

HISTORY SECTION

BOOKS AND BOOKMAKING



How the First Books Were Made

THE PRINTED and bound volume which we know today as a "book" is the result of centuries of development. The earliest records of man were chiseled on stone, wood, or other durable materials. The Babylonians of ancient times impressed characters on soft clay tablets, or bricks, and then baked them hard.

The laws of Solon, the ancient Greek lawgiver, were carved on wooden tablets and set up in the ancient Greek city of Athens. The twelve tables of the ancient Roman law were similarly engraved on stone.

Thin plates of ivory, bronze, or lead were also used for records of public value. The plates were often hinged in a form resembling a modern book. For brief notes both Greeks and Romans used small wooden tablets covered with wax on which they wrote with a pointed

stylus.

When the early Egyptians learned how to make a crude paper from the stem of the papyrus reed, they found a writing material of far greater convenience than any known before, and its use spread gradually through the Mediterranean world. It was cheap, and its smooth, glossy surface made possible beautiful effects in lettering and ornamentation.

The common form of a book, when papyrus was used, was a roll of *volumen*, from which the English word *volume* comes. The papyrus was written on one side only, and was wound around a short stick much in the manner of the maps we use today. Sometimes the strip of paper was many feet long.

Many of these papyrus rolls have been found in the coffins of mummies in the tombs of Egypt. The dry air of that country, together with the cedar oil in which the papyrus was boiled, preserved them so well that the writing is still clear and distinct.

In reading such a roll, the reader held it in his right hand, and unwound it, as he read, with his left, at the same time rolling up the part which had been read.

The common practice in ancient book-



One of the First Books



The First English Printer and His Shop

making establishments was to dictate the work in preparation to a great number of slaves—called the *librarii*—and each slave made one copy. This kept the cost of making books low, and many book shops and public libraries existed in Rome in ancient times.

The inconvenience of these long rolls and the fact that papyrus was easily destroyed led to the substitution of vellum and parchment for the leaves of books. Both parchment and vellum were made from sheepskin. This was cut in rectangular sheets and bound together at one side with long leather strips or thongs. This brings us, about the 4th century after Christ, to the form of our modern book.

For a thousand years longer there were no books except those laboriously written by hand. All through the Middle Ages books were made only by the monks in the monasteries, writing in what was called the "scriptorium." In the illustration on page 424 a monk is shown

writing one of these books. We owe the possession of nearly all the Greek and Latin classics we have to the patient labors of such monks as you see in the illustration.

The lettering of these hand-made books was often very beautiful, and the beginning of each part and sometimes the first words of each page was written in bright ink of various colors. Sometimes the large initial letters contained pictures in the most brilliant colors.

Such manuscripts were said to be "illuminated," and the colors in some of these old books are as vivid today as they were when they were written.

When the volume was finished, it was enclosed between massive covers of wood, over which leather was sometimes stretched. The covers of important books were often studded and banded with gold and silver, and sometimes with precious stones. They were fastened with huge clasps. Most of the books of that time

(Please turn to page 436.)

NORBERTO TOOK CARE

(Continued from page 417)

that evening, he stood under them and looked up at their bright colors. They had never looked more beautiful. He took them down, and put them carefully into the box.

When Norberto's father came home the next day, he brought two new flags, an American flag and a Filipino flag. He gave them to Norberto.

"You may present these to your school, my son," said his father.

Norberto was very proud of the new flags, and he and the other boy scouts took good care of them.

"By taking good care of the school flags and hoisting and lowering them properly," said Norberto to the other scouts, "we are rendering a service to our country. My father said so."

I think what Norberto's father said is true. Don't you?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO

1. If you were to raise the flags at sunrise?
2. If you were to lower the flags at sunset?
3. If you saw the flags had been forgotten on the flag-poles at night?
4. If you saw the flags up during a rain?

BOOKMAKING

(Continued from page 425)

were copies of Greek and Latin classics, as well as Bibles and other church books written in Latin. On page 424 is shown a picture of one of these old "illuminated" books.

In the 11th century, paper made from linen rags began to find its way into Europe from the Orient. The use of such paper increased rapidly after the invention of printing, for it was cheap and could be used easily on the printing presses.

