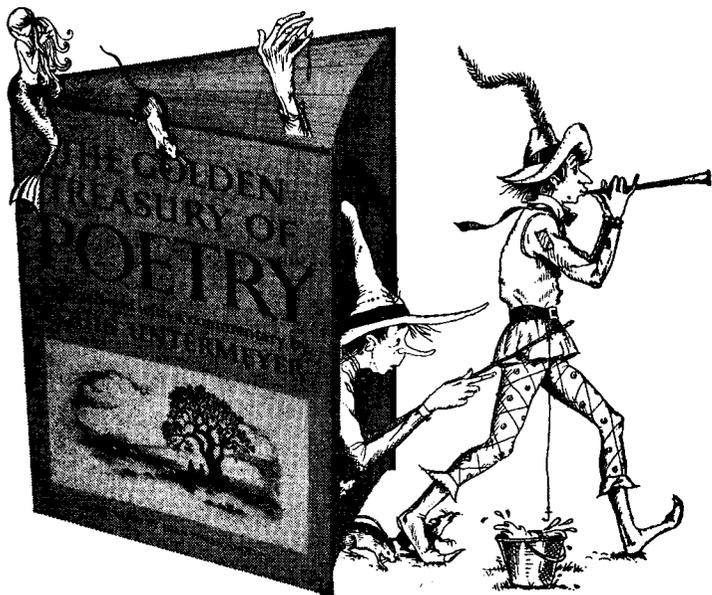


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The Private Library

THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE
PRIVATE LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

My Library of Miniature Books
Percy E. Spielmann

Bournemouth's Bookshops
David Chambers

Association Affairs

Reviews

Some Recent Publications

Vol. 4 : No. 2

April 1962

The Private Libraries Association

65 Hillway, London N.6

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The Private Libraries Association is a society of people interested in books from the amateur or professional point of view. Membership is open to all who pay one guinea on January 1st each year regardless of the date of enrolment.

Founded in 1956, the Association immediately organised the Exchange Scheme as a means of co-operation among collectors and students: *The Exchange List* is still published six times a year.

The Private Library, begun in January 1957, has printed contributions from members and experts outside the society on a variety of subjects concerned with the world of books and the organisation of libraries at home.

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The Private Library

Quarterly Journal of the Private Libraries Association

Hon. Editor: Philip Ward, 28 Parkfield Crescent, North Harrow, Middlesex

Vol. 4 No. 2 April 1962

Association Affairs

Annual General Meeting and Annual Lecture

This year's Annual General Meeting will take place in the rooms of the Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London, W.C.1. The Annual Lecture, devoted to the development of bookbinding styles, will be given by Howard M. Nixon, of the British Museum. Like our speaker in 1961, A. R. A. Hobson, Mr. Nixon is a well-known authority on binding. His talk will be illustrated by lantern slides, and there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion. Non-members may attend, so that members wishing to reserve a seat are advised to contact the Hon. Secretary before 1st May.

The date is Tuesday, 1st May, and the times: Lecture, 6.30 p.m.; A.G.M. (members only), approximately 8.00 p.m.

The Private Library

Among our contributors to this number is Dr. Percy E. Spielmann, a writer on scientific subjects, whose library of miniature books fully deserves the sumptuous catalogue of over three hundred pages that Arnold have just published in an edition limited to 500 copies. All private libraries are unique and thus of interest, but Dr. Spielmann's ranks among the most fascinating of collections built up in our time.

Alan Walbank described Dublin's bookshops in *The Private Library* for October 1960; now David Chambers has investigated Bournemouth from the same viewpoint, and we print his findings. Similar contributions on other cities and towns in Britain and abroad will be welcome.

Foreign Classics Committee

Among the recent foreign classics are Eça de Queiroz's *The sin of Father Amaro* (Reinhardt, 18s.) and the *Penguin book of Russian verse*. It is to be deplored that the forthcoming *Penguin book of Chinese verse* does not, however, include the original poems above the English versions. From the same publisher come Maurois' *The quest for Proust* and Turnell on *The novel in France* in their new Peregrine format.

Calder continue their adventurous policy of issuing translations from German and French, again without parallel text. The Committee is compiling a further list of classics currently out of print, and would welcome suggestions for inclusion.

