

Auction Records on Western Americana

The appearance of Volume 26 of the *American Book-prices Current* affords a new means of judging market values of books relating to the Pacific Northwest. During the period covered by this catalogue, namely, September, 1919 to July, 1920, more than 80,000 lots each bringing five dollars or over, were sold. Some 14,000 of these are listed in the present volume of the series.

An examination of the volume bears out the following comment by the editor: "The most significant feature of the season of 1919-20 appears to be the widening of the field of Americana. While there is no lessening of interest in the standard New England and Colonial material, there has arisen a growing interest in books and manuscripts dealing with the history and topography of the entire Western section of our country. Travels, surveys, maps, memoirs and personal narratives, all found so large and generous a circle of buyers, as to suggest the further cultivation of a field not only of fascinating interest, but of great historical importance. Moreover, it would appear that the recent yield is but the outcropping of a vein rich beyond all present imaginings."

No greater incentive to the acquisition and preservation of local history can be found than is afforded by a knowledge of the rapidly enhancing value of this material. The following sample items drawn from the volume indicate the prices paid for a few titles of local interest. For economy of space, short titles only are given with references to the *Checklist of Pacific Northwest Americana* where fuller description can be found:

Denny, <i>Pioneer Days on Puget Sound</i> . Checklist 940	-----	\$21.50
Dimsdale, <i>Vigilantes of Montana</i> . Checklist 969	-----	80.00
Franchere, <i>Relation d'un voyage</i> . Checklist 1295	-----	85.00
Frizzell, <i>Across the Plains</i> . Checklist 1340	-----	11.00
Gray, <i>History of Oregon</i> . Checklist 1480	-----	16.00
Hewitt, <i>Across the Plains</i> . Checklist 1665	-----	42.50
Johnson, <i>Route Across the Rocky Mountains</i> . Checklist 1966	-----	770.00
Kelley, <i>Geographical Sketch</i> . Checklist 2008	-----	125.00
Ledyard, <i>Captain Cook's Last Voyage</i> . Checklist 2143	-----	60.00
Mercer, <i>Washington Territory</i> . Checklist 2458	-----	25.00

While some of the above prices appear extreme, there can be no doubt that others are due for future advances. The wise and fortunate librarian will protect his present and future needs at the earliest opportunity.