

Colby



Colby Quarterly

Volume 3
Issue 5 *February*

Article 8

February 1952

Recent Acquisitions

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Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 3, no.05, February 1952, p.80-84

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rary manuscript notation giving names of men killed and wounded in the Boston Massacre on the fifth of March, 1770.



RECENT ACQUISITIONS

AT Commencement time in 1950, the Library opened a Mid-Century Centennial Exhibition of books published in 1850. In the catalogue of this exhibition, the statement was printed that the copy of Mrs. Gaskell's novel, *The Moorland Cottage*, was loaned by Yale University Library for the Colby Exhibition, since our own library had no copy of this mid-century work. Through the kindness of Mrs. Allan P. Stevens of Portland, Maine, this gap has now been closed, and a gilt-edged copy of the first edition of *The Moorland Cottage* is now ours.

Readers of this quarterly will remember that in February 1951 we celebrated the bicentenary of Gray's *Elegy* by publishing an illustrated issue in which we reproduced nine of the "exquisite engravings" that had originally been prepared by John Constable and other artists for an edition of the *Elegy* published in London in 1834 by John van Voorst—an edition that was re-issued in 1836, in 1839, and in 1854. No copy of this edition was present in our bicentennial exhibition, for Colby then had none. We are happy to be able to announce that a copy of the 1836 issue of the Van Voorst edition is now in the college library—the gift of Miss Margaret Perry of Hancock, N. H. The book bears the autograph of her distinguished father, Thomas Sergeant Perry.

From Mr. H. B. Colamore, a member of the Board of Trustees, the Library has received a copy of the extremely rare first American edition of FitzGerald's *Rubaiyat*. It was printed in Columbus, Ohio, in 1870. To call it "extremely rare" is to state the fact with extreme restraint, for the Union Catalog in the Library of Congress records no oth-

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er copy than the Collamore book now at Colby. Only one hundred copies were printed for private circulation back in 1870, and if any of the other 99 copies have survived, their present whereabouts are not recorded. We shall welcome any information about them. Meanwhile, our readers may be glad to have some further comment on this excessively rare item. The Library has obtained a photostat of a page in the *Ohio State Journal* for Sunday, January 21, 1900, on which a letter was printed about this Columbus edition of the *Rubaiyat*. The letter was written by a man named F. F. D. Albery; he was, apparently, one of a literary group originally responsible for the first American printing of FitzGerald's famous quatrains. According to Mr. Albery, a number of men with "a literary bent" had come together in Columbus after the Civil War, among them a General W. A. Knapp, a Colonel James Watson, a Mr. E. L. DeWitt, a W. P. Little, and a Henry C. Taylor. And, says Mr. Albery, "there were others." Some member or members of this Ohio group learned through an article in the *North American Review* in 1868 about the publication of FitzGerald's *Omar Khayyam* in London, and a copy was eventually obtained from England—the very last copy of the Second Edition that the publisher had for sale. Unable to obtain further copies, these Ohio gentlemen decided to print their own. "Colonel Watson took the lead," says Mr. Albery. "The work was entrusted to Mr. Richard Nevins, who soon produced almost an exact copy—accented type and all—of Quaritch's Second Edition." Thus FitzGerald's first American edition was quietly ushered into the world.

It is not surprising to observe that knowledge of the existence of this Columbus edition did not get around even in those days of long ago; and when, eight years later, a firm of Boston publishers planned to issue an edition of the *Rubaiyat*, they confidently announced that *their* book was the First American Edition. In any library other than

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the Colby College Library, the Boston claim would be hard to dispute.

Curiously enough, since the Ohio admirers of Omar Khayyam produced "almost an exact copy" of the Second Edition in London, their book carries the words "Second Edition" on its cover, whereas the real second (American) edition was the one published in Boston. The "Second" was the first, and the "First" is the second. Mr. Collamore's gift to the college library has indeed equipped us with a distinguished and important bibliographical treasure.

