

Other Acquisitions and Updates

The acquisition of John Quinn's Japan vellum set of *The Bibelot* has been written about in an accompanying essay. Likewise, the essay entitled "*The Story of Amis & Amile* Hand-illuminated by Marie Hoke" also appears at the same time as this catch-all miscellaneous essay. Rather than trying to append the following remarks of these additional items to some other essay, I have elected to just give a brief recounting of this newly added material.

BOOKS FROM MOSHER'S LIBRARY

The Book of Common Prayer:

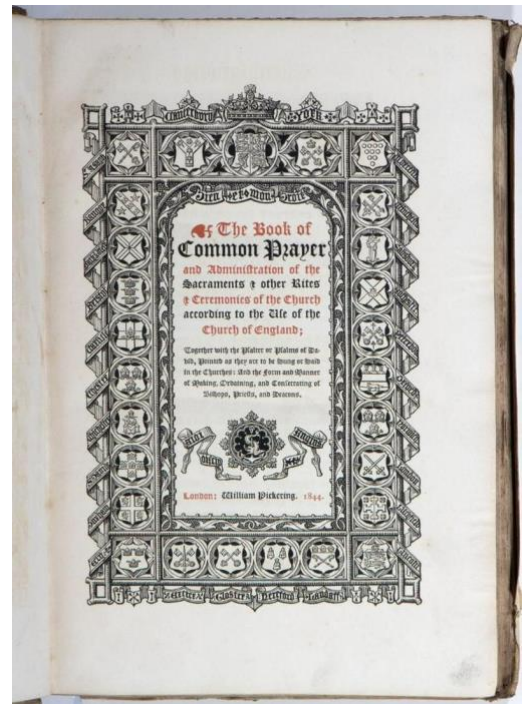
Mosher had actually toyed with the idea of creating a Breviary Series, in fact he published several books that might have been subsumed under such a series name if it was ever carried out. It never was, but there were books he published that would have belonged to it: *The Sayings of the Lord Jesus Christ* (1905); *Circum Praecordia—The Collects of the Holy Catholic Church as set forth by The Church of England in Her Common Prayer for Every Sunday of the Year* (Mosher, 1906); *Ecclesiastes or the Preacher* (1907); and *The Sermon on the Mount* (1913). Of course it's the *Circum Praecordia* that more closely involves *The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments & Other Rites* (London: William Pickering, 1844) which has been recently acquired for the Mosher Collection. The record of his library shows he had these volumes:

Book of Common Prayer. Facsimiles of the 1549, 1552, 1559, 1604, 1637 and 1662 Books of Common Prayer, and a copy of the 1844 edition. London: William Pickering, 1844. Folios, uniformly bound in vellum.

The 1844 edition actually culminated the set, itself being for use in early Victorian Church of England services. It's printed in gothic letter throughout with lovely initial letters, ample margins, and on thick paper—a monument to the English Prayer Book used in Victorian devotions. It's also printed by one of Mosher's favorite printers, Charles Whittingham for William Pickering. Time has not been kind to this particular copy from Mosher's library, but its inclusion in the collection simply could not be avoided and so it was acquired from Turner Auctions in South San Francisco.

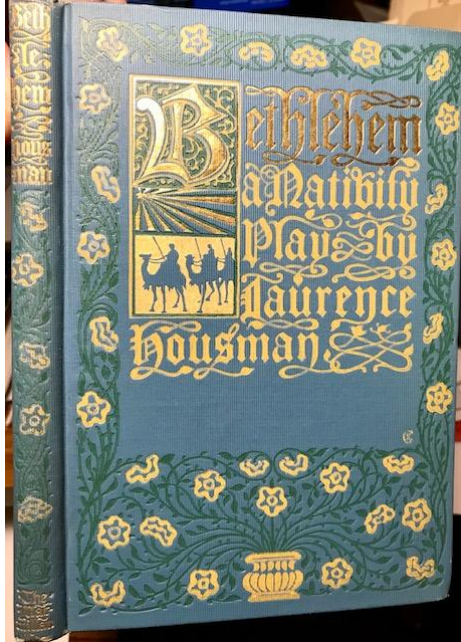
Stars of the Desert:

Also recently received for the Mosher Collection is a first edition copy of Laurence Hope's *Stars of the Desert*. London: William Heinemann; New York: John Lane, 1903, carrying the back inner board booksellers stamp of Books Inc. of 336 Sutter St., San Francisco (established in 1946). Laurence Hope was the pseudonym of Adela Florence Cory Nicolson, aka Violet Nicolson, the British poet who lived and worked in India. At age 39 she committed suicide following her husband's death two months earlier.



