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Other Acquisitions

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A CHINESE FORE-EDGE PAINTING

IN Weber's historical record of the mysterious art of fore-edge decoration—a book (now out of print) entitled *A Thousand-and-one Fore-Edge Paintings* (Colby, 1949)—pages 109-110 are devoted to the work done by Chinese artists. The author remarks: "Chinese fore-edge paintings . . . can all be dated 1936 to 1942. . . . They are either gilt-edged or not; . . . many . . . are not under gold. . . . Chinese artists who were Christians painted Biblical scenes on the edges, no matter what the books contained [for subject-matter]. . . . These Chinese scenes were not always painted horizontally on the edges [of the book], as is the case with almost all the English fore-edge landscapes, but vertically. . . . [There are] scores of specimens of Chinese work . . . [now in] American libraries." Curiously enough, however, there has been none at Colby. Now, thanks to the generous act of Mrs. Hazel G. Littlefield Smith, of Palos Verdes Estates, California, we have an excellent example of Chinese work. From Peking, China, came her copy of Vicesimus Knox's *Essays, Moral and Literary* (London, Dilly, 1795), on the fore-edges of which, not under gilt, is a vertically-executed Biblical scene which illustrates perfectly all the comments quoted above.



OTHER ACQUISITIONS

MR. H. BACON COLLAMORE, of Hartford, Connecticut, has greatly improved the Library's holdings of modern poets and novelists by presenting extensive collections of the works—largely first editions—of the following: Norman Douglas, Archibald Marshall, Robert Nathan, Oliver Onions, Eden Philpotts, and Henry Williamson. These books have arrived in Waterville too recently for us to speak in detail about them, but they constitute the latest evidence of Mr. Collamore's long-continued interest in and benefaction of the Colby College Library.

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From Mrs. Frank J. Sprague, of New York City, we have received six editions of Bartlett's *Familiar Quotations*,—to supplement those mentioned last February as already present at Colby, at the time of the publication of Mrs. Sprague's centennial article on John Bartlett. Her gift includes copies of the first, fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth editions. The first, published by John Bartlett himself, is dated (it will be remembered) 1855.

From Mrs. Margaret K. Henrichsen, of North Sullivan, Maine, the Library has received the manuscript of her widely read book, *The Seven Steeples*.

From Mr. Arthur G. Robinson (Colby '06) we have received a copy of Lamb's *Specimens of the English Dramatic Poets* and a copy of R. E. Smith's translation of Omar Khayyam (New York, 1933, boxed), No. 177 of one thousand numbered copies.

At the time of its Sesquicentennial Exhibition of Waterville Imprints, the Library had to borrow (back in 1952) one of the items exhibited. We are happy to be able to report that we have now acquired as a permanent possession a copy of this item, Number 19 in Benton Hatch's checklist. This new acquisition was printed in Waterville by William Hastings, and is entitled: *A Sermon delivered July 7, 1825, at the Eastern Association of Universalists in Wayne, Maine*, by Rev. Sylvanus Cobb.

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS

From Professor C. L. Barber, of Amherst College, we have received a most interesting addition to our file of letters written by Sarah Orne Jewett. This gift more than doubles the number of our Jewett letters and emphasizes the desirability of our reprinting the long-out-of-print edition of *Jewett Letters* which was selected some years ago as one of the Fifty Books of the Year.

From Mrs. Hazel G. Littlefield Smith (already named

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above as the donor of the specimen of Chinese fore-edge painting) we have received two autograph letters of Lord Dunsany, Irish author now resident in England.

From three different sources we have received letters of Thomas Hardy—too late, it is true, for them to find a place in the volume of *Letters* published last year by the Colby College Press, but welcome just the same. In view of the fact that all the other Hardy letters now in the Colby Library have been published in the volume referred to, we will here transcribe the three latest arrivals. The letter of 1892 to an unidentified "Miss Smith" (presumably one of Hardy's numerous American admirers) was presented to Colby by Mr. Walter Beinecke, Jr., of New York City. The letter of 1909 to the Reverend Herbert Pentin is a gift from Dean Julian Park, of the University of Buffalo. And the undated note written by Hardy to "Dear Sir" we owe to Miss Winifred Myers of London, England. The annotation of these letters has been done by the editor of this quarterly.

Letter No. I

MAX GATE, DORCHESTER.

26. 6. 92 [i. e., June 26, 1892]

Dear Miss Smith:

I have read with interest the remarks of "Boulevardier" on *Tess*, in the Star-Transcripts you send me, which I am forwarding to the publishers¹ as you request. Many thanks for letting me see them.

