

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

---

Volume 1  
Issue 15 *June*

Article 7

---

June 1946

## Notable Gifts of the Past Months

Gilmore Warner

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq>

---

### Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 1, no.15, June 1946, p.242-247

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized editor of Digital Commons @ Colby.

## 242 Colby Library Quarterly

## NOTABLE GIFTS OF THE PAST MONTHS

BY GILMORE WARNER

ANY listing of donors to the Colby College Library may well begin with the Associates as a body, whose contributions have made possible the purchase of so many important works. Currently, the Associates are assisting in the purchase of the *Library of Congress Catalogue of Printed Cards* (nearing completion), the forthcoming reprint of the *Catalogue of the British Museum*, and the great Spanish encyclopaedia commonly known as *Espasa*. Other works recently purchased with C. L. A. contributions are standard collected editions of Corneille and Swift, a sheaf of letters of Sarah Orne Jewett, a hitherto undescribed set of Hardy's novels, and the first volume of the important biological publication, *Johnsonia*.

The Book Arts Collection has been enriched by another product of the Kelmscott Press, Morris's *Sir Perceval of Gales*, and by notable additions made by Dr. Edward F. Stevens. Dr. Charles W. Spencer has presented a copy of Murdock's 1872: *The Great Boston Fire*, designed by Bruce Rogers; Mr. Henry S. Dennison, a copy of *E. W. Dennison, a Memorial*, Merrymount Press, and Mrs. William R. Campbell, several fine specimens of fore-edge painting. The names of President Emeritus Johnson and Mr. Raymond Spinney are linked in a beautiful little edition of Franklin D. Roosevelt's *Inaugural Addresses*, published by Achille J. St. Onge, of Worcester. Copies of Mr. J. C. Smith's biographical study of our distinguished alumnus Charles Hovey Pepper have been given by both author and subject. From Dr. Hugh L. Robinson came last fall a copy of one volume of Koberger's folio New Testament printed in 1493, a fine example of the clear black type and attractive pages for which that printer is noted. From the Reverend Clifford H. Osborne we have a copy of Rollins' edition of *The Paradise of Dainty Devices*; from Dr. Clarence White, an early edition of Swift's *Tale*

## Colby Library Quarterly 243

of a *Tub*, and from President Herbert Davis, a copy of his edition of Swift's *Drapier's Letters*.

Important contributions made by Mr. H. Bacon Collamore to our Edwin Arlington Robinson collection include one hundred sixty-eight unpublished letters of Robinson to Edith Brower, various other manuscript material, and a number of rare and costly early editions. Of one of these, *Three Poems* (1928), only fifteen copies are said to have been printed. An early *Captain Craig* was received from Mr. Howard S. Mott. Several manuscripts and autograph letters have been added to the Lovejoy collection by Mr. Elijah Parish Lovejoy of Detroit and Mrs. N. L. Bassett of Bennington, Vermont. Mr. William White has sent six letters of Harvey Cushing, the biographer of Sir William Osler. Our former librarian N. Orwin Rush has added a volume containing interesting author's notes to our collection of books by and about Louise Imogen Guiney. A *Political Text-Book for 1860* by Horace Greeley and others, presented by Mr. Harry W. Kidder, has considerable Lincoln interest. From Mrs. Carl Butler we have received a copy of a first edition of Louisa M. Alcott stories and several works on history and art from the Misses Adelaide and Caroline Wing. To our collection of Maine authors, Mr. Raymond Spinney has contributed an inscribed and autographed copy of one of Holman F. Day's books.

The Library each year receives dozens of current periodicals and occasional back files as gifts. Two are mentioned here in the hope that some reader may be able to help us fill out our holdings. Miss Elizabeth W. Manwaring has presented Volume I of *Poetry Review*. And Professor Gordon Smith has given several early numbers of the *American Spectator*. Of this we still lack Vol. 1, Nos. 6, 8, 10-11; Vol. 2, Nos. 1-13; Vol. 3, all except No. 13; and all issues thereafter.

The list of authors who have presented copies of their works is too long to give in full. Representative names are Wilmon Brewer (three volumes of original verse and trans-

## 244 Colby Library Quarterly

lations from Dante), John Burnham, Joseph W. Dubin, Samuel H. Kress, Douglas Clyde Macintosh, Paul Schwarz, William O. Stevens, and John Henry Strong. Mr. Carroll A. Wilson sends us a copy of the catalogue of his fine Samuel Butler collection now in the Chapin Library at Williams.

Lest the foregoing list remind one of that popular story *Mr. Glencannon Ignores the War*, mention may appropriately be made of two lavishly illustrated volumes on the rise of Hitler, purchased by S/Sgt. Richard Rancourt, '42, in Nurnberg. Other alumni and former students in the service have likewise remembered the Library with books and papers of great interest, among them T/Sgt. David Libbey, '39, with a Belgian edition of Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*.

At the February meeting of the Associates, which took place on Washington's birthday, announcement was made that the Honorable Margaret Chase Smith, M.C., representing Maine's Second District, had appropriately presented the 39-volume bicentennial edition of *The Writings of George Washington (1789-1799)*. This set, together with Fitzpatrick's edition of the *Diaries*, now gives us the text of all that Washington wrote.

