

**THE LOVE OF
BOOKS
AND READING**

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The Love of Books and Reading by Oscar Kuhns

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OSCAR KUHNS

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BY

OSCAR KUHN

Author of

"THE GERMAN AND SWISS SETTLEMENTS OF COLONIAL PENNSYLVANIA:

A STUDY OF THE SO-CALLED PENNSYLVANIA DUTCH,"

"THE SENSE OF THE INFINITE," ETC.



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TO THE MEMORY OF
MY BROTHERS
GEORGE WASHINGTON KUHNS
AND
WALTER BROWN KUHNS

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THE LOVE OF BOOKS AND READING

CHAPTER I

THE ART OF READING, PAST AND PRESENT

THE habit of reading is so universal to-day, it seems so natural and necessary a part of our intellectual life, that it is hard to realize that there was a time when it was unknown. Of course, the art of reading could not exist before the invention of written language, an invention which seemed so marvellous in the eyes of primitive man that it is no wonder that the Greeks apotheosized Cadmus, that Egyptian hieroglyphics were held sacred, and that the Gothic runes were used in prophecy and religion.¹ There was

¹Lord Bacon has a magnificent eulogy on the invention of letters in his *Advancement of Learning*: "So that if