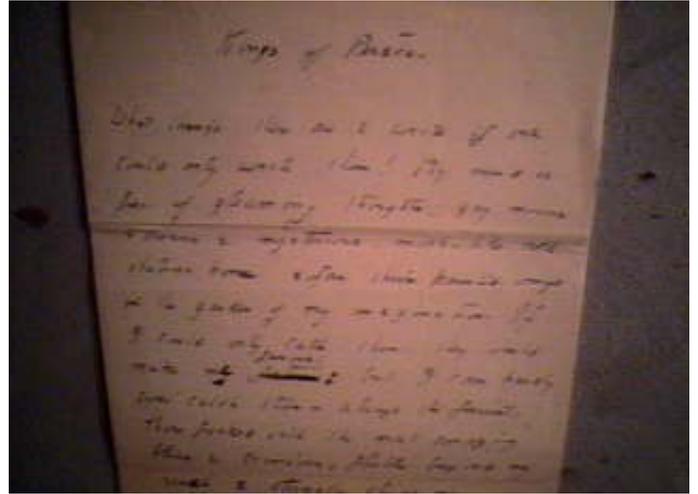


MY ALS AND MANUSCRIPT ROOM

Smith, Logan Pearsall. KING OF PERSIA

Acquired from University Archives of Westport Ct. along with an ALS from Christopher Morley. Smith's Kings of Persia was advertised as an unsigned manuscript that Smith sent to Morley. University Archives obtained these items from a publisher. Morley sent the Mms. of LPS to the publisher on July 25,1947. Below is the Mms.



KINGS OF PERSIA

What things there are to write if one could only write them! My mind is full of gleaming thoughts; gay moods and dreams and mysterious, moth-like meditations hover and fan their painted wings in the garden of my imagination. If I could only catch them, they would make me famous; but I can hardly ever catch them - always the fairest, those freaked with the most amazng blues and crimsons, flutter beyond my reach and eternally elude me.

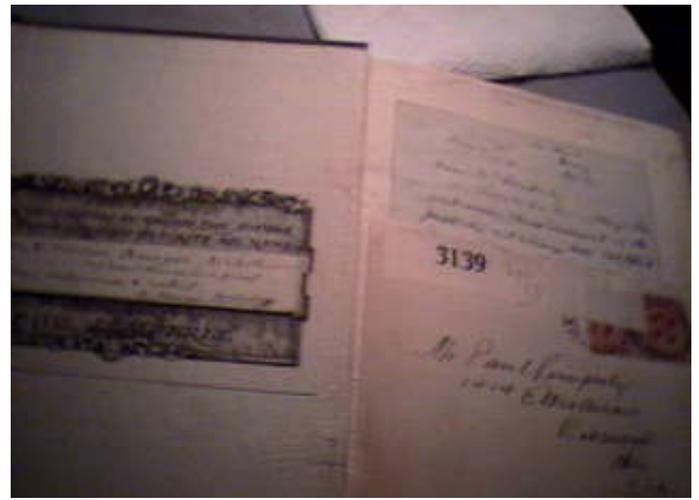
The childish and ever-baffled chase of these airy nothings sometimes seems, for one of sober years in a sad world, rather a trifling occupation; yet have I not read of the great Kings of Persia, who used to ride out and hunt butterflies with hawks, nor deemed this pretty pastime beneath their royal dignity?

ALS From War Poet Robert Nichols to Book Collector Paul Lemperly

This is Paul Lemperly's copy of *Ardours and Endurances* by Robert Nichols, the English war poet, Chatto & Windus, London, 1917, along with an ALS from the author.

Paul Lemperly was an American book collector who was the secretary and librarian of the Rowfant Club of Cleveland (1892) and the vice-president of the Duodecimos (1893), a club of twelve collectors in the United States.

This book has Paul Lemperly's author bookplate, which was engraved by E.D. French in 1900.



The envelope containing the ALS is taped to the front free endpaper. On the reverse side of the envelope is stamped, " OPENED BY CENSOR". I will make a photo album at Photopoint later on; just wanted to share this ALS with you for now.

Lemperly, who was also a publisher, had reviewed Nichols' work and given him some criticism.

This is Nichols' reply:

??May 12th, 1918 ? ? ? ? ? ? ? ? The Hut,

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?Berks.

Dear Mr. Lemperly,

Thanks for the cutting! The criticism I have received in the past has not always been helpful though generous enough. Whoever W.S.B of Boston Transcript is, he has read my work with understanding! I rejoice at it. You people over the other side have real enthusiasm. I have already received some few letters from you, & though a few were 'duds' there has generally been a far closer idea of what I am getting at than over this side. I stretch my hands to the New World, Dear New World & so many eager hearts in it! At my present time when 'the waters are going over my head' I am almost submerged in many struggles & much grief it is a stay to me to feel that thousands of miles away there are those who really understand & who struggle with me. Do you know the work of Charle Sorley? Get it: 'Marlboro & Other Poems' - he was a great man though he was killed at the age of 21. My friend Siegfred Sassoon you ought to read too & my friend Bobby Graves 'Fairies & Fusiliers'! I have been invalided but I am trying to get back into the army. NOW is the time to strike a last blow for Christendom or go under forever! Yours

Sincerely, Robert Nichols

.....

W.S.B. of the Boston Transcript is the African-American poet, columnist, and anthologist,

William Stanley Braithewaite. Charle Sorley is Charles Hamilton Sorley.

Bobby Graves is Robert Graves.

Robert Nichols (1893-1944), because of his war wounds, never did get back into the army. From 1921 to 1924 he was the Professor of English at the Imperial University, Tokyo. He later worked on films in Hollywood with Douglas Fairbanks Sr., before returning to England. Besides Ardours and Endurances, he wrote Invocations (1915), Fisbo (1934) Such Was My Singing (1942) and the play, Guilty Souls (1921).

The only word in the letter that I have doubts about is the word, "stay" in the sentence, "...it is a stay to me to feel that thousands....." It begins with 's' and ends in 'y' with two letters in between. If the second letter is a 't', it is only the second 't' that Nichols did not coss.

Jerry

P.S. I have way too many different collections now, but "war poets" does sound interesting, if not timely.

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