

# Colby



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## Humphry's Catalogue of Robinson's Library

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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-

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inson she reported: "He was a wide reader, a careful reader, and had a long and exact memory. He quoted frequently and always accurately. He knew his Bible. . . . He was amazingly familiar with English poetry, especially that of the nineteenth century."

Careful readers of Robinson's poetry have, of course, long been familiar with its bookish background—I use the word "bookish" in a good and not in a derogatory sense—but not until the present full-length catalogue of the poet's library (recently published by the Colby College Press) was compiled by Mr. Humphry was information made available to the scholar and to the student of Robinson's work, about the extent and the nature of the personal library in which the poet's reading was done.

When Robinson's Harvard classmate, Dr. James L. Tryon, addressed the Colby Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa on April 16, 1940, he told his audience that, among his memories of Robinson at Harvard, he recalled the fact that the poet "drew comparatively few books out of the college library; most of the books that he used, he owned."

These books are now in the Robinson Treasure Room of the Colby College Library. Mr. Humphry has performed a real service to all admirers of Robinson's poetry, by making available for the first time detailed and specific information about "the books that he used and owned." The part that Bryant's *Library of Poetry and Song* played in the poet's early training, the author to whom he went in his study of synonyms (George Crabb's work "with copious illustrations from the best writers"), the editions of Milton, of Wordsworth, and of Browning which he used, are all set forth here with admirable clarity and fullness. This catalogue has been printed with all the skill and art that we have learned to associate with Fred Anthoensen, and *The Library of Edwin Arlington Robinson* is as attractive as it is useful.