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# The Amenities of Book-Collecting and Kindred Affections

*A. Edward Newton*

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## THE AMENITIES OF BOOK-COLLECTING AND KINDRED AFFECTIONS

**A. EDWARD NEWTON**

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rest?The Amenities Of Book-Collecting And Kindred Affections?, by A. Edward Newton is a classic in its genre as well as a book that will be enjoyed by anyone who is interested in the collecting of books, and some of the most noted collectors. Some may question the wisdom of reading about this man's experiences, as they were collected in this book in 1918. A variety of books have been published in recent years that claim to offer a guide to the collecting of books or the experiences of novice collectors. Building a library of books is not something that is easily done or learned. And a person with a fortune at their disposal acting without guidance will only amass a collection that had it been guided by a trusted advisor would be exponentially more valuable and complete. The curator of the rare book department of a noted college who also was a participant in the latest book by Nicholas Basbanes, 'Patience And Fortitude?', introduced me to this book and two others. Mr. Basbanes is the author of, 'A Gentle Madness?', and will be publishing a third volume to his work that is already considered a modern classic by collectors and book lovers. While the prices and auction results that are listed in this book are very out of date, they still make for great reading, and in some cases may bring to memory a book on a grandparents shelf that today would buy a car or home. If nothing else these old prices show just how much value continues to be placed on collectable books. Mr. Newton lived during the same time that some of those authors whose work he collected were alive and writing. He was a collector of manuscripts, which meant that the author's original drafts of their work were often available. At one point in the book he laments the appearance of the typewriter and the effect it will have on replacing the hand written original. Had he foreseen the computer it probably would have caused him physical distress. Another area he was an avid collector of is so-called association copies. Like manuscripts these have the rarity that comes with being a one of a kind item. Throughout the book he shares many of the treasures he acquired like a book inscribed from Charles Dickens the father to his son. For people who love late 19th Century Authors, this man not only collected their work, but often knew the writers and their friends. In other instances his collection of Boswell and Johnson's work may not have come directly from the author to him, but he still was able to collect correspondence and other written material that is now difficult to find outside of museums. This particular book is also wonderful for it has photographic illustrations as well as black and white and color plates as well. If you love books, find as old a copy of this work as you can, and you will have added a treasure to your shelves. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Wisdom from the Master By Pete Lister A delightful read from one of the pre-eminent collectors of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the "Mark Twain" of books-on-books. An entertaining book, easily the equal of any of the books on collecting that have proliferated in this century. Newton's recollections of trips abroad to collect, and his stories of acquisition in this country, make warm and comfortable reading for any collector, especially his stories of conversations and exchanges with the major collectors of his day that other such books only report about. This one heads my want list.

A MAN (or a woman) is the most interesting thing in the world; and next is a book, which enables one to get at the heart of the mystery; and although not many men can say why they are or what they are, any man who publishes a book can, if he is on good terms with his publisher, secure the use of a little space to tell how the book came to be what it is. Some years ago a very learned friend of mine published a book, and in the introduction warned the gentle reader to skip the first chapter, and, as I have always maintained, by inference suggested that the rest was easy reading, which was not the case. In point of fact, the book was not intended for the gentle reader at all: it was a book written by a scholar for the scholar. Now, I have worked on a different plan. My book is written for the tired business man (there are a goodly number of us), who flatters himself that he is fond of reading; and as it is my first book, I may be permitted to tell how it came to be published.