

SPEAKING OF BOOKS

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The Book Club of Detroit is an association of Detroit-area bibliophiles who assemble periodically for the purpose of stimulating a mutual interest in books, specifically those aspects concerned with collecting, bibliography, design, and production.

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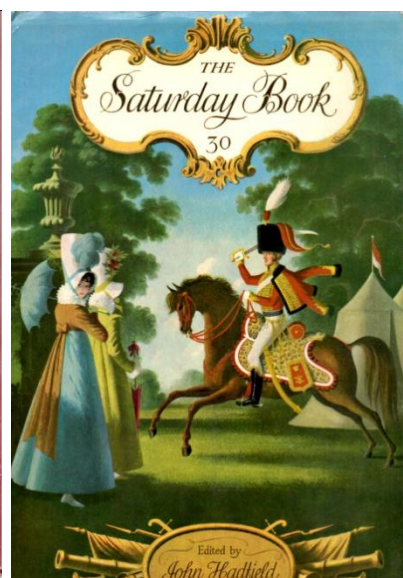
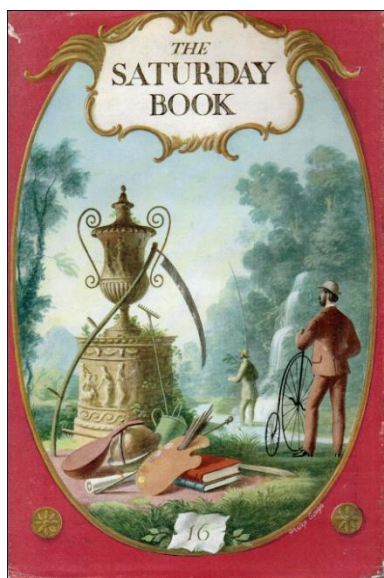
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BCD



✦ SATURDAY BOOKS: WELL WORTH A LOOK *by Kay MacKay*

Today we might consider that leafing through this old British annual is a waste of your valuable time—and uninteresting. This is far from the truth, and we should be aware that, during the 1940's to the 1960's, this popular British periodical—noted for its fine printing and professional illustrations—was considered the “civilized man’s annual.”

The Saturday Book was published from 1941 to 1975, coming out each December and reaching 34 volumes. It should be stressed here that it was an all-British publication, noted for its role in helping to create a vogue for Victorian literature. Two subjects were always avoided—religion and politics. Nostalgia was always the central theme, and emphasis was put on collectible arts and curiosities.

It truly was a great example of war-time publishing. Around fourteen thousand copies were sold in the first few months. Lovely wood engravings and pictures by noted photographers were reproduced throughout. It was also noted for its colorful and attractive dust jackets.

There had been only a few quality Christmas annuals for adult readers since *The Keepsake* in the early nineteenth century.

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NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT *by Robert K. Jones*

These “Notes” come to you as Rudyard Kipling would say “armed and engined” to the intent of preserving not only our elegant and now annual Christmas Dinner Book Auction, but the very fineness of the programs that we offer, often at cost.

A little background is in order here, and I quote from Kay MacKay’s fine history of the *Book Club of Detroit 1957-2007*: “Members look forward to the Club’s lively book auctions held every two to three years at the Scarab Club. The first auction was held in 1961 and netted over \$200, a healthy sum in those days. Frazer Clark and sometimes Jim Babcock served as auctioneers. Today, the enthusiastic Bill Schwedler is the Club’s official auctioneer, urging members to ‘Bid! Bid! Bid!’”

The auction became a big hit, and the proceeds it generates help to carry the Club’s financial burdens. For example, the auctions have allowed the Club to schedule events that have no attendance fee and keep the costs to a minimum for those events that require a fee. The foremost benefit of the auction has been to cover that portion of costs that are not covered by the member’s ticket price, thus keeping the member cost of the Christmas Dinner meeting to a minimum. Because of these benefits and other Club niceties, the auction has, necessarily, become an annual event.

