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DECEMBER 1924
Volume 2 Number 3

Price: 2 Francs.

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Constitution
des Treize États-Unis de l'Amérique
George Simpson Eddy

During the American Revolution, and for some years thereafter, the Declaration of Independence and the new Constitutions of the thirteen States were of absorbing interest to thoughtful persons in Europe and especially in France.

On March 24, 1783, Dr. Franklin wrote to Vergennes, saying:

"I am desirous of printing a translation of the Constitutions of the United States of America, published at Philadelphia, in 1781, by order of Congress. Several of these Constitutions have already appeared in the English and American newspapers; others have appeared elsewhere; but there has never yet been a complete translation of them. That, of which I have the honour to speak to your Excellency, being an octavo volume, contains the different Constitutions of the United States, their treaty with France, and no foreign matter. I have made arrangements for this purpose with M. Pierres, who is ready to commence the impression, and I hope that your Excellency will give your approbation. M. Pierres will need a permit from the Keeper of the Seals for printing and selling this work, after having furnished me with the number of copies agreed upon. As I strongly desire that this translation may appear at an early day, I shall feel under great obligations to your Excellency, if you will have the goodness to request the Keeper of the Seals to send the order without delay; and, should the formalities required for the purpose demand any considerable time, to request him to authorize by letter M. Pierres to proceed with the work."

The above letter was probably a polite and diplomatic reminder of a matter with which Vergennes was quite familiar, as we find that on March 5, 1783, Vergennes had written to Franklin that the request of the latter for permission to publish the Constitutions had been referred to the Garde des Sceaux, who had told Vergennes that he had authorized the printer to commence the printing of the book, upon condition that he should send the leaves, as printed, to be examined by a "censeur".

One delay followed another; the book was finally printed, but, even then, it could not be distributed until it had been examined and approved by Vergennes. On June 27, 1783, Pierres, the printer, wrote to Franklin:

"Vous voyez, Monsieur, que Paris ne ressemble point du tout à Philadelphie, et qu'il nous faudrait ici un second Franklin, s'il pouvait en exister deux, pour nous délivrer de toutes ces entraves."

It seems that Vergennes was not at all enthusiastic over the publication in France of these Constitutions, which would spread abroad ideas of government quite opposed to those of the French monarchy. However, at last, permission to issue the book was granted, and in July 1783, Dr. Franklin began to distribute copies thereof. On July 22 he wrote to Robert R. Livingston, American Secretary for Foreign Affairs, saying:

"Since our trade is laid open, and no longer a monopoly to England, all Europe seems desirous of sharing it, and for that purpose to cultivate our friendship. That it may be better known everywhere, what sort of People and what kind of Government they will have to treat with, I prevailed with a friend, the Duc de la Rochefoucauld, to translate our Book of Constitutions into French, and I presented copies to all the foreign Ministers. I send you one herewith."

On December 25, 1783, writing to Thomas Mifflin, the President of Congress, Franklin said:

"The extravagant misrepresentations of our Political State in foreign Countries made it appear necessary to give them better information, which I thought could not be more effectually and authen-
tically done, than by publishing a translation into French, now the most general language in Europe, of the Book of Constitutions, which had been printed by order of Congress. This I accordingly got well done, and presented two copies, handsomely bound, to every foreign Minister here, one for himself, the other more elegant for his Sovereign. It has been well taken, and has afforded matter of surprise to many, who had conceived mean ideas of the state of civilization in America, and could not have expected so much political knowledge and sagacity had existed in our wildernesses. And from all parts I have the satisfaction to hear that our Constitutions in general are much admired. I am persuaded that this step will not only tend to promote the emigration to our country of substantial people from all parts of Europe, by the numerous copies I shall disperse, but will facilitate our future Treaties with foreign Courts, who could not before know what kind of Government and People they had to treat with.”

Franklin presented copies of the Constitutions to Louis XVI and to Marie-Antoinette, and it is interesting to know that the Queen’s copy is now preserved in the Bibliothèque Nationale; the copy sent to the King has had a more adventurous career, if full credit may be given to the following story. It is said that during the attack on the Tuileries, August 10th, 1792, an American spectator, one Robert Gilmor, of Baltimore, was hit by a book thrown from a window of the palace. He picked it up and brought it home. That book was a copy of the “Constitutions des Treize États-Unis,” bound in crimson morocco stamped with the arms of Louis XVI; it passed into the hands of Dr. Thomas Addis Emmet, a famous bibliophile of New York, and ultimately came into the possession of the New York Public Library, which holds it in its treasure room.

Six hundred copies of the Constitutions were printed for Franklin’s use—500 octavo, and 100 quarto. The octavo volumes were bound in boards with calf back, and were printed upon ordinary paper; those in quarto were printed upon “papier d’Annonay”, and were bound in full leather. It seems probable that the printer, Piéres, was granted the right to print and sell some copies for his own account, but whether he exercised that privilege is not known.

The translator of this work was that excellent man, Louis-Alexandre, duc de la Rochefoucauld d’Envile, who was massacred at Gisors in September, 1792.

Franklin presented copies of the book to several of his French friends, whose letters of acknowledgment are interesting reading. From the comtesse d’Houdetot came the following delightful note: (her spelling and use of capitals are retained).

“J’ai Reçu avec joie Et sensibilité Le présent qu’a Bien voulu me faire Monsieur Franklin. il me sera Cher par son objet Et par la main qui me le donne. C’est un Monument Du Bonheur De La Patrie Et Du Succès De Ses travaux; si le Ciel ne nous a point faites pour Conduire Des Etats il m’a donné au moins une Ame Bien
sensible pour Ceux qui ont Eclairé les nations Et Les ont Dirigées vers Leur véritable Bonheur La paix Et La Liberté. C’est à Ces titres que j’offre mes hommages Et mes Remercimens à Monsieur Franklin.”

One of Franklin’s neighbours was Madame Guichard de Meinières, who resided “aux Pavillons de Chaillot” ; her letter of August 31, 1783, in quaint English, is amusing.

“Illustrioux Legislator of your Country, I would be very obliged to you, if you would, and could give me, the book of the constitution, translated by M. de la Rocheoucault, somebody told me, that it is not sold. I should be lofy to have it of your hand, and grateful to you for your kindness, my dear Neighbour, loved and revered by your most humble servant,

Guichard de Meinière$.

Of course, Dr. Franklin sent her a copy of the book.

The writer possesses a copy which Franklin presented to George Hammond, who in 1783 was in Paris as secretary to David Hartley, the British Peace Commissioner. This Hammond was afterwards the first Minister from Great Britain to the United States.

In the days of the French Revolution, the American Constitutions were much consulted by the statesmen and politicians of France. In 1792 there appeared at Paris, a reprint of the edition published by Franklin in 1783; to his reprint was added the text of the Federal Constitution. Other editions of the American Constitutions followed. The editor of the reprint of 1792 inserted in that edition a note concerning the Federal Constitution which is indicative of the attitude of many French politicians of that day:

“Nous plaçons ici cette Constitution; si on la compare aux diverses Constitutions de chaque État, on aura peut-être à gémir sur cette vérité, qu’il n’est pas de République, aussi démocratique qu’elle soit, qui n’amène incessamment le règne de l’Aristocratie.”

“The Way of the World”, a comedy by William Congreve, first published in 1700, has just been republished in Foyle’s Dramatic Library. This was described by Swinburne as the unequalled and unapproached masterpiece of English comedy, entitled to a place beside the mightiest work of Molière.

The Historical Manuscripts Commission Report on the mss. of the Marquess of Downshire preserved at East Hampstead Park, Berks, just published by H. M. Stationery Office, describes the papers of Sir William Trumbull, envoy extraordinary to France, 1685-86, where he did much for the relief of English Protestants after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and later Secretary of State.

