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Connolly Notes

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PROGRAM OF TRANCHELL'S OPERA

THE Hardy Collection at Colby includes an extensive list of programs of Hardy plays. Thanks to Mr. E. N. Sanders, of Parkstone, Dorset, England, we have been able to add to this collection a copy of the program for the first performance of Peter Tranchell's three-act opera *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, performed in the Cambridge Arts Theatre during the 1951 Festival of Britain. A review in the *London Times* remarked of this opera: "Tranchell has seized the mood of Hardy's novel with a precision uncanny in a composer whose idiom seems naturally so sophisticated. . . . He has devised ensembles, duets, and other set pieces with a strongly effective, and fundamentally romantic feeling for mood and placing." And Eric Blom (editor of *Music & Letters*), in reviewing the opera in *The Observer*, London, Sunday, August 5, 1951, remarked: "Mr. Tranchell has decidedly leapt to fame at a single bound. His second act is a near-masterpiece."

The program for the first performance is accompanied by a page of the *Cambridge Daily News* for July 31, 1951, on which the first performance of the opera was advertised. A letter from Mr. Sanders gives further interesting information about the performance, and his interest in adding to his previous generous contributions to Hardiana at Colby has been of great assistance in keeping our records of Hardy plays and adaptations complete and up to date.



CONNOLLY NOTES

READERS who recall Dean Marriner's *Jim Connolly and the Fisherman of Gloucester* (1949) and visitors who have seen the Connolly Collection in our library (for our possession of which we are indebted to Mr. James A. Healy of Portland and New York City) will be interested to know that we have just learned, as we go to press, that Mr. Con-

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nolly is to be the official guest of the City of Gloucester, Massachusetts, during the week of July 21-27. The *Gloucester Times* is to issue a special Connolly Literary Supplement.

We have recently added to our own Connolly file a copy of the March, 1952, issue of *Irish Writing* (Dublin literary quarterly), in which Robert Brennan, former Irish Minister to Washington, devotes the leading article to an appraisal of James Brendan Connolly and his books. Boston College this year followed Colby's example of two years ago and awarded Mr. Connolly the degree of Doctor of Letters. A copy of the citation has been added to the Connolly papers in the Colby library.

An exhibition of Mr. Connolly's books has been planned for summer-opening in the National Irish Library in Dublin.

Mr. Connolly's many friends at Colby take delight in these honors that have come to him at the mellow age of eighty-four.



SOME RECENT GIFTS

AMONG the items recently acquired by the Library are four documents presented by Mrs. John Burleigh of Exeter, New Hampshire. Two of them have to do with her father, Judge Jonathan Garland Dickerson, Colby, 1836: 1. his appointment by Governor Israel Washburn as Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine, October 24, 1862; and 2. his appointment as Collector of Customs of the District of Belfast, dated February 19, 1858, and signed in Washington, February 20, by James Buchanan. The other two documents have to do with Jonathan Dickerson's son Frank, who was not a Colby graduate. They are his commissions as second lieutenant and as first lieutenant in the Fifth Regiment of Cavalry of the United States Army, dated February 26, 1862, and June 6, 1863, respectively. Both are signed by Abraham Lincoln.