

# Colby



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## A Unique Henry James Item

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No. 62. Inscribed to "F. J. Stimson / with the compliments of E. A. Robinson." This copy is now in the possession of Mr. Edward Morrill, of 65 Kneeland Street, Boston.

We shall welcome information from any source about any other extant copies of what Winterich and Randall have called "one of the most costly units of American verse of its generation" (*A Primer of Book-Collecting*, New York, 1946; page 49).



### A UNIQUE HENRY JAMES ITEM

**I**N the December 1882 issue of *The Century Magazine* there appeared a short story by Henry James entitled "The Point of View." The story was in epistolary form—eight letters from various fictitious individuals scattered over the world, from Oakland, California, to Paris, Geneva, and Florence.

In LeRoy Phillips's *Bibliography of the Writings of Henry James* (New York, 1930) this story is listed as having been subsequently published in five books: (1) Boston, 1883; (2) London, 1883; (3) Leipzig, 1884; (4) New York, 1907; and (5) London, 1921. The Colby College Library now boasts a printing of "The Point of View" dated 1882 which takes precedence of all five. It may easily have been printed—probably *was* printed—before *The Century* published the story in December 1882. It was apparently privately printed by James, perhaps to insure the British copyright. There is no record of this edition in the British Museum—or elsewhere! Mr. LeRoy Phillips has called it "a bibliographical revelation."

The book contains 64 pages, bound in gray paper covers. The title-page reads: "*The Point of View* / By / HENRY JAMES, Jun. / Not Published / 1882." The Colby copy is thus apparently unique—one of several such bibliographical treasures found in the magnificent Henry James Collection presented by Mr. H. B. Collamore.