

PRINTED & BOUND

A Newsletter for Bibliophiles

June 2015

Printed & Bound focuses on the book as a collectible item and as an example of the printer's art. It provides information about the history of printing and book production, guidelines for developing a book collection, and news about book-related publications and activities.

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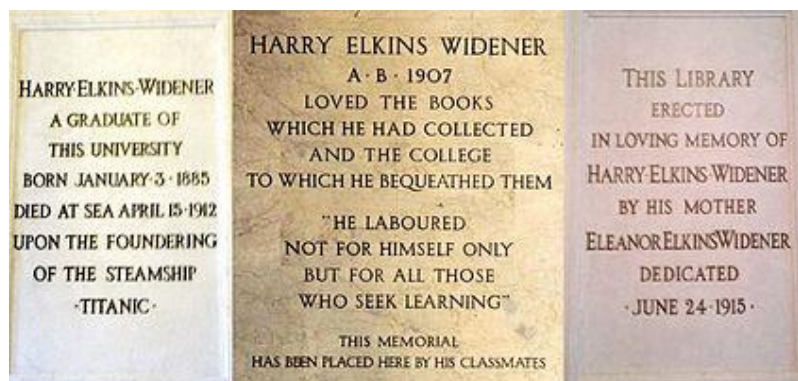
Printed & Bound is published in February, June, and October. Past issues are available in the "Newsletters" section of The Book Club of Detroit website: www.bookclubofdetroit.org.



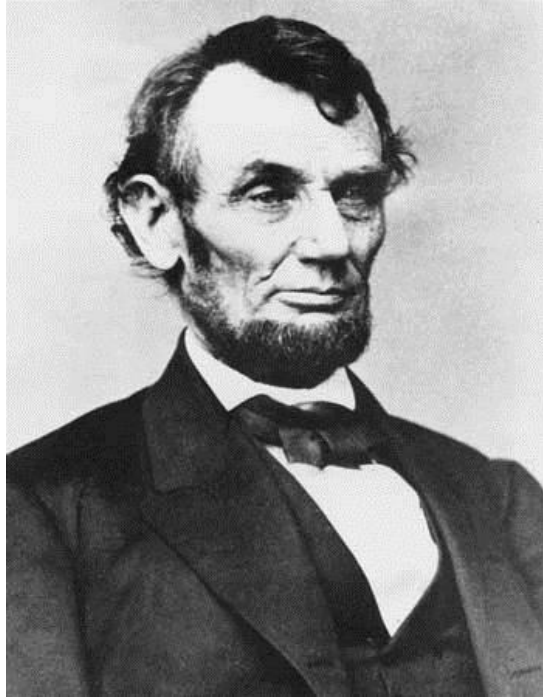
The Widener Memorial Library at Harvard University was dedicated to the memory of book collector Harry Elkins Widener in 1915.

A MOTHER'S MEMORIAL TO HER SON

One hundred years ago, Harvard University conducted a month-long dedication in honor of its new Henry Elkins Widener Memorial Library. From May 13 to June 24, 1915, the university introduced the public to the library named for a young book collector who lost his life when the RMS *Titanic* sank on April 15, 1912, just eight years after he received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Harvard. See page 3 to learn more about Widener and the library that bears his name.



150 YEARS AGO IN THE WORLD OF BOOKS



➤ One hundred and fifty years ago, on April 9, 1865, Robert E. Lee surrendered, thus ending the Civil War. The recently disunited United States of America were again united, in fact if not in spirit. Five days later, President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth.

➤ Approximately 15,000 books have been written about Lincoln, more books than have been written about any other person in world history, with the exception of Jesus Christ.

➤ *Hans Brinker, or The Silver Skates: A Story of Life in Holland*, by Mary Mapes Dodge was published in 1865. Because the story was set in the Netherlands, many readers assumed the author was Dutch. In reality, the American author had never visited the Netherlands before she wrote her popular children's book.

➤ Irish poet William Butler Yeats was born on June 13, 1865. He died in 1939.

➤ In 1865, William Booth conducted the first of a series of evangelistic meetings in the East End of London, where he pitched a tent in a Quaker graveyard and preached to all who would listen, including thieves, prostitutes, and beggars. This was the beginning of the Salvation Army. Forty years later, in 1905, George Bernard Shaw's three-act play, *Major Barbara*, had its London premier. Its heroine was an idealistic member of Booth's Salvation Army.

