

# Colby



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## Epilogue

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**Excelsior:** In all, Robert Coffin spent twenty-five years at Bowdoin, the college that fostered Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and may well have assimilated HWL's sad-browed, blue-eyed hero's capacity for apical feats. As an undergraduate, Coffin won the Hawthorne Prize for short stories twice, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, and added *summa cum laude* to his A.B. He went to Princeton as Longfellow Scholar, and was designated Rhodes Scholar from Maine to Trinity College in Oxford University.

The years thereafter saw no abatement in this accrual of honors:

D. Litt: Bowdoin, 1930; University of Maine, 1937  
Honorary Life Member, National Arts Club, 1931  
Phi Beta Kappa Poet at Harvard, 1932  
Gold Medal, National Honor Poet, 1935  
Golden Rose, New England Poetry Society, 1936  
Pulitzer Prize for Poetry, 1936  
Elected to National Institute of Arts and Letters, 1946  
Subject of Coffin Day at Bowdoin, 1948  
Fulbright Lecturer, University of Athens, 1953

And with a touch of cosmic irony, on the same day that his obituary appeared on pages 1 and 23 of the *New York Times*, page 17 carried his name as winner of the Borestone Mountain Poetry Award for 1954. "Excelsior," indeed!

**Who's Who:** By the same token that this is an all-Coffin issue, it may also be regarded as an all-Colby issue to the extent that every byline belongs to a member of its department of English.

Assistant Professor William C. Wees came by way of the University of Rochester and Northwestern, acquiring his Ph.D. at the latter. He has recently published a study of Ezra Pound as a vorticist.

Associate Professor Colin E. MacKay who earned three degrees and PBK at Brown University, also served as an instructor there. In his current critique he wanders far afield of his doctoral dissertation on the poetics of a 16th-century Scotsman.

Assistant Professor F. Celand Witham has a Colby A.B., a Stanford M.A., and a prospective Ph.D. from the same institution. Subject of his thesis is Owen Davis, Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright from Portland, Maine.