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PINKER AND TOTTLE

SHAKESPEARE'S famous witless watchman once remarked that comparisons are odorous, but in spite of his warning we are going to risk making some comparisons. Of all the addresses delivered before the Colby Library Associates during the college-year 1949-1950, the outstanding and most memorable one was delivered last April by the founder and president of the Associates, Professor Frederick A. Pottle. His exciting and authoritative account of the Isham Collection of the Private Papers of James Boswell will not soon be forgotten by anyone who heard it, nor will anyone in his audience have any doubt that Dr. Pottle is *facile princeps* among contemporary Boswellians.

Professor Pottle began his close connection with the Isham Collection twenty years or more ago and was largely responsible for the editing of the eighteen sumptuous volumes published in 1930-1934. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. H. B. Collamore, a member of the Board of Trustees of Colby College and a long-time friend of its library, Colby is now the owner of a set of these eighteen volumes. Mr. Collamore denuded a shelf of his own personal library in order to make these books available at Colby in time for Professor Pottle's address. They have been on exhibition since the April meeting of the Associates and have attracted much attention.

Soon after the date of Dr. Pottle's address, the latest issue of the *New Colophon* reached the library. In this number, R. W. Chapman (known among scholars as the able editor of the work of Samuel Johnson and of Jane Austen)

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tells about an incident in London at the time when the world was being given its first sight of the Boswell Papers. Pottle's predecessor as editor of the Isham Collection, Geoffrey Scott, was in London when the first group of the eighteen volumes began making their appearance. A journalist called him on the telephone and asked whom he should be sure to mention in writing an article about the books. "The men whom it is imperative to mention," Scott replied, "are Professor Tinker and Professor Pottle; and for God's sake don't call them Pinker and Tottle."

"But," says R. W. Chapman in the *Colophon*, "of course he did." A few weeks later Scott died and Pottle succeeded to his position as editor.



DICKENS AND BEWICK

NEXT to the evening with the Boswell Papers, the most delightful occasion on the Library Associates' calendar for 1949-1950 was one devoted to Charles Dickens. On March tenth Mr. Philo C. Calhoun spoke about the centenary of *David Copperfield*, and from his own extensive Dickens collection in Bridgeport, Connecticut, he brought a number of rare *Copperfield* items with which to illustrate his remarks. We were glad to be able to supply from our own shelves a copy of the first edition of *David Copperfield*, and to be able to report that our modest Dickens collection is growing.

Two years ago, as part of a sentimental exhibition of "association volumes," we called attention to three books that had once been in the library of Charles Dickens at Gadshill and still bear his tail-waving lion bookplate. We are now able to announce our acquisition of another title from Dickens's library—the two volumes of Thomas Bewick's *History of British Birds*, Newcastle, 1804, with "figures engraved on wood by T. Bewick."