The Library of Congress has just received a collection of letters and post cards written by Walt Whitman to his friends, Dr. John Johnston and J. W. Wallace of England. There are 103 autograph signed communications in all, of the period 1887 to 1892.

Bruce Wierick’s “From Whitman to Sandburg in American Poetry” (Macmillan) is described by the Nation as the most consecutive account to date of modern American poetry, the books by Louis Untermeyer and Amy Lowell being collections of more or less brilliant essays.

The “Checklist of American Periodicals 1741-1800”, by William Beer, recently published by the American Antiquarian Society, lists eighty-eight titles, as compared with fifty-four in Paul Leicester Ford’s list published in 1889. Of these the Antiquarian Society has seventy and the Library of Congress sixty-six. The earliest French periodical recorded is the Courrier de Boston, published from April 23 to October 15, 1789.
A Library of Juvenile Literature at Milan

HENRI LEMAITRE

Director of the Revue des Bibliothèques and Honorary Librarian of the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris

The “Federazione Italiana della Bibliotheca Populare”, founded as a result of the Congress of Rome, in 1908, has since organized more than 3000 branch libraries throughout Italy; its principal aim is to implant so securely the love of literature in the minds and hearts of young Italians that they will of their own accord seek to supplement their studies after leaving school, by freely using these public libraries, whether for purposes of research and information, or simply for amusement and entertainment.

Although the Italian Government has not yet subsidized the Federation it has shown its entire approval by incorporating reading courses as an important factor in the school curriculum. One result has been that many school libraries have been formed. The Federation has been of great assistance to teachers in supplying selected lists of books suitable for each grade, as well as prevailing upon publishers to sell books for this educational purpose at a very considerable discount. Aside from these school libraries, the Federation has organized circulating libraries especially for children,—there are two such libraries in Milan.

As one consequence of these activities, the production of juvenile literature has since developed rapidly in Italy; fully one third of Italian books published today are for children. With such a large output as this, it is, of course, inevitable that there be much room for improvement. Three criticisms may be made— that old-fashioned methods have not been completely discarded, that there has not been sufficiently keen discernment in keeping pace with scientific progress, and, above all, that there are lamentable lacunae. These faults may be traced to the fact that many who are writing books for children think of it only as a temporary means of livelihood, while many publishers consider only the books that in their opinion will have a successful sale, without weighing the importance of publishing well-rounded sets. Books for children should be carefully studied to discover, in the case of successful ones, wherein their success lies, and, if faulty, what makes them so; such an investigation would have real and instructive value, for the juvenile mind is extremely intricate and sensitive, and careful thought should be given to that which it absorbs.

It was with these objects in view, as well as to interest those persons chiefly concerned with child psychology, that the Federation organized the juvenile libraries. In these libraries are to be found all manner of modern literature for children, from picture-books to short stories and novels, as well as collections of the quaint old-fashioned stories that charmed the childhood of our grandparents, books of criticism of juvenile literature, foreign translations of Italian books, etc.

The Federation has had only the most meagre financial aid from the government, and does not expect any in the future; it is to the public at large, and to individuals, that the Federation looks for support, a support which has never failed. The community may always be counted upon to further activities from which it benefits.

Already a number of publishers, English as well as Italian, have presented copies of all books published by them, with the promises of
continuing the practice with new publications. Individuals have also generously contributed and in this way a collection of considerable importance has been formed and is steadily growing. It is, indeed, greatly to the advantage of publishers to present their works, for all books received are listed in the Federation's review *La Parola ed il Libro*, with an accompanying bibliographical and descriptive note for the use of parents and teachers. This review, sent to the 3000 affiliated libraries and read by a large number of professors and teachers, is without doubt the most effective way of securing publicity for these books.

The new reference library, if funds are forthcoming, will annually publish a catalogue, with author, title and subject entries; it will periodically arrange exhibitions of children's books in its own libraries as well as elsewhere; through the columns of *La Parola ed il Libro* it will answer any questions or give advice that may be requested of it. It will be in direct contact with all the circulating juvenile libraries, which will act as proving grounds for the ideas and theories of technicians. It is to be solely a reference library and loans of books will be made only under the most exceptional circumstances.

It seems inevitable that this new library of juvenile literature should prosper and grow in the same way that the other libraries, organized by Professor Ettore Fabietti, have prospered and grown. The success of the pioneer institutions stands as sponsor and guarantee for this new enterprise.

In a review of modern drama in a recent issue of the *International Book Review*, Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" is described by Professor William Lyon Phelps as the greatest drama of modern times.

Horace Walpole's journals of his visits to Paris between 1765 and 1775, recently discovered among the Walpole ms. belonging to the late Sir Francis Waller, are described by Paget Toynbee in the *Times*, August 16.

"E. M. Forster is indubitably one of the finest novelists living in England today", Herbert S. Gorman says in the *New York Times Book Review* "and 'A Passage to India,'" he adds, "is one of the saddest, keener, most beautifully written ironic novels of the time."

The Smith College Studies in Modern Languages, Volume 1, Number 1, contains two important essays, one on "La Société des Bonnes Lettres (1821-1830)" by Margaret H. Peoples, the other on "Dadaisme, poignée de documents" (1916-1921), by Professor Albert Schinz.

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet", translated by Professor Koszul of the University of Strasbourg, has just been issued as a volume in the Collection Shakespeare published by Dent et Fils.

In an article on recent American fiction in the *New York Times Book Review*, Ernest Boyd names Thomas Beers' "Sandoval" (Knopf) as the best of the season.
A Chapter of Journalism in Paris

SOMMERVILLE STORY

IT seems to me that the modest history of the "Resurrection" might be worth telling. In a rich and varied experience of journalism in Paris (as "varied", as Sam Weller might have said, as a Russian salad) it was not the least interesting chapter, and there is really nobody who can tell it but myself. That is one of the advantages of having a story to tell.

What was the "Resurrection"? As today it is totally forgotten, I may as well begin from the beginning. The "Resurrection" was a monthly magazine started in Paris in 1915 by the American writer, Arthur E. Stilwell, and myself, with the object of aiding victims of the war,—orphaned refugees, needy soldiers, and others,—and the societies which were working for them. Incidentally it was to preach hope and a renewed outlook upon life in face of the crushing and depressing events that were taking place around us. That was why we chose the title at the suggestion of a French lady, a well-known philanthropist whose work for the blind and other war victims has since made her name a household word.

We started with—nothing! We had no money, and I mean in the sense that magazines ought to have money. We had a few hundred francs to pay the printer for the first number and to have some circulars printed. An American attorney offered us an office, rent-free, in his suite on the Avenue de l'Opéra, and plenty of friends promised us support,—(one or two of whom kept their promise).

My American colleague was in those early days the most enthusiastic person I ever met. He prophesied that before a month was over we should have a staff of about a hundred people addressing the magazine to keep pace with the enormous demand for it. His enthusiasm caught me, although I had already had not a little experience in the uphill work of gaining support for a new publication. But there was this much to be said for my friend's enthusiasm: it was based not so much upon the excellent literature which was to appear in "Resurrection", as upon the charitable appeal and the interest that was felt all over the world in those days in everything that pertained to Paris and the sufferings of the victims of the war.

Our magazine, except for the articles on the societies doing "war work", consisted of the ordinary features of a popular magazine—stories, poems, a fashion article, articles on phases of the war, and so on, while we occasionally had a page or two in French. Though most of the contributions were supplied by ourselves, and I, as editor, bore the brunt of the work, yet we had some valuable and very welcome aid. Among others who contributed were "Peter Crool", the American writer, since distinguished by an excellent volume on Poitiers; Pierre Guitet-Vauquelin, the author of "L'Ile Exaltée" and other fine novels; and Professor J. Mark Baldwin, who contributed a poem, and "Tristan St. Martin", a story.

