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978-1-108-07433-9 - A Bibliography of Printing: With Notes and Illustrations: Volume 2

Compiled by E. C. Bigmore and C. W. H. Wyman

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A Bibliography of Printing

This three-volume bibliography of printing was published between 1880 and 1886 by E.C. Bigmore (1838–99) and C.W.H. Wyman (1832–1909), who had, unknown to each other, been working on similar projects and were brought together by the antiquarian bookseller and publisher Bernard Quaritch.

The scope of the work, which quickly became a classic, includes ‘typographic, lithographic, copperplate printing, etc., with the cognate arts of type-founding, stereotyping, electrotyping, and wood-engraving,’ but excludes the topics of paper and bookbinding. The three volumes are arranged in alphabetical order of surname of author; anonymous works are ordered by the wording of the title. Compiled with the assistance of such historians of printing as William Blades and John Southward (several of whose works are available in this series), this authoritative work is of continuing value to bibliographers. Volume 2, published in 1884, covers the letters M to S.

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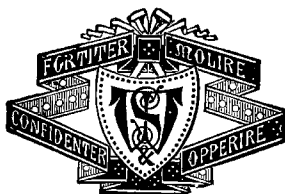
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IN the full exposition of the scope and plan of the “Bibliography of Printing” which the compilers prefixed to the first volume, they ventured to say that had they “realised at the outset half that their task might demand of them, they would never have had the courage to attempt it.” The progress of the work, increasing as it went on, was so largely helped by the cordial and ample co-operation of the many friends who have so generously assisted them, that they have, indeed, felt their courage “mount with occasion.” So much material has accumulated on their hands, that a point has been reached whereat it is necessary to make what was originally proposed to form two volumes into three; it is hoped and believed that the importance of the subject will excuse this enforced variation from the original proposal.

The work, indeed, has grown in interest as well as in importance as it has progressed, and with the alternative before them, either of abridging the articles under the late letters of the alphabet, thus disregarding the relative proportions of the plan of the work, or of issuing another

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volume, the decision arrived at cannot fail to be approved by all who desire to see such a prolonged, laborious, and useful enterprise as the compilation of a Bibliography of Printing carried out in its integrity. Accordingly, the present volume brings up the matter to the end of S. The remaining letters will run into a Third Volume, which may be had by all subscribers to the first two volumes at a proportionate rate of subscription.

The range of subjects included has not been modified, in the way of either expansion or contraction. The kind and valued collaboration of Mr. WILLIAM BLADES; Mr. THEODOR GOEBEL, of Stuttgart; Mr. JOHN H. HESSELS, of Cambridge; Mr. LOUIS MOHR, of Strasbourg; and Mr. THEO. L. DE VINNE, of New York, has been continued. Mr. JOHN SOUTHWARD, whose services generally were referred to in the previous Preface, has revised and collated the various proof-sheets, besides writing several of the more important annotations. The lamented death of Mr. F. MULLER, of Amsterdam, requires mention here; and the fact that the valuable assistance accorded by that eminent bibliophile has been continued by the gentleman who succeeds to the firm of F. Muller & Co.

Attention may properly be here called to the very large mass of information of a personal nature which now sees the light for the first time. The memoirs of individuals and of printing firms have, in all cases where possible, been submitted to and corrected by the person most competent to perform the task in an authoritative manner, and hence, while it is believed that purely egotistical matter has been excluded, the quantity of material thus got together for the History of Printing and Printers is invaluable to the future historian.

Reference must also be made to the serious illness of Mr. CHARLES WYMAN. Added to the anxieties involved in

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the practical management of a large printing establishment, and the labour inseparable from the editorial conduct of the *Printing Times and Lithographer*, the vast amount of toil attending the execution of the task he had set himself in bringing out this Bibliography proved too great a strain, Mr. WYMAN'S health completely broke down in the early part of 1883, and has not yet been restored. It is hoped, however, that a further period of rest may enable him to resume his part in a work which he had so much at heart, and on which he laboured with such zeal and devotion.

74-76, GREAT QUEEN STREET, LONDON,

January, 1884.