April 1962

25

MY LIBRARY OF MINIATURE BOOKS

by Percy E. Spielmann

THE assembling of this library began by indiscriminate purchases of books, within my limits of three to three-and-a-half inches in size (and in reasonably good condition), in order to discover the range of subjects which these volumes covered. It was found that few of the facets of life had been overlooked, except for certain specialized subjects such as mathematics, art and science (there is one on mineralogy), and some children's books on natural history. When this was realised, acquisition became restricted to the representative, the curious, and the rare.

Miniature books probably began to attract the collector as soon as a sufficient number of them became available. The first were published soon after the invention of moveable type, perhaps in Italy in the first years of the 16th century and, according to the evidence of my collection, the number per century increased in the ratio of 1 : 2 : 3.

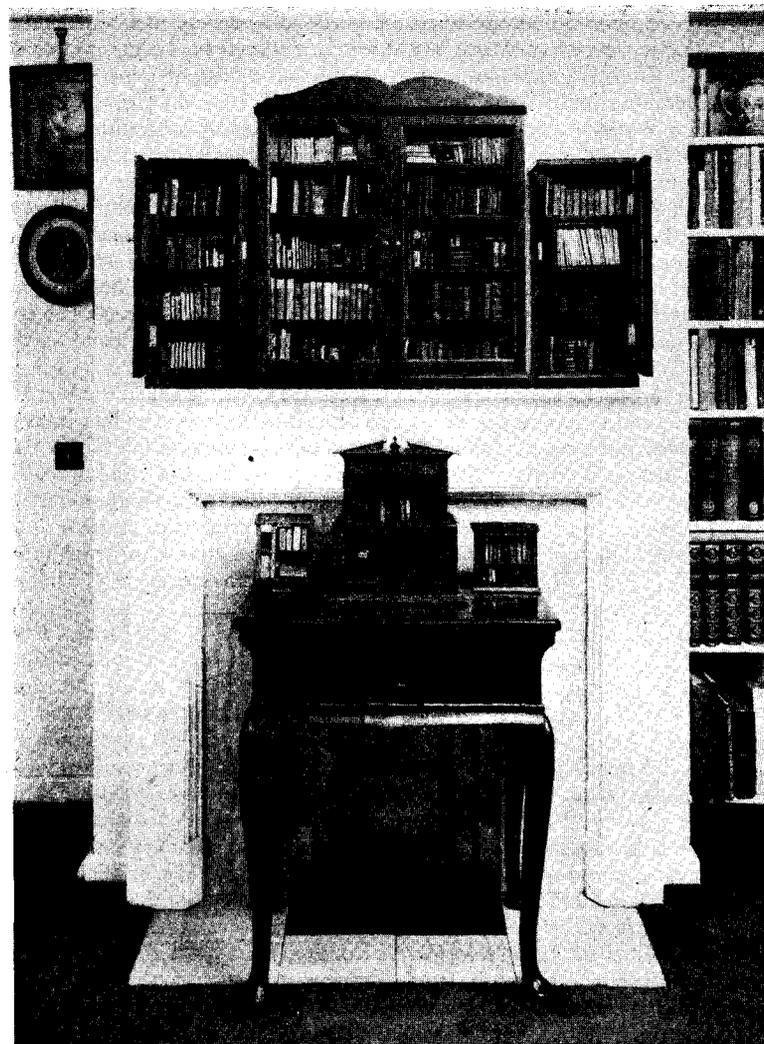
The demand for the small volume from three to four inches in height originated in the desire to save library-shelf space, and to permit religious books to be carried easily in the pocket and the reticule. Later, the issue of the classics and poetry in this size increased, and in the early years of the 19th century a flood of secular literature accompanied the religious. Then followed the public's realisation of the novelty of such small books, and scores of thousands poured from one publisher alone. Then came the aim to produce "the smallest book in the world" which was a challenge to meet such great difficulties that the limit seems to have been reached in $\frac{3}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ in., unless recourse is made in the future to instruments associated with the microscope.

The three difficulties involved in this excursion into Lilliput lie in the cutting and casting of tiny type (the resulting perfection and beauty of which is sometimes breath-taking), the production of ink which will not clog, and the quality of paper which will "play up" to both. When the lowest limits to the powers of the human eyes and hands were reached, photography was employed for further reduction in size in one or more stages. The latest publications (in America) seem to have settled down to easily-readable books, attractive not only for their subject matter but also for the good taste of their appearance.

