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pathetically related in Hagedorn’s biography. In Robinson’s poetry it is allegorically treated in “The Dark House” and is undoubtedly made use of in The Man Who Died Twice.

In “Miniver Cheevy” Robinson embodied one side of himself, consciously exaggerated, and perceived with a wry ironic humor. But it was one side only, and the very existence of the poem testifies to the vast difference between that one side and the totality. For the poem testifies to the existence of an insight, a self-knowledge, a grip on reality, and a humorous perception, that Miniver utterly lacked. It is this self-knowledge, this humor, this reality, which reveal Robinson’s central sanity, and completely and forever separate the creator from his creature.

ROUNDING THE PRESIDENTIAL CYCLE

By Richard Cary

The Colby Library Quarterly for September 1960 contains a descriptive census of presidential autographs then in the Edwin Arlington Robinson Room in Colby College Library. The total of letters and documents signed by our national executives came to fifty-six. It was reported that we still lacked Washington, Jackson, Polk, Arthur, and Harding to fill out a cycle, and that our only John Quincy Adams signature held subsidiary place to that of James Monroe on a certificate of registry. Not long after the appearance of these particulars, a new president assumed office, thereby increasing our desiderata to seven.

With extreme satisfaction it can now be proclaimed that this chasm has been bridged. The ever-dependable Colby Library Associates came forward with Adams and Arthur; the ever-generous Philo Calhoun of Bridgeport, Connecticut, pitched in with Washington, Jackson, Polk, and Harding; and the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie, U. S. Senator from Maine, graciously responded with one of his John F. Kennedy letters.
So, it would appear, endeth the quest. But not really. A chronological arrangement of one signature of each president will soon be on display. This, however, is not the ultimate objective of the collection. The potential for scholarship in papers of such prominence is infinitely more important. In order to render perpetual and deepening service to future researchers, we continue to welcome gifts of further letters and documents in this category. Toward this end Mrs. Cecilia Belanger of North Vassalboro, Maine; Mr. James A. Healy of New York City; and Dr. J. Seelye Bixler of Jaffrey, New Hampshire, have already contributed.

A listing of the twenty-nine items acquired since September 1960 follows:

**John Quincy Adams:** one-page holograph letter on plain stationery from Washington, D.C. to P.P.F. DeGrand in Boston. Threatens to expose one Jonathan Russell "in his true Colours. . . I must cover him with Shame and confusion of face. If he wishes for Peace with me he must hold out the white flag." Considers the ideal president as a man with "cool head" and "honest heart." Dated: 5 July 1822. Signed: J.Q.A.

**Chester A. Arthur:** two-page holograph letter on New York Custom House stationery to the Honorable John A. Dix, Governor of New York State. Serving as Collector of the Port of New York, Arthur strongly urges the appointment of Edward Stephenson, "a resident of my own ward," to the position of Commissioner of Emigration. Dated: May 5th 1893. Signed: C.A. Arthur

**Dwight D. Eisenhower:** five single-page typewritten letters on office stationery to Mrs. Cecilia Belanger at North Vassalboro, Maine, from the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver and the Commodore Hotel in New York. Thanks her for aid during his "fighting crusade" for "better government and a last world peace." Cites her for encouragement and loyal support in his campaign for the presidency. Dated: July 31 — October 31, 1952. Signed: Dwight D. Eisenhower.

**Warren G. Harding:** one-page typewritten letter on United States Senate (Committee on the Philippines) stationery to
G. H. Van Fleet at the Marion (Ohio) Star. Encloses a letter from the assistant general manager of the Associated Press stating that Harding's desire to be elected a member of that organization will be given every consideration consistent with fairness to the current member in Marion. Harding leaves the choice up to Van Fleet but expresses his preference not to make application. Asks whether it might not be better to renew negotiations with the United Press. Dated: October 15, 1919. Signed: W. G. Harding.