Among my valuable illustrators were Arthur J. Lyons, and Jan and Cora Gordon. Mr. Lyons, a pupil of Jean-Paul Laurens, lived in Paris for a number of years, and during the war went out to India for the Red Cross; Mr. and Mrs. Gordon still have a flat in Paris, though they are inveterate wanderers and have filled several volumes with the impressions of their journeying. Miss Alys Hallard, well known as the translator of Pierre de Coulevain, also contributed an article which attracted attention.
Nobody was paid, neither editor, contributors, nor anybody else. Our profits were all to go to societies helping victims of the war; but that was not to preclude proper payment for services rendered. Unfortunately, we never got so far!

The press was very appreciative and helpful, and articles about the “Resurrection” appeared in a large number of papers in England, America, Australia, France, Italy and other countries. The press was indeed so “appreciative” that a number of our articles were reproduced in various parts of the world—sometimes, I regretted to find, without acknowledgement of source or authorship—which latter fact caused me to expostulate and demand that papers which found our productions good enough should pay something to the cause. (This appeal met with no response!)

It was all a very interesting experience of human nature, for we came into contact with numbers of people high and low, doing war work, and were able in many cases to find the motives underlying their efforts—often single-hearted devotion to a cause nobly carried out, but not infrequently a mere desire to shine in the eyes of others, or to win a decoration. Motives were terribly mixed, but I came across some very noble and high-minded people, carried away by enthusiasm for the cause they were working for—some of them titled people, bearers of illustrious names, some much more modest people who were neglecting their own interests.

We had several thrills,—one day our office had a visit from the police. Having had, like more important publications, to send our sheets to the censor, an article had been found entitled “How to End the War”, by A. E. Stilwell. This was promptly forbidden, and the police came to inquire into my American colleague’s antecedents and to find out if he was a “pacifist” (a hated word at that time) or a spy! Stilwell was somewhat alarmed, as he did not understand a word of the conversation, but we easily persuaded our visitors that the harmless article was written by a good friend of France and of humanity. I was rather proud when a day or two later our little monthly sheet came out with a blank page and the mention “Suppressed by the Censor”, and thought it a sign that

We had the usual uphill experiences of a young publication, but if my colleague’s dream of a circulation of hundreds of thousands in a few weeks was not realized, yet the success of the modest publication astonished me. We received subscriptions from all parts of the world, but especially from the United States and Canada, while scarcely a post but brought us demands for the magazine from places as far apart as India, South Africa, Australia, the neutral countries of Europe, and even China and South America. In Paris, where we expected most encouragement, we obtained least, that is, from the English-speaking colonies.

One of the contributions to the “Resurrection”. 

Yours truly,

[Signature]

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we were getting on! Stilwell's article later developed into a book and was published with some success.

Our contents were not at all epoch-making, but among the items that attracted most attention and have now gone to the limbo of forgotten literature, were an article called "Jeanne d'Arc", reproduced in Australia, England, and America, and the following poem by the editor evoked by the indignation of the moment:

THE KAISER'S DANCE OF DEATH

("The Kaiser, it is reported, has expressed a wish that dancing and social gaiety should continue in his capital."—The daily papers.)

Dance, Kaiser, dance! Your Royal will should by example show the way;
You first of those who burn and kill
Teach your liege subjects to be gay!
Millions, o Hun, have died for you—
Millions whom you have taught to prance
To your command; now lead them through
Their steps who're left. Dance, Kaiser, dance!

Dance, Kaiser, dance! For Tyranny
Has found in you her sweetest son,
And you, O King, should merry be!
Let mothers' sobbings lead you on!
Let babes' death gurgles be the song
To urge you, and the wives of France—
Let their sad moanings be as strong
To liven you! Dance, Kaiser, dance!

Dance, Kaiser, dance! No bloodier wretch
Has e'er yelled blasphemies at God—
You who but need a hand to stretch,
And corpses roll upon the sod!
Be gay! be blithe! For there is Rheims
To cheer you—or Louvain—by chance
Nurse Cavell's grave can still enhance
Your jovial thoughts! Dance, Kaiser, dance!

Dance, Kaiser, dance your round of death!
The orphans' wail, the widows' curse
Have power at last to catch your breath,
And martyrs' blood may kill—or worse!
The "Gott" you grin at is not God—
And tyrants have not every chance:
There is a doom to watch and plot—
Demented braggart, you may dance!

Alas, after existing for a year—it was in 1916—times grew harder, prices of printing and paper went up, and the the struggle became more difficult. We had existed thus far upon subscriptions and a little money out of our own pockets; but full success was still lacking. A little more help and it would have come, I was convinced. But those who expected immediate and more wonderful success became impatient and faint-hearted. The task of continuing under the circumstances became an even heavier burden and, left quite alone as I now was, I was forced to bow to the inevitable. But the "Resurrection" had been a very interesting experience; it did bring a great deal of help to "war works" and victims, and if it was not a great success, neither can it be called a failure.

Among Americans who have contributed to American understanding of French history one of the most eminent is James Breck Perkins. Mr. Perkins was born at St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin, November 4, 1847. In 1856 his family removed to Rochester, N.Y. At the close of his junior year in the University—he was then 18 years of age—he borrowed money with which to make a six months' journey in Europe, traveling mostly on foot. He was especially interested in France, and it was probably then that he first conceived the writing of the history of France which occupied so many of the later years of his life.

In 1867 he completed his college course and at once began the study of law. At the age of 26 he was elected City Attorney; political life was, however, less attractive to him than literary research. During the first years of his professional career he took time to write articles for the American Law Review on "French Parliaments", the "Case of the Diamond Necklace", and other subjects connected with French legal history, and after his marriage in 1878 to Miss Mary Martindale, daughter of General Martin-dale, he began the systematic study of the history of France during the 17th century with which his name is now associated.

In 1881 he returned to Europe, accompanied by his wife and spent three months in travel. In 1885 they went again, this time with the object of historical research. His diary for this year says:

April 4.—Cold wet nasty day. Went up to Mr. Minister Morton's and through him obtained admission to the "Salle de Travail" at the Bibliothèque Nationale. There I read from one to four. There is too much of a crowd to be the ideal place for writing and study.

April 18.—Warm and charming. Found our rooms very pleasant with the garden of the Minister of Justice opposite. Spent the day reading in Gindeley's "Dreissig Jahrigen Krug" and fussing about. Dined at the pension for the first time, but there is a strong American element and much English talked, at which I am disappointed.

May 26.—Began with rain, but cleared off warm and pleasant. At the library: tackled the mss. Found the "Carnets" almost wholly illegible, but went through a good deal of the Venetian despatches which are interesting, but very voluminous. Decided to stay at Mme. Pincet's notwithstanding the small amount of French conversation.

July 27.—Hot. Stayed at Sèvres and did some writing and correcting. In the evening planned life on a farm near Rochester.
In 1886 the results of his work were published with the title "France under Mazarin". This was so well received that he was encouraged to go on with his studies. This involved further research in the Bibliotheque Nationale and in the Archives Nationales, and the larger part of the years 1890 to 1895 were spent in Paris, interrupted only by a return to the United States in 1892 to give the publishers the manuscript of his second historical work, "France under the Regency", and by travels in other parts of Europe and in Egypt.

After his return to the United States he published, in 1897, "France under Louis XV", in 1900, "Life of Richelieu" (in the Heroes of the Nations series) and in 1911, "France in the War of the American Revolution".

In 1897 he was elected a member of the New York State Assembly, and in 1900 a member of the United States House of Representatives, in which he served with special distinction as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He died in Washington March 11, 1910.

In the preparation of this biographical note use has been made of an interesting memoir by his wife published in the last edition of his "France under Mazarin" as well as the "Memorial addresses delivered in the House of Representatives of the United States, April 3, 1910".