Before the invention of printing from movable types, small religious books were sometimes printed from solid blocks of wood. These blocks of wood were the size of the page, and consisted mostly of pictures, with perhaps a small amount of lettering engraved at the bottom.

The method of printing from movable types is called *typograph*. The first book printed from movable type is supposed to have been a Bible which appeared about 1453.

Early in the 16th century the books became smaller in size, thinner paper was used for the pages, and the wooden boards of the cover were replaced by pasteboard. Artist-printers de-

SAN CARLOS NEWS

(Continued from page 412)

We shall have a program on Thanksgiving Day.

We will all be thankful.

We all want to be good citizens.

We are going to do our very best each day.

We are always glad to have visitors.

Welcome, everyone!

After the pupils had read the first "issue" of *The San Carlos News*, Miss Mercader said, "I think that is a splendid beginning, boys and girls. We shall have our 'newspaper' each Tuesday and Friday morning."

That is the way *The San Carlos News* was started in the San Carlos Barrio School.

Every boy and girl in that room thinks it is a very good "newspaper."

Perhaps you can have a "newspaper" in your room if you will ask your teacher.

signed beautiful types and printed exquisite books, with elaborate coverings of vellum, silk, velvet, or other beautiful materials, such as ivory and precious stones.

The most famous artists of the day made the illustrations, using not only woodcuts, but copper engravings. The titles of those

(Please turn to page 439.)

FIRST THANKSGIVING

(Continued from page 434)

thanks. We will have a Thanksgiving feast and ask our Indian friends to be with us.

PILGRIM MOTHER: Yes, let all give thanks to God for His blessings.

GOVERNOR: With all my heart. Now we will return to our cabins and prepare a great Thanksgiving dinner to be enjoyed two days hence. *(Pilgrims leave, carrying corn and pumpkins.)*

CURTAIN

SCENE IV

Place: The Pilgrim village.

Time: Two days later than Scene III.

(Under a large tree near a log cabin a big table is spread. On it may be seen roast turkeys and all things needed for a very bountiful feast. As the curtain opens, the Pilgrim men are standing about talking with each other, a group of Pilgrim children are playing, and the Pilgrim women are arranging things on the table. The group of Indians and their Chief enter.)

GOVERNOR: Welcome, friends, welcome to our festive board. This is a feast of thanksgiving. Sit at our table, one and all, Indian brothers and our own people, and let us partake of the food which God has given us in abundance.

(The Indians and the Pilgrims sit on long benches at the table. As soon as all are seated, Indian Chief rises.)

INDIAN CHIEF: Chief White Man, white friends and brothers, we Indians very glad to eat with you like friends and brothers in great thanksgiving feast. We want friendship always.

GOVERNOR: So say we all. *(The Governor rises.)* Indian Chief, Indian brothers, and members of our own colony, we have set this day aside as a day in which to give thanks to God for the bountiful harvest He has given us. We are now about to partake of a Thanksgiving dinner. Kind Providence has given us of the bounty of Heaven, and to a gracious Heavenly Father we offer thanks. We are grateful to our Indian brothers for their friendship and help. Let us now bow our heads in a prayer of thanksgiving. *(All bow their heads.)*

(A small Pilgrim Girl steps forward and recites the following poem as a prayer of thanks.)

PILGRIM GIRL:
Dear Father in Heaven, we thank Thee
For a bountiful harvest this year;
Our Father in Heaven, we ask Thee

BOOKMAKING

(Continued from page 436)

books were usually very long, often covering an entire page.

Gradually there came to be a wide variety of sizes of books. The smallest of these were no larger than a postage stamp, and the largest were certain church books in Spain which were six feet high and four feet wide.

At about the beginning of the 19th century, printers began to make much better books. Better paper was used, and the old hand printing press gave place to the large cylinder press.

As the art of bookmaking has advanced, so has the demand for books, until now the production and selling of books is one of the world's great industries.

To continue Thy guidance and care.
We thank Thee for friendship and kindness,
For the beautiful land that we see;
God grant we may have peace and plenty
In the land of the brave and the free. Amen.
ALL PILGRIMS: Amen and amen!
(As the curtain closes SLOWLY, the Pilgrims and the Indians begin to partake of the Thanksgiving dinner.) CURTAIN