
THE WORLD

IN BOOKS

(This month's *The World in Books* is devoted to a history and discussion of the university presses. The May issue will feature a review and list of spring non-fiction books of particular interest to *Current History* readers.)

PHILOSOPHIZING on the world of books, Clarence Day once observed that a great university should be proud to go into publishing. It is in this field, he said, that universities could distinguish both books and themselves. Today, more than a tenth of the nation's 200 publishers are universities which are distinguishing themselves according to the Day definition. And it is noteworthy that one of them, Yale University Press, is headed by George Parmly Day, Clarence Day's brother.

Twenty-five years ago few universities put out books under their own imprints. But the university press has had such a rapid and healthy growth that it is probably the most notable development in publishing since the turn of the century. The presses have not restricted themselves to highly specialized works but have made use of their natural advantageous facilities to publish books of wide and lasting interest; one of them, Cambridge, which has an American branch, is publishing a novel this spring for the first time in its 400 years' history. Without attempting to compete with the commercial publishing firms, the universities have proceeded on the theory that scholarly books do not necessarily have to be dull; that a work can be authoritative and understandable; and that there is definite value in the spread of knowledge. Most important of all, perhaps, is the underlying principle that the test of a good book is not how much money it will make but what it says. The function of university presses is not to make profits—few do—but to publish books that need to be published.

Despite its comparatively recent development in this country, book publishing by universities as a regular phase of their work is even older than the invention of printing. There are records showing that as early as 1276 there were university "stationers" who "publicly avouched the sale of staple-books" and who sold copies of approved texts to university students. The first book printed by Oxford University is the rare *Commentary on the Apostle's Creed* attributed to St.

Jerome and bearing the date 1468. And Cambridge University put out its first book in 1521 on a press set up by John Siberch, the friend of Erasmus. Desiderius Erasmus, incidentally, has been credited with the patronage under which Cambridge first began to print its books. In addition to being a great scholar, Erasmus was a discriminating beer drinker and often complained about the poor quality of the college brew, and though he also felt slighted by the slack attendance at his lectures, and disliked the boorishness of the townsmen, he stayed at Cambridge long enough to launch its publishing career.

Oxford and Cambridge, both of which have regular branches in this country, reflect in their parallel history the entire history of publishing in the English language. The early books of these presses were, for the most part, Latin classical and theological works. Sixteen books of these categories are known to have been printed by the press at Oxford between 1466 and 1486. After this last date, the press suspended operation and with the exception of a two-year period did not resume publishing until a century later. Cambridge had a somewhat similar history. Erasmus published his great *De Conscribendis Epistolis* in 1521, and Cambridge also published that same year the Latin translation of the sermon preached in London by John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester, on the occasion of the public burning of Luther's works. Henry VIII granted Cambridge a charter in 1534 to "elect three stationers and printers or sellers of books, residing within the University . . . to print books of every kind that have been approved by the Chancellor," but there is no record of any books being printed at the university for fifty years after this date.

This publishing lull during the heart of the sixteenth century by both of the great university presses was in a large measure due to the rivalries and theological controversies of the time. A Stationers' Company searched the London printing houses for manuscripts which might show leanings towards the "heresies of puritanism"

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Left, insignia of Oxford University Press; right, insignia of Cambridge University Press.

and on one of their rounds attacked Thomas Thomas, Cambridge's printer, and seized his press and furniture.

The disputes with the stationers subsided, at least for a while, and both Oxford and Cambridge resumed operation in the 1580's and have been in almost continuous activity ever since. Oxford lent Joseph Barnes £100 to start up the university presses and the Chrysostom, the first book in Greek to be printed at the University, was published in 1586. Cambridge made history with Thomas Thomas' famous Latin Dictionary, which went into ten editions within 23 years.

By the close of the seventeenth century, the modern history of both presses had already begun. Oxford had already published Bacon's *Advancement of Learning* and Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy* in English. Captain John Smith's *A Mappe of Virginia* was one of the first books published about America. John Fell, Dean of Christ's Church, had been the dominating force in the growth of the press. He personally underwrote its costs, supplied it with many founts of type, established a type foundry, and most important, perhaps, protected it against the stationers, its powerful rival. Dr. Fell had also assisted in setting up a paper mill at Wovercote, where Oxford paper is still made. And the printing of the Bibles, for which Oxford is best known, began during the latter part of this century.