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"Shoshone Folklore", by Sarah Emilia Olden (Milwaukee, Morehouse Pub. Co.) is an account of the manners, customs and religious beliefs of the Shoshone Indians of Wyoming together with reminiscences of missionary life among them since 1883.

Of the translation of "The Plays of Edmond Rostand" by Mrs. Henderson Dairingerfield Norman (Macmillan) Edmond Gosse says, "I can not recollect another instance of a French dramatic poet being so completely and at the same time so faithfully presented to an English reader."

Professor Edward M. Earle's "Turkey, the Great Powers, and the Bagdad Railway" (Macmillan) is described in the American Journal of International Law as a valuable contribution to the literature of a field which so far has been very inadequately covered by English historical writers.

In his introduction to the late Professor Anson D. Morse's "Parties and Party Leaders" (Marshall Jones) Mr. Dwight W. Morrow says that Professor Morse planned a book on the general subject of party government more than thirty years ago. He was unable to carry out his plan, but a few years before his death had considered the publication of the articles now printed in this book. The first three of them are theoretical in character; the remainder are devoted to the history of political parties in the United States.

In his history of contemporary American poetry entitled "From Whitman to Sandburg" (Macmillan), Bruce Weirick describes Sandburg as the chief writer in American poetry since Whitman; William Vaughan Moody he considers the best poet of the middle period; and Amy Lowell he believes to be the equal if not the superior for any woman poet the modern world has produced.

The New Gallery, which began business at 600 Madison Avenue, November 14, 1922, has just published an illustrated catalogue of the pictures sold at the Gallery from November 1922 to May 1923. It is entitled "New Pictures and the New Art"; and its content is about equally divided between the work of American artists and that of Europeans of the post-impressionist schools.

In an essay on Robert Browning in his "Prophets of Yesterday" (Harvard University Press) Dr. John Kelman says: For an entrance into his work the first six books of the old edition are to be recommended, especially "Men and Women", "Dramatis Personae", "Dramatic Romances", and "Dramatic Lyrics". This will introduce the reader to such poems as "Karshish", "Andrea Del Sarto", "Rabbi Ben Ezra", and "One Word More", to say nothing of many short and quite easy lyrics which present no difficulty, "Pippa Passes" may follow, "The Ring and the Book", "Balaustion's Adventure", and "Ferishtah's Fancies". After that the way is clear, and there need be no hesitation in taking up any of his work.
The primary aim of Ex Libris is to give its readers information in regard to the best American and English books of general interest. The primary aim of the American Library is to make these books available to its members throughout Europe.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SERVICE

In his annual report to the Trustees of the American Library in Paris the Librarian called attention to the remarkable development in its service to French Universities during the past year. This took two forms: first, that of co-operation with the American Library Association Committee on books for Europe in the selection of American books and periodicals for French University libraries, and second, that of co-operation with the Bibliothèque Nationale in lending books to professors in French Universities.

For the purchase of books for these libraries the sum of $4750 was allotted of the appropriation made by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. In the distribution of this an effort was made to supply, first, current periodicals representing American progress in different departments of learning, second, the volumes needed to complete files broken by the War, and third, the books most essential to an understanding of the history of American thought and institutions.

These gifts of books have been supplemented as far as possible by loans of books needed for occasional or individual use. In this way 30 different scholars in 21 different universities and lycees have been served, with some measure of success, during the past few months. To be more exact 35 per cent of the requests for books in literature have been supplied and 74 per cent of the books in science; and the search for the other books wanted will be continued until if possible all have been supplied.

The subjects of inquiry range from early to contemporary English literature, and from Francis Bacon to Theodore Dreiser. The major number, of course, relate either to literature or history but there are also requests for books in politics and science, the last including such special subjects as that of mental tests.

Books have been loaned ordinarily for a period of three months, but always with the understanding that they might be kept longer if needed, subject to recall if required elsewhere.

It is to be hoped that this service to specialists in different branches of learning may be developed rapidly not only because such service is in itself of the highest importance, but also because it will relieve other European libraries of the task of collecting, cataloguing, and caring for this important but little used class of foreign publications. Its importance makes it desirable that it should be available to all; on the other hand the fact that its use is limited almost wholly to specialists makes it unnecessary that it should be duplicated in many libraries.
If evidence of this is needed a recent examination of the collection of books on early American history in the Library will serve. Of the entire collection 72 per cent had not been loaned for at least one month, 4 per cent had been loaned once and only one book had been loaned twice. The record of use of a larger collection for a longer period of time would be more conclusive, but these figures alone indicate that the studies of one specialist do not interfere to any great extent with the studies of another, and less still with those of the general reader. In the proper organization of libraries there must be a few central lending libraries for specialists very complete in character instead of many isolated and fragmentary collections of little use to the specialist and of no use to anyone else. Such central libraries will not only promote research but will allow local libraries to attend to the special needs of the ordinary student as well as to the ordinary needs of the special student.

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The New York Public Library: The Main Reading Room.

In his "History of the New York Public Library" recently published by the Librarian, Harry Miller Lydenberg, chief reference librarian, says of this room, "The sweeping spaciousness of the quarter-acre main reading room, its inviting walls, its beautiful ceiling, all serve to secure a most unusual sense of repose and quiet in a room that seats over seven hundred readers and frequently has nearly a thousand visitors at a time."

Professor Dennis has produced an extremely valuable book. Not only is its subject unique, but its tone. He wastes no time calling the Bolsheviks either complimentary or uncomplimentary names, and so has space to print an extraordinarily valuable collection of facts, always enlightened by quotations of pertinent opinions from both sides. Professor Dennis is well qualified to produce the history of the foreign policies of Soviet Russia, with which he has been in contact from the beginning, first as a special diplomatic attache, and, subsequently, as a diligent student, supplementing his own researches with those of a wide acquaintanceship.

As a good historian he treats Soviet foreign policy as a reality. The reader is impressed by the elasticity of methods employed by its conductors, with the considerable success they have attained and with the degree to which they have sacrificed their revolutionary ardor for the benefits of normal international relations, when it was possible to obtain them. Still beyond the Bolshevik window-dressing and a tendency to be brutally frank when nothing is to be lost, one is impressed with the fact that Russian policy under Lenin and the rest has not changed in its political essentials, notwithstanding a flamboyant grinding of their special economic axe.

Mr. Dennis discusses Soviet policy toward individual countries rather than attempts to present a synthesis of it. In view of the great masses of data hitherto unavailable, this method was inevitable. It was, moreover, justified by the fact that Soviet foreign relations are still very inconclusive with most states. The result is that the reader has a running chronological account of Soviet relations with each particular country, each chapter or section well documented, not infrequently exclusive material. Here and there a more formal handling might have been desired; as, for instance, there is no clear definition of the "New Economic Policy," while the chapter on the United States deals with the development of an attitude rather than with the facts that have determined policy.

No book has yet appeared on Soviet Russia so useful for acquiring an understanding of what the Moscow dictatorship is, as opposed to what it merely says or thinks.

Denys P. Myers

European Bankruptcy and Emigration, by Helmer Key. London. Methuen & Co. 1924. 169 pages.

The reconstruction of Europe appears to the authors as a hopeless enterprise. Europe is bankrupt. The fate of millions of people in Europe is to starve on their impoverished lands unless new markets and new resources are exploited by them in new countries.

The most promising territories lie on the immense coast east of the Pacific Ocean. The soil is fertile and yet hardly cultivated. But to avail the Europeans, these lands will have to be actually inhabited by them. On one side of the Pacific Ocean are the thickly peopled regions of Japan, China and Indo-China where the struggle for life is hard for the natives; on the other thinly peopled and rich regions where they could easily creep in and multiply. An immigration en masse of white people is the only protection for the white civilization against an overwhelming sweep of coloured races in these new and indispensable countries.