From the first, infinite care and ingenuity have been devoted to this smaller child of the book family. Aesthetic and emotional connections are displayed in the fine quality of engraved illustrations, and in especially lovely and unusual bindings and encasements. Presentation books have been produced in fine conventional leather bindings, beautifully tooled in gold, or in tortoiseshell cases and lovely filigree silver covers for current almanacks intended as gifts of affection to a beloved one.

Perhaps a culmination in this art is a wonderful carved mother-of-pearl heart-shaped box, encasing a tiny Schloss almanack of 1841, possibly made to celebrate the christening of Queen Victoria's first child, the Princess Royal.

Detailed examination of such a library opens a fascinating number of bypaths. Typographical and bibliographical details may be daunting for amateurs, but



P. E. Spielmann's Library of Miniature Books

the study of authors, illustrators, and especially publishers opens a wide field of interesting research. Of the latter too little information is available: for instance, Bryce of Glasgow was famous for miniature books among his general publications, but little information about the firm is to be had. The number of languages in which miniature books have been published is astonishing: there appear to have been twenty, distributed among seventy-six countries and towns in Europe and America, India and Japan.

The range of subjects, too, is of great variety. The most consistently interesting are the religious books and the almanacks. Religious books are very numerous, presenting in miniature form the Old and New Testaments in English, Latin and Greek, the Koran, hymns, prayers, aids to religious thoughts by the Religious Tract Societies of England and of America; and Hebrew prayers, of which the most surprising was printed in Djerba, an island off the coast of Tunis.

Of the almanacks there are several well-defined series, of which the London Almanack, which appeared during some three hundred years, ending in 1888 or soon after, is the most famous. Of the same type are those of Tilt and Bogue, Goode, Rock, and Strange. There are also the productions of Goldsmith, the precursor of Old Moore's. Special regard must be given to the tiny publications of Schloss— $\frac{11}{16}$ in. high. These are engraved and "poetically illustrated" by well-known literary lights of the day, particularly the author who wrote under the initials 'L.E.L.' The almanacks of seven foreign countries are also full of interest.

Although children's books have not been collected as such, many have claimed entry by reason of their size. Their subject-matter includes natural history and the history of the country and of London. Among the more personal interests are to be found books on cooking, costume and songs, general reference books, dictionaries and encyclopaedias in French and Dutch; also on heraldry and freemasonry. Very remarkable, too, is the presence of music in certain of these small volumes. It may be expected in books of psalms, but the *Compleat Angler* includes the Angler's song; and Schloss's Almanack for 1837 includes the Rondo from Balfe's *The Maid of Artois* produced the previous May.

Outstanding and unexpected curiosities are to be found. There is the game of Diabolo illustrated in 1792; the New Testament and a book of Psalms in metric form in Rich's system of shorthand; an American postage stamp bearing a portrait of Abraham Lincoln, forming a frontispiece in 1929; and a volume of plays in the patois of Liège; an Austrian almanac forming a lottery ticket for a charity and a fantastic religious-magic charm against evil. Extreme beauty of engraving might justify inclusion here of a New Testament (Augsburg, c. 1690) illustrated by the famous Küsslin sisters.

Remarkable, too, is the *Travelling Library*, published by Jones, about 1827, of English classics and poems, in a case made to fold and be locked during transit, and the mock book-case, a box with a rising front, which houses the *Infant's Library*.

Among the few miniature manuscripts that have been admitted there are a hexagonal Koran, and prayers in Latin (illuminated), German and Armenian.

Such are some of the major and minor treasures that await the collector, and

having amassed them, he may find that he will need to take special measures to house them, having regard for their varied size and weight.

The main bulk of this Library is contained in a book-case of which the internal dimensions are—

| Height | Width | Depth |
|--------|--------|-------|
| 24 in. | 24 in. | 5 in. |

There are four shelves dividing the height into $4\frac{1}{2}$ to $4\frac{3}{4}$ in., though experience has shown that these would have been better $\frac{1}{2}$ in. higher. Partly to enable a double row of books to be accommodated and partly to provide protection for smaller and more delicate volumes, boxes have been provided of half the depth of the bookcase— $2\frac{1}{2}$ in.—which are divided into half horizontally by a moveable shelf. The shelves should not be varnished except along the front, as so many of the smaller volumes have too little weight to keep them in place. The removal and return of one tiny volume from a row can be facilitated by the use of commercial pliers with thin flattened ends.