Cambridge's seventeenth century history, too, is notable for its Bible publishing. Privileged by the royal charter to print Bibles and prayer books, as was the Oxford Press, Cambridge issued its first editions of the Authorized Version and of the Prayer-Book. In 1698 Richard Bentley, scholar, critic, and Master of Trinity did for Cambridge, at least in a typographical way, what John Fell did for Oxford. Dr. Bentley imported new and beautiful types from Holland; new presses were set up, and the university took strong recognition of the importance of good typography and printing. Not many years later John Baskerville's *Bible*, described as "one of the most beautifully printed books in the world" appeared under a Cambridge University imprint.

The eighteenth and nineteenth centuries saw expansion and specialization of the two presses. Oxford took over the Clarendon Printing House and the Bible business had a tremendous growth. Toward the end of the nineteenth century Oxford introduced a new type of paper whose quality and opacity have never been equalled. The secret of the manufacture of this special type of paper, especially adaptable for Bibles, has been carefully guarded. Today, its formula is said to be known to only three living persons. Not long after the introduction of Oxford India paper the press began the publication of the famous *Oxford English Dictionary*, one of the most competent, thorough, and comprehensive studies of the English language ever published.

Meanwhile, Cambridge had been exploring and conquering new horizons. The well-known Pitt Press Series, which was destined to give Cambridge leadership in text-book publishing was begun in 1875. Containing annotated editions of Greek, Latin, English, French, and German classics, among others, the series has expanded until it now includes more than 300 volumes. Familiar to modern schoolboys are the *Algebra* and the textbooks on geometry of the late Charles Godfrey and A. W. Siddons. Another series, started in 1877 and widely used in universities as well as in high schools, is the *Cambridge Bible for Schools*, in which editions of all the books of the Bible are included.

The recent histories of Oxford and Cambridge have been equally distinctive. During the World War, Oxford placed its facilities at the disposal of Great Britain and printed the valuable official documents of the Naval Intelligence Department with speed and complete secrecy. The *Cambridge Modern History*, whose aim was to "record in the way most useful to the greatest number the fulness of the knowledge" which was the legacy of the nineteenth century, was completed in 1912 after a decade of work in which "many universities and two continents were ransacked for contributors." The *Cambridge Medieval History* and the *Cambridge Ancient History* are based upon a similar plan; when completed, they will link up with the *Modern History* to form a complete history of the civilized world from the remote beginnings down to 1910. Oxford's texts began in 1900 with the Classical Text Series, now numbering 79 volumes. Seven years later the *Medical Publications* were started.

The presses of both universities have branches and are represented throughout almost the entire world. Oxford has offices, besides London, in New York (its largest branch), Edinburgh, Toronto, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Capetown,

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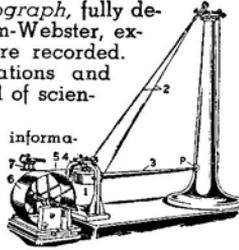
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Melbourne, Glasgow, and Shanghai. Cambridge is represented in this country, Canada, and in India, by the Macmillan Company. In their turn, both Oxford and Cambridge represent presses of American universities in Great Britain, and, in some cases, in the Dominions. Each of the English presses has published an approximate total of 10,000 books.

Unlike a number of American universities, Oxford and Cambridge have no endowments. Oxford has no shareholders, nor private interests of any kind. But like most presses of American universities, the English presses have published works foredoomed to monetary loss but which have done their share in contributing to the sum total of human knowledge and which, in many cases, have opened new fields and made possible new discoveries. The *Oxford English Dictionary*, a series of ten volumes, for example, was completed in 1928 at a cost of \$1,500,000.

The American Presses

When the Oxford University Press first established its branch in New York as a regularly incorporated publishing firm in 1896 with a history more than three times as old as the United States, there were only a handful of universities engaged in the regularly organized business of publishing.

The pioneers were Johns Hopkins, whose press was established in 1878; Chicago University, 1892; Columbia University and the University of California, 1893. Before these dates, however, a number of universities had issued their own books or journals, though not in the form of regular university press publications. Dartmouth College, for example, in 1819, published an account of the historic *Dartmouth College Case*, made famous by the decision of Chief Justice John Marshall. Similarly, the University of Minnesota issued the first report of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Minnesota in 1872, inaugurating a series which under various titles has been continued to the present day. Organization of the press, however, was not completed until 1927.