The author, a Swedish economist, does not display exceptional mastery of the subjects involved. He simply puts together information and considerations with which many educated men may already be familiar. But his simple and easy discussion of the potentialities open to white activities does not fail to be interesting.

Pierre Denoyer


Professor and General Morgan gives a trenchant, but somewhat contradictory summary of the condition of Germany in this little book. Having served on the Interallied Commission of Control it is natural that he should emphasize the armament problem. As a good historian, however, he does not lose perspective, and it is worthy of observation that his criticism of German action is tempered — even sympathetically — with an estimation of the psychological effect of the various pressures to which Germany has been subject. "As the author of the Rhineland agreement and the person entrusted with the task of piloting it through the Versailles military committee in 1919," Professor Morgan concludes that the occupation of the Ruhr has given the German militarists "a new lease of life".
He tells us, on the other hand, "that there is a ‘mark-fodder' just as there was a 'cannon-fodder', and the sacrifice has been equally deliberate.

The author, as he says himself, has taken pains to understand the German point of view. He both records and criticises it with vigor. He is not a partisan, though partisans will find their views well stated by him. His is a book which contributes to a better understanding of the German problem.

Denys P. Myers


Until the other day there were three things that always stood in my mind, whenever I thought of Poland and her ever-changing fate,—the beautiful song by Niels W. Gade, the tomb of the Cardinal-King John Casimir in the oldest of Paris churches, St. Germain des Prés, and a vision, burned into my memory more than twenty years ago during a brief visit to Warsaw, when I beheld from my sleigh, driving over the Vistula, the manner in which the minions of the White Czar caused his prisoners to be transported.

Those bayonet-guarded, ragged prisoners, some bare-foot in the snow, all full of misery, chained, moving across the river into the suburb, Praga — named, so Mr. Winter tells us, after Prague — from where box-cars would transport them eastwards into Siberia and to the fate that was so quickly earned by recalcitrant Poles of yester-year.

But now, having read Mr. Winter's book, these mental pictures of former years somehow fade into comparative insignificance, for he has described, not as a propagandist, but as a serious student, well versed in the difficult art of describing the life of nations, and more so of Poland of which he has written with distinction once before, a new country, risen out of the ashes of centuries of violent history, political mistakes, racial suppression, occasional sacrifice, and agricultural industry — and that country is Polonia Irredenta, re-created by the so-called Peace Conference of Versailles.

Those who are in need of information, whether historical, geopolitical, or commercial, concerning Poland, can do no better than to read this new, extremely well-made, handsome volume; and those who are in need of no special information, may well follow suit so long as they desire to become better acquainted with an important republic in the new scheme of things.

While John Sobieski and Kosciuszko might well have had the space they occupy cut down by half, so as to make it possible, for example, to go into greater detail concerning the Polish relations with both Peter the Great and Charles XII — each monarch being mentioned but once — it seems even a bit unjust that the Saxon kings, Augustus II and III, of Poland, are dismissed thus: "the term worthless is properly applied to these Saxon rulers".

A good map, an excellent bibliography, and an index accompany this volume, upon which both author and publisher may be justly felicitated.

Frits Ho'om


Is the Conscientious Objector a coward afraid to fight? Is he deserving of consideration when his country needs the support of every man? Such were the questions that even a great body of liberal opinion was asking after the United States entered the World War. Mr. Thomas has now answered these and many more questions. It is to be regretted that his book could not have been published before it was too late to secure respectable treatment for a new type of soldier, the conscientious objector. Time, however, has made possible a remarkable unbiased book which, it is to be hoped, will influence governmental policy in case of future wars.

Dividing the opponents of war into two classes, political and religious, Mr. Thomas presents a well written array of specific instances to show the motives that caused certain men to object to war and their endurance of mediaeval barbarities that so often accompany the action of the military mind. In America, as he notes, this record of war-time intolerance was far greater than in England, where liberal thought and the will of the minority are more often tolerated. The author recognizes that without conscription war could not be waged. Pondering over this advocates of peace might discover a means to a peaceful Society of Nations. To all people — pacificists, militarists, and liberals — the book should bring understanding and toleration of the views of men whose courage was as great as the soldier on the field of battle.

Walter R. Batsell


The author, now Sergeant-at-Arms of the United States Senate and formerly Washington Correspondent of the New York Sun and Providence Journal, begins his reminiscences with the history of the Electoral Commission which chose Hayes as President in 1877 and concludes them with a chapter on "Wilson and War Days". During all that time he says, no scenes made a deeper impression upon him than those which preceded and followed the bringing into being of the Electoral Commission.
More interesting to the average reader, however, must be the anecdotes which are scattered through the book and the author’s impressions of men and events. In a chapter entitled “Leadership, Lame Ducks, and Lobbyists”, for example, he says that the most lucrative kind of lobbying done in Washington nowadays is that indulged in by former Senators and Representatives. In another place he tells of one of Senator Hanna’s speeches at the Gridiron Club. He had risen to make his speech when a member of the club stationed in the gallery made it for him through a megaphone. Hanna was standing all the time, not knowing what was coming, but finally sat down and gave up the attempt to speak as through the megaphone came the words with declamatory effect, “What would the Gridiron Club have been without me?” At this there was applause, and the Senator was taking great pride in the fact that his personality was appreciated to its utmost when across the hall came the concluding words of the sentence, “on the other hand what would I have been without the Gridiron Club?”

President Wilson’s relations with newspaper men were less happy. He “persisted in the view”, Mr. Barry says, “that newspaper writers should write more about what ought to be done than about what was being done.”


Honesty of soul and conciseness of speech (the latter conspicuously appearing as a consequence of the former) are perhaps the chief characteristics of the President of the United States. If, as his own father says, he “seems to have the ability to write and speak the English language so that people have no trouble in understanding him”, it is because, by long spells of silence, President Coolidge has trained himself throughout all his life, to express as much truth as possible in as few words as he can.

The interest of Mr. Hennessey’s book lies in the portrayal of Calvin Coolidge not so much as an individual (though it would be hard to find a person of more marked individuality) as a composite portrait, the cumulative result of stubborn and pious generations of New Englanders. He of course acquired knowledge as he went; for hard work, intellectual as well as physical, is a necessity to him; but his general attitude towards the problems of life has not substantially varied from his boyhood days. “As I see him to-day” says Miss Dunbar, one of his early teachers, “he is little changed. One could never become familiar with him. Although he was distant, he compelled respect and admiration by his manliness and studious habits.”

To show that the President’s passion for briefness can hardly be overstated, I shall conclude this brief account — that must be brief if it is to reflect at all Mr. Coolidge’s personality — by quoting one of the most important (shall I say: orations or sets of maxims) that he uttered in 1914 when re-elected as President of the Senate: “Honorable Senators, — My sincerest thanks I offer you. Conserve the firm foundations of our institutions. Do your work with the spirit of a soldier in the public service. Be loyal to the Commonwealth and to yourselves. And be brief — above all things, be brief.”

Is there any other statesman in existence whose speeches (in full) might thus form a rapid and handy conclusion to a short book-review? 

Charles Chassé


This book does much credit to American erudition. Mr. Secord knows his subject perfectly and has read practically everything that has been published on De Foe and his works. His only important omission is that of “Robinson Crusoe en France”, a work by Mr. Mann, another American scholar, in which he might have found interesting suggestions.

Mr. Secord’s book is a study in sources. What books did De Foe use to write his masterpiece “Robinson Crusoe”? This question Mr. Secord answers fully. For the island story and Crusoe’s voyage to Madagascar and the East Indies, De Foe was chiefly indebted to Dampier’s “New Voyage round the World” and to Robert Knox’s “Historical Relation of Ceylon”. For his description of China, he used Father Le Comte’s “Memoirs”, and Crusoe’s itinerary from Peking to Archangel he took from Ysbrants Ides’ “Travels”. Other minor influences upon the composition of “Robinson Crusoe” are mentioned by Mr. Secord, but they are very doubtful.