HERBERT HOOVER: four single-page typewritten letters on personal stationery from New York City to Dr. Franklin W. Johnson, late president of Colby College from 1927 to 1942. (1) Assurance that "unless something disturbing turns up" he will attend Colby’s celebration of the 100th anniversary of Elijah Parish Lovejoy’s martyrdom. (2) Thanks President and Mrs. Johnson for their hospitality and courtesies during his visit and receipt of an honorary degree. (3) Regrets that he is all booked for the summer of 1939 and cannot possibly arrange to come to Maine and assist in the college project of moving the campus to what is now its Mayflower Hill site. (4) Describes his plan to supply food to millions of hungry people in the small democracies of Finland, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and Central Poland, and enlists Johnson's support. Dated: respectively, October 13, 1937; November 10, 1937; March 11, 1939; November 29, 1940. Signed: Herbert Hoover.

Two-page telegram from New York City to Franklin W. Johnson. Acknowledges Johnson's sympathetic note on the movement to prevent starvation in the five European democracies and requests that he accept a place on the national committee being formed to implement this aid. Dated: December 9, [1940]. Signed: Herbert Hoover, in typescript.

One-page typewritten letter from New York City to Franklin W. Johnson on stationery of the National Committee on Food For the Five Small Democracies. Delighted to receive Johnson's acceptance of membership on the Committee and solicits advice on policies and procedures. Dated: December 13, 1940. Signed: Herbert Hoover.
One-page typewritten letter on personal stationery from the Waldorf-Astoria Towers in New York City to Dr. Oliver St. John Gogarty in Manhasset, Long Island. Thanks the eminent Irish author and wit for a book of poetry. "It is especially refreshing in this world full of turmoil." Dated: October 20, 1944. Signed: Herbert Hoover.

One-page typewritten letter on personal stationery from New York City to Franklin W. Johnson. Asks for a contribution to the Boys' Club movement which provides training and guidance to boys living in low income areas. Dated: May 8, 1947. Signed: Herbert Hoover.


One-page typewritten letter on personal stationery from the Waldorf-Astoria Towers in New York City to Mrs. Cecilia Belanger in North Vassalboro, Maine. Appreciates her kind letter. "I have discovered the real cure for the flu bug. That is, fishing on the blue water in the sunshine." Dated: March 2, 1953. Signed: Herbert Hoover.


JOHN F. KENNEDY: one-page typewritten letter on White House stationery to the Honorable Edmund S. Muskie at the United States Senate. Extends his "heartiest congratulations and good wishes" on the occasion of Senator Muskie's forty-seventh birthday. Over the typed salutation "Senator Muskie," President Kennedy has drawn a line and written "Ed" in ink, also appending the four-line postscript, "If I can ever do anything for Maine — let me know." (The amusing situation which inspired this statement is explained in an accompanying letter by the Senator's administrative assistant, Donald E. Nicoll, a Colby
alumnus.) Senator Muskie practiced law in Waterville prior to being elected to Maine's governorship for two terms, and is a recipient of Colby's honorary Doctor of Laws degree. Dated: March 28, 1961. Signed: John Kennedy.

JAMES K. POLK: one-page holograph letter on plain stationery to the Honorable R. J. Walker, Secretary of the Treasury. Has requested a Mr. Taggart to call on the Secretary. Hopes he may be able to dispose of the case today. Dated: March 10th 1847. Signed: James K. Polk.


My dear Mr. Connolly:

I have enjoyed so many of your pieces so much that I cannot forbear writing to say so. It is always a matter of personal pleasure and pride to me when we develop an American author who strikes a new note, or who strikes an old one so well and clearly as to win a distinct place for himself. At times I feel a little depressed over the twilight that has come not only upon American poetry but upon American letters generally, and it is such a relief to see really good work — work which gives a promise of living. No amount of material prosperity would console me for the loss on the one hand of the essential manhood of the nation ... and on the other hand of the appreciative and literary faculty necessary to understand and describe it, and thereby not only to give it expression but to lead it ... 

Sincerely yours,

Theodore Roosevelt

James Brendan Connolly (1868-1957), first modern Olympic champion, is broadly known for his stirring novels and short stories about Gloucester fishermen, notably Out of Gloucester, The Seiners, Hiker Joy, and "The Trawler." President Roosevelt's similar appreciation and encouragement of poet Edwin Arlington Robinson is also on record in the Colby manuscripts collection.

