

could be accomplished in so short a time, and to admire Mr. McGregor's familiarity with the contents of his treasured volumes and the kindness and sureness of his judgments.

Mr. McGregor was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1935, after a friendly correspondence which was continuously encouraging to the officers of this library. His grant of \$5000 to the Society to provide for the compilation of a Cotton Mather Bibliography, under the able supervision of Thomas J. Holmes, came to us only shortly before his death. It was unfortunate that he could not have lived to enjoy the completion of this important undertaking.

C. S. B.

#### GEORGE ARTHUR PLIMPTON

George Arthur Plimpton, publisher and collector of educational literature, died at his native town of Walpole, Mass., July 1, 1936. He was born July 13, 1855, the son of Calvin Gay and Priscilla Guild (Lewis) Plimpton, both his father and grandfather having been iron manufacturers. He attended Phillips Exeter Academy and then went to Amherst College, from which he was graduated with the degree of A.B. in 1876. He spent one year at the Harvard Law School, but left it to enter the publishing business with the firm then known as Ginn & Heath. He soon became a partner in the firm which, after the withdrawal of Mr. Heath, became the well known firm of Ginn & Company. He was active in the affairs of the firm until the time of his death. He married in 1892 Frances Taylor Pearsons of Holyoke who died in 1900, and in 1917 he married Fanny Hastings of Bermuda, who with two sons and a daughter survive him.

Although prominent as a publisher, Mr. Plimpton

was internationally known as a collector of educational literature, from medieval manuscripts to the most modern of textbooks. Probably no collection in the world, certainly none in private hands, surpassed his in extent or value. The manuscripts alone constituted a noteworthy showing, from the ninth to the sixteenth centuries. The description of his arithmetical manuscripts filled over sixty pages in the second volume of the scholarly "Rara Arithmetica," and he wrote a monograph on "The Education of Chaucer" with all the illustrations of the literature of the fourteenth century taken from manuscripts in his own library. The printed books from the incunabula of the fifteenth century through the following centuries were even more impressive. Practically every author of a work even remotely connected with education was represented by rare and numerous editions. It was no wonder that he could write his "Education of Shakespeare" and illustrate it entirely from the primers, catechisms, arithmetics, grammars, classics and dictionaries of his own library. His collection of horn books was one of the largest in the world, numbering twenty-seven specimens, acquired during the space of many years from English and American book dealers. His collection of early American school and text books, although not as large as that owned by this Society, or perhaps by Harvard, included many rare eighteenth century titles. One of the notable features of Mr. Plimpton's library was his collection of the contemporaneous portraits of early English authors from Chaucer to the writers of the late eighteenth century. These lined his walls above the bookcases in his Park Avenue home and constituted a showing of early literary portraits which was unsurpassed by any of the English galleries.

Mr. Plimpton was generous with his treasures. In memory of his first wife, an able Italian scholar, he gave to Wellesley College a fine collection of the works of Italian authors in first and early editions. To

Amherst College he presented a collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century plays and operas, and also at various times a rare gathering of material relating to Lord Jeffery Amherst and the French and Indian Wars, interestingly housed by the college in the Lord Jeffery Inn.

Throughout his life he was intensely loyal to Amherst College. In 1890 he was elected alumni trustee, and in 1900 he was made trustee for life, serving since 1907 as President of the Board. He lived through the terms of six successive presidents and profoundly influenced the College's prestige and prosperity. As treasurer of Barnard College, he helped more than anyone to establish it on a secure financial foundation. For a quarter of a century he was trustee of Phillips Exeter Academy, to which he gave the playing fields. His literary career was more devoted to collecting than to expounding in print the results of his researches. Not until late life did he appear in print with his two highly valued volumes on "The Education of Shakespeare," 1933, and "The Education of Chaucer," 1935. He was in constant demand, however, as a lecturer on early books and spoke before many learned societies in England and in America.

His attainments were recognized by educational institutions. He received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Rochester in 1912, from the University of Richmond in 1913, from Amherst College in 1931, and from St. Lawrence University in 1934; and the degree of L.H.D. from New York University in 1923, and from Columbia University in 1929. He was a member of many scholarly clubs and societies. To the American Antiquarian Society he was elected in 1914, and immediately he began to show his interest in its activities. In 1916 he read a paper on "The Hornbook and its Use in America" and in 1929 contributed to its Proceedings a valuable manuscript, "The Journal of an African Slaver, 1789-1792." He was constantly making gifts to the Society, both of funds and books. It was

through his generosity that we secured our single example of an early Hornbook, one of the most needed additions to our collection of educational literature. He was a kind friend, a loyal supporter and a modest gentleman.

C. S. B.

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