➤ In England, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carrol (pen name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson) was published in November of 1865. Although the manuscript was illustrated by Dodgson himself, John Tenniel provided 42 wood-engraved illustrations for the published version of the book.



➤ Walt Whitman published "O Captain! My Captain!" in November of 1865.

➤ English poet and fiction writer Rudyard Kipling was born on December 30. He died in 1936.



Above left, the Widener Library Reading Room. Above right, the Henry Elkins Widener Memorial Room, which contains Widener's personal collection of more than 3,000 rare books.

THE WIDENER LIBRARY AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY

By Paula Jarvis

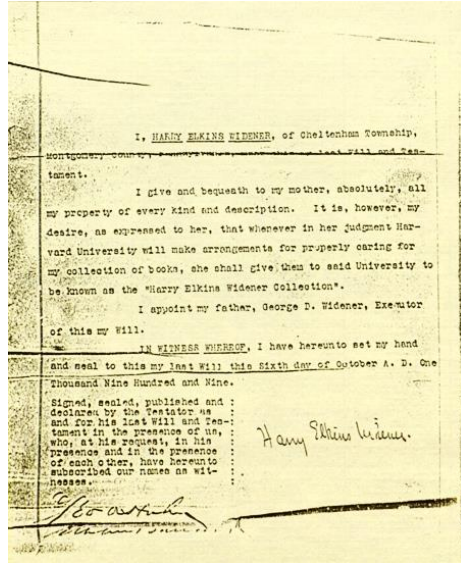
Harry Elkins Widener (1885-1912) was only 27 years old when he died on the *Titanic*, along with more than a thousand other passengers who lost their lives when the “unsinkable” ship sank on its maiden voyage. Young Widener and his parents, George D. Widener (who died) and Eleanor Elkins Widener (who survived), were returning from London, where Harry had bought more books to add to his rare-book collection. Despite his youth, Widener had amassed more than 3,000 rarities, including a particularly fine selection of 19th-century English authors and 19th-century illustrated books. It was a collection that would have done honor to a much older man.

Widener started his collection while he was still an undergraduate at Harvard University, acquiring first editions of books by his favorite authors (such as Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson), as well as first editions of books illustrated by George, Isaac, and Robert Cruickshank. His collection later included William Makepeace Thackeray, Charlotte Bronte, William Shakespeare, and William Blake. In addition, he collected original drawings,

manuscripts, extra-illustrated books, and costume books.

Widener was assisted by notable dealers of the time, including A. S. W. Rosenbach (see article about Rosenbach on page 9) in Philadelphia and Luther Livingston in New York. In a 1910 letter to Livingston, Widener explained his collecting philosophy: “No matter how important a book or ms [manuscript] may be I want only those which interest me.” Judging from the contents of his collection, Widener's interests ranged widely.

By the age of 25, he was recognized as a true bibliophile and had been accepted for membership in two leading societies for book collectors, the Grolier Club and the Bibliophile Society. Not surprisingly, following his death the librarians at Harvard asked Widener's mother for a donation in memory of her son. Accordingly, she donated \$2,000,000 for the construction of a library to house Harvard's libraries and well as Harry's collection. Three years after Harry's death, the new Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library was dedicated. (*continued on page 4*)



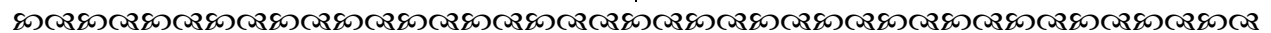
Above left, Henry Elkins Widener. Center: Will of Henry Elkins Widener, dated October 6, 1909, bequeathing all of his property to his mother and instructing her to make arrangements to house his books at Harvard University. Above right, a bookplate commissioned by Widener, designed by English illustrator Walter Crane and engraved by J. A. J. Wilcox. This bookplate appears in all of the volumes in the Henry Elkins Widener Collection.

THE WIDENER LIBRARY (continued from page3)

Designed by Horace Trumbauer of Philadelphia, the new library was completed in 1914 and officially dedicated in 1915. Today the Harry Elkins Widener Memorial Library houses 3.2 million volumes on five miles of bookshelves housed in ten floors of stacks. It is the central library of the Harvard College Library (the library of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences). In addition to Widener's own books, the Widener Library houses collections of literature, history, folklore, linguistics, economics, sociology, philosophy, and psychology.

