

Highland Park boy ¹⁹⁴⁹ publishes new book on America's craftsmen

"Local boy makes good" is an old story in Highland Park. But last week with the publication of "The American Craftsman," Highland Park—notorious for its famous, and adopted sons—added a new name to its roll of honor.

Scott Graham Williamson, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Williamson, 5226 Lincoln avenue, had his name added to the list of Highland Park's literary famous, which include such notables as Paul Anixter, Dr. Henry Smith Williams, the late Will Levington Comfort, and dozens of others.

BEST SELLER

It is already agreed by the foremost critics in New York and Los Angeles that his book, which deals with the history of the craftsman in America—the fundamental man who made America—will become one of the best sellers of the current season.

Born in Los Angeles in 1909 Scott Williamson's family established their home in Highland Park in 1917 where they have resided ever since.

Due to illnesses that prevented him from attending public schools, except for a brief term at Franklin high school, Williamson educated himself—mostly by way of the Arroyo Seco public library.

USED PUBLIC LIBRARY

In this regard, Ellery Sedgewick, editor of Atlantic Monthly, wrote of Mr. Williamson: "John Cotton Dana used to say that schools were unnecessary where there was a good public library. Now and again comes an example to confirm his surprising statement."

Scott Graham Williamson is one of those confirmations.

Although he always planned to be a writer, Williamson worked at many occupations in order to carry his self-education into practical fields. Here in California he worked as radio broadcast technician, assayer, government meteorologist, grape juice salesman, city rat catcher, newspaper feature writer, and as he says of the latter, "the same difference—bum!"

In 1933 he went to New York City where he was variously assistant editor of the "Journal of American History," a Brooklyn street cleaner—"and that snowy shoveling was tough going"—and Director of Research for the "Index of American Design."

SEARCHER FOR FACTS

It was during this period that the germ for "The American Craftsman" was instilled. An avid searcher for facts and a deep and lasting respect for the part the Craftsman has played in American history moved Williamson to put this story in words.

From New York he went to Europe where he spent two years commuting between Paris and the Isles of Greece — specifically the island of Cephalonia which Italian bombers mainly missed again recently. Then New York again where Williamson's "stuff" began appearing in leading literary magazines such as "Atlantic Monthly," and "Scribners'."