Today, however, finds the auction being still enjoyed, but with fewer participants on both the “donor” and “buyer” ends.

Last year our Christmas dinner meeting was held at the venerable Detroit Club, and we hope to return there for a long time to come, as such a venue can only help us to grow a supportive and active membership. But to do so,

we must get behind the auction. Consider this: Last year’s auction generated less than ten buyers and only five donors. And although we generated a tidy and most needful sum, the financial burden on the few (for the sake of the many) was inordinately heavy. Therefore, this call “to arms and engines” is aimed at all in our fine club whose symbiotic success with the auction is esteemed and encouraged.

As an aid in encouraging greater participation at both ends of the auction, the board of directors has instituted the following revisions to the format:

- Only items rated as “Fine” and better will be accepted for the auction.
- Minimum bid allocation to enable donors to recoup expenses on high-end items.
- Increased “Silent Auction” portion for increased inspection time, as this portion of the auction will be mailed (e-mail and post) to members in advance as well as being on display at the dinner.
- Decreased traditional “Oral” portion to save time and reduce personal workloads.

This year’s auction catalog will be designed and compiled by our Secretary, Jim Deak. Donated items can be submitted to Jim directly, or bring them to any of the Club’s events. Jim’s address is 29844 Wagner Rd., Warren, M 40893. He can be reached at (586) 578-0900 and acornbooksinmi@aol.com.

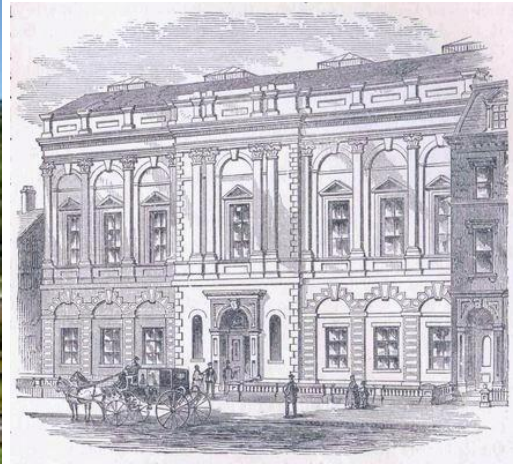
Please join us in reinvigorating this delightful auction and ensuring an adequacy for our future book business. P.S. We are always in need of “helping hands” to put on the auction. If you are willing to assist, please contact any board member.

IN MEMORIAM: Marguerite Humes Schwedler

It is with great sorrow that we report the loss of BCD board member Marguerite Humes Schwedler, who died on June 24 at the age of 76 following a gallant battle against cancer. In addition to her Book Club activities, Meg participated in many other cultural and civic organizations, including a variety of theatrical groups and the Detroit Historical Society. For 14 years she served on the East Detroit School Board, and she was active within the St. Barnabas Church community. She also taught etiquette classes for children and adults and co-edited *300 Years of Detroit Cooking 1701-2001*, which was published by the Detroit Historical Society Guild. Meg is survived by her husband, Bill, and by four children, six grandchildren, two stepchildren, and one step-grandchild. She will be greatly missed.



The Houghton Library at Harvard University.



The Boston Athenaeum, founded in 1807

BOSTON HOSTS FABS 2012 *by Joan Knoertzer*

Four days of books! Four days of being surrounded by book lovers! Add two more days (on my own), just because four wasn't enough, and you have my trip to the Fellowship of American Bibliophilic Societies 2012 Book Tour. Of course we had many other BCD members there but did not maintain our record of the most in attendance as we usually do. Those who made it were Judith Adelman, Mary Clare Duran, Joan Knoertzer, Twyla Racz, Lori Rariden, John and Mary Simpson, and Tom Taylor. The Rowfant Club had a few more. In any case, we were exposed to treasures, large and small. In fact, we even came home with a few. . . shocked, aren't you!