## OUR ABBOTT COLLECTION

Gradually our friends in the past few weeks have by their gifts enlarged the collection of Jacob Abbott's Rollo Books. Of the twenty-eight titles in the series the Library now has twenty. Happily, too, there has thus far been not a single duplicate in editions and only one or two in the titles among the numerous parcels which have been received. Let this fact excuse our not taking space to list those which we still lack, for the chances are still very great indeed that any volume which you have will *not* be a duplicate.

Titles in other series than Rollo have also come in, and are not less welcome. Of the pioneer series the *Young*

## Colby Library Quarterly 245

*Christian* we now have two, of the *Lucy Books* three, of the *Jonas Books* and the Harper's Story series one each, and of the *Biographical Histories* twenty-two. These are important, for as Silver remarks in his bibliography "Rollo on Rollo" (*Colophon* 1939), "Many of the suggested new paths for collectors are already well-paved highways, but there still remains a good deal of bibliographical fun awaiting a Lucy or a Jonas or a Florence." And won't someone send in a *Franconia* story? May Lambertson Becker writes of this series, which ran to some ten titles, that they are "still fragrant as dried fern." We have as yet none of the Marco Paul, the Gay Family, the Juno, the Rainbow, or Abbott's Fireside series, each of which contains from six to a dozen titles.

One of the nicest features of this Abbott project is the bead-roll of friends of the Library, both old and new, which it has produced, each of whom has sent in one or more volumes, or, in one case, has offered to lend his collection. At present writing they make up an even dozen: Mrs. Anna H. Arbuckle, Miss Florence E. Dunn, The Farmington State Teachers College (Miss Esther Duggleby, Librarian), Miss Linda Graves, Mr. Perley Leighton, Mrs. Robert Lister, The Nasson College Library (Miss Mary D. Herrick, Librarian), Dr. Charles R. Norton, Mr. A. W. Stetson, Mr. R. H. Sturtevant, Mrs. O. M. Sylvester, and Miss Gertrude S. Weston.

The names of Jacob Abbott and his brother John S. C. Abbott are bright in the list of Maine authors. Jacob especially was a worthy pioneer in the tradition of juvenile literature. But more than for these, he is memorable for his sound educational theory (we "learn by doing") and for his salutary influence upon a half century and more of American life. "If there is anything clearly manifest of God's intentions in regard to employment for man," he once wrote, "it is that he should spend a very considerable portion of his time upon earth in *acquiring knowledge*—knowledge in all the extent and variety in which it is of-

## 246 Colby Library Quarterly

ferred to human powers. The whole economy of nature is such as to allure man to the investigation of it, and the whole structure of his mind so framed as to qualify him for the work. If now a person begins in early life . . . to acquire knowledge—endeavoring every day to learn something which he did not know before, he will make . . . a most rapid and important progress . . . And as he can see more extensively, so he will act more effectually every month than he could in the preceding.”

The modern English philosopher Dr. L. P. Jacks seems almost to echo this view when he writes, “Every rise in the quality of the work which men do is attended swiftly and inevitably by a rise in the quality of the men who do it.”

Let these fine gifts of Abbott books continue. We have just begun!

### A DICKENS COLLECTION

The late William O. Fuller, editor of the *Rockland Courier-Gazette* from 1874 to 1941, was a great lover of Charles Dickens. From his wife we have recently received Mr. Fuller's entire Dickens library of between three and four hundred volumes, together with fifty framed prints of Dickens and his characters. Although the collection contains few “firsts” (Mrs. William R. Campbell's recent gift of the original parts of *Little Dorrit* will help here), it is unusually strong in Dickensiana. With what the Library already holds we may now consider this author a significant star in the Colby galaxy, along with Hawthorne, Hardy, Robinson, Wordsworth, and others.

“We are the two halves of a pair of scissors, when apart,” remarked Anthony Chuzzlewit to Pecksniff; “but together we are something.” So it is with the author and his reader. And where better may a good author find an eager listener than in the Colby College Library, where people make the serious study of books their proper business? We are thankful that so many friends of the Library have availed themselves of this opportunity to bring worth-while books with-

## Colby Library Quarterly 247

in the reach of our students and teachers. Together we are something!



### IN MEMORIAM

**B**ACK in 1900 a mendicant Taoist priest was engaged in “improving” one of the frescoes on a wall in one of the Caves of the Thousand Buddhas in Western China. He discovered that the wall concealed the mouth of a store-room which he found to be piled high with books and manuscripts. Among them was the oldest printed book now extant—a copy of the Diamond Sutra or collection of aphorisms. The book is now in the British Museum.

When it was examined by scholars, they were startled to discover, at the end of the book, the explicit printed statement that it was “printed on May 11, 868, by Wang Chieh, for free general distribution, in order in deep reverence to perpetuate the memory of his parents.” That memory has thus been preserved for nearly eleven hundred years, thanks to the generous act of that Chinese printer, the first whose name has come down to us.

In the fall of 1903 an eighteen-year-old Freshman entered Harvard College. His name was Harry Elkins Widener. During his four years as an undergraduate he became interested in book collecting; and after he graduated, in 1907, he devoted himself quite seriously to building up a splendid personal library. Five years later he went abroad and was in London when part of the Huth library was sold at auction. Harry Widener instructed Quaritch the bookseller to make certain purchases for him at this auction, and just before sailing for America Widener dropped in to give Quaritch final directions regarding his purchases. Among them was a copy of the excessively rare 1598 edition of Bacon’s *Essays*. In saying good-bye to Quaritch, Widener remarked: “I think I’ll take that little Bacon with