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Napoleonic Echoes

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1904 in founding the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, is perhaps best known for his *Riders to the Sea* (1905) and *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907). The Healy Collection will now equip the Colby College Library with Synge material which can stand proudly alongside the splendid Yeats and "A.E." collections which have previously come to us from Mr. Healy.



NAPOLEONIC ECHOES

JUST fifty years ago, Thomas Hardy published Part Two of his epic drama *The Dynasts*. Part One had appeared in 1904, and Part Three was to appear in 1908. In 1927 (the year before Hardy's death) Macmillan & Co. of London issued a *de luxe* edition of *The Dynasts*—525 copies printed on Large Paper, autographed (in Volume I) by Thomas Hardy—with a frontispiece portrait of the author by Francis Dodd.

One set of these three volumes was acquired by one of Hardy's most enthusiastic American admirers, A. Edward Newton of Philadelphia, and into each volume he pasted his well-known Johnsonian Temple Bar bookplate. After Newton's death, his library was sold at auction in New York City, and on the afternoon of Thursday, May 15, 1941, the librarian of Colby College (accompanied by his curator of rare books) was on hand to see some of the Newton books go under the hammer. (Two of them were knocked down to Colby.) *The Dynasts* of 1927 made up Lot No. 260, which was *not* sold to the Colby Library. The books have, however, at last found their way to our shelves, thanks to the interest and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. H. Ridgely Bullock, Jr., of New York City. They recently purchased the Newton books and have added them to the Hardy Collection at Colby.

With the books came an autograph letter of Hardy's, written on paper with a mourning border to the Reverend

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L. E. V. Filleul, of Sandford, Wareham, Dorset. (After Hardy's death in January 1928, Mr. Filleul sold the letter to help raise funds for the Dorset County Hospital.) Through the kindness of Mr. and Mrs. Bullock we are therefore able to add still another Hardy letter to the Colby file of such autographs. This one is a particularly informative letter—on a number of points.

THE ATHENAEUM, PALL MALL.

[LONDON,] S.W.

July 18. 1904

Dear Mr Filleul:

I have never before met with the Bonaparte jingle that you enclose with your letter, and I cannot at this moment recollect any local rhymes about him, though there are, of course, infinite numbers—common to all England—containing every variety of sarcasm and invective. Local stories of the scares he caused were not infrequent formerly.

I have been up here [in London] since last April, but it is so hot every day that I hope to get back [to Dorset] by the end of this week, if I can stay at Max Gate for the stench from the sewage works which, at times, they tell me, is very bad, and likely to drive many more people than myself away from Dorchester.

I return the lines as you request, and am

Very truly yours

T. HARDY.

[P.S.:] As we have a house here my wife proposes to stay on a little longer, till I can tell her the state of the atmosphere at Max Gate.

T.H.

Mr. Bullock has recently supplemented the gift of this *de luxe* three-volume edition of *The Dynasts* with a further enrichment of our Hardy Collection. This supplementary gift is on such a princely scale and involves so many books, pamphlets, letters, manuscripts, and other Hardiana, that space is not here available for even a brief description of the lot. That will have to await some future issue of our quarterly.

