

HUCKLEBERRY FINN First English Edition	(1884)	Clemens
HUCKLEBERRY FINN First American Edition	(1885)	Clemens
McTEAGUE	(1899)	Norris
GONE TO EARTH	(1917)	Mary Webb
STEVENSON'S MAP OF TREASURE ISLAND FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD		Hardy's MS.

THE FIRDAUSI CELEBRATION

The University of Pennsylvania had a very large share in the commemoration of the one thousandth anniversary of the birth of Firdausi, national poet of Persia, which was held at the Free Library of Philadelphia Thursday evening, May 9. Firdausi lived from about 934 to 1021. In his honor a formal celebration was held at Teheran, the capital of modern Iran, in October 1934, and a great mausoleum, erected by popular subscription, was unveiled at Tus, the poet's birthplace, near Meshhed. Other commemorative meetings and expositions have been held in Leningrad, Berlin, Paris, London, Istanbul, and New York.

The lead in the local commemoration was taken by Dr. Roland G. Kent, professor of comparative philology in the University of Pennsylvania, and during the past academic year president of the American Oriental Society and of the Oriental Club of Philadelphia, jointly with his student, Dr. Muhammad A. Simsar, of Tabriz, Persia, who is majoring in oriental studies in the Graduate School of the University. Together they enlisted the cooperation of the Oriental Club of Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Library Club, and the Philadelphia Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, to hold a joint meeting on May 9; and the interest of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the University of Pennsylvania Library, and the University of Pennsylvania Museum, each of which held a special exhibition of materials pertaining to Firdausi and his time and country.

The meeting of May 9 was opened by Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, president of the Pennsylvania Library Club, who welcomed the guests and requested Professor Kent to present the speakers. The first address was made by Mr. Hussein Khan Nawab, First Secretary of the Persian Legation at

Washington, who on behalf of His Excellency Ghaffar Khan Djalal, the Minister of the Imperial Government of Iran, presented a message of appreciation. Professor Kent then gave an address on the life and work of Firdausi, in which he presented a picture of the poet's life and struggles. The next speaker was Dr. Simsar, who spoke upon the background of the Shah-Nama and the influence which it has had and still has on the Iranian people. Dr. Jotham Johnson, of the University Museum, followed with an account of finds at Rayy made by the University Museum expedition to Persia, illustrating it with a selection of vases and similar objects of the time of Firdausi. After announcement of the three exhibitions, Dr. Simsar spoke on the manuscripts of the Shah-Nama, and the miniatures showing scenes from it, in the John Frederick Lewis collection presented to the Free Library by Mrs. Lewis. Dr. Rosenbach closed the meeting, and the nearly two hundred persons who were present devoted themselves to a nearer examination of Dr. Johnson's vases and the inspection of the manuscripts and miniatures which filled the exhibition cases in the main entrance hall of the Library.

The exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania Library, though smaller, was of great interest. It included manuscripts and printed works on Firdausi; the official poster calling for subscriptions for the mausoleum at Tus; views of the mausoleum and of the recent bust of him made by a distinguished Persian artist; and some miniatures by Dr. Simsar himself, which he lent to the Library for this exhibit. The most interesting and valuable item in the University's exhibit was a manuscript of the year 1474, written and illuminated by the famous calligrapher Kasim Ali Shirazi.

The exhibition at the University of Pennsylvania Museum included potteries, glass, sculptures, and other works coming from Persia, notably those of the tenth and eleventh centuries of the Christian era, when Firdausi lived, and a cross-section of the entire collection of Persian objects in the possession of the Museum, from the earliest times to the present day.