One afternoon, following the tour of the Boston Athenaeum (lots of Americana materials overlooking a cemetery where Revere and other patriots reside), which was preceded by a morning-long visit to publisher David Godine's home (lots of pristine Victorian decorative bindings and prints) and his barn (a Vandercook Press resides there and we were each allowed to print our own large broadside), some of us decided to visit the Brattle Book Shop. Who did we run into but Bromer's Book Store's top representative, Philip Salmon. So naturally we went over to Bromer's to check out the merchandise, and there was Shannon Struble, Bromer's designer. We enjoyed

browsing and buying in both book stores and then went off to dinner. (You just have to eat on these trips.) But, I digress.

The first day of our trip, we visited the Museum of Fine Arts Library. If it is art books you collect, large or small, it is a must visit. Following this was the opening reception at the Houghton Library, Harvard University. There are so many words to describe this library that if I said knock-down-dead-gorgeous, you can fill in the blanks all day. But, if I could afford to build one, this would be The Library.

We were hosted on this trip by the Ticknor Society of Boston. Each city has a book society affiliated with FABS that plans these trips and tours. Their members spend a year or two in preparation for exhibition upon exhibition of rare collections, wonderful meals, and exquisite speakers. (Do you remember hosting ours? We have done it twice! It is so exciting, and I must say everyone knows how wonderful this club is, from coast to coast.) Our Ticknor hosts were celebrating their 10th anniversary, so every day was festive. Each curator of the various sections of the Houghton Library gave us highlight of their rooms, each devoted to an outstanding author . . . Samuel Johnson, John Keats, Emily Dickinson, and many others. The main floor hall was devoted to
(continued on page 4)

BOSTON HOSTS FABS 2012 *(continued from page 3)*

"The Natural History of Edward Lear." Before he wrote books, he was an artist of birds and landscapes. They have his complete folio. It was stunning.

The next morning found us in the middle of a collection of a true "Alice" and "Carroll" devotee, Alan Tannenbaum. In fact, he even has an Alice Garden. Plus, he added an "Alice" and "Carroll" extensive library to his home. So there we were. In the middle of Wonderland! We saw every Carroll first edition, including his mathematics, politics, poetry, as well as nonsense books, original artwork for his illustrations, photographs, letters, posters, tea sets, ceramics, antique advertising, and even two pin ball machines. One of his colleagues who also has a Carroll collection kept us entertained with Carroll's original magic tricks.

Our next stop was the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem. Founded in 1799, its Philips Library is one of the oldest in New England. However, it is undergoing restoration. But that didn't stop them from creating an exhibition titled "Unbound: Highlights from the Philips Library." Sidney E. Berger and Ann C. Pingree gave us the grand tour. Maritime history, captains' log books, charts and navigation equipment, as well as art and Asian culture and influence, were made special by a tour of the Yin Tu Tang House, a late Qing Dynasty merchant's house, relocated to the Museum from southeast China, board by board. This is a two-story structure with a great story to tell of the late 17th and early 18th century style of living in China.