George Meredith:

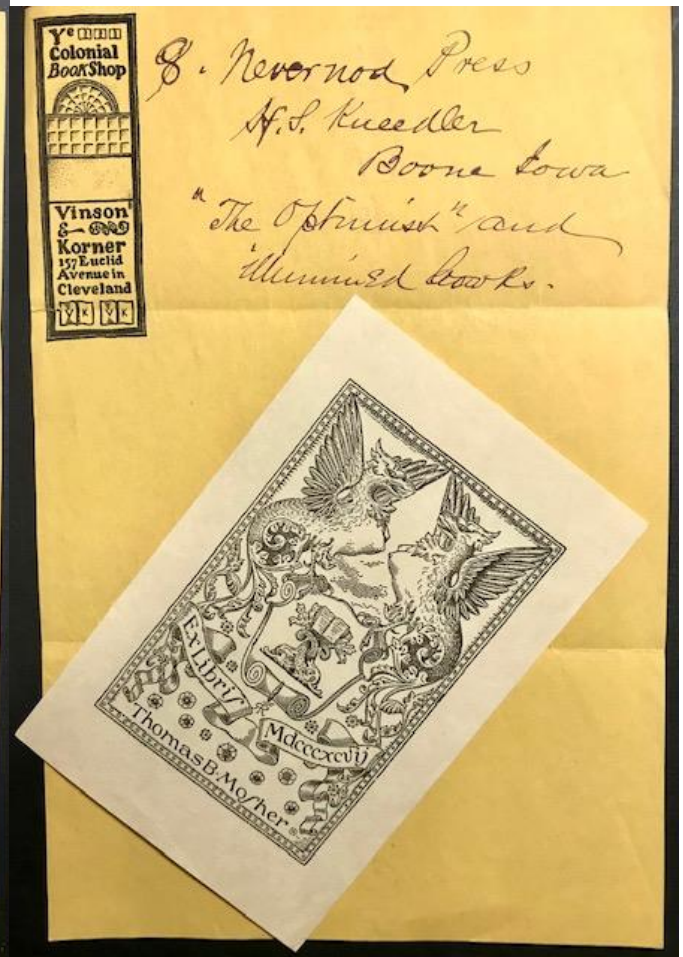
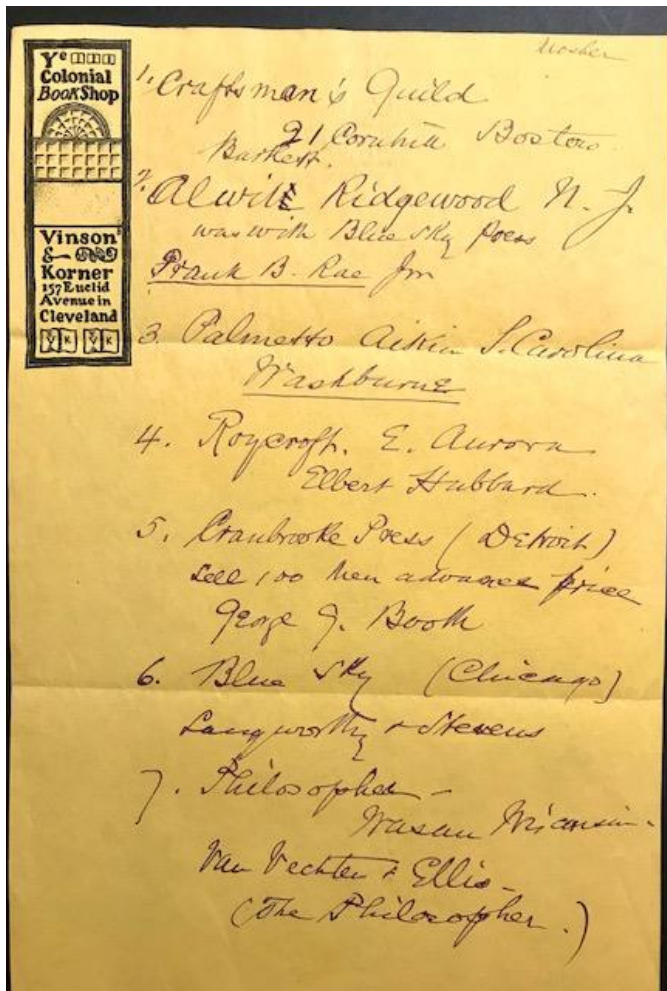
I had the opportunity to acquire the two volume set of the *Letters of George Meredith*. Collected and Edited by His Son [William M. Meredith]. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1912. Mosher had marked 26 pages signifying textual areas he wanted to point to for later recall. Of course, it was George Meredith's book, *Modern Love*, which became the first Mosher title to be published in 1891 for what would become a long succession of The Mosher Books which finally came to a close in 1923.



