

PACIFIC NORTHWEST AMERICANA

The Passing of a Great Book Collector

The death of Henry E. Huntington on May 23, removed from the book world its greatest collector. His famous library, securely housed and adequately endowed, had already been given in perpetuity to the nation. A few hours after his death came the announcement that Mr. Huntington had left a trust fund of \$8,000,000. to be used exclusively for research in American and English history. This beneficent gift makes a fitting climax to an unusual and dramatic career. The Huntington library will become increasingly a great laboratory for the increase of knowledge in special fields.

Western students have reason to be thankful that this research library is located on the Pacific Coast. It is unusually strong in English literature and history. It contains the finest collection of Shakespeariana in the world and authorities on both sides of the Atlantic agree that in the great rarities of English literature published prior to 1500, it ranks first not even excepting the British Museum. While not its most distinctive field, the Huntington library is known to contain rich holdings of Western Americana.

The Auction Season of 1926-1927

Two striking features of the auction season now closing have been the large offerings in autographs and first editions and the sensational prices brought by each of these classes of collecteana. The sale of Western Americana has been somewhat overshadowed. A considerable amount of good material, however, has come upon the market and the prices have in many cases matched those of two or three years ago. The two most important sales from the standpoint of Pacific Northwest Americana were the Holmes sale of January 26 and 27 conducted by the American Art Association, and the Braislin sale of March and April under the auspices of the Anderson Galleries.

The Holmes Sale

The material sold by the American Art Association on January 26 and 27 related largely to California and the West and