The jibe of the nescients that miniature books are too small to be read is sometimes justified. This difficulty can usually be overcome by a magnifier of about 3x—the ordinary strength, but occasionally one of 15x may be required. For prolonged reading, spectacles can easily be made, which facilitate perusal of the books without discomfort at a distance of an inch or so from the eyes.

BOURNEMOUTH'S BOOKSHOPS by David Chambers

WE HAVE spent a couple of pleasant holidays with the children in recent years at Bournemouth, where I have divided my time, as fairly as my bibliophilic inclinations have allowed, between sandcastles and bookshops. Since we probably wouldn't be in the resort at all were it not for Alan Thomas's store of books, it always seems reasonable enough to telephone him to make an appointment as soon as we arrive: the sea can be relied upon to be there tomorrow, but Thomas might nip off to a sale in London and so frustrate the whole visit.

The first time we went down he met us at home (at 7a Wimborne Road) and we were all much impressed by his distinguished air—despite some informality of dress: perhaps it was his beard that appealed to the family most of all—or perhaps it was the bare feet. In those days the books were spread at strategic points round the house, which was large enough to absorb them without obvious engorgement, and I was left to myself and a room full of typography for a frantic hour, while the rest of the family were entertained in the garden. I wish now that I had bought more, for prices have risen a great deal in the two or three years since then, but at least I came away with a few moderately-priced sixteenth century classics, including (for a guinea) a delightful little Paganini of 1520 printed in his tiny, half-roman, half-italic type, and smelling still of incense from some previous priestly owner.

On my last visit however, the books had been moved further down the road to number 21a, a somewhat sparsely-furnished flat in an overgrown garden, and I had left the family behind. On the first floor were the rare books in glass fronted cases, curtained in red to add an air of mystery, and perhaps to keep out the sun. In rows on the carpet were easily-accessible pickings for the Antiquarian Book Fair, and these were obviously the first quarry; next a cursory glance at the contents of every case and cupboard, and then the restrained excitement of the methodical inspection of each spine with hands poised ready to pull out anything that might attract. Here there were the books I knew and intended to buy only if the prices were right—Cockerels and Nonesuch and the like; books I had not seen before and might buy if impressed enough; books that were undoubtedly too rare and too expensive to buy but that might reasonably be looked at if treated with care; and a few, a very few, that had, for me at any rate, no interest, neither of cheapness nor novelty nor rarity. I found a large store of Bodonis and chose a few at modest prices: for a guinea apiece I bought four slim quartos still in the remnants of their paper covered soft boards, as issued, ranging from the transitional-style *Prose e Versi di Filandro Cretense* of 1787 (somewhat roughly printed, but sporting an elegantly-engraved armorial device on the title), to the late *Odi del Cavaliere Vincenzo Monti* of 1812, the year before Bodoni's death (superbly printed in the colder style, with only rules for decoration). Though rather battered, the unsophisticated condition of these volumes, sewn two signatures at a time pending the lavish rebinding that was expected, makes it easy to study Bodoni's typical approach to book making, with cancels and tipped-in extra leaves enough to gladden the heart of McKerrow himself. I also took the opportunity of a close inspection of some of the masterpieces that I couldn't afford: the *Oratio Dominica*, 1806 (200 specimens of types, folio, in original marbled boards, at £125), the *Doria Caraffa*, 1784, with many engraved head-pieces, capital letters and culs-de-lampe, at £35), the *Prudentius*, 1788, two volumes, quarto, original wrappers, uncut, unopened, in dazzling original condition, at £30), and so on. Other shelves had more unattainable treasures: early Aldines, folio incunabula, and even a thirteenth-century folio Bible with magnificent illuminations (for a mere £2,250)—all open for inspection, even if purchase was out of the question.

Next, to the landing upstairs to inspect a rather depleted case of bibliographical books—flanked by the sour grapes of a magnificent bookseller's reference library, which I ungraciously declined to look at very closely. (Who does not know the frustration of that shelf of books behind the desk, 'Not for Sale'?) Finally downstairs again for a quick look at books on art and architecture, gardening and topography, and then back for a settlement of accounts and a last look at all the things I really should have liked to have been buying.

