

A NOTE ON EMBLEM BOOKS

Bry, Crispin de Passe, Albrecht Durer, Hans Holbein, and Wencelaus Hollar. These names are all associated with the illustration of emblem books.

In England a few translations of the continental productions were published, but the native output was slight. Quarles, Wither and Whitney are the principal names we know, and the library has the 1639 text of the first, the 1635 edition of the second, and Henry Green's reprint (1866) of the last. Of Quarles there are other editions of the nineteenth century.

Two English editions of the eighteenth century with good copper plates are based on continental models. One is called *Emblems for the entertainment and improvement of youth*, published in London in 1750. The other is by Herman Hugo, who was a popular Belgian producer of emblem books; our example is a version of 1702, *Pia Desideria, or Divine addresses*, englished by one Edmund Arwaker, with 47 copperplates. Of other European specimens, the *Emblemata Sacra de Fide, Spe, Charitate*, 1636, by Hesius, with over 100 little woodcuts, and *Emblemata et aliquot nummi antiqui operis*, by Sambucus, 1610, both printed by the famous Plantin Press of Antwerp, are of interest, the latter, incidentally, for its depicting of an early game of tennis. A Dutch specimen dated 1635, by Luiken, *De bykorf des Gemoeds*, is the only text in that language, and carried 100 engravings.

A certain number of works impinge upon the emblem style, such as the *Dance of Death*, *Ars Moriendi*, *Biblia Pauperum* and Brant's *Ship of Fools*, editions of which are present. Achilles Bocchius's *Symbolicarum quæstionum de universo genere, libri quinque*, a handsome 1555 edition of which was acquired last year, may be included, as can the *Mirror of Majestie* 1618.

In fact the extent to which emblem making is to be linked with heraldry, flags and banners, the engraving and woodcut art, decorative art etc. is scarcely yet assessed. Their depicting of scenes, costumes and events of their age gives them a consequence in the history of culture.

Henry Green has been mentioned above for his studies