

W. A. Slade

1859

40 MURRAY ROAD
WIMBORNE
LONDON S.W. 19.

26.4.33

Dear worth,

Auction prices, now more than ever, depend on who is bidding. & I doubt if Eric Miller, or anyone of his calibre, would hazard estimates. Anyhow I can't possibly ask him out of personal friendship for me to give expert advice without a fee, forly that it is quite possible that the Museum may be a bidder. I hope that you may nevertheless escape the Sheriff. Our dealers seem to go on issuing catalogues despite the slump, & I suppose that they must find customers or they wouldn't do it. It is true indeed that anyone who has any money thinks now is a good time to buy. I have been listening this

afternoon to the Port. Academy annual
Shakespeare lecture, given this year by
our friend McKerron on the treatment
of Shakespeare's text by his 19th century editors.
— very good lecture, well delivered. I shall
be pleased to make the acquaintance of
Miss Marion E. Dodd if she cares to travel
out here to see me. I joined the First Edition
Club when it had a house in Bloomsbury
Square in order to save people the trouble
of coming to Wimbeldon, but the house proved
too expensive & the Club gave it up, so
I have no club but the Athenaeum wh.
doesn't admit women. I am getting
lazy & don't go to Town as many days
a week as I did. My correspondence
eats up most of my time. I gather
that the Grolier Club is feeling the
depression, as it has not yet started

Mrs Osborne's translation of Haebler's
incunable book for which I wrote a
preface ever so long ago. I am supposed
to be writing a book for the Club myself
& indeed have written about a quarter of
it, but am not encouraged to go on
with it by the probability that if I finish
it the Club may hold it up till I'm
dead.

We have had rather a dull
Bibliographical Society session and
think that each number of the Library is
heavier than its predecessor. I am in
hopes that the June number may be an
exception as instead of 4 large papers
there will be nine or ten shorter ones.
I am thinking of giving up business
as I find it v. difficult to get anything
done & I am tired of always being behind-
hand

Very yours sincerely
A. W. Ballard

P.T.O.

I wasn't drunk when I wrote this,
only sleepy. Good night.