

Native should, like a polished razor
been, wound with a touch that's
secretly felt or seen.—Lady Mon-
tagu.

SIXTIETH YEAR—NO. 17

The Birmingham Eccentric

BIRMINGHAM, OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN, THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1937

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DIARY RARE MANUSCRIPTS

Antique And Unusual Books
Of School Collection
At Library

This week's museum exhibit in the Baldwin Library, loaned from the collection of J. P. Schuch, of Spingaw, embraces one of the most popular classes of collectors' items—rare books. Antique or unusual books and manuscripts have an almost universal appeal, and the display, including as it does classic examples of both sorts, is one to be carefully examined.

Modern strife calls forth letters to editors of publications, or labor agitators, parading with angry placards, the time-yellowed pamphlet dated 1723, and written "By a Clergyman of the Church of England" shows that the same idea was used then, for on the cover is the modest title: "A letter to the Clergy, of the Church of England on the commitment of the Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Rochester to the Tower of London." The capitals are the author's. An earlier and more pacific religious pamphlet, dated 1673, is the work of "The reverend Edward Stillmehouse, Chaplain in ordinary to His Majesty." The cover bears the legend: "The reformation justified in a sermon preached at Guildhall Chapel, September 21, 1673, before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen."

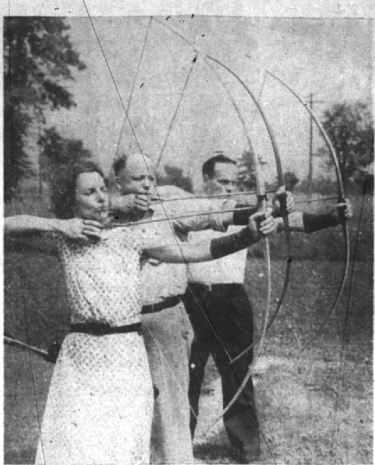
There is a huge Italian bible, dated 1640, and a fat portfolio of woodcuts by Albrecht Durer. Durer, an early master in this medium, lived and worked in the 15th century. Much more modern but still in the class of biblical and related literature is a little request to "pay 13 weeks pene tax, at 45 pes week . . . immediately, that the treasurer of the church might be enabled to discharge the contracts entered into by them." It was issued in 1808, and a suspicious turning over of the leaf assured the spectator that it had been paid "immediately." Space prohibits mention of all the other types of bibles and religious manuscripts, or even a detailed description of those which are mentioned, but all are interesting.

Samuel Pepys and his diary are famous. In the exhibit is the diary of John Sporne, published in 1574, who is said to have been much like the fascinating Samuel. Unfortunately it is written in Italian, but one feature of the little volume is bound to attract at least persons who are familiar with the history of printing. It bears the distinctive dolphin twisted about an anchor, the trademark of the famous Aldus Press, which is to printers as Shakespeare is to authors. Artists will like a 1714 engraving, in the latter part of the money, form of a chart which illustrates all the phases of sculpture and modeling. Besides a wealth of detail, the whole thing is done with a charming sense of sly humor. And they will appreciate the difficulties of the 1832 printer, whose physical geography of the world is profusely illustrated with woodcuts. Besides the rather vague maps, and the printed descriptions of Roman provinces there are diagrams of civic and military insignia and their ilk.

Omar Khayyam, the Persian tentmaker whose poems will never die, was not, it appears, a tentmaker at all. Instead he was one of the brightest luminaries in a bright culture, and a philosopher, astronomer and mathematician of note. What may be almost a first edition of his "Rubaiyat" is in the display, written in the original Persian script, which, like the Chinese, begins from the bottom of the last page and goes up and towards the front.

With a tremendous jump forward in time and a subtle sense of showmanship, a hand-illuminated and limited edition copy of a translation of the "Rubaiyat," published by the famous Roycrofters of Elbert Hubbard, is placed near the old one. There is another of Hubbard's lovely books too, but what appeals more in the sense that it humanizes him, is a letter he wrote to some unknown, which we hereby reprint. "Dear Friend: Thank you very much for your good letters just received. It is possible that I hand-illuminated the facts a little about—He really only lived in Indianapolis for two years, but he lived in California much longer and made a great deal of money there. His principal object in moving to Indianapolis was to secure a divorce, and I happen to know the lawyer who was his counsel in this matter. — was really a citizen of the world. With all kind wishes, ever, your sincere Elbert Hubbard."

"I Shot An Arrow In The Air"



Three devotees of the bow and arrow were snapped by the camera-man recently as they prepared to score bulls-eyes on the archery range located on Cranbrook Road just South of Lincoln Avenue. The archers are left to right, Mrs. T. A. Potts, A. J. Hebart and Nelson Reid, all members of the local club which holds the state championship.

The Birmingham archery club boasts a membership of 32. C. S. Kidder is president of the group. A championship shoot, including York and American rounds, will be held by the club on the local range in August.

G. O. P. Leaders Plan Party Conference

Michigan Republican leaders were outlining plans in Lansing this week for a party conference to be held in Bay City Sept. 17-18 that is expected to be one of the outstanding events of its kind ever held in the state. More than 5,000 Republicans, representing all elements in the party ranks are expected to attend, according to Senator Miller Dunsick of Three Rivers, chairman of the executive committee in charge of arrangements.

United States Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg is slated to be the principal speaker. Congressman Dewey Short of Missouri, only Republican member of the house of representatives from that state, and well known for his oratorical ability, is also on the program. The affair is being sponsored by the Republican Women's Federation of Michigan.

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ADD MANUALS ON CHARACTER

Analytical Books Head List
Of Latest Editions
At Library

The newest acquisitions at the Baldwin Public Library are almost without exception manuals of information, or semi-text books. That fact, however, need not frighten the prospective reader away, for even what seem the most dense subjects are lightened by the happy style of the authors, and many of the subjects are those so fascinating and interesting that their very nature would win them readers.

Two in the latter category are books of character analysis. The first, "Handreading: a study of character and personality," is written by M. N. Laffan and published by Lippincott. At last hand reading has won a firm and scientific basis, on which Mr. Laffan has put it in its original contribution to a subject which has too often been a victim of charlatans. "A skilled analyst," he says, "can often reveal to an individual the true nature of his personality and help him to make the effort necessary to the fulfillment of his life plan." The other book in this class is "Character Reading Through Analysis of the Features," written by Gerald Elton Fosbrook, and published by G. P. Putnam's Sons.

Many people agree that head and face possess a certain significance in revealing character and personality, but few are willing to go a step further and admit such a means of recognition may be so revealed and tabulated as to be of definite statistical value. The author's purpose is to incite criticism, inquiry and research, which he will do.

"Romanesque France," published by E. P. Dutton and Co., sounds as though it might be too solid matter for those intent on light summer reading. But the author, Violet R. Markham, C. H., is a woman of keen humbug and insight. The book is made up of studies in the archeology and history of the 12th century. It supplies the general reader with an account of French architecture during the Romanesque period, but doesn't confine itself to that alone. It contains much information about places and people, delivered in a spicy and interest-compelling style.

Specialized Grey of Fallodon, K. G., has written another of his specialized tomes, which is published by Stokes. Readers of his (Continued on page eleven)

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