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TWO NEW BIBLES AT COLBY

by MARGARET L. BUCHNER

THE August 1948 issue of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY reported Professor Herbert L. Newman's address on "The Greatest Book in the World" and mentioned the "appropriate exhibition" of Bibles set up in the Robinson Treasure Room on that occasion. The great variety, in size and format, of the Colby Bible Collection was less interesting, to a student of foreign languages, than the impressive array of Bibles in foreign tongues. The exhibition included "the greatest Book in the world" in Latin and Greek, in Hebrew and English, in Anglo-Saxon and Welsh, in German and French, in Spanish and Italian, in Japanese and Chinese, in various tongues spoken in India, while a Polyglot Bible included scores of other languages not mentioned here.

It is now possible to report the addition to the Colby Bible Collection of two volumes in tongues not previously represented. Thanks to a summer in Guatemala, I have been able to add Bibles in Quiché and in Mam, both inscribed, moreover, by the translators of the text.

Mrs. Paul Burgess, an American Methodist missionary whom I met in Quetzaltenango, in western Guatemala, conceived the idea of translating the Bible into Quiché, an Indian tongue spoken in that region of the country. Mrs. Burgess had found that the Spanish version of the Bible remained a closed book to the Quiché Indians, and her translation of the New Testament is apparently the first attempt made to bring knowledge of the Bible to those who speak Quiché.

The second Bible is the work of Mr. and Mrs. H. Dudley Peck. They are Presbyterian missionaries among the Mam Indians in western Guatemala; and, as in the case of the translation into Quiché, the Peck translation into Mam is probably the first version of the Bible that has been made available in this Indian language.

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Guatemalan Indian converts to Christianity are in the main Catholic, because of the centuries of Spanish domination and influence. Their knowledge of Christianity is therefore likely to be confined to Spanish texts. The translations into Mam and Quiché consequently mark not only new additions to the Bible Collection in the Colby College Library, but mark also a new chapter in the history of missionary work among the Indians of Guatemala.



TWO FRIENDS OF ROBINSON

EDWIN Arlington Robinson has told in *The Colophon* (December 1930) his own story of the hardships of his "First Seven Years." This period of neglect was followed by a happier time, when, with the helpful influence of a president of the United States, Robinson began to gain a hearing for his poems. After Theodore Roosevelt left the White House, Robinson found many a door, previously closed, now open to him. And when he began spending his summers at the MacDowell Colony in New Hampshire, Robinson embarked upon a smooth voyage that ended only with his death.

Shortly after beginning his annual visits to Peterborough, Robinson made the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Sergeant Perry of near-by Hancock. He found them both to be delightful characters—well read, widely travelled, ardent in friendship, and keen of intellect. Mrs. Perry was the niece of James Russell Lowell, and a poet as well as a painter of unusual ability. In 1916 she painted the portrait of Robinson that now hangs in the Robinson Treasure Room of the Colby College Library. Her husband's long service to the Boston Public Library is commemorated on a bronze tablet that hangs upon the courtyard wall of that library. It reads: "In Memoriam Thomas Sergeant Perry 1845-1928. He enriched this Li-