The Henry Elkins Widener Memorial Room is located in the center of the building on the mezzanine between the first and second floors. Among the room's

glorious volumes can be found a first folio of Shakespeare, which is on permanent display along with a Gutenberg Bible that was a gift from the Widener family in 1944. These are truly treasures within the treasure known as the Widener Library.



NOTE: The Houghton Library, opened in 1942, is located next to the Widener Library and is Harvard's primary repository of rare books and manuscripts. It was largely funded by Arthur A. Houghton, Jr., in the form of shares of stock in the Corning Glass Works.



“Anyone who has a book collection and a garden wants for nothing.” – Cicero



IS BOOK COLLECTING A DYING HOBBY?

By Paula Jarvis

For decades, many book collecting societies have mourned the decline in their membership rolls and wondered if book collecting will soon be as extinct as the dodo. Publishers, too, worry that books themselves are an endangered species that is threatened by Kindles and other technologies. Who, after all, will collect books if there are no books to collect?

These questions aren't new, but today's world demands new answers to old questions. In particular, how can young people be lured away from the Internet and encouraged to engage in the low-tech world of books and paper?

The answers aren't clear, largely because the issue is so complex. In 2010, Stuart Slavid posted a Skinner blog article (<http://www.skinnerinc.com/news/blog/where-are-all-the-young-collectors/>) in which he asked, “Where are all the young collectors?” He pointed out that collecting of all types seems to be waning and that he no longer sees children collecting as he and

his friends did, perhaps because their parents have no collections. “I believe that collecting is a bug that you catch early on and continue to nurture through adulthood. It's no surprise that so many collectors that I know and have known have more than one collection at home.”

Infecting young people with the collecting bug is a challenge bibliophilic societies should undertake. Inspired by the National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest (<http://www.abaa.org/ncbcc/the-national-collegiate-book-collecting-contest>), some have established awards for young book collectors. Others have encouraged members to bring young people to their meetings to gain exposure to the world of collecting. Still other have promoted presentations to students in schools and patrons in libraries. For experienced bibliophiles, there can be few satisfactions greater than sharing the wonderful world of book collecting with the younger generation.



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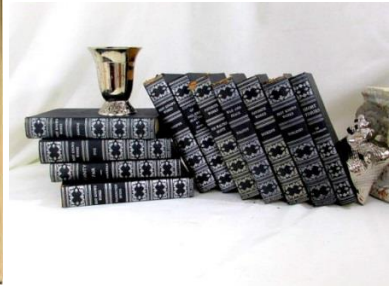
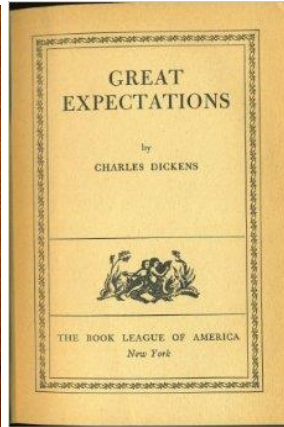
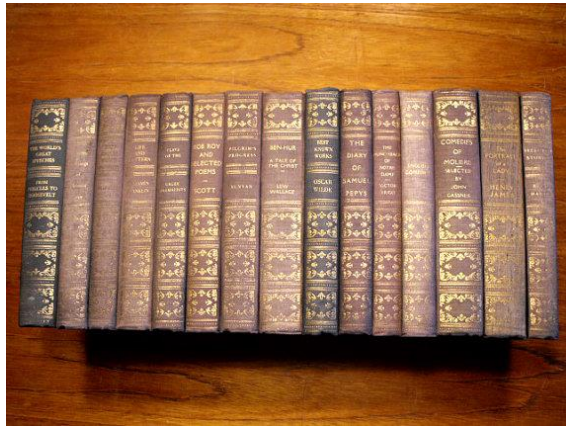
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Book League of America advertisement, 1947



The most common Book League of America books found today have matched cloth bindings in black or navy blue (or, less often, red) with gold or silver designs. However, the cloth may have faded to dark green or brown.

