

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

---

Volume 2  
Issue 3 *August*

Article 7

---

August 1947

## Hardy Additions

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

---

### Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 2, no.3, August 1947, p.46-49

This Back Matter 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.

## 46 Colby Library Quarterly

trimmed. The result is that none of the eight copies in America is exactly as wide or as tall as any other American copy. The largest specimen is in the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. The Colby copy ranks sixth in point of size. For the sake of the record, the list is printed here, with the size of the page of each copy given in centimeters:

1. Walters Art Gallery	31.0 x 21.3 cm.
2. Library of Congress	29.5 x 20.3 cm.
3. Holy Name College, Washington	29.2 x 19.7 cm.
4. University of Minnesota Library	29.2 x 19.1 cm.
5. St. Hyacinth Seminary (Granby, Mass.)	27.9 x 20.3 cm.
6. COLBY COLLEGE LIBRARY	26.0 x 18.3 cm.
7. University of North Carolina Library	24.5 x 17.5 cm.
8. Oberlin College Library	23.5 x 16.5 cm.

The Colby copy is bound in vellum. The paper is in good condition, the type clear, but the spaces originally left blank for the rubrication of large initial letters have never been filled. On one page a marginal handwritten note warns the reader, in Latin, that the index at the end of the book is defective. And if our copy had contained page 257b, we now know that it would have informed us, in black-letter Latin, that "this work [was] printed at Mantua by Paul John of Butzbach in the year 1481." This specimen of Italian paper-making and printing is therefore now 466 years old.



## HARDY ADDITIONS

ON March 13, 1877, Longfellow wrote to George W. Childs (owner and publisher of the *Philadelphia Public Ledger*): "You do not know yet what it is to be seventy years old. I will tell you, so that you may not be taken by surprise when your turn comes. It is like climbing the Alps. You reach a snow-crowned summit, and see behind you the deep valley stretching miles and miles

## Colby Library Quarterly 47

away, and before you other summits higher and whiter, which you may have the strength to climb, or may not. Then you sit down and meditate, and wonder which it will be. That is the whole story, amplify it as you may."

Longfellow's Alpine analogy may be applied to the Hardy Collection in the Colby College Library. One by one, the books have been added in the course of the past fifteen years, and when a "snow-crowned summit" was reached in 1946, the bibliography of hundreds of Hardy books as listed in *Hardy in America* showed "the deep valley stretching miles and miles away." We had every reason to believe that the Colby Collection of Hardy's publications came nearer to completeness than any other recorded collection. But the real summit has not yet been attained. Is *any* collection ever really "complete"? From Mr. Lee E. Grove, of Fairfax, Virginia, we have received by gift two contributions to our Hardy shelves—two which are not only previously unknown American imprints, but two which carry, in their advertising pages, further fresh information.

To be added, therefore, to the bibliography of American imprints of Hardy are the following (the two books presented by Mr. Grove are marked with asterisks):

George Munro's Sons, Publishers, New York City

CROWN SERIES (Hardy is named first among "the Most Popular Authors"): 25 cents.

No. 32 *Under the Greenwood Tree* (?April 1898)

\*No. 77 *The Trumpet-Major*. Paper covers; portrait on front cover. May 20, 1898.

ROYAL SERIES (Hardy is named second among "the Most Popular Authors"): 25 cents.

No. 60 *Two on a Tower* (? May 1898)

No. 68 *The Mayor of Casterbridge* (? May 1898)

\*No. 83 *The Woodlanders*: paper covers; portrait on front cover. May 27, 1898.

No. 91 *Far from the Madding Crowd* (? June 1898)

No. 92 *A Pair of Blue Eyes* (? June 1898)

## 48 Colby Library Quarterly

And to this list we must add another *Native*. Five years ago, the Trade Book Clinic of the American Institute of Graphic Arts named as its December (1942) selections eight books which it "viewed as best co-ordinating imaginative design with sound execution." Among these eight was The Heritage Press edition of Hardy's *Return of the Native*, with magnificent wood-engravings by Agnes Miller Parker.

The editor of these pages well remembers the day, back in 1942, when a student asked him: "Have you seen the new Heritage Press edition of *The Return of the Native*?" "No," was the reply. "Well, you'll *want* to see it!" exclaimed the student. And no wonder! When a copy eventually came to hand, page vi of the introduction was found to refer to Colby College as "the world's greatest Hardy shrine." The writer of this introduction, John T. Winterich, stated that on the shelves of the Colby College Library, there are, "I believe, examples of fifty-six different editions of *The Return of the Native*. Two pirated editions have so far eluded Dr. Weber, but their situation is hopeless — they might as well go to Maine and give themselves up at the door of the Colby College Library." The two pirates did not, however, take Colonel Winterich's advice. They have not given themselves up and no trace of their footprints has been found in the Colby library. Instead of fifty-six different editions, our Hardy Collection has contained only fifty-three; and these, plus the two pirated editions, made up the fifty-five listed in a census published in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America* (Vol. 36) in 1942.

Now, as if to prove that Colonel Winterich's total of fifty-six was right after all, an elusive *Native* has come to Maine and given himself up at the door of the Colby College Library. Number 56 proves to have been hiding for a decade. Dated 1937, this edition of *The Return of the Native* was published in New York by the Book League of America. It is now here entered in the census, apparently for the first time; for not only was it *not* listed in the *B.S.A. Papers of 1942*, but it is missing also in the bibliography of Hardy's

## Colby Library Quarterly 49

American imprints given on pages 273-288 of *Hardy in America* (1946). The Book League of America is there recorded (page 274) as having published Hardy twice—in 1928 and in 1930. We have thus learned that the 1937 *Native* constitutes a third Hardy entry on the Book League list.

Perhaps, then, this is a good time to echo Colonel Winterich's warning to those two pirates. "Their situation is hopeless." Will all readers of these pages keep a sharp lookout, and direct either or both of the rascals to the door of the Colby College Library? Here are their identification marks: (1) Seaside Library, Pocket Edition, No. 1975: New York, George Munro's Sons, 1892. (2) "Illustrated Series" of 50-cent Novels: New York, Lovell, Coryell Co., 1896. Reward offered for any information leading to their arrest!



### NOTES AND MEMORANDA

COLBY Library Associates who are not residents of Waterville missed four good meetings held at the college during the second semester of the academic year just ended. In February Professor Cecil A. Rollins spoke on George Bernard Shaw, giving an able review of the fifty-year dramatic career of the famous author. In March, Mr. Philo C. Calhoun, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, spoke to a delighted and eager audience on "Book-Collecting in the Lower Brackets." In April Dr. Margaret Buchner addressed the Associates on Voltaire, two hundred years after the publication of *La Sagesse humaine*. And in May, Professor Wilbert Snow, of Wesleyan University, spoke on Modern American Poetry, and read a number of his own compositions.

For Dr. Buchner's address on Voltaire, a book exhibition was arranged, which included the sumptuous copy of Voltaire's *La Henriade* presented to the Colby College Library