

NEWS OF HUNTINGTON LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

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As one publisher of Twainiana to another, the Huntington Library salutes Harper & Bros., whose LOVE LETTERS OF MARK TWAIN is published on Nov. 9th. Of course, the salute is something more than a tip of the hat, since Dixon Wecter, who edits the LOVE LETTERS, was also the editor of the Huntington Library's recent publication, MARK TWAIN TO MRS. FAIRBANKS. The letters to Mrs. Fairbanks, we believe (with a natural, if not downright pardonable, self-interest) should be required reading before opening the LOVE LETTERS, for it was with Mrs. Fairbanks that Mark Twain corresponded during the period of his courtship of Livy; it was Mrs. Fairbanks who provided the motherly interest and concern at this important turn in Mark Twain's life. In fact, from the time of their meeting as fellow-passengers aboard the 'Quaker City' in June, 1867 until the death of Mrs. Fairbanks in 1896, Twain considered no project properly launched, no major move really under way until he had written to "Dear Mother." Of her he could write, "She was a beautiful spirit, & her approval & her love were an enrichment to any who were privileged to win them, & I am grateful to know that I was one who for a generation held an unchallenged place in her favor. I was never what she thought me, but I was glad to seem to her to be it. She was always good to me, & I always loved her."

With the publication of LINCOLN AND THE BALTIMORE PLOT, the Huntington

Library entered another field of wide interest. Lincoln set out from

Springfield on February 11th, 1861 for Washington to be inaugurated President.

From this point on, until he arrived unannounced in Washington at 6 A.M. on the 23rd, the plot, as the thriller school of writing would put it, thickened; there were detectives, shady characters, counter-plots and all the conventional turns usually to be found only in the fertile imagination of the 'bloody fiction' writer, plus some unconventional turns to be found only in reality. Was there actually a plot to assassinate Lincoln as he passed through Baltimore? Was he wise, or was he a 'coward,' as so many of his political opponents said, to have left Philadelphia in partial disguise and to have passed through Baltimore secretly? The Pinkerton record is here for the first time and the Lincoln students may draw their own conclusions.

Another especially interesting publication, particularly to those who have followed the growth of the Library in one of its special phases, the gardens, is William Hertrich's THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1905-1949. Mr. Hertrich is Curator Emeritus of the Gardens. The book has been given an attractive format and is lavishly illustrated with photographs of the grounds and gardens. A limited edition of 1000 copies has been printed.

THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY QUARTERLY, A Journal for the History and Interpretation of English and American Civilization, enters its thirteenth year with the November, 1949 issue.

MARK TWAIN TO MRS. FAIRBANKS, edited by Dixon Wecter	386 p.	\$ 5.00
LINCOLN AND THE BALTIMORE PLOT, edited by Norma B. Cuthbert	161 p.	\$ 3.00
THE HUNTINGTON BOTANICAL GARDENS, 1905-1949, by Wm. Hertrich	164 p.	\$ 5.00
THE HUNTINGTON LIBRARY QUARTERLY. Yearly subscription,	\$5.00; single copies,	\$1.50