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to be my signal to withdraw. Like Boswell, I hurried off to make written notes on my conversation with the Great Man.

That was a memorable day—July 9, 1929! Even though I knew at the time that Shaw was quite capable of talking a lot of nonsense, and even though I now see that he was partly humbug, even at his most impressive moments, even so, Shaw in his tweed knickers, with his twinkling eyes, his snowy white beard, his strong, hearty voice and ready speech, was a man one does not quickly or easily forget.



GRAY'S ELEGY AND "PREXIE" ROBERTS

By EDWARD H. MERRILL, '25

THE very interesting and scholarly essay on Gray's *Elegy* in the last issue of the *Colby Library Quarterly* impressed me deeply and recalled to my mind the way "Prexie" Roberts used the poem in my own student days. He made us memorize much of the *Elegy* in Freshman Public Speaking and had us recite many of the stanzas, with their lines which stay with me to this day.

The essay of last February also brought to mind a summer day in 1949 when I stood in the venerable New Jersey churchyard which surrounds the old church in which soldiers wounded in the famous battle of Monmouth were treated for their wounds. My companion was an elderly gentleman for many years editor-in-chief of a nationally-known publishing company. I remarked that the churchyard where we were standing reminded me of the one that inspired Gray to write his famous *Elegy*. My friend then quoted the first two stanzas and said that I could go on from there. I surprised him by doing just that. I then told him about the course I had taken under President Roberts during my undergraduate days at Colby.

Roberts had an extraordinary ability "to point a moral,"

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and I still remember his interpretation of the poem—especially the lines about “some heart once pregnant with celestial fire.” We at Colby, in contrast to those buried in the English churchyard, were being given an opportunity to develop our abilities and we should make the most of it. The ample pages of knowledge were open to us. Perhaps from among the students at Colby College would arise men and women who would serve mankind. That was the hope of “Prexie” Roberts.

[Postscript by the Editor: Mr. Merrill is not the only one to respond to our celebration of the bicentenary of Gray’s poem. Dr. Charles W. Spencer (Colby, ’90) wrote: “I have had great pleasure in reading the Gray memorial number of the *Quarterly*. As a classmate of Roberts, I am pleased to have this evidence of his acuteness of perception.”

From the Library of Congress came a request for further information about our copy of the edition printed at Kennebunk in 1814; and, as far as we have been able to learn, this copy remains the only one of this edition on record and the only one known to be extant.

From Mr. Philo C. Calhoun, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, we received information gleaned by him from various sources but chiefly from the library of the American Antiquarian Society at Worcester. This information makes it clear that, prior to the Kennebunk printing of the *Elegy*, there were not only the four American imprints listed by us (marked by asterisks in the list below) but eleven others, so that the *Elegy* had been printed at least fifteen times before it appeared in Maine. Mr. Calhoun’s list is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Boston, 1772* | 9. Litchfield, Conn., 1799* |
| 2. Boston, also 1772 | 10. Wilmington, Del., 1803* |
| 3. Philadelphia, 1773 | 11. Boston, 1807 |
| 4. Philadelphia, 1786 | 12. Newburyport, 1807 |
| 5. Boston, 1789 | 13. Boston, 1808* |
| 6. Philadelphia, 1791 | 14. Concord, N. H., 1809 |
| 7. Boston, 1796 | 15. Pittsburgh, 1813. |
| 8. Norwich, 1796 | |

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From Mr. Louis J. Bailey, of the Queens Borough Public Library in Jamaica, New York, we received a welcome copy of the *Elegy* as published in London in 1861 by Sampson Low, Son & Co. The book contains numerous engraved illustrations—not the same ones, however, as those discussed in our bicentennial issue.

From the Colby Library Associates the Library received a copy of the *Elegy* as printed for members of the Limited Editions Club in 1938. This is a truly beautiful book. It was designed by Robert A. Maynard, and was printed at the Raven Press in London. This edition has an introduction by Sir Hugh Walpole, but its most distinctive and distinguished feature was contributed by Agnes Miller Parker. She is the artist responsible for the wood-engravings in this volume—illustrations which were “sketched in the same country church-yard.” The Colby copy of this book is No. 804 in an edition of 1500 copies; the book is signed “A. Miller Parker.”

Another Library Associate sent us this quotation from F. T. Palgrave (the *Golden Treasury* man): “For wealth of condensed thought and imagery, fused into one equable stream of golden song by intense fire of genius, I know no poem superior to this *Elegy*,—none quite equal.”]



IN MEMORIAM HERMAN T. RADIN

By WILLIAM WHITE
Wayne University

DR. Herman T. Radin, M.D., for several years a member of the Colby Library Associates, died in New York City on January 16, 1951, in his seventieth year. Born in 1880 in Möwe, West Prussia, he came to this country at the age of five. He received his A.B. from the College of the City of New York, his M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia), and spent his life in New