Laurence Housman: Recently received Mosher's copy of Laurence Housman's *BETHLEHEM--A NATIVITY PLAY*. New York and London, the Macmillan Company and Macmillan and Co., Ltd, 1902. Lovely designed binding by the "X within a C" designer. Mosher had nine L. Housman books in his library.

Ye Colonial Book Shop:

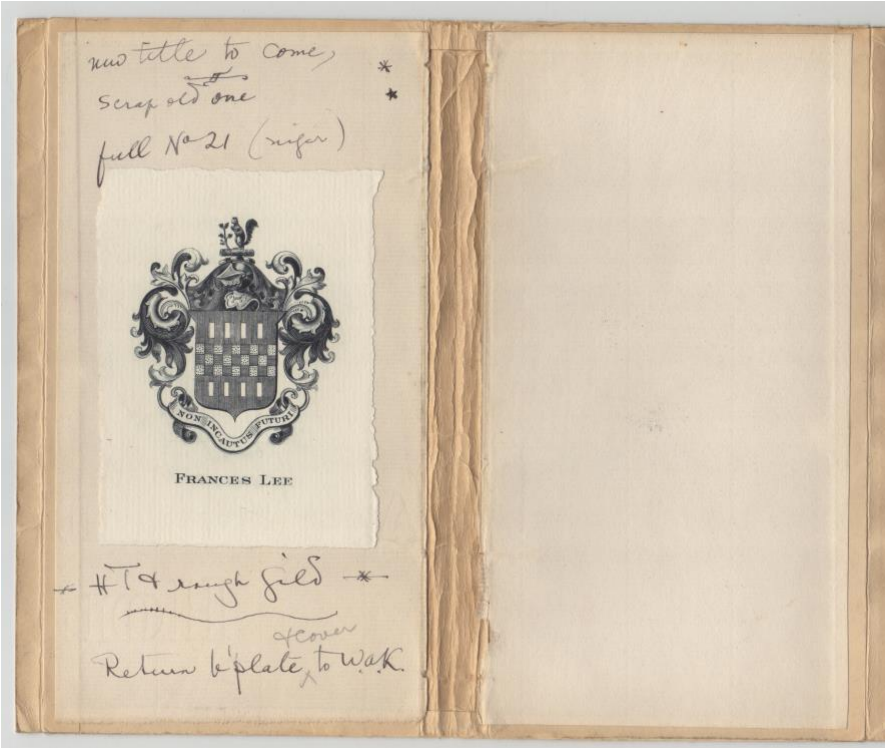
A delightful gift surprise came in the mail from long time friend, Carmen D. Valentino. He came across the material somewhere in New England. It came in a collection of old correspondence from 1880-1920. The letterhead is that of Ye Colonial Book Shop in Cleveland. It's an undated list of eight presses. Curious thing is that in the upper right hand corner is the hand-written mention of "Mosher." Why this list was compiled, and by whom (owner of Ye Colonial Book Shop?), is unknown. The list was accompanied by a wide-margined Japan vellum original Mosher bookplate. See below.



