

INDIANA BOOKPLATES

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Indiana Bookplates by Esther Griffin White

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ESTHER GRIFFIN WHITE

**INDIANA
BOOKPLATES**

MEREDITH
NICHOLSON



DESIGNED BY FRANKLIN BOOTH

INDIANA
BOOKPLATES

ESTHER GRIFFIN WHITE



NICHOLSON PRESS
RICHMOND, INDIANA
1910

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ESTHER GRIFIN WHITE

IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHERS

RAYMOND PERRY WHITE

ROBERT FISHER WHITE

INTRODUCTION.

THIS volume is merely an attempt to bring together, under one cover, information concerning Indiana bookplates and their makers, with some discursive commentary on various phases of the art life of the state, and biographical data of a necessarily limited character, the whole, if it should have any interest, to be of more or less value as a book of reference to the general Indiana public and an *ex libris* record to the collector.

It is in no wise to be regarded in the light of an essay at a critique.

Its minor purpose is to memorialize in print certain unusual personalities—among them my brother, Raymond Perry White—some the possessors of genius, others of brilliant talents, who had not, and have not, achieved that fame which might, or should, have been theirs. For those of whom Amiel says—

“The golden book contains but a section of the true geniuses; it names those only who have taken glory by storm.”

Neither does it pretend to be entirely inclusive, for doubtless there are many bookplates owned in the state, and designers native to Indiana, or resident therein, who have been omitted, but this is on account of lack of knowledge. In but one instance has the known existence of a bookplate been purposely ignored.

Explanatory comment, also, of what may appear entirely obvious, is naturally attendant upon a chronicle of this character, since it will be looked over by *ex libris* collectors abroad who are not, necessarily, informed with any degree

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of exactness, upon differing phases of life in this country and as to personalities of national importance and familiarity.

Since the completion of the text, the writer has learned that President Taft has a plate designed by Spenceley, an American designer of international reputation whose death occurred a short time ago, this plate being a presentation and only recently counted among the possessions of the President.

The writer begs also to state to any who may have previously looked over articles in certain American art journals, written by her on this same subject, that the phraseology in the latter has, in one or two instances, been reproduced in the present volume.

The writer's gratitude is due all those who have so kindly, courteously and generously responded to the many and necessary inquiries, but especially to Mr. Meredith Nicholson; Mrs. Newton Booth Tarkington; Mr. W. M. Hepburn, librarian of Purdue University; Miss Susan Ball, of Terre Haute; Mr. Demarchus C. Brown, State Librarian; Mr. Chalmers Hadley, ex-Secretary of the Indiana Library Commission; and Miss Florence Fox, of Richmond.

ESTHER GRIFFIN WHITE.