

# BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

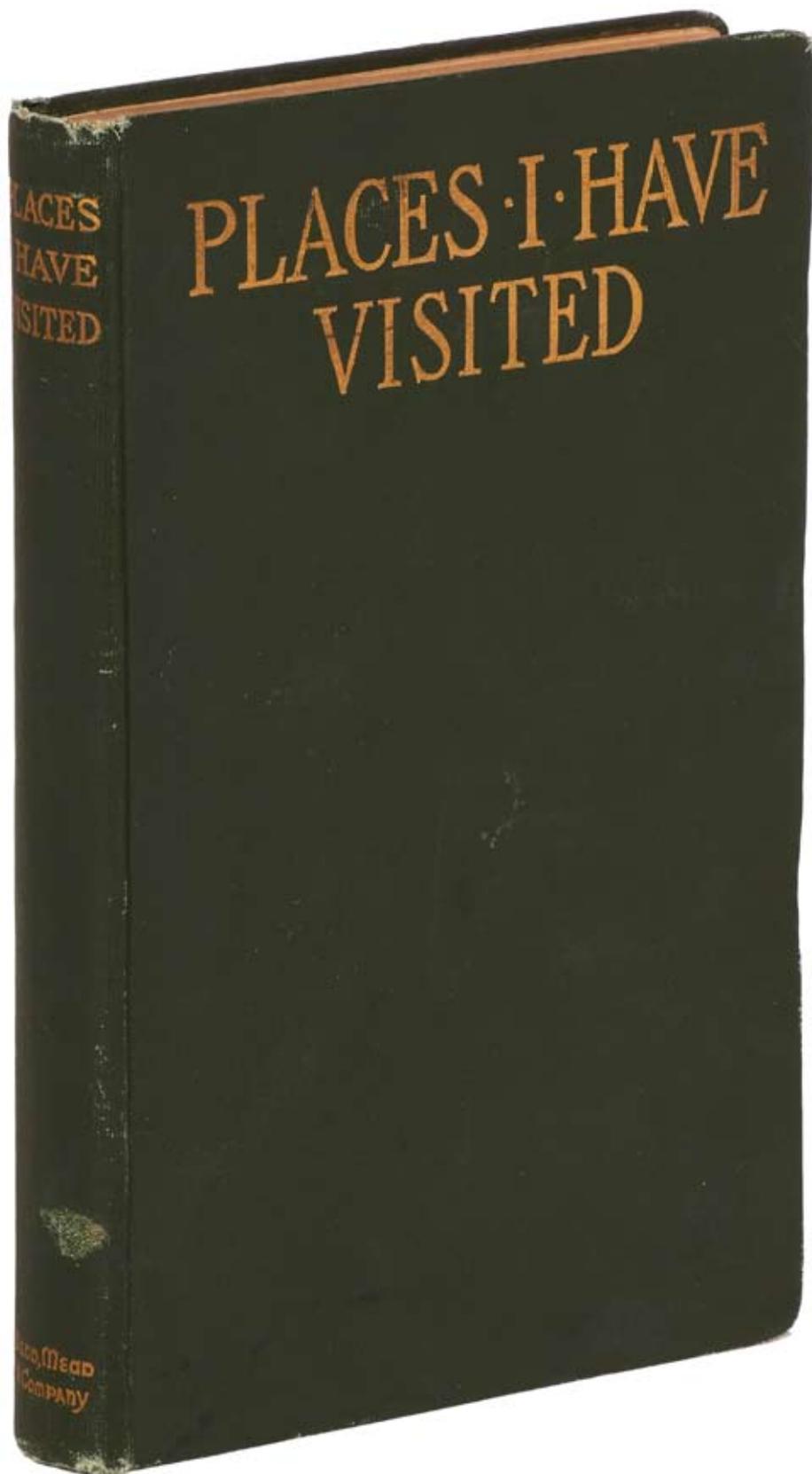
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## Dorothy Danforth

*[Partially Printed Manuscript Travel Diary]: Places I Have Visited*

New York: Dodd, Mead and Company 1905

\$2000



Octavo. Green cloth gilt. vi; [27]; 223pp. Commercially produced diary meant to be filled in by the owner. This volume has the ownership signature (twice) of Dorothy Danforth (1895-1974). She has dated one of the signatures on Christmas in 1905. The travel diary contains about 150 pages of clearly legible accounts of travel by a privileged and seemingly sensible and observant young woman.

Dorothy was the daughter of William H. Danforth, founder of the Ralston Purina Company in St. Louis, Missouri, her nephew is former U.S. Senator John Danforth. Apparently given to Dorothy Danforth as a Christmas present when she was nine years old, She backdates the diary and devotes the first few pages to family trips to Michigan, Baton Rouge, Belmar, New Jersey; Buffalo, the Pan-American Exposition, Atlantic City, Sea Breeze, Florida, Denver, Colorado Springs, and Salt Lake City, and Pass Christian, Mississippi. Presumably some of the memories were supplied to her by her parents or brother, but after the first two or three pages it is clear that is expressing her own memories, starting with a canoe trip in Canada where she reveals that her brother "Dave wasn't any account..." in the canoeing department and gives details of portages, rapids, and camping. She goes on to give details of trips to Boston and Kennebunk, followed by an account of a trans-Canadian trip in 1905 onward to Seattle, Portland, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego, and back via the Grand Canyon.

# PLACES I HAVE VISITED



NEW YORK  
DODD, MEAD AND COMPANY  
1905

*Dorothy Danforth  
St Louis, Mo.*

*Dec. 25, 1905*

The family seems to have been relentless travelers, apparently to the consternation of her mother who was frequently “nervous” or crying. In 1906 the family visited Europe and where she gives a detailed account of her time in France, Belgium, Holland, Switzerland, and London (including a visit to the Underground). In 1907 Dorothy gives a detailed account of a visit to Montana and Yellowstone; in 1908 trips to Iowa and Wisconsin; in 1909 to Annisquam and Gloucester, Massachusetts where she apparently meets a Lyman Brown with whom she is much taken. In 1910 the family travels to Charleston, Missouri and Michillinda, Michigan; in 1911 to the St. Lawrence River and Lake Champlain and on to Edgartown on Martha’s Vineyard; in 1912 to Glacier National Park and the western parts of Canada and the U.S; in 1913 to the White Mountains in New Hampshire. Thereafter, Danforth’s travels are faithfully and annually reported but sparsely described until they end in 1942 - typically just the dates, places, and her traveling companions and a few words or anecdotes. She married financier Randolph P. Compton in 1917.

Dorothy Danforth and her husband Randolph Compton formed the Compton Foundation, which promoted, according to their website: “Dorothy and Randolph believed that world peace would only be possible if the conditions that brought about war could be eliminated. As a result they focused their funding on the problems of the rapid growth of the human population, the depletion of natural resources due to population growth and increasing consumption levels, the accompanying degradation of the environment, and the chaotic status of human rights in much of the world.” In 1967, Compton helped establish the Fund for Education in World Order, later known as the Fund for World Peace. [BTC#386869]