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occasional help of friends, he translated, typed and indexed this French book in twelve months. This was blood to the tiger, so to speak. Since then Mr. Reed has translated into English, typed and bound into volumes, the whole of Dumas's known signed plays, 72 of them, including five which have never been printed, and in addition several volumes of other matter relating to the master. He has done all his typing himself, and fine work it is. I have seen it in the pleasant brick library he built for himself at his home in Whangarei.

Bear in mind that this was all done—this and collecting from all over the world—in the leisure of a busy man. For years Mr. Reed's hours were from eight in the morning till eight in the evening, and 10 p.m. on Saturdays. Besides, a chemist in a little country town has to be ready for emergency calls at any time. It takes a busy man to do an extra job. It is satisfactory to record that the industrious apprentice was rewarded in a worldly sense: he ultimately acquired the business. On the other side of the shop he was able to indulge his love of books. He tells me that at one time his shop was selling more copies of "Everyman's Library" than the leading shop in Auckland.

Honours from France

Fifteen years ago Mr. Reed arranged his information about Dumas into two typed volumes, and presented one set to the British Museum and the other to his friend, the French Consul in Auckland, who passed it on to the National Library of France. In 1933 the more important of these volumes, a bibliography of Dumas, was published. Mr. Reed had already been decorated by the French Government "Officier d'Academie" and in 1934 he was given the higher rank of "Officier de l'Instruction Publique"—"for services rendered to French literature." By that time Garnett had died, and had left Mr. Reed his own Dumas collection of over 600 volumes. The double collection is unique. It amounts to very nearly 3000 volumes, and includes about 1600 sheets of Dumas's manuscripts in his own handwriting, and what is probably the only attempt made to gather Dumas's scattered verse. The collection is to go to the Auckland Public Library.

The kindest and most approachable of men, Frank Reed is always willing to talk Dumas to anyone interested—to discuss all kind of points in the career of one of the most prolific of literary geniuses—his employment of "ghosts" or assistants, his methods of story construction and writing, the variety of his interests, his tremendous zest for life, the various versions of his romances. Mr. Reed has inspired enthusiasm in others. He tells how a young New Zealander, who through him became interested in Dumas, found and bought in a French town the manuscript of a play almost certainly by Dumas and perhaps a play that is known to be missing.

Frank Reed's enthusiasm and its results will influence many others as the years pass, and the Reed collection will be consulted and appreciated not only by New Zealanders, but by scholars from other countries.

Mr. Reed will be heard in an interview-talk on Dumas at IYA on the evening of Tuesday, March 14. On that date 100 years ago "The Three Musketeers" made its first appearance, and in the same year "The Count of Monte Cristo" also saw the light.

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