In another chapter, Mr. Secord turns to “Captain Singleton” and show that much of the materials used here by De Foe are to be found already in his former works, “The King of Pirates”, especially. Singleton’s earlier adventures in Madagascar are based upon Mandelslo’s “Voyages and Travels”, and Mission’s “Voyage de Francois Leguat”. His career of piracy owes much to Dampier and also to Knox, who is quoted at large in the novel. Mr. Secord’s third study bears on the “Memoirs of Captain Carleton”. He shows conclusively that neither Swift nor Carleton himself could
have written them. De Foe used the slender thread of Carleton’s actual career as a general guide in searching for source materials in Boyer’s works and the newspapers of the time. The descriptions of Spain he found in Countess d’Aulnoy’s “Ingenious and Diverting Letters”.

Perhaps Mr. Secord would have taught us much more about De Foe’s “narrative method”, if he had given us a close study of De Foe’s mentality, as shown by his life and works. De Foe was a journalist and wrote very quickly: he seldom had time to look into books to verify his statements. What Mr. Secord indicates as his sources were only with him reminiscences, mostly inaccurate. But, all the same, Mr. Secord’s work will be extremely useful to all students of De Foe. We hope that he will some day give us the critical editions we need so badly of De Foe’s chief novels and narratives.

Pau Dottin


Undoubtedly this is the most remarkable book on Indian musical and narrative lore so far published. A more comprehensive record of the songs and legends of their race, it is perhaps safe to say, does not exist.

Indian and Negro lore and music are the only music and lore resembling a genuine folk product the United States can ever have. Those who realize how important to our country is the preservation of these, our sole indigenous art, and who have desired our Government to do something towards that end, will no doubt swell with pride to learn that when Miss Curtis first began her self-imposed task of recording Indian music, native songs were absolutely forbidden in Government schools. On one reservation a friendly scientist warned her “th:1 f he wished to record the Indian’s songs she must do so secretly” or incur the risk of being expelled by Government officials, and elsewhere the Indians were afraid to sing to her lest it should bring them into disfavor with the authorities. Thus, under the wealthiest, most liberal and enlightened government in the world, “the wealth of indigenous music, poetry and legend was not only neglected, but was being rapidly obliterated by the steady pressure of the Government’s effort to crush the Indian as rapidly as possible into the white man’s mold”.

But Miss Curtis appealed to Theodore Roosevelt, then President of the United States, and obtained “not only his official sanction, but his warm personal interest in her undertaking”. “His influence, with the added impetus created by the wider dissemination of real knowledge of the Indian, resulted in the shaping of an enlightened policy in the administration of Indian affairs, which led finally to the adoption of many of the reforms which Miss Curtis advocated.” Thus, for example, “the singing of Indian songs in the Indian schools came to be not only officially permitted, but encouraged.”

The authors of The Indian’s Book are the Indians themselves. “The songs and stories are theirs; the drawings, cover-design and title-pages were made by them. The work of the recorder has been but the collecting, editing and arranging of the Indian’s contributions.” The book is much too long for me to attempt a rehearsal in this place of its contents, and I have preferred to linger on other details in order to hint at the difficulties under which the book was produced. Rest assured that, if you look into The Indian’s Book, you will experience one of the reading joys and revelations of a lifetime — and then the space Ex Libris gave for my paragraphs shall not have been in vain.

Irving Schwerké


Mr. Wilson modestly presents himself as a tourist, but what he provides differs from tourist’s fare. He prates not of hotels, dragomen, puggarees, the price of antiques or the waywardness of donkeys. His Nile, with its stately pageant, flows through long buried ages of Egypt’s stirring history — which modern research is daily illuminating. Without dwelling on the dry facts of the immense chain constituted by some five and twenty known dynasties, Mr. Wilson sympathetically touches upon a few of the most human and romantic of the Pharaohs.

He reminds us that in 4241 B.C., over six thousand years ago, the Egyptians already possessed an accurate calendar, hence had attained to a high degree of knowledge. He relates how Menes, “the Father of Egypt”, a Pharaoh of the First Dynasty, united Upper and Lower Egypt, the barbaric to the enlightened, assuming the double crown towards 3400 B.C. He tells how the usurper Khufu, or Cheops, sought to render his immortality inviolable by erecting — with the aid of 100,000 men — the Great Pyramid in the labyrinthian profundities of which his body was vainly secreted. He pauses at the Fifth Dynasty before Pepi I, conqueror and diplomat, who elected to rule with the dark Lords of the Elephantine. The ecclesiastical party dominating, we come to Amon Ra and his successors, Heaven-born rulers, the apocryphal descendants of the Sun God. Thus came the curse of Caste and functionarism: the military caste being foremost with priesthood. In 1800 B.C. a great engineering feat was performed by Amenhemet II in damming the Nile. Later, Thutmose I, the Empire Builder, subjugated Nubia to the first Cataract.
Follow two women of glorious renown, of whom the first, a super-woman, was as resplendently beautiful as she was famous. Mr. Wilson names her as one of the six most prominent women of all history, while a French writer (assigning Solomon as her consort) claims that the five others were her direct descendants — which might be difficult to prove. The five others were Cleopatra, Catherine de Medici, Joan of Arc, Mary Queen of Scots and Catherine of Russia. She was Hatshepsut and reigned with Thutmose III whom she quickly eclipsed, going so far as to substitute her statues and cartouche for his. She claimed indeed to have been conceived of a God — distinction that had hitherto remained a male prerogative.

The second figure, also a lovely one, is more appealing if less glorious. In her we behold the original Cinderella. This was Tiyy, a plebeian maid, daughter of Yuua, priest of Amon Ra, and of Tuua, whose mummies are both in the Cairo museum. It happened, just as in the fairy tale, that the Prince fell in love with her modesty and beauty, and honoring her above all other maidens, married her and made her his equal. This prince was the mighty but sports-loving Pharaoh Amenhotep III.

Thus, with mighty ups and downs, Egypt passed through decades of centuries, until there came out of Persia the conqueror Cyrus the Great, who made Egypt, as the rest of the world, his tributary.

The reader will surely find this a pleasant book.

George G. Fleurot


Mrs. May's book is a most pleasant record of an interesting trip around South America, although it has little to do with maidens, less with mantillas, and nothing at all with men.

The author visited half of the Latin-American republics in order to study the progress of Women's Cause in those masculine ridden parts of the world, where the men, according to Mrs. May, almost everywhere outnumber the women whose "life has been consecrated to maternity and the home". Parenthetically speaking, were these women to "consecrate" themselves less, there would not be such an unwholesome inequality in numbers between the sexes, which, of course, is a check to proper racial and national development.

Into Mexico the author went with her husband, who appears in the book under the romantically appendant title of "mi esposo"; and in Guadalajara she witnesses the unique telephone courtship, which is enacted when Juliet, from her stucco balcony, lowers a real-to-goodness telephone to her Romeo, who whispers ebulliently along the melting copper-wire until Ma sends him home towards midnight.

In Panama Mrs. May enjoyed the "Canal as much as she failed to enjoy the trip down the west coast, where one uncomfortable republic after the other was visited and, presently, left severely alone. One cannot help smiling with the author when she indicates, with gentle humour, what the Peruvian centennial celebration must have been like — and yet in Peru we have a country, whose legations here and there are being raised to embassies, while ancient, important civilizations like Holland or Sweden, let alone China, are without a single ambassador.