When a copy of our November (1951) issue reached the hands of Mr. H. Richard Archer in the magnificent William Andrews Clark Library of the University of California in Los Angeles, he read our "Charles Ricketts Postscript" on page 68, and noted the remarks about certain Ricketts items published after his death just twenty years ago. Whereupon Mr. Archer promptly wrote us as follows: "Among the Ricketts items published posthumously, do you have *Unrecorded Histories* by Charles Ricketts, with six designs by the author (London, 1933)? If Colby lacks this, let me know. My wife and I will be glad to present our copy, one of 950 copies printed, for the Colby collection; it is in excellent condition." Colby *did* lack this item, and we are now happy to report that California generosity has further enriched this Maine library and that the book is "in excellent condition." It is also in excellent company!

From Miss Mabel Daniels, of Boston, we have received a typescript of a short poem by Edwin Arlington Robinson, autographed by the poet. And a letter written by the same poet to Carrie Belle Parks was presented by her to the Library at the time of a visit to the campus of Colby College (on November 3, 1951) by members of Kappa Chapter of Delta Gamma, honorary society for women educators. These visitors were welcomed by the Acting Librarian, Miss F. Elizabeth Libbey, who conducted them on a tour of the library building, including the Edwin Ar-

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lington Robinson Treasure Room. When Mrs. Carrie Belle Parks Norton, now President of Kappa Chapter, was a member of the faculty of Pennsylvania State Teachers College at Indiana, Pennsylvania, she organized a poetry club and asked Robinson's permission to name the club after him. He thereupon wrote her the letter which Mrs. Norton presented to Colby. It reads as follows:

Miss Carrie Belle Parks
State Teachers College
Indiana, Pennsylvania

30 Ipswich Street
Boston, October 20, 1927

My dear Miss Parks,

I am sorry not to have a more romantic and poetical name, but you are quite welcome to it, such as it is, for your club. Let me thank you for your kind letter and for all that it appears to imply in the way of appreciation.

Yours very sincerely,
E. A. ROBINSON

From Mr. Joseph Otis Smith we have received a copy of a rare seventeenth-century book, John Downname's *Christian Warfare against the Devill* (London, Stansby, 1633).

Dr. Edward F. Stevens, '89, has presented two volumes by William Dean Howells: *Certain Delightful English Towns*, and *Seven English Cities*.

Thanks to Dr. Robert B. Downs, former librarian at Colby, we have a copy of *American Library Resources: A Bibliographical Guide*. This volume was recently published in Chicago by the American Library Association. It is a 428-page book and lists no less than 5578 items which provide information about the holdings of American libraries. Dr. Downs, who is now Director of the University of Illinois Library as well as Director of the Library School, provides in this expert compilation an interesting appraisal of the growth of the Colby Library in the course of the quarter-century since he left Waterville.

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No fewer than 22 items are indexed under "Colby" and the list does not include the Vale Press report recently made by Major Humphry (in our issue for November 1951) nor the account of our manuscript holdings, as indicated by our exhibition of last summer. But we find that the Index does call attention to Colby's holdings under the following subjects: Jacob Abbott, Samuel Butler, James B. Connolly, Margaret Deland, Thomas Hardy, A. E. Housman, Henry James, Kelmscott Press, Lincoln, Lovejoy, and Alexander Pope.

The big universities are, of course, represented in Dr. Downs's volume by long lists which make Colby's 22 entries look small; but among New England colleges we shine more brightly. The Index calls attention to a dozen New England colleges, and their publications on library resources are as follows:

Amherst	3	Middlebury	3
Boston	2	Trinity	6
Bowdoin	4	Tufts	2
Colby	22	Vassar	2
Connecticut	1	Wellesley	5
Dartmouth	11	Williams	4

Outside of New England, among the colleges listed and the number of their entries are the following: Claremont, 5; Haverford, 9; Oberlin, 4; and Swarthmore, 8.

On page 14 of *American Library Resources* there is a list of "current journals issued by individual libraries." The COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY is the only college publication included in this list of periodicals. Six of its university-companions are the *Harvard Library Bulletin*, the *University of Pennsylvania Library Chronicle*, the *Princeton University Library Chronicle*, the *Journal of the Rutgers University Library*, the *Library Chronicle of the University of Texas*, and the *Yale University Library Gazette*. We are indeed happy to find ourselves admitted by Dr. Downs to such a company.