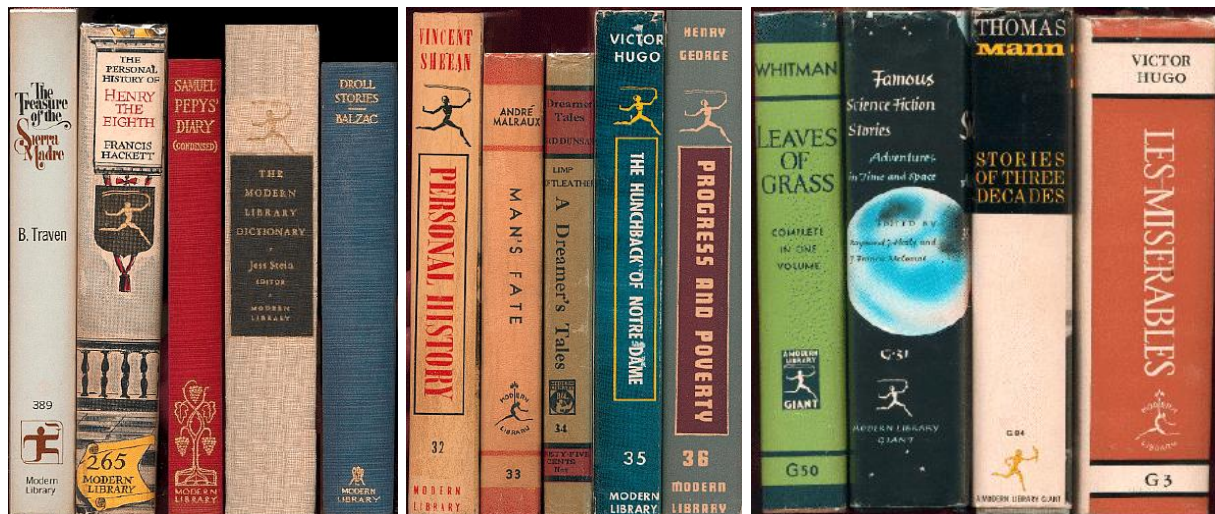
On Saturday the FABS tour always hosts a symposium of major speakers. The topic this year was Boston and the Book Arts. Tom Michalak, President of the Ticknor Society and Chair of this 2012 Book Tour, introduced John

Kristensen (Boston Books and Bookmen at the Turn of the 20th Century), Katherine McCannless Ruffin (Boston: Hub of the Book Universe), Todd Pattison (Cloth Covers Made in a Superior Style: The Rise of Publishers' Bindings in Boston), and Georgia Barnhill (Thomas and Andrews to Houghton, Osgood and Company: Illustrated Literary Publications in Boston). To get us in the mood for these topics, we spent the morning visiting the Longfellow House, which was headquarters for Washington in Cambridge and is now a National Historic Site. Longfellow's books and bookcases were everywhere. Our guide was very well informed about this gorgeous old home. Returning to the Sheraton Commander Hotel, we passed the statue of Washington in the garden with a green Celtics t-shirt on. Unfortunately for George and Boston, the Celtics lost. As we entered the hotel, the Ticknor Society directed us to the Antiquarian Book Fair in their ballroom. So we had plenty of time to meet the famous book dealers from the East Coast. Following this, we went to the symposium.

The end of the tour is always festive. Not only is the food tasty, but that night we had a very famous guest speaker, who is also a founding member of the Ticknor Society, Nicholas Basbanes. He spoke about his many publications and of collectors past and present. It was nostalgic as we remembered these names from other trips. Our own Toby Holtzman came to mind. And the BCD members left thinking about how satisfying this hobby is. We next see our FABS friends in 2013 in Baltimore. It will be a grand tour. I hope you all can make it, so you can see your friends from across the United States. Plan on it. I know the eight who made it this year will be back. I hope you will join us.

A GOOD TIME TO RE-READ YOUR FAVORITE DICKENS NOVELS

Two hundred years ago (on February 4, 1812), Charles John Huffam Dickens was born in Portsmouth, England. In 1836, at the age of 24, Dickens achieved instant fame with his serialized *Pickwick Papers*, and before long he was an international celebrity. Dickens' novels continue to be read throughout the world, and his characters have become part of our culture. Celebrate Dickens this year by re-reading (or by reading for the first time) one or more of his great novels!