Not until the ABC countries were reached in unalphabetical order does the reader get the impression that Mrs. May and "mi esposo" really began enjoying themselves, but here things were different and attractive (even bathrooms were now available), — from Santiago and Buenos Aires to Montevideo and Rio Janeiro, from which latter port the voyagers sailed home through the Caribbean.

Some nice photographs accompany the text; also a good map. And I am certain that I have read nothing so pleasant and human about our brethren — I mean sistern — in Latin-America since Arthur Ruhl wrote his memoirs of a similar venture south.

Frits Holm


Mr. Walter Damrosch's book is an engrossing account of an extraordinary career. For forty years he has been a prominent personage in American musical life. He has played an important role in the dissemination of music in the United States and is justly noted for his enterprise and zeal in making known what is new in the art.

He is one of the most assiduous musical pioneers we have ever had in the United States. He brought "Parsifal" to us in 1886 (in concert form), Tchaikovsky's "Pathetic" Symphony in 1893, and only recently Stravinsky's "Rossignol" and Frank Bridge's "Two Poems" for orchestra, not to mention the Ravel's, Strausses, Debussys and others he introduced to America between the early nineties and now.

Mr. Damrosch's pen traverses a wide range of subjects and experiences and "touches up" many conspicuous personalities. He met Wagner at Bayeuth in 1882, Liszt a short while before, Tchaikovsky in 1891, and the pictures he draws of those geniuses are strikingly vivid and interesting. The chapter "Women in Musical Affairs" contains
many terse observations and food for thought, as likewise do some others. The author has an inexhaustible fund of anecdotes of many varieties. The one about Lili Lehman I found the most amusing. Mr. Damrosch had engaged this incomparable singing tragedienne (1897-1898) to sing Isolde and the three Brunnhildes in his opera company. For her services, Mme. Lehman received one thousand dollars a night and traveling expenses for two people. On this pittance (paltry as it is) she managed to get along, but perhaps could not have done so had she not obliged her conductor, America's ardent Beethoven cyclist, to pay her laundry bills! And she also refused to tip the elevator boys in her hotel—but this is telling too much.

Irving Schwerke


This is a discussion of the American imagination as revealed in the poetry of the last 50 years. The author begins with a colossus, Walt Whitman, and his influence as a democrat, mystic and poet. In this new gospel man is again a child of destiny, Satan and Deity are equally portions of the divine, the body is on the same level as the soul, and the emotions are made the center of our being. The cosmic consciousness of the poet is depicted with adequate stress. The new move is a drift away from New England puritanism and the poetry of the library. It brings along more danger, but more excitement. While treating of the popular poetry Mr. Weirick very justly shows the importance of the negro race, "a folk that has given America our top dance from the tango on and the intoxicating vigor of the only original music we have been able to produce."

In the period of reconstruction (1870-1930) Sidney Lanier, the voice of the South, and Joaquin Miller, the voice of the West, are preferred to the aluminous Victorians. Thomas Bailey Aldrich, who has a few times struck the right chord of emotion and created a really poetical atmosphere, is given perhaps too much disdain.

The "fin de siècle" (1890-1910) is marked by vagabondia and Nationalism. The influence of France and England is strongly felt. But Verlaine, Wilde, Dowson, d'Annunzio, are isolated members in an aloof and highly artificial class, while in America such an undemocratic isolation, such a contempt for a large mass of public opinion, is almost impossible. The American symbolists are more optimistic in opinion and healthier.

The contemporary Renaissance which began circa 1910 gives too large a place to the extraordinary, the inanimate, the grotesque with the Imagists, Amy Lowell, Richard Aldington, Ezra Pound, and follows too much the old track with the lyricists who fail to bring anything really new. The original insight of nature, which gives such a weird atmosphere to some of Frost's poems is somewhat underestimated. New England and New York are perhaps too exclusively associated with the fate of those who prefer safety to adventure and a chance of ruin. The rise of the Middle West carries still further some of Whitman's theories. Masters and Sandburg are depicted as cynical realists, historians of the brutality, lusts and beauty of the Middle West. For them the heroic in life is to obey fundamental impulses and let society wreak whatever vengeance on you it will. Theirs is a revolt against Puritanism in art, morals, manners, and religion. A strong pity for the poor leads even to a sort of political bolshevism which allows of a sombre hut really dynamic poetry. Whitman and Miller's uncompromising doctrines of directness and naturalism appeals to Mr. Weirick, whose book reveals a warm temperament and a remarkable writer. His attitude will seem daring to many but all will agree with him that "the new poetry has at least delivered us from the boredom of counting daisies, though it has often done so more by a bizarre eccentricity than by a real imaginative insight."

Abel Doysié


This is a work evincing not only much erudition but a methodic development of the subject that deserves praise. The matter is, for the most part, quotation from the poets studied, in an appropriate setting of comment directed logically towards the conclusion of what might be called the argument. As is not unusual in books containing passages from a foreign language, there are a few mistakes in the French. This is printed: où, instead of ou; croît (grow) instead of croit (belives); besoins intellectuels instead of besoins intellectuels, which should be corrected in any future edition. Moreover, the author's use of resumé in the meaning of recapitulate is a gallicism that must be condemned.

It may be doubted whether there are many readers to-day of French poetry who care what opinions were held in the past even by such men as Dryden, Pope, Addison. Literary and artistic criticism, whether expert or profane, has always exhibited so much personal bias that it can hardly merit more attention than is accorded to the critic's style of information unless, indeed, it be of the kind that Moulton attempts in his fine book on "Shakespeare as a Dramatic Artist". However, students who are familiar with the literature of the
period covered will be interested in noting throughout the pages of Dr. Wollstein's work contrasts as striking as those offered in more recent times. Swinburne's admiration for French poetry and his panegyric of Victor Hugo are too well known to need repeating. And yet without going back to Voltaire, who said that the French are the least poetic of all civilized peoples, we have Theophile Gautier, who, in his Grotesques, with more seriousness than Voltaire perhaps intended in his quip, asserts: "all that is poetry and lyricism is naturally boring to the French public... The Frenchman is neither poetic nor plastic".

F. L.


I think I am safe in saying that "Racundra's" first actual cruise is also the average reader's first literary cruise in these northern waters. A delightful one, too. Few people, I imagine, know much about the strange primitive inhabitants of Runo Island (or even where Runo Island is?) or of the beauties of Moon Sound, or of the sturdy seal-hunters from the Estonian coast. Arthur Ransome, the proud owner of "Racundra", so spontaneously and so zestfully rejoices in every phase and moment of the voyage in his hardy little craft, that that element alone would give life to his pages; but they have other qualities as well,—humor, information, novelty.

M. R.


It is impossible for me to agree with Miss Jenison in advising every woman in the world to sell books, but I can not but wish there were more like her selling books and very many more who shared her love of books. If there were, the two hundred thousand book buyers now in the United States would be at least two million and instead of buying one-fifth of a book each these buyers would require five or ten times as many, and better ones too.

Miss Jenison called her bookshop the "Sunwise Turn" because the sunwise turn, that is, the turn to the right, is the lucky one. She opened it to sell Clive Bell's "Art" with a capital of $2,500. They did $12,192. worth of business the first year; $12,874. worth, the second; $18,259. worth, the third; $37,782. worth, the fourth; and at the end of the fifth year were expected to do $70,000. worth of business.

There should be more bookshops like this, and also more stories of book-selling.


Mr. Dell is imbued with a cheerful socialism, in which he differs not from most thinking men — in fact the trend of the world seems that way. He believes in the broadest suffrage, and foresees good comradeship and a better understanding between the sexes after woman has learned to be thoroughly "on her own". He thinks that woman should become a better pal and man a more reliable mate. "Feminism is going to make it possible for the first time for man to be free." This may be! This may well be!

