

# Colby



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## Epilogue

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◆ *Editor's Epilogue* ◆

**Who's Who:** Irene Cooper Willis holds a Master of Arts degree from Girton College in Cambridge University. A member of both the Inner Temple and Lincoln's Inn, she was called to the Bar in 1924, and is now retired. She is author of several biographies, two of which (*Montaigne, Florence Nightingale*) and a study of the British Liberal press during the first World War, *England's Holy War*, have been published in the US by A. A. Knopf.

Miss Willis met Vernon Lee in 1911, was closely associated with her until 1935, and is the executrix of her will. It is to Miss Willis that Colby College owes its magnificent collection of Lee papers and books. Her constant kindness in permitting us to print letters and other private materials of both Lee and Thomas Hardy puts us additionally in her debt.

Beatrice Corrigan received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, and is now Associate Professor in the Department of Italian, Spanish and Portuguese there. A frequent contributor to *Italica*, she also edited *Curious Annals* (footnoted in her article), and is one of the editors of *A Bibliography of Canadian Cultural Periodicals in Canadian Libraries* (Toronto, 1955).

Archille H. Biron is Associate Professor of French at Colby, with degrees from Clark University, Middlebury College, and a *Diplôme* from the University of Paris. Attracted by a *faux pas* in cataloguing which merged the identities of Alidor and Gabrielle Delzant, he read their respective letters in our files, was struck by their lucent romanticism and—*voilà*—*fait accompli*!

**Leeana:** Colby's collection of Vernon Lee correspondence is consequential in sheer numbers alone: approximately 1000 letters written *by* her and 2000 *to* her. But other aspects claim greater interest. The bulk is written in English, but to read all the letters one must be quadriglot, for some are in French, in Italian and German. Fortuitously, both sides of the correspondence have been preserved in several cases. Among the distinguished names in art and literature to be found here are: Maurice Baring, A. C. Benson, Bernard Berenson, Paul Bourget, Louise de la Ramée (Ouida), Edmund Gosse, Aldous Huxley, Henry James, William James, Sarah Orne Jewett, Walter Pater, John Singer Sargent, Olive Schreiner, William Sharp (Fiona MacLeod), John Aldington Symonds, H. G. Wells, Edith Wharton.