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Gil Blas at Colby

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priest nor prophet having a higher or holier mission. Mr. Emerson's epigrammatic style of writing is no more peculiar than his oratory; and though he is a forcible speaker, one is not surprised to find his delivery far from smooth and graceful. He stands before you, a figure of sharp angles, with a marked face and head, indicative of character. At times, as he warms to his subject, he draws himself up with stern countenance and piercing eye, his voice ringing out like the challenge of a trumpet. Possessed by great thoughts that struggle for utterance, his sentences are jerked forth abruptly. He fires no blank cartridges; he sends up no blazing rockets; but his solid shot, of tough and well compacted metal, are hurled forth straight to the mark, and you feel that all that is not founded in eternal truth must crumble before the powerful fire.

"Dr. Smith's poem had one great merit, brevity; and it might be said, by no means disparagingly, that it was not too good for the occasion. The versification was smooth and easy, the sentiment pure and elevated, and it enforced a good lesson—labor and wait. The punning allusions to General [Ben] Butler were received with especial favor. While far from being a great poem, this much can be safely said: *Dr. Smith did what Emerson failed to do; he stilled the audience.*"



GIL BLAS AT COLBY

ON Thursday, October 10, 1957, Dr. Luella F. Norwood addressed the Colby Library Associates on the subject of Smollett's translation of Le Sage's *Gil Blas*. Since her retirement, Miss Norwood has been making an exhaustive bibliographical study of this work, and has found herself becoming involved in a study also of a later (and inferior) translation which has often been erroneously ascribed to Smollett. Dr. Norwood complimented the

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Colby Library upon its possession of two extremely rare editions of Smollett's translation: one, published in four volumes by Osborne, Rivington & Co. in 1766; the other, published "in parts" (twelve installments) by J. J. Doubochet & Co., London, 1836. At the meeting addressed by Miss Norwood, the presiding officer, Dr. Richard K. Kellenberger, mentioned the fact that the Colby College Library also owns one of the four copies of Smollett's *Ode to Independence* (Glasgow, 1773) which are now known to be in American libraries. The other three are at Yale, the University of Texas, and the New York Public Library.



SOME RECENT GIFTS

MRS. DAVID TERRY MARTIN, of Stillwater, Oklahoma, has presented a copy of Swinburne's *Atalanta*, printed by William Morris at the Kelmscott Press in 1894. She gives the book "In Memory of her friend RUTH DRAPER."

From Mr. Urban Chester Ullman, of The Gunnery, Washington, Connecticut, we have received an autographed, boxed copy (No. 784 of a limited edition) of William S. Booth's *Subtle Shining Secrecies* (Boston, 1925).

Mr. Dan H. Lawrence, of Hofstra College, has given us Henry James's copy of *Le Cahier Jaune: Poems* by Arthur Christopher Benson (Eton, 1892), an inscribed presentation copy (No. 8) from the author. Benson also gave Thomas Hardy a copy (see Hardy's letter of July 30, 1892, about it, quoted in the Colby edition of Hardy *Letters*, p. 34).

We are similarly indebted to Mr. Lawrence for an autograph letter of Sir Sidney Colvin, dated June 17, 1925, acknowledging the receipt of sixty pounds for two letters which Robert Louis Stevenson once wrote to Mrs. Colvin.