BOOKS AS A BONUS: THE BOOK LEAGUE OF AMERICA

By Paula Jarvis

Many of today's book collectors grew up in homes with at least a few copies of Book League of America (BLA) books. These uniformly bound volumes of classic literature are neither rare nor generally valuable, but they are attractive and provide an interesting insight into the aspirations of middle-class Americans during the years before and after World War II.

Founded in 1930 by Lawrence Lamm (1896-1995), who was previously an editor for Macmillan, the Book League of America, like the Book of the Month Club founded a few years earlier, was a mail-order book sales club. Subscribers received monthly mailings regarding contemporary offerings and, with each purchase of two of these books (available for a third of the usual cost), received a classic book as a bonus.

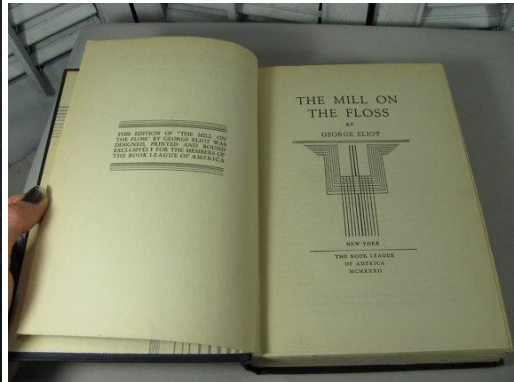
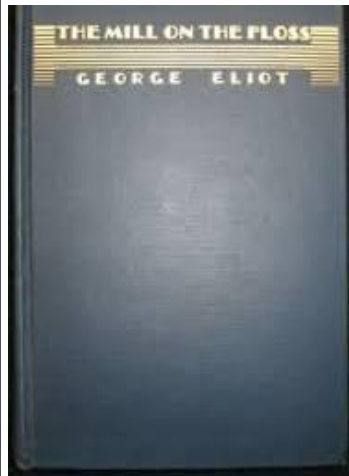
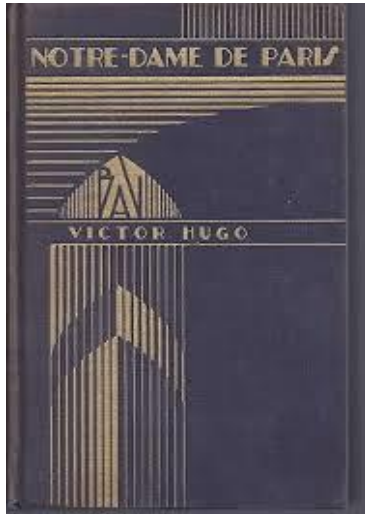
Some 5,000 subscribers participated in this program, but the Great Depression forced Lamm to sell his company to Doubleday in 1936. The club lasted a few more decades before being discontinued in the 1950s.

Collectors of Book League of America classic bonus volumes will find that most bear elaborate gold or silver

