

**CLASS LIST OF BEST
BOOKS AND ANNUAL OF
BIBLIOGRAPHY 1907-1908**

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Class List of Best Books and Annual of Bibliography 1907-1908 by Various

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PREFACE.

IN preparing this, the third annual issue of "The Best Books," the system of working instituted last year has been followed. All entries of books appearing in the "Bookseller," "Times Literary Supplement," and "Publisher's Weekly," have been sent to the contributors concerned, and the number of contributors has been increased. As in last year's list many annotations have been borrowed, with or without modification, from the two last-mentioned sources.

Considerations of space have compelled selection on somewhat drastic lines, though the success of last year's issue has rendered it possible to include some foreign works and a limited amount of annotation. As before, the selection of legal books has been made from a non-professional standpoint; and, throughout, no foreign imprint has been inserted where it was possible to give the name of a publisher or agent in this country.

Further specialist assistance having been rendered, some subjects have been more fully treated than was the case last year. Military books have been considered more from a general information point of view than a professional one, while in medicine it has been thought advisable to include some new editions of standard works, the subject having been treated non-professionally in previous lists. No musical texts have been entered, in view of the forthcoming new edition of Mr. J. Duff Brown's "Guide to the Formation of a Music Library." The Juvenile List has been revived, and every effort made that every important class of literature should receive adequate consideration.

The publication date of this list being fixed as that of the Annual Meeting of the Library Association, it was found necessary to close the list with the end of June, the latest date which would allow time for co-ordination and revision of copy. Proof-reading was thus deferred until the holiday season, a most inconvenient period, and it is hoped that the success of this issue will justify publication at more frequent intervals, and thus give further advantage to the users of the list and cause less strain on those engaged in its preparation.

The classification adopted is again that of the Institut International de Bibliographie, with some modifications in the classes of Philosophy, Literature and History, where the original Dewey classification has been followed wholly or in part. For the selection of this classification as the one to be used, and for its application to any particular work, the General Editor is alone responsible. Though contributors

have been specially charged with the subjects prefixed to their names, it must not be assumed that they are therefore responsible for the entire list of works appearing under their respective subject-sections; while many of the works selected by them may appear elsewhere in the classification. For these transfers, as also for the elimination of entries, the General Editor is again responsible. On the other hand, the merit of every work included has been vouched for by some contributor, who is also responsible for the bibliographical accuracy of the descriptive entry.

Sincere thanks are due to all contributors and other workers who have assisted in the production of this volume. The receipts from last year's list just covered the cost of production. As the receipts from the sale of the work increase, it will be possible to extend the scope of the publication and to increase its efficiency. That this position should have been attained within three years is a gratifying testimony to the interest taken by British Librarians in bibliography, and a source of encouragement to those who have so kindly given their services.

Thanks are due to Mr. Robert Annis, who has again undertaken the proof-reading, to Mr. A. C. Williams, the compiler of the index, and other of my colleagues, Messrs. A. G. Chapman, J. C. Heenan, and A. W. Waters, who have assisted throughout the year in circulating bibliographical notes and reviews.

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