

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

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Volume 2  
Issue 9 *February*

Article 9

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February 1949

## Notes by the Way

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### Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 2, no.9, February 1949, p.155-156

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it had been in the library of Edward Everett, the American statesman and orator who, at the time of the publication of Hawthorne's book, was governor of Massachusetts. His autograph "E. Everett" appears on the fly-leaf, with a notation that he received the book "from the author."

The other item which Mr. Calhoun has presented to the library is an anonymous publication of 1840. The spine of the book carries the words "The Family Library, No. 106. Life Before the Mast." In spite of this wording, and in spite of the absence of any author's name upon the title page, which reads *Two Years Before the Mast. A Personal Narrative of Life at Sea*, the initiated will recognize this as a first edition of the famous work by Richard Henry Dana, Jr. The book is accompanied by an autograph letter which Dana addressed to Colonel C. F. Adams, Jr. (is this Charles Francis Adams, Secretary of the Navy in President Hoover's cabinet and great-grandson of John Quincy Adams?). In any case, book and letter now provide excellent company for the copy of Shelley's *Minor Poems* already in the Colby Library—a volume that once belonged to Richard Henry Dana, Jr., a gift from his friend Horatio Woodman.



## NOTES BY THE WAY

ON the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the publication of *Lyrical Ballads* by Wordsworth and Coleridge, the Library Associates commemorated this important poetic work by a meeting addressed by Dr. Alice P. Comparetti and by an exhibition of Wordsworth's books. Mrs. Comparetti spoke on "Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads* after 150 Years." She modestly made no reference to the fact that she, with other members of the English teaching-staff, had contributed what is not only the most important item in Colby's Wordsworth Collection, but what would be an important one in *any* Wordsworth Collection—a copy

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of the first two-volume edition of *Lyrical Ballads*, with the first appearance of the famous Preface, published in London in 1800. The Colby copy of this epoch-making work was once in the famous library of A. Edward Newton and bears his distinguished bookplate. In addition to the volumes exhibited, most of them first editions, the sesquicentennial display of Wordsworthiana included two autograph letters, a copy of Cicero that once belonged to the poet and that bears his signature "W. Wordsworth" on its 1664 title-page, a letter signed by his grandson Gordon Wordsworth, and various other memorabilia.

On December 3, 1948, Mr. Philo C. Calhoun addressed the Library Associates on "Book-Collecting in the Lower Brackets." He illustrated his remarks with a thrilling series of items from his own private library, and delighted his audience with his account of personal experiences as a book-collector. Mr. Calhoun made it clear that he not only buys books but reads them and enjoys them, and he shared his enjoyment with a grateful audience.

On January 14 a meeting of the Library Associates was addressed by student members of the organization on the general subject "Famous Literary Forgeries." Mr. George Doud spoke on James Macpherson's forgery of Poems by Ossian; Miss Jeanne Littlefield spoke on Thomas Chatterton's forgery of Poems by a fictitious monk Rowley; Miss Cynthia F. Crook told of William Henry Ireland's forgery of Shakespeare manuscripts; Miss Lucille E. Farnham spoke of other Shakespearean forgeries by John Payne Collier; and Miss Patricia A. Lydon spoke about the astounding forgeries of Thomas J. Wise, whose career was sketched by Mr. David Evans. Of particular interest to the audience were two of the forgeries by Wise which are now in the Colby College Library: a copy of Swinburne's *Siena*, one of the forgeries detected and exposed by Carter and Pollard only fifteen years ago; and a copy of Tennyson's *Lucretius*, the only one of Wise's forgeries with a cloth cover.