

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

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Volume 4  
Issue 8 *November*

Article 7

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November 1956

## Among Notable Recent Acquisitions

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### Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 4, no.8, November 1956, p.150-153

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150 Colby Library Quarterly

the portrait of a lady. Miss Jewett's catalogue of attributes, perceptible in her public writings, becomes manifest in these private disclosures. The luminous heart, the discriminating ideals, the profound compassion, and the uncomplicated vision tremble closer to the surface in these unguarded, unaffected personal testaments." That is what makes the book worth reading.

Beautifully printed by the well-known Anthoensen Press of Portland, this volume is a companion-piece to Professor Weber's edition of *Hardy Letters* published two years ago. Like its predecessor, *Jewett Letters* is an expert piece of bookmaking, and Professor Cary is fortunate in having had, in printer, bookbinder, and publisher, collaborators whose skill and excellence are equal to his own.

This reviewer has found nothing in the book itself to indicate the size of the edition (i.e., the number of copies printed), but he is privately informed that it distinctly falls into the class known as a Limited Edition. This means that the supply may soon be exhausted, and those admirers of Sarah Orne Jewett who wish to obtain a copy will be well advised to act promptly.



AMONG NOTABLE RECENT ACQUISITIONS

MR. AND MRS. CURTIS M. HUTCHINS of Bangor have presented to the Library a nicely preserved set (two volumes) of the first edition (1759) of an anonymous work entitled *The Prince of Abissinia. A Tale* (London, R. & J. Dodsley), bound in the original calf. The initiated among bibliophiles will of course recognize this "tale" as *Rasselas* by Dr. Samuel Johnson.

In the November, 1950, issue of this quarterly, we announced the gift of two French books from the Max Gate library of Thomas Hardy, the gift of "Dr. Rachel Salis-

## Colby Library Quarterly 151

bury, who is Director of Freshman English in the Wisconsin State Teachers College in Milwaukee." Dr. Salisbury has now given us two more books from the Max Gate Library: (1) Hardy's French-English Dictionary (London, Cassell, 1909), and (2) Edward Westermarck's *History of Human Marriage* (London, Macmillan, 1894). The date of the second book is important, for in 1894 Hardy was at work upon the novel we now know as *Jude the Obscure*. In this work, marriage is discussed on more than one page, and the events of the story provide good reason for our noting the fact that Chapter 23 of Westermarck's book is entitled "The Duration of Human Marriage." The leaves of this book were originally unopened, but Hardy (or someone after him?) cut every leaf to the very end, at page 644—a very different treatment from that he gave Strauss's *Life of Jesus*. Hardy's copy of this last-named book retains unopened leaves to this day.

Thanks to Dr. Salisbury's interest in our Library, we have received a copy of Florence Burrill Jacobs's book of sonnets, *Neighbors* (New York, Harpers, 1949), autographed by Mrs. Jacobs, the author.

To Mrs. Patience Young we are indebted for a welcome contribution to our Edna St. Vincent Millay collection—an autograph letter of the poet.

To Mr. James A. Healy we are indebted for an interesting and beautifully bound copy of Richard Burton's *The [Civil] Wars in England, Scotland, and Ireland* (Westminster: Machell Stace, 1810), *Ex Libris* the Duke of Sussex. For the information of those who may not at once recognize the significance of the provenance of this book and the interest provided by its bookplate, it may be added that the Duke of Sussex was Augustus Frederick (1773-1843), the sixth son (and ninth child) of King George the Third. Like his father, the duke was a great book-collector, and his library of over 50,000 volumes included about one thousand different editions of the Bible.

## 152 Colby Library Quarterly

From Mr. Walter Beinecke, Jr., of New York City, we have received a welcome copy of a rare pamphlet that has a double interest for us. Published in Chicago in 1912 by Browne's Bookstore, it contains J. M. Barrie's *Neither Dorking nor the Abbey*—a beautiful tribute to the memory of George Meredith—and Thomas Hardy's poem "G. M. 1828-1909." T. B. Mosher of Portland, Maine, also printed this poetic tribute by Hardy but not until 1919—seven years after the Chicago printing with which Mr. Beinecke has now equipped us.

Professor Gordon W. Smith has added a new copy to our file of FitzGerald's *Rubaiyat*—New York, De Luxe Editions [circa 1933]. It contains both the first and the fifth versions of FitzGerald's work.

To Mr. Henry Allen Moe, of the Guggenheim Foundation, we are indebted for a copy of Lady Cynthia Asquith's *Thomas Hardy at Max Gate*—an account of a visit to the aging novelist-poet which she made in 1921 with J. M. Barrie.

To G. E. J. Dennett, Esq., of "Cerne," Horsell, Woking (Surrey, England), we are indebted for an interesting addition to our file of letters of Thomas Hardy. On August 9, 1910, Hardy wrote from Max Gate to "The Superintendent of Police" in Dorchester, complaining that "some boys" had been "stealing apples on these premises." A note written at the end of Hardy's letter by the police superintendent indicates that five boys, "all of Fordington," were "cautioned" on the next day. Hardy had stated in his letter that he did not wish the boys "to be punished further than that."

From Mr. Benton L. Hatch, of Amherst, Massachusetts, we have received an autograph letter of John S. C. Abbott, brother of the famous Jacob Abbott and author of books which are sometimes wrongly ascribed to Jacob. John Abbott's letter was written to an unidentified correspondent, presumably a publisher who wished to acquire the publishing rights in some of Abbott's books.

## Colby Library Quarterly 153

From Mrs. M. Compton Woods we have received a six-volume set of the *Lucy Books* (New York: Clark, Austin & Smith, 1854) by Jacob Abbott. He is not named on the title-page but is identified as "the Author of the *Rollo Books*."

To Miss Mildred Howells, daughter of William Dean Howells, we are indebted for one of the most interesting gifts to come to the Library in many months, namely, the five-volume edition of Pietro Metastasio's *Opera Scelte* (Milan: Società Tipografica de Classici Italiani, 1820). Metastasio, a much-neglected eighteenth-century contemporary of Goldoni, has often been called the "poet of music"—at least three literary geniuses, Voltaire, Rousseau, and Stendhal, praised his art—and librettos of his were used for the operas of Pergolesi, Vivaldi, Gluck, Mozart, and others. In this year, during which the bicentenary of Mozart's birth has been widely celebrated, it is specially heart-warming to be able to add to our shelves Metastasio's librettos for *La Clemenza di Tito* and *Il Re Pastore*. By a very appropriate coincidence, they become a close neighbor, in our Library, of one of Violet Paget's ("Vernon Lee's") best-known and rightfully admired works, her *Studies of the Eighteenth Century in Italy*, in which she devotes no less than 133 pages to a detailed description and penetrating analysis of Metastasio's life and works.



### SOME TICKNOR CENTENNIALS

Two years ago, the Colby Library Associates observed the centenary of Thoreau's *Walden* by spending an evening in a re-examination of that pungent book, and last year they engaged in the same sort of centennial memorialization by spending an evening with Whitman's *Leaves of Grass*. Now that 1956 is about to join the endless procession of the years into the past, what important book