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Notes On Outstanding Gifts 1944-1945

N. Orwin Rush

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Whatever may have been true of the leading national libraries of Europe, there are extremely few Sung printings in American libraries. There are none at Columbia, although there are *copies* of Sung books there. Dr. A. K. Chiu, librarian of the Chinese-Japanese Library of the Harvard-Yenching Institute, Harvard University, reports only three Sung printings in his library, and these do not include Hu Yin's *Tu Shih Kuan Chien*. In the Gest Oriental Library at Princeton, where there are 697 fasciculi of Sung Dynasty printing, the copy of Hu Yin's book is a seventeenth-century reprint, an edition by Chang P'u. At the time of writing this report, we have been unable to find in America any copy of Hu Yin's original work, or any page from it as early as this fine specimen now in the Colby Library.



NOTES ON OUTSTANDING GIFTS 1944-1945

BY N. ORWIN RUSH*

ART and English Literature are the two subjects best represented by gifts to the Colby Library this past year. From the library of the late Frederick Morgan Padelford we received a collection of the publications of the Early English Text Society and the New Shakspeare Society. From Mrs. Karl Young we received an excellent collection of reprints in the field of English Literature and several numbers of *Speculum*. Our collection of modern art was increased by gifts from Misses Caroline and Adelaide Wing and Miss Louise Coburn. To Miss Coburn, Mrs. Julius

* For nine out of the ten years during which the Colby Library Associates have flourished, Mr. N. Orwin Rush was the college librarian. Last spring he accepted the librarianship of Clark University and has now taken up his new duties there. Before departing for Worcester, Massachusetts, Mr. Rush prepared this report on gifts to the Colby Library, and all Associates will doubtless share the editor's regret that this will be the last such report that Mr. Rush will prepare for us. Our best wishes go with him to his new post.

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Seelye Bixler and the Gertrude B. Lane estate we are also indebted for many volumes on Classic Art.

Our general collection has been enriched by gifts from Mrs. T. Raymond Pierce and the estate of Gertrude B. Lane. Among the Lane gifts were two fine seventeenth-century folio volumes of *Homan's Atlas* on vellum with maps in colors. From Mr. Philip Hofer we have received Thomas F. Dibdin's *Introduction to the Knowledge of Rare and Valuable Editions of the Greek and Latin Classics*, 2 vols., London, 1827, and from The Farnsworth Gallery of Rockland, Maine, we have received, through the kindness of Mr. Robert P. Bellows, autograph letters by Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Brander Matthews, Richard Harding Davis, and others, together with miscellaneous articles and other papers.

From Mrs. A. Adda we received a large collection of copies of French periodicals, particularly *L'Illustration* with its supplement, that complete numerous volumes of our set. Dr. James Creese, a recent Commencement speaker, has sent us a representative collection of Scandinavian books.

Our special collections have been enriched by gifts from Edward F. Stevens and Charles W. Spencer who gave to the Book Arts Collection; from Mrs. Norman L. Bassett who gave to the E. P. Lovejoy Collection; and from The Boston Colby Club, Colonel John T. Winterich, Dr. Herman T. Radin, and Carroll A. Wilson, who gave to the Hardy Collection.

From Mr. Arthur G. Robinson we have received, in addition to the Chinese printing described above, a splendid group of books, the extent and variety of which can be indicated in brief outline only. The oldest item in the lot is an incunabulum by Nicholas di Lyra, printed about 1487, and next to it in venerable age stands a copy of the comedies of Plautus, printed in Florence in 1514. Among seventeenth-century Dutch and German imprints, Mr. Robinson's gift includes books printed at Leyden in 1629 and 1639, at Cologne in 1634, at Antwerp in 1636, and at Am-

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sterdam in 1684. Early American imprints include four Philadelphia items, dated 1747, 1754, 1792, and 1808; one New Haven, a Noah Webster, 1807; one Hartford, a Voltaire, 1828; and an American Wordsworth, New York, 1849. There are several English first editions, for example, Mrs. Piozzi's *Anecdotes of Samuel Johnson* (which sold in 1930 for \$140) and Byron's *English Bards*; and among early American imprints of English authors, we may name Charlotte Brontë, Mrs. Browning, and Thackeray. There is a first edition of an early Longfellow in two volumes and two autographed presentation copies of privately printed pamphlets of the late A. Edward Newton. These thirty-one books constitute as fine a gift as the Colby Library has been privileged to receive in some time, and Mr. Robinson joins the Library Associates with éclat. It is clear that he shares Montaigne's belief that "it is the enjoyment, not the possessing, that makes us happy."



ALDRICH TO HOWELLS

AMONG the items mentioned in Mr. Rush's report above, there is an autograph Aldrich letter, for our possession of which we are indebted to Mr. Robert P. Bellows. This letter, written upon Aldrich's resignation as editor of *The Atlantic Monthly*, was addressed to William Dean Howells, Aldrich's predecessor in the *Atlantic* editorial chair. The good-humored, boyish effervescence of the "Bad Boy" of Portsmouth, as he set off for a vacation in Europe, shines through the letter and makes it worth transcribing here, before it is deposited in our file of Autograph Letters of Famous Writers:

My dear Howells:

Ponkapog, June 20th/91

Your integrity reminds me of "the mills of the Gods."—

"The mills of the Gods grind slowly,
But they get there all the same."