

**FRENCH BOOK-PLATES:
A HANDBOOK FOR EX-
LIBRIS COLLECTORS**

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French Book-Plates: A Handbook for Ex-Libris Collectors by Walter Hamilton

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WALTER HAMILTON

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A HANDBOOK FOR EX-
LIBRIS COLLECTORS**

French Book-Plates.

*• This Edition consists of
464 ordinary copies Imperial 16mo, and
36 numbered copies on Japanese Vellum, Demy 8vo.



French Book-Plates

A handbook for Ex-Libris
Collectors, by Walter
Hamilton, Hon. Treas.
of the Ex-Libris Society



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AVANT-PROPOS.

AN attempt has been made in the following pages to supply the collector with as much general information on the subject of French Ex-Libris (or, as we more usually style them, Book-plates) as is accessible. The principal authorities on the topic have, naturally, written in the French language: the works of Poulet-Malassis, Henri Bouchot, and Octave Uzanne have not hitherto been translated into English, and they are not now easily obtainable in the original.

Heraldic descriptions, and technical details, have been avoided as far as possible. The enthusiastic collector of French book-plates, who wishes to study the heraldry of that country, will find mention herein of several valuable books of reference on that fascinating science.

The reproductions have been selected specially to illustrate the various periods and styles referred to, as conveying information more readily and pleasantly than lengthy verbal descriptions, which often weary, and seldom instruct. Moreover, in the narrow compass of a little volume such as this even the most powerful hydraulic ram would fail to compress all that might, could, would, or should be said on such a topic.

I am greatly indebted to the Rev. Thomas W. Carson, of Dublin, for the loan of a number of very scarce plates; one, that of Charles Monselet, has been lent me by my brother Odd Volume, Mr. James Roberts Brown, several by Mr. H. S. Ashbee and Mr. H. W. Fincham, and six or seven by Mr. W. H. K. Wright, editor of the "Journal of the Ex-Libris Society."

The remainder are selected from my own collection, and have not hitherto been reproduced.

WALTER HAMILTON.

"ELLARBEE," CLAPHAM COMMON,
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October, 1892.

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