

*Bound for the 1890s: Essays on Writing and Publishing in Honor of James G. Nelson* edited by Jonathan Allison. High Wycombe, Bucks: Rivendale P, 2006. ii, 203pp. + 11 b/w illus. ISBN 1-904201-07-5. \$55.00; £30.00.

*Bound for the 1890s* brings together a number of important and fascinating essays commemorating the career of James G. Nelson. Nelson's groundbreaking scholarship on 1890s publishing makes him a pioneer in the now-burgeoning field of book history. His trilogy, *The Early Nineties: A View from the Bodley Head* (1971), *Elkin Mathews: Publisher to Yeats, Joyce, Pound* (1989), and *Publisher to the Decadents: Leonard Smithers in the Careers of Beardsley, Wilde, Dowson* (2000), remains an indispensable resource for literary scholars, bibliographers, and collectors working in the period. Indeed, the synergy between collecting and scholarship, a defining feature of Nelson's career, is explored in several of the essays compiled in *Bound for the 1890s*. Many of these pieces, some by scholars personally acquainted with Nelson, some not, offer a fitting tribute to this scholar-collector by registering the impact of his criticism on their respective encounters with the late-Victorian literary world, and by following what might be termed "Nelsonian" principles in their emphasis on the crucial roles played by publishers and editors in the rich and ever-surprising literary climate that obtained in Britain in the 1890s. The scholars represented in this volume provide new insights into themes explored by Nelson: the complex relationships between authors and publishers; the revival of fine printing and its impact on the book market; and the increasingly important correlation between the content of literary texts and the physical books that enclosed them. Appropriately enough, *Bound for the 1890s* is a handsomely designed book, with striking yellow endpapers, red-cloth binding, and gilt-stamped spine, credit for which goes to scholar-collector and book designer Mark Samuels Lasner, one of the volume's contributors and himself an authority on 1890s book history. This collection both celebrates and practises bibliographical precision, and a compendious checklist of the publications of James G. Nelson follows its eight essays.

The topics addressed and approaches taken in these essays are diverse, from archival work on reminiscences of *The Yellow Book* editor Henry Harland, to bibliographical research on 1890s poets Richard Le Gallienne and William Watson, to an assessment of the formative impact of Japanese art on the career of art-nouveau illustrator Aubrey Beardsley. *Bound for the 1890s* pays tribute not only to James G. Nelson but also to two figures without whom any discussion of 1890s literary culture would be incomplete: Oscar Wilde and John Lane, Wilde's sometime publisher. Fittingly, Wilde and Lane implicitly organize these essays, and two contributions in particular, Nicholas Frankel's "The Typewritten Self: Media Technology and Identity in Wilde's *De Profundis*" and Steven Halliwell's "Copyright and Pamphlet Printings: William