From the turn of the twentieth century until 1925 the development of university presses was centered almost entirely in the East. Princeton's publishing career was launched by Charles Scribner in 1905; Yale founded its press in 1908 under the leadership of George Parmly Day, who is still president; and Harvard's press, established in 1913, grew from a printing office started forty years earlier. The pioneer in the South was North Carolina, which started its press in 1922.

The period of greatest growth in numbers of university presses was between 1925 and 1930 when seven schools, representing all sections of



Left, insignia of The Johns Hopkins Press; right, insignia of Duke University Press.

the country, went into the publishing business. Stanford University organized its press in 1925 through an expansion of its extensive printing and binding plant, which had already produced and distributed a few books. One year later Duke University, which had already been publishing books and the Trinity College Historical Society Papers since 1897, formally established a regular press division. And celebrating their tenth anniversaries this year are the universities of Minnesota and Pennsylvania. Although Pennsylvania's press was incorporated in 1920, it did not actually begin to function as such until seven years later. By the beginning of the thirties, Oklahoma, Michigan, Cornell, and Iowa had entered the publishing field. The most recent additions to the university press list are the universities of Louisiana and Iowa, the publishing division of the latter school being known as the Collegiate Press.

Not all universities came by their presses in like manner. Some came into being as the direct result of the inspiration, energy, and impetus lent them by a single individual. Charles Scribner, of Princeton, not only organized and directed the press, but gave it a building and most of its equipment. The University of Chicago Press was the favorite project of William Rainey Harper, first president of the university, who believed that a university was inadequate without a "voice" to carry to the world the results of original research which went on within its walls. Similarly, Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, then a Professor of Philosophy, drafted the report of a committee in 1890 urging the establishment of a publications division at Columbia University. And Dr. Seth Low, president of the university, made a personal contribution of \$10,000 in 1895 to provide the capital needed to launch Columbia's press. Dr. Arthur Twining Hadley, in reviewing his administration as President of Yale University, said that "the thing on which I look back with most satisfaction is the development of the publishing work of the university and the recognition it has obtained throughout the world." His successor, Dr. Frances R. Angell, added that this recognition "is a source of satisfaction to the university

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and must be a source of pride to all of Yale's graduates and other friends."

The publishing programs of many of the presses are subsidized from the general university or alumni funds, or are publicly or privately endowed. The Cornell University Board of Trustees voted the press an annual subsidy of \$5,000 for five years. The University of Pennsylvania Press was stalled in its early attempts at publishing because of a lack of capital and it was not until the press was included as a regular division of the university with an annual budget that it was able to operate on its present scale. The presses at Harvard, Yale, Michigan, California, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Minnesota are chief among those which also function as regular departments of the universities. California has outright publishing subsidies for the results of original research by the faculties of the seven schools within the university.

Many of the presses place their books in two broad categories: those which are specialized and have a limited appeal, and those which address themselves to a more general audience. Under its new management, Harvard, while maintaining its scholarly studies and its official publications, expects to emphasize two classes of books: (1) major works of scholarship in all fields; (2) "borderline" books, which combine maturity of thought and learning and accuracy of statement, with wider general appeal. Chicago lists its books in four categories, the first two of which coincide roughly to that of Harvard; the remaining categories include books of pedagogical theory and text books in modern format, and the proceedings and reports of learned organizations and societies. California will subsidize its specialized books and select its general books on their sales potentialities and pay royalties to authors. Whatever profit Princeton may make on books which enjoy a good sale are used for publishing works which "contribute to scholarship and learning." Yale's list is divided into general, semi-specialized, technical and specialized, and text books. It is noteworthy, too, that Minnesota has "sought to make scholarship less forbidding; to bridge the gap between the specialist and the layman."

Selection of manuscripts for publication is usually made by an editorial committee or council. Chicago has a Board of University Publications, a body of thirty-three, representing all the departments of the school, which must approve all publications. Oklahoma requires each manuscript to have two separate readings before determining acceptance. A Council's Committee on Publications of Yale University passes on every prospective volume. Members of Princeton's

**Some Books
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INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS IN URBAN TRANSPORTATION by Emerson P. Schmidt describes a "middle way" in industrial relations, as successfully practised for nearly fifty years by the union in one of the more important public utilities. (\$3.00, *University of Minnesota Press*). This is an accurate and readable history of street railroads, dealing with technological, financial, regulatory, and labor aspects. Attention is given chiefly to labor problems and unionization in the industry. The characteristics of transportation work and the type of men attracted to it are carefully analyzed, and a chapter is devoted to the late nineteenth-century conditions that gave birth to unionism.