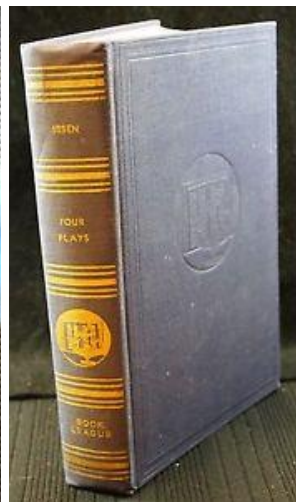
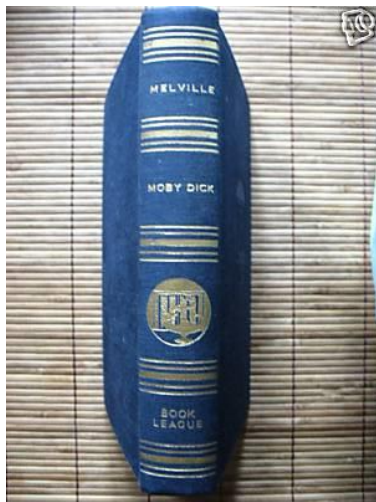
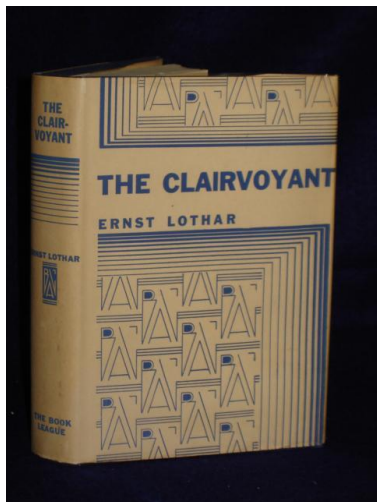
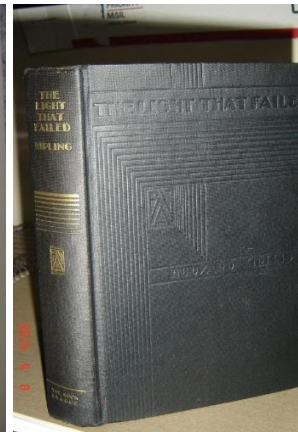
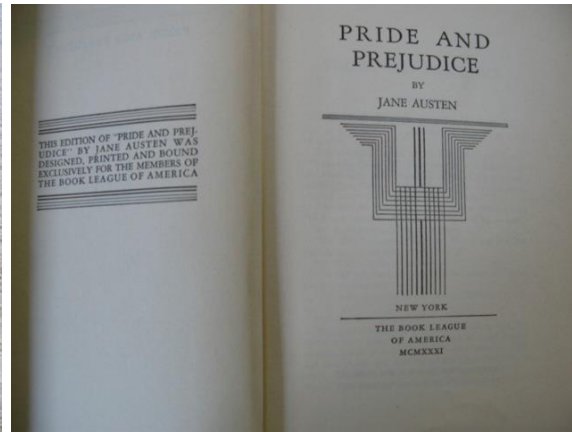
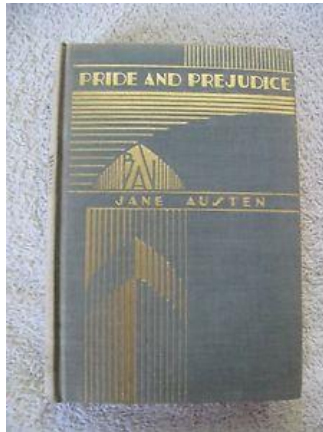
designs on the spines and embossed stamps on the front, although some volumes feature handsome Art Deco motifs. Dust jackets are rarely found on the classic volumes, but the Art Deco selections have coordinating dust jackets that are especially desirable. They're worth looking for. (See page 8.)

Today's collectors of BLA classic bonus books should be aware that many of them have no date. Some are illustrated, but others aren't. All have the Book League of America imprint, but some also bear the name of other publishers as well (such as A. S. Barnes, Bartholomew House, Doubleday, William H. Wise, etc.). Printing quality varies from publisher to publisher. Most of the classic volumes are found with no dust jackets. All are 12mo (duodecimo, page size approximately 5.5" x 7.5").

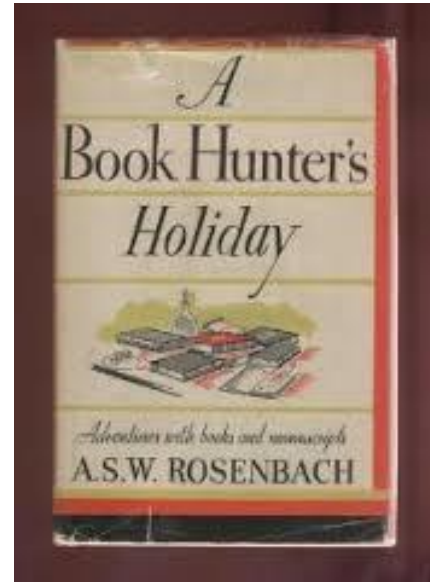
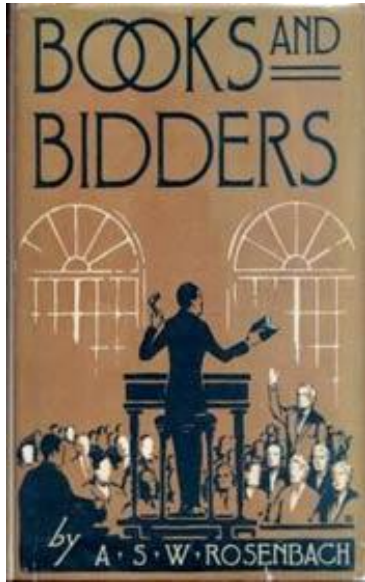
Because so many appear to have been unread, you might wonder if these books were used simply as decoration. Perhaps most of them were, but I, for one, was introduced to Oscar Wilde, Henrik Ibsen, and Anatole France through these books, which were stored on an attic shelf in my childhood home. Decorative, yes, but also well worth reading—and fun to collect.



