

# Colby



Colby Quarterly

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## Colby Library Quarterly 255

## INDEX BENEFACTORUM

SINCE our last general bulletin on contributions made to the Library, innumerable rare and useful items have found their way onto our shelves and into our files. Many of these flow in an unending benevolent stream from corporations, foundations, institutes, publishers, promoters, and other colleges and libraries. From these sources Colby receives stores of data and opinion garnered from continuous surveys, experiments, and other specialized forms of investigation sponsored by these organizations. The gain to Colby students and faculty engaged in research projects is incalculable.

Sources less impersonal than these have accounted for many an indispensable dictionary, encyclopedia, history, almanac, or other basic reference work. To these thoughtful individuals Colby is equally grateful.

Most titillating, however, are the gifts of unique volumes and manuscripts which lead to original studies of an author or subject area. In the recent past we have been favored with additions to the personal libraries of Edwin Arlington Robinson, Thomas Sergeant Perry, Ben Ames Williams, and Thomas Hardy; four of our donors have more or less adopted Jacob Abbott, Laura E. Richards, Willa Cather, and Thomas Mosher, sending up every item which swims into their ken; steadily, and with the aid of our noble Colby Library Associates, our special collections of John Masefield, Robert Nathan, Laurence Housman, such New England worthies as William Dean Howells, Mary Wilkins Freeman and Kate Douglas Wiggin, the Porter collection of avant-garde imprints, and modern Irish writers, have been particularly enhanced; while the increase in autograph letters and manuscripts is truly too extensive to catalogue here — to mention only General Ben Butler, Robinson, Sarah Orne Jewett, Mary Ellen Chase, Albert Schweitzer, Kenneth Roberts, Ben Ames Williams, Sydney Cockerell, Celia Thaxter, the completed set of U. S. presidential signatures, George Russell (A. E.), Howells, Bernard Berenson, Henry James, and a gleaming host of others.

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