Rockwell Kent:

In the beginning of January 2022 I received notification that the RK Forum reposted my article on Rockwell Kent which appeared in the *Rockwell Kent Review*, Vol. XLVI, 2020-2021. Will Ross of the RK Forum also published the new acquisitions that were purchased for the Mosher Collection from their former owner, Scott Ferris, which accompany my article (for connection, see [here](#) and the addendum to the article [here](#)). For those not connecting to the RK Forum, these are the materials which have now merged with the special binding Kent had put on a Mosher copy of *The Story of Tristan & Iseult*. Scott

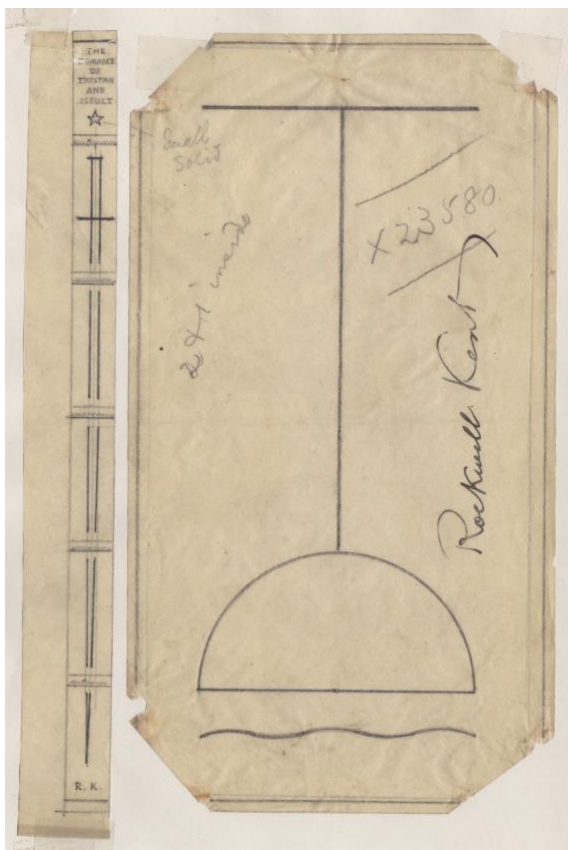
Ferris was pleased to have the original designs for the binding, and the stripped cover of the Mosher book, now accompany the binding itself already in my collection.



(side 2) Frances Kent's bookplate, and instructions



(side 1) Original Mosher front cover taken off Frances Kent's copy of Tristan now in the Bishop Collection.



← Rockwell Kent's original designs for the spine and front cover of the modified Mosher edition of the Tristan book, now in the Bishop Collection. Handwriting on the designs, and on the inside cover above (side 2), is that of William Kittredge, then Director of Design and Typography for the Lakeside Press under R. R. Donnelley & Sons.

Gifts to the Grolier Club:

Five Mosher related items were gifted to support the recent Daniel Press exhibition, “The Daniel Press-Pioneer of the English Private Press Movement,” and to keep in their library after the exhibition closes. To see the exhibition on-line, go [here](#). All but the 1894 *Growth of Love* are shown in the section “Afterlife and Inspiration.”

- *Fancy's Following* by Anodos (Mary Elizabeth Coleridge). Portland, ME: Mosher, 1900. Nice Japan vellum copy.
- A lovely copy of *The Garland of Rachael*. Mosher, 1902.
- A very clean and fresh copy of Robert Bridges' *The Growth of Love*. Mosher, 1894.
- A nice copy of the *Odes, Sonnets & Lyrics of John Keats*. Mosher, 1922.
- A keepsake for the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco. “*C.H. O. Daniel vs. Thomas Bird Mosher: A Letter from F. Madan to R. W. Rogers*. [Piedmont CA?] Nova Press, [1983].

I also received a copy of the exhibition catalogue prepared by Meghan Constantinou, Grolier Club librarian, which is now part of the Mosher Collection in its books on, by, about, or mentioning Thomas Bird Mosher and the Mosher Books.

Philip R. Bishop
February 2, 2022