A MODERN LIBRARY GARDEN PARTY

By Alice Nigoghosian

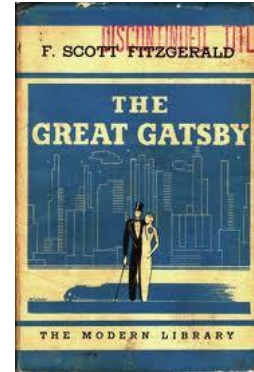
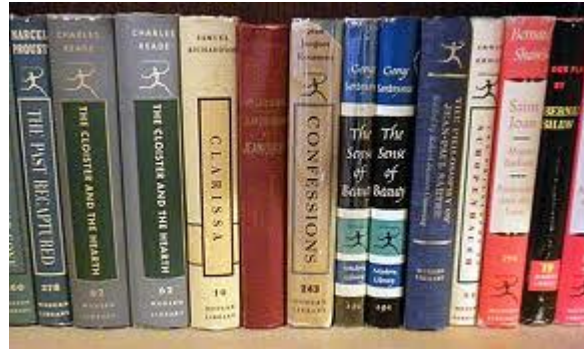
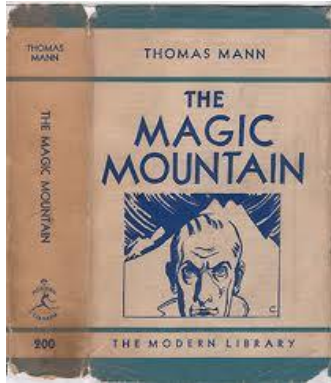
About 40 members of the Book Club of Detroit were hosted by Barry Neavill and Mary Ann Sheble at their beautifully restored home in Detroit's historic Indian Village neighborhood, on a warm and sunny Sunday afternoon (June 10, 2012). With a glass of wine or soda in hand, the guests seated themselves in the large sunlit living room, with a few members seated or standing in the vestibule, for Barry's presentation.

Barry spoke briefly about "The Modern Library Series Project"—something he has been working on in one form or another for most of his career. (His first article on the series was "The Modern Library Series: Format and Design," published in the first issue of *Printing History* in 1979.) Nearly 800 titles were published in the series between 1917 and his cut-off date of 1991, and the project traces the evolution of each title over time (variant jackets, introductions added and dropped, new typesettings, new translations, etc.). The manuscript exceeds 2,000 pages. The project will be published electronically by the University of Virginia and should be available online in about three years. Scans of most of the jackets will be included—there were more than 10 distinct jackets for Flaubert's *Madame Bovary*, which remained in the series throughout his 75-

year period. (Yes, Barry owns all the volumes!)

The Modern Library series was created by Albert Boni and Horace Liveright—it was their first venture as Boni and Liveright in 1917. These inexpensive reprints sold for less than one dollar through the end of the Second World War. Jackets were part of the package. In addition to Barry sharing examples from his collection, he distributed a handout that included information about the Modern Library edition of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, which was published in September 1934 and was discontinued at the end of 1938. The information includes a bibliographical description of the book, name of original publisher, year of publication, print run, etc.

Also included is "insider publishing information" from the archives. Maxwell Perkins (Fitzgerald's editor at Scribner's) suggested the Modern Library edition. Scribner's received a \$500 advance against royalties of 10 cents a copy, half of which went to Fitzgerald. Sales of the Modern Library edition were disappointing—only 700 copies a year—and it was remaindered in 1939. Incredible! Fitzgerald's reputation revived after the war. By the 1960s the Scribner paperback edition was selling 300,000 copies a year!
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MODERN LIBRARY PARTY *(continued from page 5)*

After the talk, guests were treated to more wine and a fabulous buffet of salads—including pasta/veggie, Greek, apple/walnut/spinach, ambrosia, green, black-eyed peas, big fruit, Jell-O, plus vegetarian grape leaves, crackers and cheese, and topping it all off with chocolate brownies! Some of us ventured to the back yard to enjoy our early afternoon dinner. The setting was quite lovely, and the trees provided enough shade so we could sit outside quite comfortably. The guests brought in the “goodies” to share, with Vera providing the plan for the menu.