ANOTHER important book, also from the *University of Minnesota Press*, is **MEN, WOMEN AND JOBS: A Study in Human Engineering** by Donald G. Patterson and John G. Darley (\$2.00). Basing their recommendations on reliable tests of vocational aptitudes, the book points the way to better vocational guidance and re-education, and to their use as weapons against unemployment. As one reviewer has said, it is a "pithy, convincing, brilliant exposition of the new scientific emphasis in occupational investigation. It should be required reading for every student of vocational guidance, vocational education, industrial psychology, economics and sociology."

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The latest publication, by Arthur W. Marget **INFLATION, INEVITABLE OR AVOIDABLE?** (25c) has met with immediate success and there will be an equal demand for Joseph Ralston Hayden's **PACIFIC POLITICS** (25c) and **PEACE OR WAR** (50c). The latter is a symposium by ten contributors and is edited by Harold S. Quigley.

PIERRE CRABITÈS does not believe that the Spanish civil war can be interpreted simply in terms of the modern conflict between Communism and Fascism. Such an obvious reduction to economic terms, is a distortion of the truth that leaves untouched the real basis of this tragic conflict. In his latest book, **UNHAPPY SPAIN**, (\$2.50, and published by the *Louisiana State University Press*) the tragic plight of Spain is placed in its historical setting. Spanish history is traced from the reign of Ferdinand VII to the present time, so that civil warfare is seen not only as a manifestation of this troubled period in modern history, but as the culmination of a long chain of circumstances arising from the very character and temper of the Spanish nation. Both the analyses of the book and the style in which they are presented are penetrating. The facts and the conclusions drawn are based on the author's long study of Spanish history, and his personal contacts with the Spanish people. Readers of *Current History* are, of course, familiar with Judge Crabitès' articles which have appeared in this magazine. The same Press has just announced for publication Walter Clyde Curry's **SHAKE-SPEARE'S PHILOSOPHICAL PATTERNS** (\$2.50). The book will appear early in May.

IN RECENT months there has been much discussion about the true position of the Supreme Court under American democracy. In **DEMOCRACY AND THE SUPREME COURT** (\$1.50, *University of Oklahoma Press*) Robert K. Carr has written a book for the average citizen, to reveal fully the power as well as the responsibility which now rests upon the shoulders of the nine men who make up the United States Supreme Court.

DESERTS ON THE MARCH (\$2.50) by Paul B. Sears was acclaimed long before the author received one of the Book-of-the-Month Club Fellowships for his book. "A fascinating book . . .

deserves to be classed as literature"; "gracefully written, witty and epigrammatic, but with all the suspense and climactic punch of a good play"; "it reads as easily and excitingly as a well wrought novel"; "a rare find," are but a few of the enthusiastic comments which followed its publication. Dr. Sears is busily at work on his new book, **THE LIVING SYMPHONY**, which deals with the relations of man, plants and the soil. It will come out in the early Autumn.

ANTONIO LÓPEZ de Santa Anna was the "child of destiny" of the Western World. More than any other man in his time, it could be said that Mexican history revolved about him, for he was the supreme political and military character of Mexico during the first three decades of its national history. In the larger fabric of history he will be remembered as the central Mexican figure in both the War for Texas Independence and the War between Mexico and the United States. His story has been brilliantly told by Wilfrid Hardy Callcott in **SANTA ANNA, The Story of an Enigma Who Once Was Mexico**. (\$3.00).

ANOTHER important book, also published by the *University of Oklahoma Press*, is Arthur B. Adams' **NATIONAL ECONOMIC SECURITY** (\$2.50) which differs from those works on economics which pretend merely to describe things as they are. The author has wide experience in economic affairs and commands knowledge of theory and practice, a knowledge which he uses in this book in an attempt to discover policies which should be adopted to bring about a secure and decent way of economic life in the United States.

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Left, insignia of Princeton University Press; right, insignia of Columbia University Press.

committee, which functions in a like manner, are elected for a period of five years, their terms expiring in rotation, one at the end of each year. Harvard has a Board of Syndics, consisting of seven members, in addition to Dr. Dumas Malone, the present Director.

