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Album Benefactorum

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present classic stature. "There can be little doubt," wrote Curle, "that Conrad's fame as a novelist rests chiefly upon *Lord Jim*. And perhaps the main reason for this is that it raises a fierce moral issue in a very definite form and carries it through on a high level of creative intensity." J. Donald Adams was getting at the same thing when he called Conrad's *Lord Jim* "the most representative of all that he stands for in English literature," and added: "I do not know where else one may find a better portrait of an incurable romantic, a more sensitive reflection of the sense of lost honor."

It is now just fifty years since *Lord Jim* was given to the world; and the work of the artistic Pole has long since proved its quality. The "lump of clay," as Conrad once called the book, is more vital in 1950 than ever.



ALBUM BENEFACTORUM

IN the famous Bodleian Library at Oxford, all visitors may see an open volume entitled *Album Benefactorum*. A little card nearby carries a note explaining that this "Register of Benefactors was begun in 1600 under the personal care of Sir Thomas Bodley. The Latin Statutes of 1610 provide that it shall be kept up to date and always exposed to view, both as a mark of gratitude to benefactors and as an encouragement to others who may be ready to follow them."

To our own Register of Benefactors we must add the following names, with the reasons for our gratitude for their interest in our Library and their gifts to it:

To Mr. Merton L. Miller, of the Class of 1890, we are indebted for eight volumes of Laws regarding Spanish colonies in the West Indies: *Recopilacion de leyes de los reynos de las Indias*, Madrid: four volumes published by Paredes in 1681, and four published by Ortega in 1774.

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From Mr. James A. Healy of New York and Portland we have received a copy of T. W. H. Crosland's *The Abounding American* (London, Thompson, 1907), a book in which our interest is greatly increased by reason of the fact that it comes from the library of Henry James.

From Mrs. William R. Campbell, of Cape Cottage, Maine, we have received nearly a hundred volumes, all in fine bindings and all in excellent condition.

To Burton E. Small, of the Class of 1919, we are indebted for copies of James Parton's *General Butler in New Orleans* (New York, Mason Brothers, 1864), with the autograph of Benjamin F. Butler (Colby 1838) pasted to the front end-paper, and *A Series of Letters between . . . Joseph Buckminster, . . . Joseph Walton, . . . and Hosea Ballou* (Windsor, Watts, 1811).

From Mrs. Irene Gushee Moran, of the Class of 1921, we have received a copy of the first edition (1864) of Thoreau's *Maine Woods*. It arrived at a very opportune time, for we had just acquired a copy of the most recent reprint of this famous book, one illustrated with drawings by Henry Bugbee Kane and annotated by Dudley C. Lunt (New York, W. W. Norton, 1950). We were delighted to have these two editions of Thoreau on hand in October, when the Colby Library Associates were addressed by Henry Beston, author of *Herbs and the Earth*, *American Memory*, *The Outermost House*, and *Northern Farm*. For those readers who may not see the connection between Mr. Beston and Henry David Thoreau, we may quote from the brief review of Mr. Beston's *Northern Farm* which appeared in the June, 1950, issue of *The New England Quarterly*: "Many readers of Mr. Beston's *The Outermost House* regard it as one of the most delightful American books since Thoreau. *Northern Farm* has the same distinction of style and the same brilliantly perceptive and imaginative quality. It is a record of a year on a Maine farm and far excels any similar book which has appeared in recent years." Earlier

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this year Mr. Beston edited a widely-hailed State-of-Maine Reader entitled *White Pine and Blue Water*; and shortly before coming to speak at Colby he wrote an introduction for a new edition of Thoreau's *Cape Cod*. Of Henry David Thoreau Mr. Beston writes: "I respect and honor him as one of our really great people." Thanks to our benefactors and the Colby Library Associates, we have a very respectable Thoreau Collection.

From Dr. Herman T. Radin we have received copies of Grant Richards' *Memories of a Misspent Youth* (London, 1932) and the same author's *Author Hunting* (London, 1934).

In addition to the Hardy chair (reported on another page), Mr. E. N. Sanders has sent a copy of the *Leader Magazine*, London, June 3, 1950, so that we may add it to our Hardy Collection.

Dr. Rachel Salisbury (who is Director of Freshman English in the Wisconsin State Teachers College in Milwaukee) has enriched our collection of books from the library of Thomas Hardy by sending us two: Voltaire's *Zaire* (Paris, Lévy, 1875) and Zola's *Docteur Pascal* (Paris, Charpentier, 1893). These two titles should therefore be added to the list of Max Gate books given in the preceding issue of this quarterly.



HUMPHRY'S CATALOGUE OF
ROBINSON'S LIBRARY

Reviewed by CARL J. WEBER

ON October 15, 1943, Esther Willard Bates addressed the Colby Library Associates on "Edwin Arlington Robinson and his Manuscripts." She had typed his poems for him for many years, after the poet and his volunteer typist had met in 1913 at the MacDowell Colony. Of Rob-