It was a great way to spend a lazy Sunday afternoon. Special thanks to Mary Ann and Barry. Also thanks to Vera and Alice for organizing the event, and to Bob Jones who does whatever is necessary!

NEWS & NOTES FROM NEAR & FAR

- Coming July 28: BCD Bookstore Crawl, to be held in Ann Arbor. Details to follow.
- Coming August 11: A tour of Manoogian Mansion. Details to follow.
- Ray Bradbury, who died on June 5 at the age of 91, will always be remembered for his works of science fiction (or, more accurately, fantasy). However, booklovers treasure his novel *Fahrenheit 451*, which paid tribute to the power of books to change lives.
- The death of writer and illustrator Maurice Sendak on May 8 at the age of 83 was a loss to children and adults alike. His award-winning children’s books are classics that will stand the test of time.
- On June 22, George Washington’s copy of The Constitution and Bill of Rights (liberally annotated in his own hand) sold for \$9,826,500 at Christie’s New York, setting a world record for an American book or historical document.



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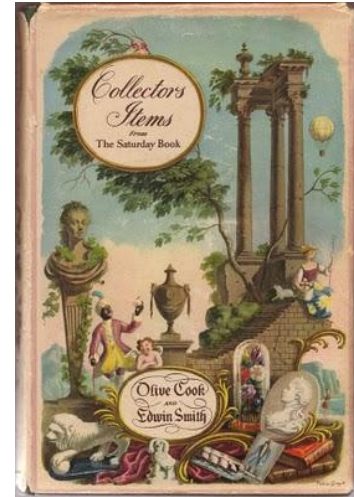
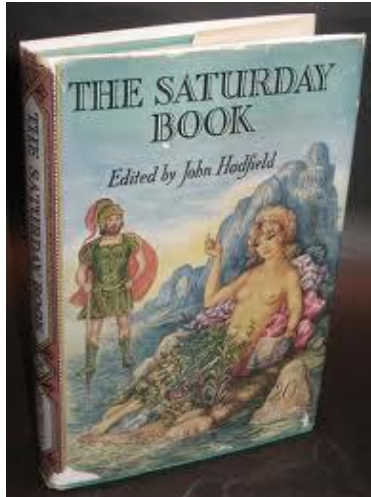
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Editor needed
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contact BCD
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SATURDAY BOOKS: WORTH A LOOK *(continued from page 1)*