Generally, university presses do not confine the acceptance of manuscripts for publication to members of their own faculties. In fact, many presses have been known to publish works of authors who were affiliated with other universities which also maintained press facilities, as when Yale publishes the writings of a Harvard man, and vice-versa. Of primary concern to the press is whether a work has definite merit. The general policy of Duke University is "to publish anything by anybody which, in the judgment of the Editorial Board, deserves publication." And though Minnesota draws heavily from the university itself for its publications, its policy has always been cordial to outsiders. However, some university presses, of which Michigan is the most outstanding example, publish books whose authors are usually members of the faculty or alumni, or who are connected in some way with the school.

Many university presses have had the experience of publishing the scholarly, but unsalable, work of a professor only to find that when he has written a book which may have a more popular appeal he will give the commercial press the benefit of its sale. Whether the professor is justified in ignoring the press which virtually supported his scholarly books is a matter of opinion. Norman V. Donaldson, director of the Yale University Press, recently told representatives from other presses that he did not believe a professor should be expected to publish through his university outlet unless that press can offer him as good or better facilities than he might be able to obtain from a commercial press. No better illustration could be cited of a university book that had the advantages of good merchandising and a good sale than Yale's *Sweden: The Middle Way* by Marquis W. Childs, a national best-seller and one of the books chosen by *Current History's*

Literary Advisory Board on the list of the ten most outstanding works of non-fiction in 1936.

It is significant that many of the university presses have improved, and are improving, their sales and distribution facilities. A cooperative mailing list containing almost 200,000 educational names is maintained at the University of Chicago. These names are classified according to subjects and offer the publisher of any scholarly or specialized book ready access to a prospective market. Ten university presses—Oxford, Columbia, Chicago, Stanford, Yale, Oklahoma, Minnesota, California, Harvard, and Louisiana—are members of the National Association of Book Publishers and pay dues ranging from a minimum of \$125, depending upon the size of their lists. Five of these presses—Stanford, Oklahoma, Minnesota, California, and Louisiana—are subscribers to University Books, in New York, a sales agency which also represents Duke, Dartmouth, and Michigan. A number of presses, including several mentioned above, have made joint publication arrangements with the Oxford University Press. Oxford also represents and publishes books of American universities in England. Among the presses subscribing to this service are Yale, Princeton, and Pennsylvania. In the same way, Chicago, California, Duke and North Carolina are represented by the Cambridge University Press in Great Britain.

"Best-seller," as applied to university press books, requires a definition of its own for a public that has been conditioned to best-sellers in terms of hundreds of thousands or millions of copies and which measures sales by *Gone With the Wind* yardsticks. The 21,000 copies sold by *Sweden: The Middle Way* may seem pale when set alongside the robust total of 2,000,000 avalanched by Miss Mitchell's novel, but Mr. Childs' book is considered to have had a very fair sale for a non-fiction book. Most serious books, even those published by commercial firms, seldom reach the figure set by Mr. Childs' book; a 2,000 total is considered good. The sale of university books is largely dependent upon whether its prospective audience is large or small. Thus a book may be of such a topic that it could be of interest to a maximum, say, of 2,000 people in the field. The work achieves a sale of 50 per cent of its potential market. Yet it is not fair to say that its 1,000 total would mean that the book did not sell well. The work fulfilled its purpose; it placed in the hands of those who could profit most thereby, the result of special research in a certain field. The University of California sold out the 2500 copies it printed on *Termites and Termite Control* within nine months and considered the book successful,

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Left, insignia of Yale University Press; right, insignia of Harvard University Press.

which it was. If all universities were to publish books according to whether they would make "best-sellers" in the commercial sense of the work, it is certain that most of the valuable contributions made by the presses would die unborn.

A number of university press books having a fairly popular appeal has made excellent sales records. *Wah'kon-tah: The Osage and the White Man's Road*, by John Joseph Mathews, published by Oklahoma in 1932, and a Book of the Month selection, sold 45,000 copies. North Carolina's leading sales title has been the *Citizens' Reference Book*, a two-volume work for the use of adult illiterates now selling for fifty cents a volume. The sales on both volumes total 50,000 copies. The *Columbia Encyclopedia*, 1900 pages and 5,000,000 words, at \$17.50 has sold more copies than any other book ever published by the Columbia University Press.

