

## Books from Mosher's Library

I know... oh boredom beyond belief. "Bishop's got more books from Mosher's personal library. What can they be now?" as the reader yawns and rubs his eyes before taking in the initial catalogued list below. Well, OK... it might be true that not all of Mosher's books in the Bishop Collection merit discussion, but the first five will eventually give way to a couple more exciting books inscribed by their author to ol' Moshwig. Now added to the collection are these first five which were grouped together and offered in early May as a lot by a long-time New England gentleman collector who remembered that I have interest in Mosher's library: Dick Lowenstein of Westport, Connecticut. Thanks to Dick, I have these five which are apparently not of much consequence, i.e., Mosher didn't mark them for later use or reminder, use them for any article in *The Bibelot*, nor in any of his fourteen book series. As such I didn't pay all that much for them, in fact if they would have been offered at a higher price I simply just would have walked on without giving them another thought, but since the deal was fair, and they all carry the Mosher bookplate, they're now in the Collection:

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Bain, Francis William, trans. *Digit of the Moon: A Hindoo Love Story*. Translated from the Original MS by F. W. Bain. Second edition. London: James Parker and Co., 1901.

Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. Being a Facsimile Reproduction of the First Edition. NY: Baker & Taylor Co., n.d. [1885].

Guyon, Madame [Jeanne Marie Bouvier de La Motte Guyon]. *The Song of Songs of Solomon*. With Explanations and Reflections having Reference to the Interior Life. Translated from the French by James W. Metcalf, M.D. Brunswick (Maine): J. Griffin, 1865.

Herbert, George. *The Temple: Sacred Poems and Private Ejaculations*. Being a Facsimile Reprint of the First Edition. NY: Baker and Taylor Co., n.d. [1885].

Holmes, Oliver Wendell. *The Autocrat of the Breakfast Table*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1890. Vol. 1 only.

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I agree. Nothing much to engage one, but they all carry the Mosher bookplate and who knows, maybe something will turn up to reconsider the importance of any one of them to some scholar or researcher. The next two, however, are in a bit of a different and better league. Both are books by Richard Le Gallienne, and both inscribed to Mosher:

*ATTITUDES AND AVOWALS, WITH SOME RETROSPECTIVE REVIEWS*. London and New York: The Bodley Head and John Lane Company, 1910. Inscribed by Richard Le Gallienne: "To Thomas B. Mosher – to whose creative appreciation of the lovely things of literature the world of exquisite books owes so much – from his friend Richard Le Gallienne. Christmas, 1910" and on the back endpaper is written "Mr. Churton Collins hated our Richard..." Along with this book comes a letter in Le Gallienne's hand, on his Green's Farms, Connecticut stationary, to Mosher in which he gratefully acknowledges the publisher for sending copies of *The Bibelot* which reached him on his birthday, and indicates that they "...are a lovely monument to your literary instincts and bookish taste; and rich with sweets from every Muse's hive." Le Gallienne also recommends the Theodore Watts-Dunton essay "The Truth about Rossetti" for possible publication in *The Bibelot*. He notes the essay appeared in *The*

*Nineteenth Century* for March 1883 and “still awaits republication.” How well Le Gallienne knew Mosher. The inscribed book itself must have been of interest to Mosher if only for the essays “Four Notes on George Meredith: Modern Love, the 1851 poems, George Meredith’s poetry, and George Meredith: In Memoriam” as well as for the sections on Maurice Hewlett, and Stephen Phillips, all being authors on Mosher’s list of accomplished publications.

--with the second being--

*THE LONELY DANCER AND OTHER POEMS*. With a Frontispiece Portrait by Irma Le Gallienne, London, New York and Toronto: The Bodley Head, John Lane Company, and Bell & Cockburn, 1914. Inscribed by Richard Le Gallienne “*To Thomas B. Mosher – from his friend Richard Le Gallienne, December, 1913.*”

These two books with their recognition of Mosher as a friend, and the further notes of praise, especially in the letter, were certainly leading up to something more than just pleasant signs of friendship. Just one month after his December 1913 inscription Richard Le Gallienne would publically praise his friend’s accomplishments in the article “Thomas Bird Mosher—An Appreciation” printed in Mitchell Kennerley’s *The Forum* for January 1914 (pp. 124-29), and later that same year it would morph into a small book by the same title only now privately printed “for their friends” by T.B. Mosher and Richard Le Gallienne.

So it is. Some books of little consequence; others of merit. All now in the Collection which houses around 400 books from Mosher’s personal library, and welcome additions no matter what their status in the overall scheme of things.

Philip R. Bishop  
July 9, 1913

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