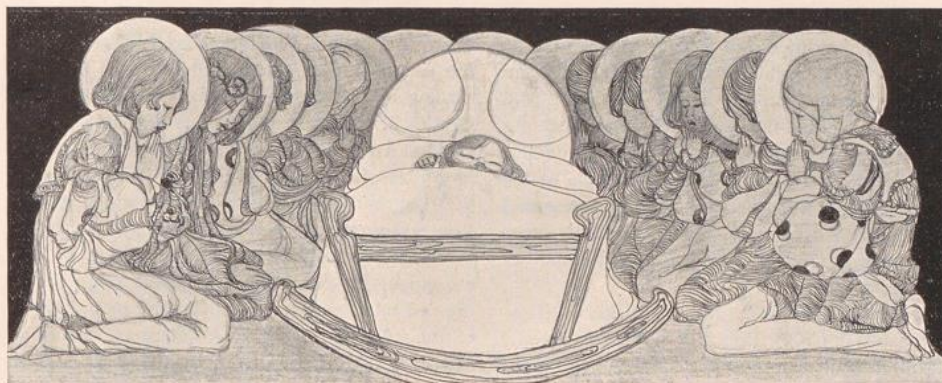




Reviews.

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"LITTLE ST. BRIDE OF THE MANTLE"

(See *Liverpool Studio-Talk*)

BY GERTRUDE A. WILLIAMS

REVIEWS.

Annancy Stories. By PAMELA COLMAN SMITH. (New York: R. H. Russell.)

Widdicombe Fair. With pictures by PAMELA COLMAN SMITH. (New York and London: Harper and Brothers.)—Miss Pamela Colman Smith is a young lady artist and author from Jamaica who has recently settled in the United States. As an illustrator she possesses some remarkable qualities of boldness and individuality, and—if she is able to preserve these qualities—while maturing and perfecting the more technical side of her work, she will probably achieve no little eminence as a book illustrator and decorator.

Her productions are seen at their best in the coloured stencil-pictures illustrating the poem *Widdicombe Fair*. These are quite astonishing in their ingenuousness and in their force of delineation; while, as examples of coloured hand-stencil work, they are altogether unique. Although her methods are in no sense an imitation of the technique and mannerism of the Japanese, yet the result in the case of these coloured pictures—prints we cannot justly term them—is quite as decoratively satisfactory as are the best Japanese colour-prints, and consider-

ably more so than many of the European imitations of Far Eastern work. Miss Smith has a rare sense of humour, and she is also possessed of the most important qualifications that go to make the successful caricaturist. Perception and knowledge of form are at present lacking in her work, rather than power of expression. But her failings are only such as experience and time can easily remedy, and we shall look forward with confidence to the satisfactory development of her unquestionable talents.

Die Buecher der Chronika der drei Schwestern. Illustriert von H. LEFTER und J. URBAN. (Berlin: J. A. Stargardt.)—The important drawings which accompany this remarkable fairy romance, and



DESIGN FOR A CATALOGUE COVER

(See *Liverpool Studio-Talk*)

BY OLIVE ALLEN

the manner in which the entire work has been arranged and printed, are strong evidence of the enormous progress which has been made in recent years by Germany in the art of illustration and book-making. Both the black-and-white and colour work with which the pages are so adequately decorated, are of a very high order, some of the black-and-white work being especially strong and admirable. We cordially recommend this interesting and attractive book to the attention of our readers.

Yankee Girls Abroad. By J. M. FLAGG. (London: Sands & Co.) Price 16s.—A dozen smartly drawn illustrations of the "poster" class reproduced in colour. Although the type of face and figure of several of the studies recall to us the Dana Gibson model, and although there is generally a lack of distinction and personality in the method of treatment, the drawings are not devoid of merit. There is a welcome diversity in the schemes of colour employed in the series.

Artistes et Amateurs. Par GEORGES LAFENESTRE, Membre de l'Institut. (Paris: Société d'Édition Artistique, Rue Louis le Grand.) Price 6 fr.—It is a long time since we have read such a thoughtful book on art as this admirable collection of twelve essays and lectures by M. Georges Lafenestre. The choice of subject is varied and felicitous, and the author shows throughout the volume a wide and genial knowledge and discernment that it would be difficult to rate at too high a level. The essay on *Titian and the Princes of his Time*, the lecture on *Van Dyck in France*, and the criticism of *Rembrandt van Ryn*, will probably appeal first to most lovers of old art; but M. Lafenestre is at his best, we think, when he becomes patriotic, as in the historic account he gives of *L'Esprit Français dans les Beaux-Arts*. It is always pleasant to meet with a critic who recognises that the cosmopolitanism of the appeal made by true genius is not weakened but strengthened by the preservation of racial characteristics. This truth is brought home to us by all the most national forms of art, from the ancient Egyptian to the modern Japanese. M. Lafenestre draws attention to those gifts of the spirit which ought to be permanent in the art of Frenchmen; and in another essay, dealing with *The Foreign Painters at the Exhibition of 1889*, he is equally sympathetic and just towards the ascendant qualities of other nations.

Homeric Similes. Designs by EDGAR BARCLAY. (London: George Bell & Sons.) £2 net.—The similes contained in the Iliad are oftentimes of

considerable poetic beauty, and are always sufficiently notable to form excellent subject for the use of the painter and illustrator. Thus, according to the author, in Book II., line 110, the Greeks hasten from their ships and huts to the General Assembly, when it is proposed they should return to their native land, and are likened to bees swarming from a hollow rock and migrating to a flowery vale. Again, in line 175, the speech of Agamemnon being ended, there is a sudden movement in the assembled hosts, which are of divided mind whether to remain and reap the fruit of their toil or to set sail. They are described as waves of the sea driven by the wind, and as waving corn bent by the wind. Twenty-six of such similes are illustrated by photogravure reproductions of Mr. Barclay's drawings, all of which are attractive, and some of especial beauty. The Introduction, Catalogue of Similes, Greek text and translations are in every respect adequate, and we cordially endorse the hope of the author, expressed in his Preface, that "the Book may be considered appropriate as a prize for boys in the upper forms of classical schools."

Hampstead Etchings. By W. MONK, R.E. (London: 86 Fellowes Road, N.W.) Price £5 5s.—The seven etchings contained in a portfolio and entitled as above consist of views of *The Firs—Spaniards, Jack Straw's Castle, Cottages at North End, London—from Hampstead, The Leg-of-Mutton Pond, The Spaniards' Inn, and The Ride—Hampstead Heath*. This charming collection of plates, limited to one hundred complete copies, deserves to become popular among the many lovers of old Hampstead, not only on account of the subjects selected, but also for the reason of the technical and artistic value of the impressions. It is somewhat to be regretted that the artist should have selected the especially excellent plate of *The Firs—Spaniards*, for use as a sort of title-page, and by the addition of lettering detracted from its suitability for framing purposes. With this exception, however, we have no comments to make that are not favourable. It would make a most welcome gift-book.

We have received from Casper's Kunst-Verlag, Berlin, a portfolio of sketches by G. KLIMT which, whether regarded as examples of artistic work or of clever reproduction, are alike remarkable and satisfactory. The beautiful female heads so gracefully delineated by the artist would form, when suitably framed, most attractive prints for wall decoration.