intensely human. You feel, when the book is finished, that you have visited and become tempo-

rily clips the hair of a one time sergeant in the Royal Flying Corps."

With this bird's-eye view we proceed to a more intimate acquaintance with Johnny McGinn, who tried to get into the National Army but failed on account of his heart and took to shovelling coal at Upton so he could at least be within hearing of the bugles; with George, whose mother and father and sis and the kids ride out every Sunday in the fiver from New York and bring him homemade cakes and candies; with "Sarge," the erstwhile picture artist and former private in the Serbian army; with Kelly of the Engineers, whose sister was killed by the Huns.

We overhear a conversation between Bill and Aleck, who have been spending a vacation in the city: "Wasn't you willin' to go in when that woman with all them glass diamonds on comes out and invites you? I didn't have nothin' to do with it at all except point out the sign to you. 'Soldiers and Sailors Welcome, dancing and music and a splendid time promised all of Uncle Sam's boys.'" As Aleck saw it.

To which Aleck replies: "And there's nineteen different furrin' officers out in this here camp teachin' us how to shoot and stab and choke and beat them Huns to death—and here all them dimes in New York is tryin' to make us nice little boys that would not think of dancing to no rough jazz tunes or naughty fox trots. War sure do a lot of foolish things."

We all recognize Harry Lauder when he comes, a black band around his sleeve for his own boy killed in a French trench, and sings to the Camp Upton men: "There's a Wee Hoose Among the Heather" and tells them, "You boys are the lamplighters of the world. You're going to light up civilization. Your children will be able to say: 'My dad lit that light.'" Then—"the smile was gone from the master funmaker's lips and eyes. His hand snapped to his Scotch tam o' shanter in salute, not the salute that the men of Camp Upton are being taught, but one that 3,000,000 other brave soldiers are using on the battle front:

"Fought and won," he repeated the words of the song, "American soldiers, I salute you."

BLOWN IN BY THE DRAFT. BY FRAZIER HUNT. Doubleday, Page & Co. \$1.25.



Frazier Hunt
Author of "Blown in by the Draft"

rarily a part not only of Camp Upton but of every National Army camp in the United States. The book has a foreword by Col. Roosevelt and an introduction by Brig. Gen. Johnson and is humorously illustrated by Capt. J. S. S. Richardson.

The real magic of army life is in such a picture as this:

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