November 1949

Notes Toward the Definitive Bibliography of Thomas Hardy's Poems of the Past and the Present

Benton L. Hatch

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq

Recommended Citation
Colby Library Quarterly, series 2, no.12, November 1949, p.195-198

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.
novels had, and that the Hardy characters were more on the level with our own society and hence more within our comprehension. “Yes, to understand Meredith I suppose one would have to be familiar with the various strata of English society—and even then!”

At this point the tea table appeared, and with it Mrs. Hardy, in a flowered frock and a wide hat, looking the part of a British matron on her way to a garden party, which was indeed the case. After tea she reminded her husband that they were already late for such a party, at which he made a wry face and was kind enough to say that he would much prefer to continue our talk. He not only saw me to the door, but walked with me through the shrubbery to the gate, and cordially invited me to come again. He somehow conveyed the impression that I had done him an honor in coming to see him, and I walked back to Casterbridge feeling that I had spent an hour or so not only with a very great man but with a most genial host.

NOTES TOWARD THE DEFINITIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THOMAS HARDY’S
Poems of the Past and the Present
By Benton L. Hatch

CARROLL A. Wilson, in A Descriptive Catalogue of the Grolier Club Centenary Exhibition, 1940, of the Works of Thomas Hardy, O. M., 1840-1928 (Waterville, Me., Colby College Press, 1940), discusses certain typographical points in connection with two of the three copies of Hardy’s Poems of the Past and the Present exhibited (vide nos. 162-164), namely: the page numbering on pages 12 and 23, and the “N” in the title of the poem on the latter page. In the Robinson Treasure Room of the Colby College Library, there are four copies of this title which have several combinations of the points mentioned by Wilson. As a possible
contribution to the definitive bibliography of this title, I describe these copies.

I. Bound in dark blue-green ribbed cloth with a design in gilt on the front cover, and the spine lettered in gilt: Poems of the Past and the Present [Device] Thomas Hardy | Harpers |

This binding is the same as that on the Harper, and the Osgood, McLlvaine and Co., "Uniform Edition," 1895-1897.

Collation. Half-title: Thomas Hardy's Works | Poems of the Past and | the Present |; verso, blank; title-page: Poems of the Past | and the Present | By | Thomas Hardy | [Publisher's Device] | versa: London and New York | Harper & Brothers | 45 Albemarle Street, W. | MDCCCCII | All rights reserved |; p. [v]-vi, Preface, dated at end: August 1901; p. [vii]-xi, Contents; p. [xii], blank; p. [1]-260, text of the poems; p. [261-262], advertisement of "Wessex Poems"; blank leaf at end.

In this copy (inscribed on front end-paper: "R. Owen, November 21, 1901"), pages 12 and 23 are unnumbered, and the "N" in the title on page 23 is present.

II. Same as above, excepting as noted.

Bound in smooth white buckram, the boards with bevelled edges, all edges gilt. The stamping and lettering as in I.

This copy, from the library of A. Edward Newton, has page 12 unnumbered, page 23 numbered, and the "N" in the title on page 23 is present.

III. Same as I, excepting as noted.

Bound in light green smooth cloth with a panel of a leaf design within a double rule-frame stamped in dark green. A smaller center panel of smooth white buckram is mounted on the leaf design panel, with double rule-frame in gilt, and lettering in gilt: Poems of the Past and the Present [Device] Thomas Hardy |

The spine has a double rule-frame stamped in dark green, inside of
Colby Library Quarterly 197

which is lettered in gilt: Poems | of the | Past and | the | Present | Thomas | Hardy | Harpers |.

Collation is as in I, with the exception that the verso of the title-page reads: New York and London | Harper & Brothers | Franklin Square | MDCCCLII | All rights reserved | December, 1901. |

The points are as in II, above.

IV. Binding and collation are the same as in I.

In this copy, pages 12 and 23 are numbered, and the "N" in the title on page 23 is wanting.

One can suggest, subject to revision when further dated copies are examined, the following order of issues (or states) of the English first edition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st.</td>
<td>Blue-green</td>
<td>Nov. 21, 1901</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Owen copy</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Colby I)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd.</td>
<td>Blue-green</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hardy copy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Wilson 163)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>White</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newton copy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Colby II)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd.</td>
<td>Blue-green</td>
<td>Nov. 1901</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Douglas copy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Wilson 164)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th.</td>
<td>Blue-green</td>
<td>?</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Colby IV)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wilson makes no mention of typographical points in connection with the J. M. Barrie copy in white buckram (no. 162). It may have the same combination as the Newton copy (Colby II).

The American first edition in light green cloth (Colby III), since it has the same combination of points as the Newton copy in white buckram (Colby II) and Hardy's own copy in blue-green cloth (Wilson 163), was probably
from the plates of the posited second issue, or state, with the verso of the title-page reset and dated December, 1901.

A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF SARAH ORNE JEWETT

Reviewed by F. O. Matthiessen

This handsomely printed bibliography,* coming right out of the heart of the country of the pointed firs, makes a most appropriate birthday offering to the memory of Miss Jewett in her centennial year. It will be of great service to all future biographers and critics; and this biographer can only wish that he might have had it at hand when he wrote his own sketch of her twenty years ago.

Clara and Carl Weber point out that much of Miss Jewett’s work still remains uncollected, since the seven-volume edition brought out by Houghton Mifflin in 1910—the year after her death—contains something less than half of her total production. Yet there is a fitness in that fact. Her standards were so exacting that she would prefer to be represented only by her best. And her best is in her short stories, produced sparingly, not many more than a hundred spaced over more than thirty years. Nearly three-quarters of these are in the collected edition, along with one of her three novels, A Country Doctor.

In addition to providing a complete list of Miss Jewett’s books and of all her contributions to magazines and newspapers, the Webers have included the steadily growing list of her appearances in anthologies. Their section dealing with translations reveals the odd accident that whereas A Country Doctor and several stories have been done into French, and A Tory Lover into both French and Italian, her masterpiece still remains untranslated. The Country of