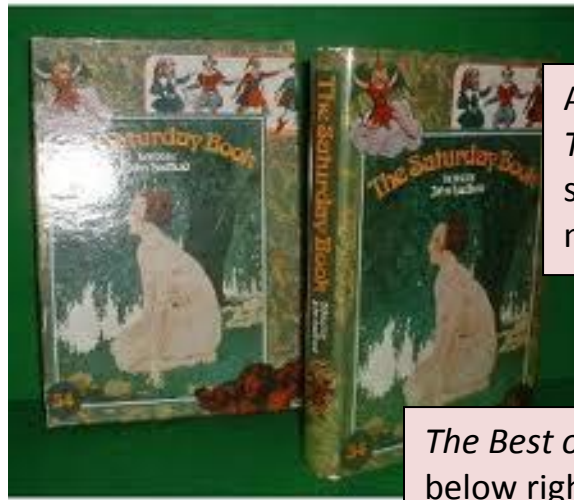
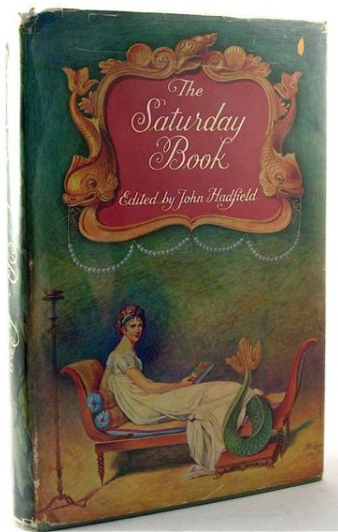
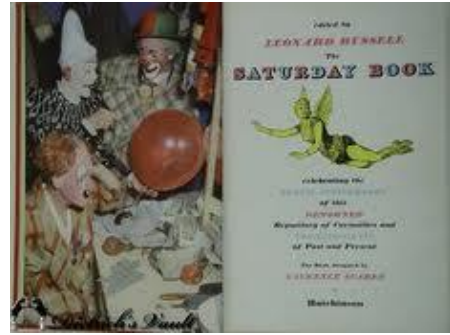
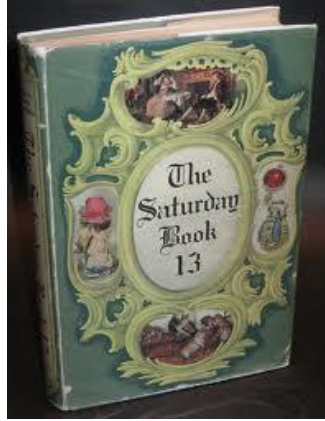
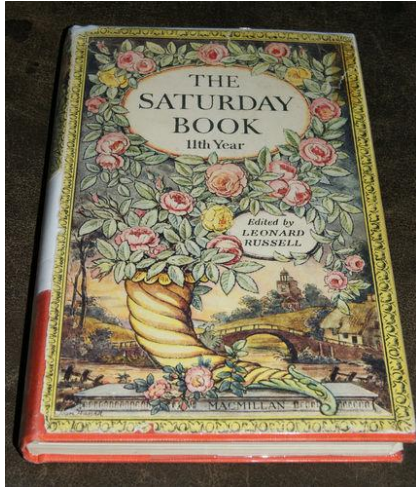
However, in the early 1970's, inflation was rearing its ugly head. Color printing and paper costs were soaring and print numbers remained low at 4,500 (2,000 more for U. S. A.). The editor decided to end the series at No. 34. (An excellent anthology, *The Best of The Saturday Book*, appeared in 1981.)

Copies can frequently be found in used bookstores for just a few dollars, and I believe they are well worth a serious look.

A FEW FACTS ABOUT SATURDAY BOOKS *by Paula Jarvis*

- *The Saturday Book* was published each year from 1941 until 1975. It was initially edited by Leonard Russell. Beginning in 1952, John Hadfield served as editor.
- The first *Saturday Book*, published in the autumn of 1941, said *The Saturday Book 1941-42* on the spine. The second volume said *The 1943 Saturday Book*. The third volume said *The Saturday Book—3*.
- In 1955, long-time *Saturday Book* contributors Olive Cook and Edwin Smith compiled *Collectors' Items from The Saturday Book*, a charming scrapbook of “collectible” items that had been featured in previous issues. In 1981, John Hadfield edited *The Best of The Saturday Book*, a potpourri of outstanding *Saturday Book* contributions published from 1941 to 1975.
- Writers who contributed to *The Saturday Book* included Graham Greene, Philip Larkin, John Masefield, George Orwell, J. B. Priestley, Siegfried Sassoon, Evelyn Waugh, and P. G. Wodehouse.
- George Orwell's essay, “Benefit of Clergy,” appears in the table of contents for the 1944 volume, but the essay itself is not in the book. It was suppressed on grounds of obscenity.
- To date, no bibliography has been written to assist *Saturday Book* collectors. The books were published in both English and American editions. Publishers included Hutchinson, Macmillan, Little Brown, and Clarkson N. Potter, but definitive information is not available regarding various editions and printings.
- *The Saturday Book* was issued with dust jackets, although they are generally missing from early volumes. In addition, many were issued in boxes (not slipcases) featuring covers that matched the dust jackets.

A SAMPLING OF SATURDAY BOOKS



At left, Volume 34 of *The Saturday Book*, shown here with its matching box.

The Best of The Saturday Book, below right, has the same cover design as Volume 16 (shown on page 1).

