

# Colby



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## Index Benefactorum

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afford high praise to the play, but the sentimentality of Mrs. Smith's handling of the story would preclude any lasting merit.

Despite the shortcomings of the play itself, the letter by Bryant suggests sincere affection and respect for Mrs. Smith and dispels to some degree the general conception of Bryant as cold and aloof. It serves, furthermore, to recall one of the most versatile and capable woman writers produced by the Pine Tree State.



### INDEX BENEFACTORUM

*Colby College Library is indebted to the following good friends who in the near past have added to its special collections of books, letters and manuscripts.*

MRS. DAVID T. MARTIN of Stillwater, Oklahoma: for being our current Lady Bountiful. In several shipments since March, Mrs. Martin has enriched our collections in every sector.

As to books, there are some forty first editions, mostly inscribed by Sir Sydney Cockerell, retired Curator of the Fitzwilliam Museum at Cambridge and secretary to William Morris during the Kelmscott Press days. Some of the authors represented in the SC circle are Alice Meynell, George Bernard Shaw, Robert Louis Stevenson, Karen Blixen (Isaak Dinesen), William Morris, Walter de la Mare, John Cowper Powys, Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, Max Beerbohn, Laurence and Clemence Housman. Among Mrs. Martin's own friends who autographed books are Ruth Draper, the world's première *diseuse* for a generation, and Vachel Lindsay, the midwestern poet and *rara avis*, whose florid calligraphy and expansive delineations of nature adorn the endpapers and flyleaves of his *Every Soul Is A Circus* and *The Golden Book of Springfield*.

In the line of autograph letters, Mrs. Martin has favored us with liberal specimens from the pens of Viola Meynell, John Cowper Powys, Alexander Kerensky, James Norman Hall, Sara Allgood, Harry S. Truman, a batch from Laurence Housman,

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and over 150 from a prominent figure in the literary and art world who must remain anonymous at this time.

As to manuscripts, there is an autographed poem by Laurence Housman, several scripts of his BBC radio talks, and four notes of instruction written by the poet Wilfrid Scawen Blunt with an amazingly liquid signature.

Photographs and portraits of Blunt, Cockerell and L. Housman round out Mrs. Martin's munificent contribution, that is, if one is to say nothing of her indefatigable generosity in answering an incessant stream of queries concerning these personages and her relations with them.

DR. J. SEELYE BIXLER of Waterville, Maine: for an excessively rare survivor from the library of Jonathan Edwards—William Ames' *De Conscientia* (1632)—inscribed by the philosopher and his sister-in-law Mary Pierpont; also approximately 1000 letters written principally by the Reverend William James, Katherine Barber James and Elizabeth James Seelye, all members on the distaff side of the famous William and Henry James family, as is Dr. Bixler himself.

MISS NESTA DE ROBECK of Assisi, Italy: for seven volumes by Vernon Lee (Violet Paget), six inscribed "V. L.", one "V. P." Colby was lacking five of these in the Tauchnitz editions Miss de Robeck sent. Three of the scrawled dedications express varying degrees of Miss Paget's gratitude. *For Maurice* (John Lane, London, 1927) is offered "With love & apologies," and recommends Miss de Robeck to a veiled allusion on page xxii of the Introduction. The other three inscriptions touch upon the intimate musical associations that the two ladies shared. In *The Tower of the Mirrors* (Tauchnitz, Leipzig, 1922) Miss Paget described herself as a "grateful deaf listener," in *The Golden Keys* (Tauchnitz, Leipzig, 1925) "with gratitude for generous music," and in *Music and Its Lovers* (Allen & Unwin, London, 1932) she acknowledges Miss de Robeck as "My only remaining link with music."