University press publishing today is a million dollar industry. Princeton, with an average of slightly more than only fifteen books issued each year, has a volume of business which in the past five years has averaged more than a quarter of a million dollars, and has over sixty persons on its payroll. Columbia University with a list totaling 1500 books has a staff of 53. Harvard's publications number more than 1600 titles, 74 of its books having been published last year. The University of Minnesota, which, incidentally, has the only woman director of a university press in the United States, started off with a volume of business amounting to hardly more than a few hundred dollars a year. Within a few years its sales rose to a thousand dollars a month and have been steadily increasing, with the exception of one year during the depression. The University of North Carolina reported that its \$64,000 sales total average for 1934-35 was twice as much as the previous two years. And in outlining its plans for the future, which include an extensive eight-point program, this press estimated recently that it would need \$100,000 to put the program into effect.

Few university presses are concerned with profits in the publication of their scholarly works.

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Scholarship, the end result of research, receives its own reward in the degree of success it achieves in advancing its own particular field of knowledge. Thus, Chicago University, in publishing *Ancient Egyptian Paintings*, believed to be the most costly and elaborate art publication ever produced, considered the magnificence of the work of greater importance than any monetary return. This three-volume set contains 104 reproductions from paintings still in existence on Egyptian tombs, temple walls, and ceilings. The price of \$75 a set would not even cover the cost of manufacture, excluding the artist's and editorial work. Columbia University Press spent years in the preparation of the works of John Milton—the first time that a complete edition of the great poet's works had ever been published. Nor did the press spare any effort or expense in the preparation of the amazing one-volume *Columbia Encyclopedia*. Harvard has published books in more than 40 scholarly series. And since 1933, the *Loeb Classical Library* has appeared under a Harvard colophon, some 300 volumes in the library having been published by the university. The modern English translation of Newton's *Principia*, considered the most important scientific book ever written, was published by the University of California Press, which also distinguished itself in publishing the discovery of the anti-sterility Vitamin E by Dr. Herbert M. Stevens.

There are numerous similar instances. Stanford's list of group titles includes the Hoover War Library Publications (twelve volumes) and the *Stanford Books on World Politics*. Yale University published Charles M. Andrews' *The Colonial Period of American History: The Settlements* which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1935. Johns Hopkins, in confining its publishing activities to scholarly works, issues no fewer than 27 separate series as well as several journals. Probably the most spectacular publication of the University of Michigan was never offered for sale but was distributed to the leading libraries of America. This was the group of Biblical manuscripts in the Freer collection, now deposited at Washington. The University of Oklahoma considers Paul B. Sears' *Deserts on the March*, which has determined, to a large extent, the government's policy toward soil conservation, one of its most outstanding works. And no mention of works of fine scholarship and research would be complete without the University of North Carolina's two monumental works: *Culture in the South*, a symposium by 31 authorities, and Howard W. Odum's *Southern Regions*. There is little question that

(Continued on page 127)

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The World in Books

(Continued from page 13)

these two works combine to provide the most comprehensive and authoritative studies of the South ever published anywhere.

During the course of their development, certain presses have won high distinction for their work in special fields. Oxford, for example, even with its outstanding achievements in all fields of non-fiction, is known as the world's greatest Bible publishing house. The record of Cambridge, too, in non-fiction rates among the world's best, yet its leadership in the publication of text books has identified it most closely with that publishing field. Johns Hopkins' scientific works have been outstanding and Chicago has always been known for its strong sociological and religious lists. Oklahoma, North Carolina, California, Stanford, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Louisiana have excelled in publishing works on the regions they represent. Oklahoma's primary aim is to reflect the intellectual richness of the state and the Southwest, of which it is a part. North Carolina's service to the South is a matter of record, and Pennsylvania's list emphasizes State history and biography.

Yet each of the presses maintaining leadership in regional publications has enhanced its work in other branches of the non-fiction field. Oklahoma occasionally publishes books dealing with the national scene; its recent *Democracy and the Supreme Court* by Professor Robert K. Carr covered all the ground, concisely and clearly, that a person needed for a thorough understanding of the new national issue. Minnesota's spring list contains three new titles in the Day and Hour Series of interest to students of current affairs. Louisiana has just published Pierre Crabitès' *Unhappy Spain*, a timely and analytical study which places the real issues of the Spanish conflict in broad daylight.

