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Thomas Hardy's Chair

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appropriate manner possible, by the purchase through the Associates of the *Lyrical Ballads* of 1798. This, the most influential and famous single volume of poetry published in the last hundred and fifty years, was a joint publication of Wordsworth and Coleridge; it was printed at Bristol, and the original plan called for publishing it there. Though it is not at all certain that the book was ever really on sale in Bristol, half a dozen copies bearing a Bristol imprint are known to exist. If ever one of these should come up for sale, the price would run into three or even four figures. The great majority of copies were furnished with a new title-page and were published in London. Our copy is of the London issue—the one that really got read and made literary history. Though somewhat cheaper than one with a Bristol imprint, it still cost a good deal more than the Colby Library ordinarily spends for a single volume. It can without exaggeration be called a noble acquisition.

May I suggest that we now start on one of Wordsworth's forerunners, George Crabbe? He is a very interesting poet just due for a revival, and, with one or two exceptions, still very cheap.



THOMAS HARDY'S CHAIR

WHEN Carroll Wilson's *Catalogue of the Grolier Club Exhibition of the Works of Thomas Hardy* appeared in 1940 as Colby College Monograph No. 9, it carried the illustration of Thomas Hardy, reproduced in this issue, showing the novelist comfortably seated in a cushioned arm-chair in his study at Max Gate. This chair is now in the Colby College Library. It stands in a corner of the Treasure Room, a close neighbor of the books from the Max Gate library—books whose titles were given in our issue for August, 1950.

The Hardy chair is the gift of Mr. E. N. Sanders, of

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Parkstone, Dorset, England. His name appeared in this quarterly as long ago as June, 1944, and in November, 1948, he was identified to its readers as an "editor and ardent Hardy collector." For nearly thirty years Mr. Sanders was on the editorial staff of *The Strand Magazine*, and for more than half of that time he was its Assistant Editor. This was in the early days of that famous magazine, when each new Adventure of Sherlock Holmes was eagerly awaited by readers on both sides of the ocean.

When, for reasons of health, Mr. Sanders had to leave London, his liking for the books of Thomas Hardy led him to choose Dorset as his future home. He had first become attracted to Hardy by reading *Tess* and *The Trumpet-Major* while on holiday at Weymouth, near Hardy's Dorchester. Subsequent visits to Dorchester itself led to acquaintance with two of the leading Hardy Players—A. H. Evans (father of the Shakespearean actor Maurice Evans), who adapted more than one of the Wessex novels, and Alderman T. H. Tilley, also an adaptor as well as producer and actor in the Hardy Plays.

Mr. Sanders settled at Parkstone, not far from Bourne-mouth (Tess's "Sandbourne"), and from his home there he carried on further exploration of the Hardy country. This led not only to further reading of the Wessex Novels, but also to collecting them in various editions and formats. Mr. Sanders found this a fascinating hobby, and in time discovered that his Hardy Collection included over seven hundred volumes, nearly 250 portraits, a large number of articles and books about Hardy, and thousands of clippings conveniently mounted in a series of albums.

After the death of the second Mrs. Hardy in 1937, the novelist's Max Gate study was reconstructed in the Dorchester Museum, and some of his manuscripts and books, together with interesting personal relics, were deposited there. When this Hardy Room was recently enlarged, Mr. Sanders presented his Hardy Collection to the Museum,

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and it now appropriately keeps company with Hardy's own treasures.

One item, however, did not go to Dorchester. The novelist's chair, which Mr. Sanders had acquired after Mrs. Hardy's death, was offered to Colby College, and during the past summer the chair crossed the ocean and eventually arrived at Mayflower Hill. It now stands in a corner where it is flanked by Hardy books—hundreds of them—and nearby is a photograph of Augustus John's portrait of Hardy, which is also a gift from Mr. Sanders.



THE PETER PAUPER PRESS AWARD

By JAMES HUMPHRY III

LAST April, Peter and Edna Beilenson, owners of the Peter Pauper Press in Mount Vernon, New York, announced an interesting and unusual contest. They offered a set of fifty of their famous books to a limited number of college libraries, if their librarians would write a letter which would, in the eyes of the judges of the contest, assure the Beilensons that such a Peter Pauper Press collection could and would be put to good use in the college involved. Needless to say, the Colby College Librarian replied at once, setting forth pertinent reasons for Colby's being an appropriate recipient of such a collection of fine literature and fine printing. In June he received notification that the Colby College Library was one of the winners and had been awarded a set of the Peter Pauper books. Early in September the books themselves arrived. They were placed on exhibition in the main lobby of the library, together with explanatory notes and other material supplied by the Press. The books have attracted a lot of attention throughout September and October.

Mr. and Mrs. Beilenson have made it clear that the purpose of this award to Colby College "is to spread knowl-