MR. ARTHUR G. ROBINSON of Wellesley, Massachusetts: for two score volumes of diverse interest. Among these are (1) the *Catalogue of the Exhibition* held at Edinburgh in August

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1871 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott. On a trimmed flyleaf is a black-bordered letter to G. W. Reid of the British Museum signed by James T. Gibson Craig, one of the leading sponsors of the occasion. (2) A folio edition, slightly foxed, of Oliver Wendell Holmes' *The Last Leaf*, profusely illustrated by George Wharton Edwards and F. Hopkinson Smith, who wrote and decorated so many of his own charming books. (3) A copy of Ben Ames Williams' *Come Spring* (1940) inscribed for Mr. Robinson "with candid good will." (4) The two-volume edition of Kenneth Roberts' *Northwest Passage* issued by Doubleday, Doran & Company in 1937, numbered, inscribed and boxed in mint condition. The second volume of this special limited edition is an Appendix containing the courtmartial procedure against Major Rogers and other background materials compiled by the meticulously authentic author. Writers Williams and Roberts were both recipients of honorary doctorates from Colby College.

MR. BERN PORTER of Pasadena, California: for over sixty items—books, periodicals, drawings, etc.—covering his far-ranging career as writer, artist, editor and journalist. The nature of this collection, which is being steadily augmented, will be described in a later issue more extensively than space allows here.

MR. WALTER BEINECKE, JR., of New York City: for *King Cole and Other Poems* by the laureate John Masefield, his presentation copy to Thomas Hardy, marked by TH on page 71 ("The Rider at the Gate") and on page 77 ("The Builders"); also Hardy's *The Dynasts* in three volumes, with the difficult to obtain first issue of Part First published in 1903.

MRS. GERTRUDE HILLS of Newton, Massachusetts: for a packet of invaluable biographical and bibliographical volumes on Robert Louis Stevenson, together with a number of works (published and in manuscript form) by herself about RLS, and typewritten transcripts of many unpublished RLS letters; also three dozen holograph letters written to her by Jacob Blanck, Mrs. Sinclair Lewis, Jean Hersholt, the recently deceased Tiffany Thayer, and others; also a collection of newspaper clippings anent RLS and some photographs of him.

MR. JOHN GOULD of Lisbon Falls, Maine: for the typescript, galley proofs and page proofs of his classic of country humor *The Fastest Hound Dog in the State of Maine*, published by William Morrow & Company in 1953. Adding lustre to these are the nineteen original pencil drawings made for the book by the noted Maine artist F. Wenderoth Saunders, whose signature also appears on the last leaf of page proof.

LORRAINE AND ROBERT L. WILBUR (Gramercy Book Shop) of New York City: for a copy of A. E. Housman's *Last Poems* inscribed in brash red ink on the front endleaf by the American poet William Rose Benét.

MRS. PERCY P. HILL of Northeast Harbor, Maine: for fine association items of Alfred Edward Newton, prime book-fancier of his time, including a Christmas tribute to him by six of his eminent friends; also a dozen first editions of New England stalwarts such as William Dean Howells, Alice Brown, Kate Douglas Wiggin, and Jacob Abbott, toward complete collections of whom we are avidly striving.

MISS FLORENCE C. SVENSON of Bloomfield, New Jersey: for a trove of newspaper cuttings about Mrs. Laura E. Richards, daughter of Julia Ward Howe and industrious producer of children's stories from Gardiner, Maine; and six holograph letters by Maud Howe Elliott (Mrs. Richards' sister and a prolific author in her own right) to Miss Elin Lindgren, latterly of Ocean Point, Maine.

MR. REGINALD STURTEVANT of Livermore Falls, Maine; MR. RAYMOND SPINNEY of Boston; MISS JANE W. LAMB of Brunswick, Maine; the estate of JUDGE JOHN E. GODFREY of Bangor; and MESSRS. ROBERT & RICHARD SOUTHGATE of Dedham, Mass.: for copies of books by Jacob Abbott, known to older generations for his Rollo series. We are happy to see this influx, for Colby is still lacking some 20% of this famous Maine author's titles. There also appears to be an infinity of editions and variants, of which we are desirous of acquiring as many as possible. Can you help us toward completion?