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fect Veitch copy was knocked down at £1000 and is now in the Alloway Cottage collection. The record was achieved on July 4, 1929 when a Kilmarnock Burns was sold by Sotheby and Co., for £2,450.

Manuscript Prices

The application of the same acid test to Burns manuscript is even more amazing, when we compare the modest prices of last century with the eloquent values of our own age. In 1861 many of the manuscripts of Burns which had been entrusted to Dr. Currie as editor of the first collected edition of the "Works" were auctioned by Puttick and Simpson. Twenty-five manuscripts (some unpublished) were sold at less than £1 each—one as low as 5/-. Twenty-nine holographs of songs and poems were sold at prices ranging from £1 to £2. James Toovey, a London bookseller, was the most extravagant buyer: he bought the manuscript of "The Jolly Beggars" for £3/12/-. "Scots Wha Hae" for £35, "The First Commonplace Book" for £36 and a thin volume of "Scotch Poems by Robert Burns," 59 pages, for £70. Before the close of the 19th century prices were greatly enhanced, and in the 20th century values went soaring up, owing to the determination and dominance of American buyers, to whom the "sky" seemed to be the limit. An incomplete letter which included a transcript of the famous "red red rose" song was sold in December 1927 for £2,000 and is now in an American collection. Another manuscript of the same song realised £1,700 in 1932. In 1929 a letter containing "The Kirk's Alarm" was sold for £1,800, and one to the poet's brother Gilbert fetched £630.

The present century has also been distinguished by a great increase of interest by scholarly Americans, who, after keen research, have made important contributions to Burns literature. So far as textual value is concerned De Lancy Ferguson's edition of "The Letters of Robert Burns" (2 vols. 1931) made scrap paper of all the old editions. Another American professor—Snyder—has written the first and most thoroughly documented "Life of Burns" yet published.

Bibliographies

The amazing ramifications of Burns

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literature are appalling to bibliographers. Unrecorded editions and unsuspected issues and variants make a comprehensive bibliography a matter of supreme importance. For several years the bibliographies in the Cambridge History of English Literature have been in process of revision under the general editorship of Mr F. W. Bateson for the purpose of assembling them in convenient separate volumes for the use of students, it is expected that these bibliographical volumes will be published this year. They include a new bibliography of Burns, but its formula of limitations in dealing with unedited editions will somewhat lessen its usefulness.

Visitors to the Glasgow Exhibition who are interested in Scotland's poet should see the special "Burns Room" in the great Mitchell Library, and also, when in Edinburgh, the great Burns collection of the National Library, which includes Clarinda's copy of the 1793 Edinburgh edition, with corrections in the handwritings of Burns.

A BUSY DAY

On Saturday afternoon, July 2 we had a most busy day at our library. Opening the doors at 2.30 we found that an unusual number of our subscribers had chosen that afternoon to get a book for the week end. That would have been quite all right, had it not been for the fact that two of the staff were at the last moment unable to come, and this proved, as the time went on, that we had just a little more than we get through with the accustomed promptitude. The returned books could not be replaced on the shelves and thus gathered in considerable numbers. However about 4.15 we issued the last book and here we had a very pleasant experience. Two ladies, subscribers, seeing the difficulty, very generously offered their assistance to put the books away. Needless to say the offer was promptly accepted. We gladly take this opportunity to very sincerely thank these ladies for their kind assistance and to express our appreciation of their thoughtful action.

We may point out that on checking up we found that we had issued no less than 431 books—an average of 48 books per minute during the usual period, which constitutes a record for Saturday afternoon. Thank you, ladies!

More than 600 volumes of the 19th century fiction representative of the heyday of romanticism have been purchased by the Princetown Union Library from what was once the Imperial Library at Tsar-Skoe-Selo, Russia.