While not an atheist, Mr. Dell's simple faith has been obscured by "many a doubt". He is a modern American and irreverent to the core; he treats of "Shaw and Jesus" just as casually as we might speak of "bread and butter", evidently esteeming reverence to be a veil that hides the truth — as if Truth were not too powerful for that.

Mr. Dell speaks besides of Whittier and Whitman, of dolls, the stage, Negro poetry and many other things, and all in clear and virile words. For, as I was forgetting to say, this a book of essays interspersed with book reviews.

George G. Fleurot


Mr. Overton has most aptly chosen his title; Entertainment, or more specifically, vaudeville of a sublimated kind, is exactly what he offers us. Almost all the contemporary writers, from Conrad and Mrs. Wharton to Harold Bell Wright and Gene Stratton Porter, take their turn before the curtain and either tell us about themselves, or stand by and let us look at them as much as we want to while Mr. Overton chattily discusses them in thorough and intimate fashion. He gives us details that range from Galsworthy's telephone number and the hour Booth Tarkington has breakfast to solid and constructive criticism that really gives us an insight into the characters of these literary performers. The best, or at least the most skillfully handled, chapter is the one on Conrad, told in Conrad's own manner and adopting his own Marlow as the narrator. Mr. Overton has a lively and enterprising imagination, and the book is what might be called an unusually clever "stunt", and the bibliography of modern poetry and fiction that is appended to each chapter is of distinct value.

M. R.

Mr. Charles J. Finger gives us fifteen tales of wild regions wherein every man is a law unto himself. These tales are of disconnected and often sufficiently gruesome adventures. Cynicism is their sole connecting thread ; might is right, their slogan. Replete with imagination, yet the atmosphere, the local colour, down to the very landmarks, convince one that the scenes described are intimately known to the writer.

Starting abruptly as the short story demands, they are cleanly bitten off at the finish leaving the reader to wonder what the next plunge will be. Vignettes of ruthless life, their episodic character excludes all glimmer of purposefulness beyond the vulgar necessity of expediency. "Ebro", for instance, makes of man-slaughter a moral necessity, the human fiend here involved must be removed — but prudence commands that he be not given a chance, to shoot him in the back is better, thus he disappears.

George G. Fleurot

Two New European Library Periodicals

Krasnie Bibliotekar, "The Red Librarian", published in Moscow; and Kirjeth Spher, "The City of Books", published by the Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem. The former appeared in September — October, 1923 ; the latter in April, 1924.
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Poole, Dewitt C. Conduct of Foreign Relations Under Modern Democratic Conditions. New Haven. Published for the Institute of Politics by the Yale University Press. 1924.


PSYCHOLOGY


ESSAYS AND POETRY


FICTION


Meredith Nicholson’s best story, according to Professor J. L. Haney, is “A Hoosier Chronicle”. It is an intimate presentation of political and social life in Indiana.

“Gulliver’s Travels: a critical study”, a Princeton University doctoral dissertation by William A. Eddy, published by the Princeton University Press, discusses the sources used by Swift in writing “Gulliver”, examines in detail each of the voyages, and describes the influence of the book on the subsequent literature of the 18th century. The Abbé Desfontaines, the translator of “Gulliver’s Travels” into French, Mr. Eddy says, was the only writer to attempt a continuation equivalent to the original in scope and design.

Samuel McChord Crother’s “The Gentle Reader” represent his best work, Professor J. L. Haney says in his recently published “Story of our Literature”.

Edna Ferber’s “So Big” (Doubleday) does not equal in charm her previous book on the earliest years of Chicago, according to the Spectator, yet it gives a wonderful picture of the truck farmer thirty years ago in the environs of the same city.

Joseph Conrad is placed next to Mr. Hardy and Mr. Shaw in the hierarchy of contemporary English literature by Leonard Woolf, and “Lord Jim”, “Heart of Darkness”, and “Typhoon”, he says, represent his best work.
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A Selected List of New French Books

FICTION

An extraordinary novel about a Russian family driven from one tragic situation to another, apparently by an atavistic destiny.

An admirable picture of intrigue and love in the 18th century, with literary life in Paris and a small provincial town as background.

The author shows the effect of a lie on the human mind, which tries, through labyrinthian ways, to escape the attacks of conscience.

Short stories of peasant life, by the author of "Le Grand Meaulnes", one of the most gifted of the young French writers killed in the war.

Being the experiences and emotions of a young woman teaching in a boys' school during the war, by the author of "Les Allonges". (Prix Fémima. Vie Heureuse 1923).

The author realistically portrays the hard life of the linen-workers. The fields of flax, the factories at Cambrai, and the large retail shops in Paris are admirably described.

A story tracing the development of a family of Bordeaux merchants told in an admirable calm style, with as much beauty of form as of matter. (Grand Prix du Roman de l'Académie Française, 1924).

NON-FICTION

Being the latest volume in this author's collection of "Les Musées d'Europe" and a history of Gobelins tapestries from its beginning to the present day. A chapter each is also given to the mechanics of weaving, and the artists and teachers connected with this famous concern.

A defense of the French bourgeoisie, giving its history, its part in the formation of the country, and its right to authority.

The history of the Petit Trianon, its park and farm, and its inevitable and tragic associations with Marie Antoinette.

These letters show clearly the splendid spirit of Young France during the war. Preface by Romain Rolland.

In speaking of Donn Byrne's "Changeling", (Century) Professor Richard Burton says that he is unable to name a finer collection of short stories since Kipling's Indian Tales.

"The Charities of St. Vincent de Paul: an evaluation of his ideas, principles and methods" is the subject of a doctoral dissertation by Cyprian W. Emanuel, published by the Catholic University of America. The study not only acquaints the reader with the Saint's personal ideas, principles and methods of relief while giving a general insight into the dispensation of charity in France during the first half of the 17th century, but it throws light on the principles and methods that underlie the activities of Catholic agencies today.

In a review of Oliver Campbell's "Shelley" in the Nation Ludwig Lewisohn says, "There is no good life of Shelley: there is likely to be none. Dowden was kind, Mr. Campbell is superior. Mr. Maurois is elegant and French and worldly.

A reprint of "Boston: The Place and the People" by M.A. De Wolfe Howe, illustrated by Louis A. Holman, has just been issued by The Macmillan Co. It is not surprising that there is a demand for the reprint; indeed, in view of the prominence of Boston in the history of literature and the superiority of this history of it, it would be surprising if there was not.
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Dial, November: The Downfall of Western Civilization, Oswald Spengler.

Independent, November 15: The Price of Party Regulation, Herbert W. Horwill.

Literary Digest, November 8: Smashing the "Children's Classics". College Students on World Geography.
—— November 15: Henry Ford Dooms our Great Cities. To collect our War Claims from Germany. A French Actor the Nation's Guest.

—— November 8: Rudyard Kipling in his own Country, R. Thurstón Hopkins.
—— November 15: Sheila Kaye-Smith: A Novelist of the Farm, Andrew E. Malone.

The Nation, November 5: The Unpopularity of Anatole France, Ernest Boyd.

Publisher's Weekly, November 1: The House of the Friends of Books, Adrienne Monnier.


BRITISH

Nation and Athenaeum, November 8: The Balance of Political Power Elections, J. M. Keynes.
—— November 22: The Fruits of Stabilization in Germany, C. W. Guillebaud.

—— November 15: Mr. Baldwin and his Ministry.

FRENCH

Le Correspondant, November 10: Du Tort que Nous Fait aux Etats-Unis la Politique Anti-clericales, Félix Klein.

Europe, November 15: Adieu à Anatole France, George Duhamel. Carnets d'un Ambassadeur, Georges Louys.

L'Europe Nouvelle, November 15: La Politique Orientale du Vatican.

Mercure de France, November 15: Le Problème de l'Expansion Allemande et l'Emigration, Ambroise Got.


