

**ANNUAL OF THE  
SOCIETY OF  
ILLUSTRATORS**

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Annual of the Society of Illustrators by Royal Cortissoz

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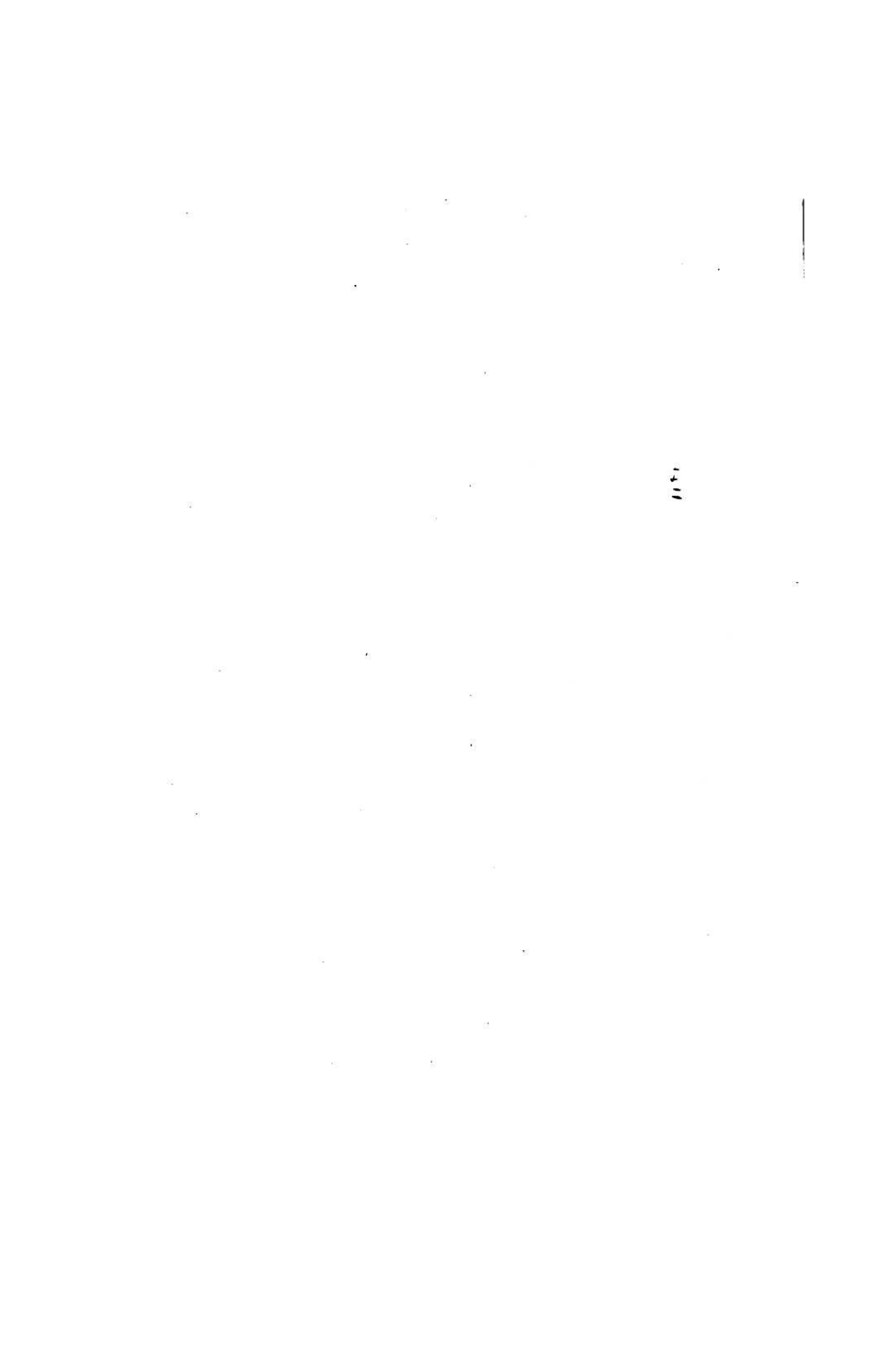
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**ROYAL CORTISSOZ**

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WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY  
ROYAL CORTISSOZ



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## INTRODUCTION

THE Society of Illustrators was organized in New York in 1901. Since that time its membership has steadily increased, making it a representative body in whose work we may study a very characteristic development of American art. Hitherto familiarity with that work has rested, as of course it must always largely rest, upon acquaintance with current books and periodicals; but now it is proposed that the Society shall have, in addition, a more personal means of affirming its principles. It appropriately marks the tenth year of its existence by publishing a book for which it is itself responsible. The present volume is the first in a series of "Annuals" which it is intended to issue henceforth. It is the aim of the Committee on Publication yearly to present in this way a collection fully expressive of the individualities concerned in its preparation. Each member has the privilege of sending in one drawing of his own choice—preferably unpublished—and no limitation of any sort is imposed, save, naturally, as to the mode of reproduction. Such a series should possess, I think, a distinct historical value, preserving from year to year the salient traits of our school of illustration, and exhibiting its progress. Its carries on, too, a clearly recognizable sequence. One of the most interesting things about the art for which this book stands is the fact that American illustration has a past, possessing landmarks if not traditions. It is pleasant and not unprofitable to glance at some of these. One instance in particular I have in mind of what was done long ago toward the formation of an American school of black-and-white.

It is the more suggestive because it dates from a tragic period, during which most people were watching for news from the battlefield rather than from the studio. In 1863 there was published in New York an "Artist's Edition" of Washington Irving's "Sketch Book." It had been prepared with extraordinary care for the proper presentation of text and picture, thus touched upon in a prefatory note: