

# **BOOKS AND BOOKMEN**

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Books and bookmen by Andrew Lang

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**ANDREW LANG**

**BOOKS  
AND BOOKMEN**

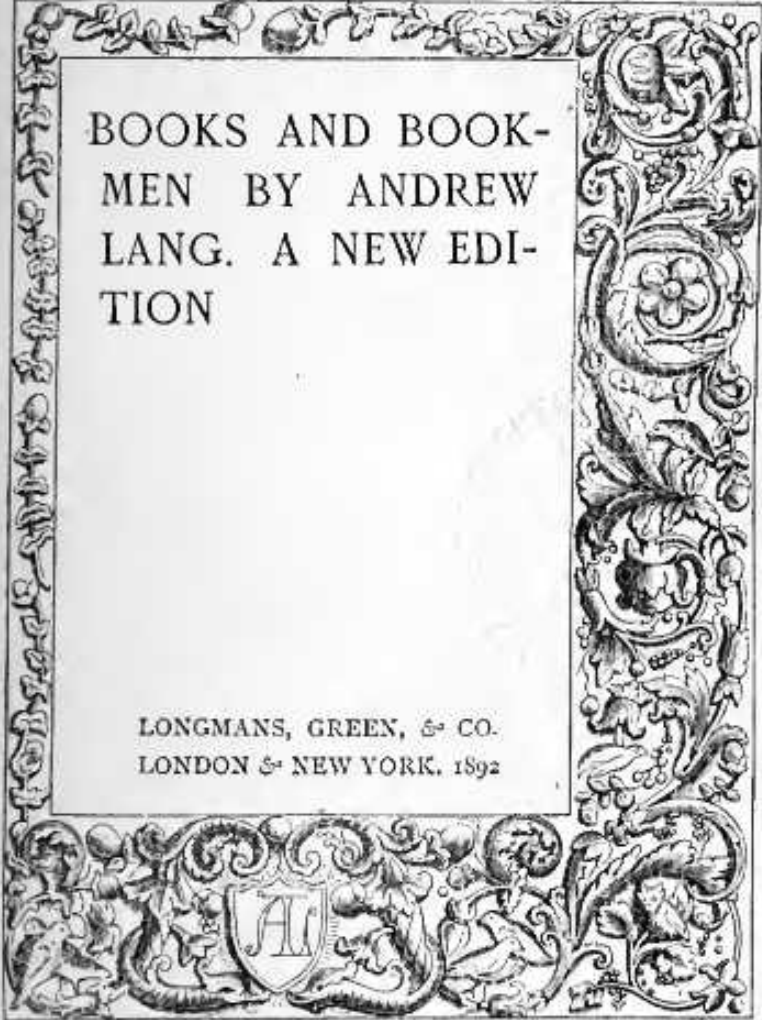


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BOOKS AND BOOKMEN



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MEN BY ANDREW  
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TO  
THE VISCOUNTESS WOLSELEY

MADAME, it is no modish thing,  
The bookman's tribute that I bring;  
A talk of antiquaries grey,  
Dust unto dust this many a day,  
Gossip of texts and bindings old,  
Of faded type, and tarnish'd gold !

*Can ladies care for this to-do  
With Payne, Derome, and Padeloup ?  
Can they resign the rout, the ball,  
For lonely joys of shelf and stall ?*

The critic thus, serenely wise ;  
But you can read with other eyes,  
Whose books and bindings treasured are  
'Midst mingled spoils of peace and war ;  
Shields from the fights the Mahdi lost,  
And trinkets from the Golden Coast,  
And many a thing divinely done  
By Chippendale and Sheraton,



And trophies of Egyptian deeds,  
And fans, and plates, and Aggrey beads,  
Pomander boxes, assegais,  
And sword-hilts worn in Marlbro's days.

In this abode of old and new,  
Of war and peace, my essays, too,  
For long in serials tempest-tost,  
Are landed now, and are not lost :  
Nay, on your shelf secure they lie,  
As in the amber sleeps the fly.  
'Tis true, they are not "rich nor rare ;"  
Enough, for me, that they are—there !

A. L.

## PREFACE

THE Essays in this volume have, for the most part, already appeared in an American edition (Combes, New York, 1886). The Essays on "Old French Title-Pages" and "Lady Book-Lovers" take the place of "Book Binding" and "Bookmen at Rome;" "Elzevirs" and "Some Japanese Bogie-Books" are reprinted, with permission of Messrs. Cassell, from the *Magazine of Art*; "Literary Forgeries" from the *Contemporary Review*; "Lady Book-Lovers" from the *Fortnightly Review*; "A Bookman's Purgatory" and two of the pieces of verse from *Longman's Magazine*—with the courteous permission of the various editors. All the chapters have been revised, and I have to thank Mr. H. Tedder for his kind care in reading the proof sheets.

The Author learns, on the best authority, that the modern flat-backed bindings, referred to on p. 175, line 7, are well supplied with *nerfs*, though these do not show, and are perfectly permanent. The artistic and traditional objection to flat, still more to hollow backs, is another question.

As the reference on p. 155 is intended to show, "A Bookman's Purgatory" is adapted from a little volume, now rather rare, "L'Enfer d'un Bibliophile," by the late M. Charles Asselincau.