Commin's in Old Christchurch Road is a very good, general, new and secondhand bookshop on several floors, providing hours of quiet browsing. New books are on the ground floor. Books on bookcollecting are on a few shelves on the first landing; rare and unusual books, mostly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, in large quantities and some confusion in the front first-floor room, and poetry and belles-lettres in the back room. On the second

floor are theology and topography in one room, with fine arts, gardening, sport and so on in the other. On the stairs, up to the private office on the third floor, foreign paper-backs are heaped in tottering piles. There probably is order in the rare book room, but it would seem to be best to work from end to end—an hour or so's rewarding exercise. There are not many real rarities, but a large number of reasonably-priced scarce old books: last year, for instance, I was able to find the two-volume Bodoni *Prudentius* in original wrappers uncut, unopened, unpressed, but dusty and with none of the wrappers left on the spines, for £4 10s. od.—not, clearly, in Thomas's "dazzling original condition", but much more my sort of buy.

The Westbourne Arcade is a short bus-ride out on the way to Poole. Here are three shops selling secondhand books and each has its tables outside, loaded with paperbacks, old children's annuals and prayer books. Orchard's at one end of the arcade also has a fair stock of modestly-priced books inside, World's Classics, novels, cookery books and the like, but no antiquarian books to speak of. The same might be said, at first glance, of Goldthorpe's at the other end, a typical country bookstore, dark and cavernous, lit by lights with no shades and unpredictable switches, though here the stock is much larger and certainly worth a short browse. But through a passage and downstairs past piles of mouldering books there is also a proper antiquarian book-room with at least a shelf of books to suit every interest: for me, two shelves of bookcollecting, half a dozen of art, a few early printed, a few press books, and a lot of interesting miscellanea. Amongst other things I have found here are the two Monotype books of *Specimen Pages* for 12s. 6d. the pair instead of the usual 50s. (one with a stained cover admittedly, but both very useful), and one or two standard books-about-books at something under London prices. Once, too, I nearly fell for the complete set of Aubrey Beardsley's *Savoy* buried in one corner, but remembered at the last moment that everything had to go home in an already overflowing trunk, and decided that this might be the last straw. The third shop in the arcade is opposite, but I have never looked any further than the window full of sun-bleached remainders.

Boscombe is about as far to the east as Westbourne Arcade is to the west, and here, though I have never visited it, is Wright's shop in the Royal Arcade, with what is described as a very large secondhand and antiquarian stock. Nor, despite all my careful intrigue, have I been able to get to Modern Books in Holdenhurst Road, where there is always quite a large stock of reference sets in fine condition, encyclopaedias and so on, supplied mostly to libraries, but also, increasingly I am told, to private collectors on the recommendation of librarians. Intrigue is my wife's word for the artless suggestion of a walk after tea which leads by chance past some bookshop or other. Preferably of course one's partner should spot the shop first so that it is at her suggestion that the next half hour is spent grovelling on the floor for dusty and improbable treasures. The device is regrettably not infallible. The year before last the shop which I had expected to find after a dull mile's walk along the road towards Boscombe had gone, and this year I was foiled after navigating a friend's car by devious country roads, so as to stop by chance for coffee at Ringwood—only to find that Leek's Bookshop there was no longer selling to the public.

In fact, last year I only managed one more bookseller—Alister Mathews with a large stock of drawings of all periods and a considerable number of scarce and expensive books on the arts in particular and fine books in general. Here were Victorian fretwork bindings, prayer books engraved throughout, a large-paper Pickering diamond classic, a massive folio Didot and so on. I bought a Whittingham in boards with some pretty engravings, paid too much for a rare Buckland-Wright sale catalogue and made up for this with a modestly priced small Gryphius.

Kenneth Mummery is another dealer operating from a private house whom I have not visited, although for a collector of music he would probably hold pride of place, with some 40,000 items always on his shelves. And though he has only a comparatively small stock of books, Albert Page is well worth writing to for his delightful catalogues, printed by himself on an old foolscap folio Cropper: I have recently bought, from *A Selection of Books, many fine copies, and some in dust wrappers*, reprints of Stephen Potter's *Gamesmanship* for 3s. and Grey's *Falldon Papers*, with Gibbings' woodcuts, for 2s. 9d. (post free)—very good value!

I must admit to finding some embarrassment in visiting dealers in their homes unless I know and trust them personally or am sure from their catalogues that I shall be able to buy something to make the visit mutually profitable. It takes a braver man than I to spend an hour browsing through someone else's shelves, throwing the household into confusion, scattering silence and hurriedly-shut doors in one's course—then to walk out with nothing. But on the other hand it is obvious that a letter in advance asking for catalogues and listing one's interests can make a holiday in a town such as Bournemouth very much more rewarding than one would at first think possible.