Shown here are four Art Deco bindings (and a dust jacket) for Book League of America classic bonus volumes.



Four Plays by Ibsen, above right, was published by the Book League of America in the same binding as Moby Dick (center). Best Known Works by Ibsen (not shown) was published in the traditional BLA binding.



Above center, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. Above left and right, two of Rosenbach's own works: *Books and Bidders* (1927) and *A Book Hunter's Holiday* (1936).

A. S. W. ROSENBACH: RARE BOOK DEALER EXTRAORDINAIRE

By Paula Jarvis (reprinted with permission of The Book Club of Detroit, Winter 2014 issue, Speaking of Books)

One of Philadelphia's most famous sons was Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach (1876-1952), a book collector, scholar, and dealer in rare books and manuscripts who collaborated with his wealthy clients to establish some of the finest private libraries in America. Working with Henry E. Huntington and Henry Clay Folger, Rosenbach helped assemble the collections of the Huntington Library in San Marino, California, and the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. Other famous clients included J. P. Morgan (whose mansion and book collections became the Morgan Library & Museum in New York), Lessing Rosenwald (the Sears Roebuck magnate who bequeathed his collections to the Library of Congress and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C.), and Harry Elkins Widener (a bibliophile who died on the *Titanic* at the age of 27 and was memorialized by his

mother through her donation to Harvard for the Henry Elkins Widener Memorial Library).

Born on July 22, 1876, in Philadelphia, Abraham Simon Wolf Rosenbach was the youngest of seven children (or perhaps eight, depending on source) whose parents, Morris Rosenbach and Isabella H. Pollock, pampered their bookish youngest child. As a boy, he spent much of his time in the antiquarian bookshop of his maternal uncle, Moses Pollock, whose famous establishment, Pollock's, was located at 406 Commerce Street in Philadelphia. When he made his entrance into the world of book collecting as a youngster, he couldn't afford the \$24 he had bid at a book auction for an illustrated edition of *Reynard the Fox*. However, being the nephew of Moses Pollock, he was able to work out an arrangement and continue his

book collecting career. (Moses, who also collected children's books, later willed his holdings to his nephew, who added to the collection until it comprised 816 American children's books dating from 1682 to 1836. In 1947, Rosenbach donated this collection to the Free Library of Philadelphia, where it formed the beginning of the library's collection of early American children's books.)

When Rosenbach was a freshman at the University of Pennsylvania (B.S., 1898, Ph.D., 1901), he made his first really important purchase, one that foretold his future success. For just \$3.60, he bought a first edition of Dr. Johnson's prologue at the opening of Drury Lane Theatre in 1747. He later received (and refused) an offer of \$5,000 for this early acquisition.

A CAREER CHANGE

From 1895 until 1901, Rosenbach was a teaching fellow in the English department at the University of Pennsylvania. He seemed destined for a life in academia, but ill health and lack of finances forced him to join his older brother Philip in a new venture, the Rosenbach Company, founded in 1903 with A. S. W. handling books and Philip handling antiques. Of this career change, Rosenbach wrote (in *Books and Bidders*):

"I felt a renegade. I had deserted the halls of learning for the bookshop; I had given up my fellowship to enter a business that would, perhaps, put money in my purse. I did not, when at college, appreciate what a high adventure the business was to prove, the excitement and anxiety of the chase, and that I had a better chance, a far greater opportunity, to unearth unpublished documents, and uncover original source-material, than ever I could have as an instructor in English in some university."