The copy of the book² on loan, and the severe measures of the "Institute," point to a very amusing condition of literary affairs out there, in which your nephew looms heroic, as Carlyle would say. The publishers' reason for issuing an abridged edition³ was connected with the copy-

¹ Harper & Brothers, New York.

² *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

³ Harpers' "abridged" edition, 1892, was defective in three places: (1) on page 66, after the paragraph ending "comparative helplessness, upon him," fifteen pages were omitted; (2) on page 71, middle, three pages (dealing with the incident of the text-painter) were omitted; (3) on page 76 Chapter 13 begins with the Roger Ascham quotation; in the next edition, this quotation was shifted to Chapter 16, preceded by 14 pages which include the baptism of "Sorrow."

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right, the full manuscript not having reached them in time to print the early copies from it; and this seems to have raised a suspicion of some expurgatory process, and so helped the sale (as it always does).

Yours sincerely

THOMAS HARDY.

Letter No. II

MAX GATE, DORCHESTER.

15 Nov. 1909

Revd Herbert Pentin, F. S. A.

Milton Abbey Vicarage

Blandford.

Dear Mr Pentin:*

My personal connection with Abbey Milton [*sic*] has been slight. I passed through the Village in my youth—on what errand I cannot remember—and some time about 1882 visited the Abbey with the Field Club. This is a meagre record, though of course I have known of the parish, & of people coming & going, legends of the 1st Lord Dorchester, &c. &c. all my life.

Yours very truly

T. HARDY.

P. S. On my 1882 visit William Barnes was also present, & he read a paper on some subject connected with the Abbey. I had recently left London, & had taken a house temporarily at Wimborne.

T. H.

Letter No. III

MAX GATE,

DORCHESTER.

[no date]

Dear Sir:

On returning to the country [i. e., to my home, Max Gate, near Dorchester] I find your letter. I will bear in

* For Mr. Pentin's own comment on his friendship with Thomas Hardy, see the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY for November, 1954, pages 262-264. A photograph of the two men faces page 264.

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mind your request, though at present I have not a photograph that I could send.¹

Yours faithfully

THOMAS HARDY.

To Mrs. Richard K. Kellenberger the Library is indebted for three typed letters signed by Lloyd C. Douglas (1877-1951), author of the widely-read novel *The Robe* (1942), together with one typed letter signed by Marion H. Hunt, "Secretary to Lloyd C. Douglas."

From Dr. Dan Laurence, of Hofstra College (Hempstead, New York), we have received an autograph note of Paul Bourget, dated March 2 (or February 3^d), 1911 (whichever his 3/2/11 meant).

From Henry A. Wallace, former Vice-President of the United States, we have received a letter, enclosing an article by L. A. G. Strong on the Irish poet, George Russell, entitled "A. E. : a Practical Mystic."

Professor Weber has turned over to the Library a long autograph letter by Mr. Giles Dugdale, of Corfe Castle, Dorset, England, dated October 27, 1954. Mr. Dugdale is the author of *William Barnes of Dorset* (London, Cassell, 1954). Back in 1923 he summered in Chocorua, New Hampshire, as the guest of William and Alice James, while tutoring their two boys.

From Dr. Charles A. Richardson (Colby, '02), of Closter, New Jersey, the Library has received a copy of his recently published book, *Richardson Letters*, in which there are a number of interesting references to Waterville College. One of Dr. Richardson's great-uncles was a Colby student, who married the sister of Professor John Foster.

From Dr. John Paterson the Library has received a copy

¹ There is no way of telling, from this autograph, to whom Hardy was writing, but it is the sort of letter he might have written to Clement Shorter, editor of *The Sphere*, at a date when Shorter was soliciting contributions, photographs, and portraits from Hardy for use in the magazine.

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of his Thomas Hardy dissertation, submitted at the University of Michigan.

To Mr. Roscoe Hupper we are indebted for a sumptuously-bound copy of William Dugdale's *History of St. Paul's Cathedral* (London, Warren, 1658), "beautified with sundry prospects of the church" and with a colored mezzotint of William Aubrey dated 1797. This book was once in the library of Charles W. G. Howard, a gift to him from the Right Honorable Sir David Dundas in 1877.

From Miss Margaret Perry we have received a copy of Edwin Arlington Robinson's "Avenel Gray" as printed in *Poetry* in 1922. The magazine is autographed "Lilla Cabot Perry," the artist who painted the portrait of Robinson which now hangs in the Treasure Room of the Colby College Library.

Many other friends of the Colby College Library have made contributions to it shelves of books, its files of letters, or its collections of manuscripts; and if their names are not given here, it is only because space is lacking to list them, and not that gratitude for these gifts is missing.