University press publications have always excelled in format and printing. Bruce Rogers, eminent book designer and printing expert, has often served as consultant to university presses. In each year since the inauguration of the competition sponsored by the American Institute of Graphic Arts, university books have been well-represented on the list of the "Fifty Books of the Year." Yale University, for example, has had one or more of its publications included on every one of these yearly lists. Princeton has published books containing quantities of French, German, Spanish, Turkish, Arabic, Lithuanian, Greek, Latin, and Italian, all set in its own shop. Since

1904, when it won the grand prize at the St. Louis World's Fair, the University of Chicago Press has had many other awards for beautiful book-making. In addition to a number of rare types available nowhere else in the country, Chicago publishes books and articles in Egyptian hieroglyphics, Arabic, Ethiopic, Coptic, Nestorian Syriac, Greek, Hebrew, Russian, German, and Schwabacher (modernized German). California is believed to have a greater number of special characters for works dealing in phonetics and all European languages than in any other printing office west of Chicago. One of California's primary publishing objectives is to "set a high standard of dignified good printing." The press at Oxford contains one of the finest collections of type in the world, including the unique Fell type. With 550 fonts in 150 characters, Oxford's alphabets range from the prehistoric Minoan (cast to record Sir Arthur Evans' discoveries) to the

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What may prove to be a new stage in the development of the university begins this spring with the publication by Cambridge of the novel, *A Cardinal of the Medici*, by Mrs. Hicks Beach. This marks a new phase in the career of the 400-year-old English publishing house and it is certain that other university presses will watch closely the reception of this work of historical fiction by the public. The current trend toward dramatization and popularization of history may not be transitory and it is not improbable that there will be serious consideration of the effectiveness of imparting historical information through the medium of the novel.

Current University Books

Of great significance on the lists of university spring publications is the *Armaments Year Book, 1936*, the first work published by the Columbia University Press in connection with its new department, the International Documents Service. This department was established late last year when the press took over the American agency for the publications of the League of Nations, the Permanent Court of International Justice, and the International Institute of Intellectual Cooperation, a list of 7,000 titles.

The *Year-Book* needs no introduction; it is an indispensable reference document for students of world affairs. And despite the secretive nature of contemporary armaments preparation, the work is invaluable for the factual base it presents for use in inductive computation.

In *Cabinet Government*, published by Cambridge University Press through the Macmillan Company, W. Ivor Jennings traces the development of the executive phase of the British Constitution. With great research, Mr. Jennings, himself a constitutional lawyer, has penetrated clear through the heavy layers of uncertainty and obscurity which have hidden the most important

functions of the English cabinet system, and has brought them into clear, sharp focus. The author proceeds slowly, his step-by-step approach clearing the ground for his conclusions, which hold that His Majesty's government in the past, broadly speaking, has been subservient to the will of the people. Mr. Jennings has done his job well and with caution.

For those who are hazy concerning the past glories of Texas it will be no small surprise to learn that the great state of the Southwest had a navy. More than that: Texas' navy also engaged in several maritime combats. The circumstances, in all their Ripleyesque richness, are conveyed by Jim Dan Hill in *The Texas Navy*, on the spring list of Chicago University Press. As navies went, even in those days, the Texas fleet was something less than awe-inspiring. But Mr. Hill has rescued the fleet from obscurity, which should please those good Texans proud of their heritage, and enlighten, perhaps entertain, others.

Expansionists of 1898, by Professor Julius W. Pratt, consist of lectures given by Dr. Pratt at the Walter Hines Page School of International Relations, Johns Hopkins University, whose press published the work. In detail and with commendable clarity, Dr. Pratt examines the imperialistic movement in this country during the last decade of the nineteenth century, with special emphasis upon the annexation of Hawaii. The book is valuable for any mature consideration of the history of imperialism in this country, an important phase of which was the acquisition of Hawaii.

In *Western Civilization in the Near East* Hans Kohn continues his exploration of the two themes of nationalism and imperialism which have so profitably engaged his attention in earlier works. The present study, published by the Columbia University Press, represents the localization of the impact of European imperialism on the non-European world and restates to a certain extent the ground already ably covered. The justification of this restatement seems to be that we get a close-up of the play of world forces in the Near East which brings out detail peculiarly important to us at this time. This work draws together the various aspects of the interrelationship of Europe and the Near East in a systematically accumulated sum-total of physical environment, historic development, and modern technology. Fortunately, the author throws his major emphasis upon the least-worked material in the realm of communications and economics, and the whole force of material change.

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