

\$322,500 IS PAID TO SAVE "LUTTRELL PSALTER"
AND
"BEDFORD HOURS" FOR THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

London, July 29, 1929.

The Luttrell Psalter, one of the most finely illuminated manuscripts in English, was withdrawn from the Sotheby's auction block this afternoon with the announcement that it had been privately bought for the British Museum, where it has rested for thirty years. The price paid, \$157,500, was lent, interest free, to the British Museum, it is thought, by the Messrs. Quaritch, who "felt it was only right that the Psalter should remain in England."

Had it been placed on the auction block it would probably have brought \$250,000.

With its withdrawal, interest centered on the "Bedford Book of Hours" which went to Messrs. Quaritch, for \$165,000. This almost equally as famous an English manuscript will also be held for the British Museum by the purchasers, as soon as the price paid today can be raised. No interest will be charged, as the Messrs. Quaritch are anxious that this volume also remain in England.

The chief American bidder was Gabriel Wells of New York, who stayed to \$140,000, during excited bidding from all parts of the room. It started at \$25,000.

The Luttrell Psalter was the property of Mrs. Alfred Noyes, wife of the poet who inherited it from her grandfather, Sir Frederick Weldin, to whose family both the Luttrell and Bedford had belonged since the seventeenth century.

The Luttrell Psalter is one of the most lavishly decorated manuscripts existing. It is famous for the marginal drawings illustrating the life and customs of medieval England, and was executed in 1340 for Sir Geoffrey Luttrell of Lenham, Lincolnshire.

The book contains 309 leaves and is illuminated in colors and gold. It is understood that a public appeal for a fund will be made by the British Museum, which has a year in which to pay.

NOTE: Quotation from London newspaper of above date.