



ENGLISH BOOKSELLERS IN THE WAR

“Many of your books have been parcelled up to the droning of enemy airplanes overhead; London just carries on, and if a bomb should be coming down, well, we just run under cover and hope for the best.” So wrote to us recently one of the oldest and best-known booksellers of London.

Although present conditions make it impossible to obtain books from most of the European countries, little delay has been experienced in receipt of shipments from England. An unusually large number of English publications are being purchased by the Library, for two reasons: present prices make it possible to buy to excellent advantage, and many of the booksellers in England have stressed the fact that orders from America are more important to them now than ever before, and constitute, in fact, an indirect aid to Britain. We quote further from the letter:

“We are indeed having a very hectic time here in Britain and especially in London. We have so far escaped any serious blows; we have had our shop windows shattered by the bomb that landed in the forecourt of the British Museum, but no damage to our stock. The spirit of the people is excellent, and more determined than ever to fight on until victory is achieved. We are all grateful for the help we are getting from your side, and we feel that in the near future we shall take an offensive that will surprise Hitler and his friends. We ourselves are much heartened by the orders we continue to get from our friends in America. This helps us to carry on.”