Photocopy of a one-page typewritten letter on White House stationery to James B. Connolly at Dorchester, Massachusetts.
Invites him to Oyster Bay and to a ride on the presidential yacht for a public review of the Navy and a more private view of target practice. Connolly notes that Speaker Joe Cannon referred to this occasion as "the time the President had the Fleet brought to Sagamore Hill so that his friend Jim Connolly could review it." Dated: August 6, 1906. Signed: Theodore Roosevelt.

One-page typewritten copy of a letter to Charles S. Whitman on Outlook stationery. Introduces Connolly to Whitman, District Attorney of the County of New York, as "the author who has written what I think are the best sea tales that have ever been written." Discusses the "outrageous" libels of Connolly by the New York Sun and the New York World, and appeals to Whitman to advise Connolly on proper methods of taking action against these newspapers. Dated: January 17th, 1911. Signed: Theodore Roosevelt, in typescript.

Two single-page typewritten letters from Roosevelt's offices in New York, on Metropolitan and Kansas City Star stationery to James B. Connolly. Lauds him for the "strength, tenderness, and insight" in most of his recent writings and thanks him for an inscribed copy of one of his books. Both letters press Connolly to be sure to visit the Roosevelts when next he comes to New York. Dated: Oct. 30th, 1916; July 15th, 1918. Signed: Theodore Roosevelt.

Two-page holograph letter on Sagamore Hill stationery to Vice-Admiral William S. Sims. Recommends "my valued friend" James B. Connolly as "an American of the best type; a devoted friend of the Navy; and an exceptionally good writer." Connolly was granted permission to go to Europe during World War I and gather materials for articles. Dated: July 21st 1917. Signed: Theodore Roosevelt.

Harry S. Truman: one-page typewritten letter on personal stationery from Kansas City, Missouri, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Belanger in North Vassalboro, Maine. Thanks them for their beautiful card and for an enclosed clipping (which he had not seen before) about his daughter Margaret. Dated: January 7, 1955. Signed: Harry S Truman.
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GEORGE WASHINGTON: a franked envelope addressed to Major George A. Washington (a nephew of the president), and “Recommended to the care of Burwell Bassett Esq.” (the nephew’s father-in-law) at Williamsburg. In the lower left hand corner of the long, foxed sheet is docketed: “From his Ecc’y Genl Washington.” Dated: 24th Dec’r. 1785. Signed: (Free) G. Washington.

Chaser: The issue of COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY preceding this was conceived as a tribute to Mary Ellen Chase on the occasion of her 75th birthday. A far finer manifest of the esteem and affection she inspires is now apparent in the continuing stream of requests for copies of this number. From former students and colleagues, from editors and institutions, from readers of her vastly popular books, and from every point of the compass the letters arrive. No other issue of the QUARTERLY has excited a demand of such magnitude.

Miss Chase’s Diamond Jubilee is but one other milepost in her long and zestful career. There is no thought now of capitulation to crochet needle or rocking chair. With characteristic dash, she has recently completed several essays for periodicals, an introduction to a book on Maine art, and she is planning another seasonal sojourn in England later this year. There and then, presumably, will take shape her newly projected work on the major Biblical prophets—“Amos and I can have a wonderful time weaving among the cows on Grantchester Meadows.”

Colby is happy in its possession of the original manuscript of her latest volume, The Psalms and the Common Reader, published by W. W. Norton in March and acclaimed by critics and public for its felicitous style and exposition. Also among our holdings of Chase holographs are some thirty letters; the original manuscripts of more than two dozen articles, written in pencil and in ink on vari-colored sheets of sometimes matching sizes; numerous book reviews, scribbled for the most part in notebooks; two early short stories, “Mrs. Gowan Gives Notice” (which she cites as her favorite), and Mrs. Penlust on the Road to Damascus”; five “scribble-in” notebooks of ideas; seventeen diaries, one dating to 1910; and the manuscripts of two other books, The Fishing Fleets of New England (complete) and Life and Language in the Old Testament (partial). A goodly heritage, one might say!