ITINERARY: Bookshops

Ashley Bookshop (John Briant), 45 Ashley Road. *General.*

Horace G. Commin Ltd, 100 Old Christchurch Road. Bournemouth 27504.

Standard works; 17th and 18th-century literature; orientalia.

Frank L. Goldthorpe, 21 Westbourne Arcade. *General.*

Modern Books, 349 Holdenhurst Road. Bournemouth 33154. *Educational and reference.*

Orchard's, 7 Westbourne Arcade. Westbourne 63968. *General.*

Sidney Wright Ltd, 12 & 13 Royal Arcade, Boscombe. Bournemouth 37153.

Dealers from private premises—visits by appointment only

Norman Colbeck, 42 Ophir Road. Bournemouth 25624. *19th-century first editions.*

C. C. Lewis, 9 Droxford Road.

Alister Mathews, 12 Eaton Road. Westbourne 61547. *Old Master drawings; fine and rare English and Continental books, mostly illustrated.*

Kenneth Mummery, 9 St. Winifred's Road. *Books on music in all languages including new and out-of-print books; old and rare music.*

Albert E. Page, 59 Markham Road. *General.*

Townshend Somerville, 14 Forest Road. Westbourne 61798.

Alan G. Thomas, 7a Wimborne Road. Bournemouth 26500. *Fine and rare*

books, manuscripts, incunabula; fine printing; Georgian architecture; Rembrandt etchings; antiquities.

The above data have been compiled from answers to letters sent to the booksellers concerned within the last few months, but I must gratefully acknowledge using information contained in Dealers in Books (current edition 1960-62), published by the Sheppard Press.

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REVIEWS

Reviews are generally confined to publications otherwise little-known, such as those of the private press movement, or material deserving especial mention, such as research on the history of private libraries and bookcollecting as a hobby. Members are urged to lodge with the Hon. Secretary of the Association a description of their collections, either for possible publication, or merely for our records.

A Roll of book collectors in New Zealand [edited by C. R. H. Taylor]. 41pp. New Zealand Ex Libris and Booklovers Society, c/o Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington, N.Z., unpriced.

Unlike this Association's *Members' Handbook*, which is, of course, longer-established, larger, and not geographically limited, the present directory consists of brief essays on the libraries of about a hundred collectors. Facts about each contributor include the size, scope and special subjects of their library, and a note on whether books may be consulted on the premises or borrowed. The compiler bewails the absence of some notable collectors, but reluctance to co-operate in private librarianship has always been a problem. It seems that bookmen invariably prefer the company of books to the company of people.

Some notes on wood engraving by Thomas Bewick, selected from his *Memoir* and edited by Thomas Rae. 20, vii pp. The Signet Press, 23 Union Street, Greenock, Scotland, 7s. 6d.

Two biographies of Mussolini have appeared within a recent month and, by another of the infuriating coincidences that bedevil British publishing, November 1961 saw the appearance of two editions of the *Memoir* of Thomas Bewick. Weekley's text (Cresset Press, 18s.) is very much more satisfactory than Blunden's (Centaur Press, 63s.), but neither reproduces well the engravings which are the *raison d'être* of the reprints. Fortunately for the lover of Bewick, however, Thomas Rae's new book includes not only much of the master's experiences of wood engraving, but also eleven examples of Bewick's work, mostly well-chosen and all well-printed.

Twenty copies on handmade paper, handbound in cloth, are priced at 21s.; 300 copies on Mellotex paper have been bound in paper covers; and a further fifty have been distributed to members of the P.L.A. Society of Private Printers as Mr. Rae's contribution to the co-operative programme.

Enquiries concerning membership of the society, run by David Chambers under the auspices of the Private Libraries Association, should be sent to the Cuckoo Hill Press, 41 Cuckoo Hill Road, Pinner, England.

Indexing books: a manual of basic principles by Robert [Lewis] Collison. 96pp. Benn, 8s. 6d.

A revised edition of Mr. Collison's standard *Indexes and indexing* appeared in 1959 (Benn, 21s.), and now the indexer, potential or actual, is placed further in the author's debt by the publication of a new manual expressly devoted to books, as opposed to indexing in general. *Indexing books* is the most up-to-date and practical guide on its subject available in English, not, it is true, superseding

Walsh or Wheeler, but surely rendering Carey and Collins of marginal interest. The book under review is well-arranged, reasonably-priced, and (need one say?) impeccably indexed. P.W.

