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Announcements and Comments

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THE ILLUSTRATIONS for the front and back covers come from Colby Special Collection's holdings of Willa Cather. On the front cover is a portrait of Cather and on the back cover is the first page of a four-page manuscript in Cather's hand.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

URSULA K. HEISE is a graduate fellow at Stanford and has taught at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is at work on the new historicism in Renaissance literature.

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JOAN WYLIE HALL teaches at the University of Mississippi, has also held positions at Harvard and Notre Dame, and has published essays about Willa Cather and Renaissance literature.

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NOTES FROM SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS has been fortunate to receive a number of significant gifts in the past year.

Frederick A. Pottle (Colby '17), founder and first president of the Colby Library Associates, died on May 16, 1987. In his memory a group of his friends, including President Emeritus and Mrs. Robert E. L. Strider II, established a library fund. With the resources provided by Professor Pottle's friends and Special Collections, we were able to purchase for Special Collections a first edition in excellent condition of Samuel Johnson's *Political Tracts. Containing, The False Alarm, Falkland's Islands, The Patriot, Taxation No Tyranny*, London: Strahan and Cadell, 1776. We are very pleased to preserve the volume as a tribute both

to Professor Pottle and to his friends who have made this memorial possible.

Special Collections received as gifts the special libraries of two Colby graduates. Perley M. Leighton (Colby '47) did graduate work on William Makepeace Thackeray. Out of his admiration and respect for Thackeray's work, Mr. Leighton acquired a personal library of Thackeray firsts, collections of the author's letters, and secondary works pertaining to Thackeray. He offered to donate his collection to Special Collections and we were more than happy to accept. Included in Mr. Leighton's gift of 52 titles are first editions of *Notes of a Journey from Cornhill to Cairo*, 1846, *The Newcomes*, 2v, 1854, and *The Awful History of Bluebeard*, 1924. A group of significant secondary works includes *The Letters of William Makepeace Thackeray*, edited and signed by Gordon N. Ray, 1946. Mr. Leighton's interests are not confined to Thackeray, and he made available to Special Collections a number of titles by other authors, including a magnificent unopened first edition of Alfred Tennyson, *Demeter and Other Poems*, 1889, and a first of Charles Dickens, *Little Dorrit*, 1857.

Michael D. Wormser (Colby '59) found himself drawn to the works of British poets who fought, and often died, in World Wars I and II. In time he accumulated a large collection of first editions of their works which he offered to Special Collections. We have been delighted to add 161 volumes of his books to our holdings. We can mention only highlights here and they include, among many others, W. H. Auden, *Spain*, 1937, and with Christopher Isherwood, *Journey to a War*, 1939; Edmund Blunden, *Undertones of War*, 1928; C. Day Lewis, *Overtures to Death*, 1938; Roy Fuller, *The Middle of a War*, 1942; David Gascoyne, *Poems, 1937-1942*, 1943; Alun Lewis, *In the Green Tree*, 1948; Siegfried Sassoon, *Memoirs of an Infantry Officer*, 1930, signed, and *The War Poems of Siegfried Sassoon*, 1919. Selections from Mr. Leighton's and Mr. Wormser's libraries were on exhibit in the Robinson Room of Miller Library during June, July, and August 1988.

Bookman Preston C. Beyer, a long-time friend of Special Collections, donated 24 titles which augmented our Thomas Mann and William James collections. Also included in his gift was a first edition of Joyce Cary, *The Horse's Mouth*, 1944. Mrs. Robert M. Mountcastle sent us books and letters originally belonging to her sister-in-law, Grace Mountcastle Martin. In 1959 Mrs. Martin gave Special Collections a valuable collection of books, many inscribed by Sydney Cockerell as well as letters written to her by Cockerell. This addition to Mrs. Martin's collection includes first editions of Lauro De Bosis, *Icaro*, 1933, translated and signed by Ruth Draper; William Hazlitt, *Liber Amoris*, 1893; and Victoria Sackville-West, *Pepita*, 1937; and holograph letters to Mrs. Martin from Sydney Cockerell, Victoria Sackville-West, and Mexican painter Jean Charlot.

J. FRASER COCKS III
Curator, Special Collections