

# Colby



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## Notes And Memoranda

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257 West Newton Street

Boston, March 21, 1934

Dear Mr. Libby,

In reply to your letter of the fifteenth, which has just now found me, I can't attempt to say which is the best or worst of my short poems. Perhaps the sonnet called "The Sheaves" is as well liked as any.

With many thanks for your courtesies,

Yours very truly

E. A. ROBINSON

The poem named by the poet is certainly among those most frequently reprinted. It appeared originally in the New York Evening Post's *Literary Review*, December 15, 1923, and was reprinted in Strong's *Best Poems of 1924*. Robinson collected it in *Dionysus in Doubt* in 1925; and in the five-volume *Collected Poems* of 1927, it appeared in Vol. IV, p. 36. It is found on page 72 of *Sonnets 1889-1927*, and was reprinted in the one-volume *Collected Poems* of 1929 and in the *Poems* selected by Bliss Perry in 1931. Readers who have the definitive one-volume *Collected Poems* of 1937 will find "The Sheaves" on page 870.



### NOTES AND MEMORANDA

**A**MONG recent gifts to the library, special mention may be made of the following: From the Houghton Library of Harvard University, three additions to our Noah Webster shelf: *The American Spelling Book*, Hartford, Conn., Hudson & Goodwin, the 23rd Connecticut edition; the same book, with preface dated "New Haven, 1803," title-page missing; and *An American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking*, Boston, Thomas & Andrews, 11th ed., 1799.

From Mr. and Mrs. Arthur H. Berry, an imitation of Webster's *Reader*, *The Columbian Reader*, Hallowell, Maine, Ezekiel Goodale, 1815.

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From Dr. W. Denham Sutcliffe, a dossier of the original notes and memoranda used in the preparation of his article, "The Original of Robinson's Captain Craig," published in the *New England Quarterly*, September, 1943.

From Miss Rosalind Richards, an autograph letter of Edwin Arlington Robinson to her mother, Mrs. Henry Richards (Laura E. Richards); two books by Harold T. Pulsifer, *First Symphony* and *Rowen*, both autographed by Mr. Pulsifer; and two books by Henry Beston, *Herbs and the Earth* and *American Memory*, both autographed by Mr. Beston.

From Miss Esther Willard Bates, *A Threshold in the Sun*, a newly published autobiography by Robinson's friend, Lloyd Morris; *The Friends* by James N. Hall, one of 380 copies published in Muscatine, Iowa, by The Prairie Press, 1939; and *Wind the Clock*, poems by Winfield Scott, Prairie City, Illinois, Decker, 1941.

From Dr. Edward F. Stevens, five additions to the Book Arts Collection: Charles Lamb's *Grace Before Meat*, No. 18 of seventy-five copies privately printed by Arthur W. Rushmore; *Ecclesiastes*, privately printed by Otis Johnson, Washington, 1938; Richardson Wright's *The Little Book*, Condé Nast Press, 1941; William Morris's *A King's Lesson*, Golden Hind Press, 1934; and S. Van B. Nichols's *The Significance of Anthony Trollope*.

From Dr. E. R. Meyer, *Gleanings from Popular Authors Grave and Gay*, New York, Cassell & Co., n.d.

From Carroll A. Wilson, LL.D., *Poems of Rural Life* by William Barnes, London, 1868, a book of exceptional influence upon Thomas Hardy in his formative years.

From A. Cressy Morrison, Esq., a book printed in Venice twenty years before Shakespeare wrote his *Merchant of Venice*: Charles Sigonius's *History of Italy*, 1574.

From Louise Helen Coburn (Colby '77), Rossiter Johnson's *Alphabet of Rhetoric* (New York, 1903), inscribed: "To Edmund Clarence Stedman, from his friend Rossiter Johnson, October 8, 1903."

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ON October 15, 1943, the Colby Library Associates met in the Women's Union and heard a delightfully intimate and instructive address by Miss Esther Willard Bates on "The Manuscripts of Edwin Arlington Robinson." Exhibited in the Union at the time of Miss Bates's visit were the fourteen Robinson manuscripts which are now in the Treasure Room. The list may interest readers who were not able to attend the meeting in Waterville:

1. The Growth of "Lorraine," first printed in *Captain Craig*, 1902.
2. Sainte-Nitouche, first printed in *Captain Craig*, 1902.
3. Tasker Norcross, first printed in *The Three Taverns*, 1920.
4. Haunted House, first printed in *The Century Magazine*, December, 1923; first book appearance in *Best Poems of 1923*; collected in *Dionysus in Doubt*, 1925.
5. Karma, first printed in *New Republic*, December 26, 1923; first book appearance, *Anthology of Magazine Verse*, 1924; collected in *Dionysus in Doubt*, 1925.
6. Maya, first printed and published with "Karma"; see above.
7. New England, first printed in *The Outlook*, London, November 3, 1923; collected in *Dionysus in Doubt*, 1925.
8. Gideon: No magazine appearance; manuscript dated June 20, 1931. First publication, under title "Young Gideon," in *Nicodemus*, 1932.
9. Toussaint L'Ouverture (two copies), first printed in *Yale Review*, September 1931; collected in *Nicodemus*, 1932.
10. Sisera (two copies), first printed in *Theatre Arts Monthly*, January 1932; collected in *Nicodemus*, 1932.
11. Ponce de Leon (two copies), first printed in *Yale Review*, June 1932; collected in *Nicodemus*, 1932.
12. The March of the Cameron Men, first printed in *Nicodemus*, 1932.

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13. Talifer: the first edition of this book appeared in 1933.
14. King Jasper (two copies): the first edition of this book was published posthumously in 1935.

On November 12, 1943, the Associates again met in the Women's Union and heard a scholarly address on "William Caxton's List of One Hundred Best Books," by Dr. Dorothy Bethurum, Head of the Department of English in Connecticut College for Women. Lacking any copies of Caxton's original printings, the library exhibited, at the time of Miss Bethurum's visit, a group of more recent editions of books printed by Caxton, including Malory's *Morte D'Arthur*, the *Golden Legend*, *Reynard the Fox*, and the *Histories of Troy*.



RECENT publications by members of the Colby Library Associates include the following: "Knox's Estate and Hawthorne's Novel," by Professor Thomas M. Griffiths, in the *New England Quarterly* (16: 432-443), September, 1943; "The Best Things in the Worst Times," by President J. S. Bixler, in the *Crozer Quarterly* (20: 280-285), October, 1943; "The Sesquicentennial of Henry C. Carey," by Librarian N. Orwin Rush, in the *Catholic World* (158: 293-95), December, 1943; and "Poet and President" [Robinson and Roosevelt], by Professor Carl J. Weber, in the *New England Quarterly* (16: 615-25), December, 1943.

One Colby Library Associate who shall remain nameless has never failed to detect in each issue of this quarterly (much to the editor's chagrin!) at least one instance of inaccurate proof-reading. If other readers are equally blessed with eyes more alert than the editor's, let them recall the sage remark of the famous fisherman whose book we exhibited last summer: "The Reader will shew himselfe courteous in mending or passing by some few errors in the Printer, which are not so many but that they may be pardoned!"—Izaak Walton, *The Compleat Angler*, 1653.