An Introduction to the history of printing types: an illustrated summary of the main stages in the development of type design from 1440 up to the present day: an aid to type face identification, by Geoffrey Dowding. 278pp. Wace, 3-11 Eyre St. Hill, London, E.C.1, 63s.

Mr. Dowding has written a very useful guide to the evolution of type design, taking into account, and quoting generously from, the most recent work of A. F. Johnson, Stanley Morison, Harry Carter and others, whose specialised studies are so frustratingly scattered through many scarce books and journals. Within the broad divisions of "Book" and "Display" types, the faces are treated chronologically by style, with a brief historical note and a description of the physical characteristics of each group, and a list of similar faces in current use. Most of the principal historic designs are shown in 117 line-engraved facsimiles, mostly full-size, and detailed notes on these are grouped together at the end. A great deal of care has clearly been lavished on every detail of the design and production of this book, and it is, in consequence, as much a pleasure to handle as it is to read. D.J.C.

Catalogue of the library of miniature books collected by Percy Edwin Spielmann, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.R.S.L., together with some descriptive summaries. 289pp. Edward Arnold, £5.5s. Edition limited to 500.

For centuries, printers and bookbinders have been intrigued by the challenge to produce very large and very small books. We all know elephant folios which need a strong man to cart them about and demand gigantic shelves to accommodate them. Much less known are the books at the other end of the scale. Nevertheless, some of the greatest printers, amongst them Plantin of Antwerp and the Parisian Didot, not to mention our own native Foulis Press in Glasgow, have exercised their skill in type-cutting and founding to produce a minute type suitable for minute books. Equally, some of the best known binders, especially of the 19th century, have produced very fine bindings in the best tradition of tiny size, often not exceeding 2 inches in height.

The catalogue under review gives a valuable record of a specialised library dedicated to those engaging dwarfs of the book world. Dr. Spielmann gives a detailed and well-documented catalogue of over 500 volumes or sets in his collection. He indicates the size of binding and page, the size of the type used in printed volumes, the process by which some of the volumes not printed by letterpress have been created: either by engraving, lithography or by photographic reduction; and he describes the bindings and gives bibliographical references whenever these are available. A few well-produced plates illustrate some of his treasures, and the frontispiece is reproduced in this issue of *The Private Library* by courtesy of Messrs. Edward Arnold and the author.

The Spielmann catalogue goes, however, much further than any previous publication in this field. He gives an author and a subject index, an index of publishers and printers, an index of illustrators, a list of the places of publication and a bibliography. He also adds useful and often entertaining essays on the

production of miniature books, tiny bookplates, music in miniature books, etc. He ambles down many by-paths in a charming and leisurely way. His 'Catalogue' – a mixture of the professional and the amateur outlook – thus becomes a unique production. Unconcerned with some of the strict and often dull laws of bibliography, he has produced a handy and attractive volume which will be an invaluable guide to anyone interested in this small but rewarding field and indispensable to all those who themselves already possess or plan to build up a library of these delightful and often magnificently-manufactured tiny volumes.

LOUIS W. BONDY

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

An Approach to type by John Reginald Biggs. 2nd ed. 136pp. Blandford Press, 25s.

Bibliography of Monaco by Geoffrey Handley-Taylor. 35pp. The Author, c/o Arts Theatre Club, Great Newport Street, London W.C.2, gratis. Ed. ltd. to 850.

Book-auction records: a priced and annotated annual record of London, New York, Edinburgh and Glasgow book auctions . . . Vol. 58 for the auction season September, 1960–August, 1961. 543pp. Stevens, Son and Stiles, 96s.

The Imaginary voyage in prose fiction: a history of its criticism and a guide for its study, with an annotated check list of 215 imaginary voyages from 1700 to 1800 by Philip Babcock Gove. New ed. 445pp. Holland Press, 112 Whitfield Street, London W.1, 63s.

Libraries in Scandinavia by Kenneth Cecil Harrison. 240pp. Deutsch, 42s.

The Libraries of London edited by Raymond Irwin and Ronald Staveley. 2nd ed. 332pp. Library Association, Chaucer House, Malet Place, London W.C.1, 36s.

Library trends, Vol. 9, no. 4, April, 1961. "Current trends in antiquarian books".

Music libraries and instruments: papers read at the Joint Congress, Cambridge, 1959, of the International Association of Music Libraries and the Galpin Society. 300pp. Hinrichsen Edition, 10–12 Baches Street, London N.1, 42s.

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