Before long, the firm was buying entire libraries, and in 1947 Rosenbach set a record when he bought a copy of the *Bay Psalm Book* for \$151,000. During his lifetime,

he is believed to have spent a total of more than \$75 million on his purchases.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In addition to his collections of English literature and Americana, Rosenbach bought eight Gutenberg Bibles and more than 30 Shakespeare first folios, published many bibliographical and literary articles, wrote *Early American Children's Books* (a 1933 checklist that is still a standard reference), established the Rosenbach Fellowship in Bibliography at the University of Pennsylvania, and, shortly before his death on July 1, 1952, bequeathed his estate to the Rosenbach Foundation, which had been established in 1950 to foster interest in books, paintings, and other works of art.

Rosenbach is credited with popularizing the collecting of works by American writers at a time when serious bibliophiles collected only European literature; he also promoted the idea of book collecting as an investment opportunity and encouraged the less-wealthy collectors he worked with to explore new and less-expensive avenues of collecting, such as children's books.

ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY

In addition to helping his clients build their libraries, Rosenbach kept many items for his own collections, which can now be seen in the Rosebach Museum & Library along with his brother's antiques. Among their many treasures are fine examples of 18th-century English and American furniture and portraits, King Charles II's document chest, Herman Melville's bookcase, Robert Burns's powder horn, and Lord Byron's calling-card case. The Americana collection includes letters of Hernán Cortés and Francisco Pizarro, the first books printed in the western hemisphere (1543 in Mexico, 1584 in Peru, and 1881 in Cambridge, where the *Bay Psalm Book* was the first book to be printed in the American colonies), and the

earliest known letter of George Washington. Important British works include early editions and manuscripts of Chaucer, a rare first edition of John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, the largest collection of Robert Burns outside Edinburgh, Bram Stoker's notes for *Dracula*, and Charles Dickens's manuscripts of *Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby*.

Other highlights include the manuscript of James Joyce's *Ulysses* (purchased in 1924) and 80 per cent of Joseph Conrad's manuscripts (the bulk of which was purchased in 1923). Among the most prominent and popular displays are the works of two American artists who knew each other: poet Marianne Moore and children's book illustrator Maurice Sendak. Before Moore died in 1972, Sendak, who was her neighbor in New York's Greenwich Village, persuaded her to sell her papers to the Rosenbach. She agreed but stipulated

that it also install the parlor of her apartment in the library. Thus, visitors to the Rosenbach Museum & Library can now see Moore's furniture, animal figurines, works of art, typewriter, baseballs signed by Yogi Berra and Mickey Mantle, and an exercise bar hanging over a closet door.

THE ROSENBACH'S FUTURE

In spring of 2013, the Free Library of Philadelphia and the Rosenbach Museum & Library agreed to merge, thereby creating **The Rosenbach of the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation**. The affiliation brings together two of the world's preeminent collections of rare books, artifacts, and manuscripts. The Rosenbach of the Free Library will remain at its current Delancey Place location, will be maintained under the Free Library of Philadelphia Foundation, and will be funded through private philanthropic support.



Baronial splendor, the book room of the Rosenbachs' last "store" in New York, 322 East 57th Street

The New York branch of Rosenbach's antiquarian book business, located at 322 East 57th Street.

THE ROSENBACH MUSEUM & LIBRARY



Above: The Rosenbach Museum & Library is housed in two townhouses located in Philadelphia's historic Rittenhouse Square neighborhood. The townhouse at 2008 Delancey Street was the residence of the two Rosenbach brothers, both lifelong bachelors. In 1993, an adjacent townhouse was acquired to provide additional space for the museum's expanding collections. Both buildings date from 1865.

From the Rosenbach Museum & Library web site:

“The Rosenbach Museum & Library was founded in 1954 through a testamentary gift by Dr. A.S.W. Rosenbach (1876-1952) and his brother, Philip (1863-1953). Renowned dealers in books, manuscripts, and fine art, the brothers played a central role in the development of private libraries that later became our nation's most important public collections of rare books, such as the Folger and Huntington Libraries. The brothers' own personal collection, now the core of the Rosenbach, features treasures the brothers were unable to part with, including the only surviving copy of Benjamin Franklin's first *Poor Richard Almanac* and the manuscript of James Joyce's *Ulysses*. The collection has since grown to include the papers of poet Marianne Moore, Bram Stoker's notes for *Dracula*, and the drawings of Maurice Sendak, adding richness and relevance to the experience of visiting the Rosenbach.”