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under his feet" (p. 283), he can realistically assess life as com­
pounded of two great forces—love and death—and “face with
fortitude the Berengaria and the future” (p. 283).

A WILLA CATHER COLLECTION
By Richard Cary

A s the end of the past decade approached, the Division of
Rare Books and Manuscripts in the Colby College Library
did not harbor any appreciable amount of Willa Cather memo­
rabilia among its more than fifty special author collections.
Apart from her basal value as possibly the best of America’s
female novelists, there were at least two reasons why her works
might have been included: 1) she is buried in nearby Jaffrey,
New Hampshire, thus providing us a regional claim; 2) she was
a protégée and avowed disciple of Sarah Orne Jewett, without
peer Maine’s most perceptive delineatrist. This consociation in­
spired Miss Cather to dedicate O Pioneers! “To the memory of
Sarah Orne Jewett, in whose beautiful and delicate work there
is the perfection that endures”; and to compile The Best Stories
of Sarah Orne Jewett (Boston, 1925), in the preface of which
she declared: “If I were asked to name three American books
which have the possibility of a long, long life, I would say at
once, The Scarlet Letter, Huckleberry Finn, and The Country of
the Pointed Firs.” Despite these compelling motivations, only a
few fugitive items of secondary bearing and several letters, de­
sultorily donated, marked the extent of our Cather holdings—
until 1959.

In the waning months of that year Mr. Patrick J. Ferry of
Valhalla, New York, casually mentioned in one of his letters to
the Curator that he had a “rather good” accumulation of Cather
books which he was thinking of contributing to Colby. Over the
years Mr. Ferry had demonstrated incisive interest in our col­
lections, frequently sending choice and scarce editions of, prin­
cipally, Thomas Hardy, A. E. Housman, Jewett, and other
Maine authors. By December 1959 Mr. Ferry came to his de-
cision, and cartons of Cather materials began arriving. Within three months the individual total had mounted to some three hundred items. And that was not the end. In the interim Mr. Ferry has continued to hunt up and remand to us titles that had previously eluded him and all new relevant publications. Our Cather collection is now in excess of four hundred items. With minimal exceptions of gifts from the University of Berlin and the Colby Library Associates, it is the magnanimous construction of Patrick J. Ferry, and we are pleased to acknowledge our gratitude.

No attempt will be made here to list every particular of this impressive treasury. Outside of Miss Cather's own writings, only the more uncommon or potentially useful items are tabulated, with the object of informing scholars of their presence and availability. The pages of Colby Library Quarterly are open to worthy essays on any phase of Willa Cather, biographical, bibliographical, or critical.

**BOOKS BY WILLA CATHER**

There are 173 varied editions in this category of collected, selected, and individual works, seventy of which are foreign translations.

**COLLECTIONS:**


Colby Library Quarterly

scribed on flyleaf: "To Patrick Ferry /—appreciatively—/ George N. Kates / Santa Fe / April 5, '56."


Willa Cather on Writing. With a foreword by Stephen Tennant. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1949. Inscribed on front endpaper: "To Patrick Ferry /from Stephen Tennant /'It is the stamp of her unchallengeable integrity.'"


Writings from Willa Cather's Campus Years. Edited by James R. Shively. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1950. Inscribed on flyleaf: "To Patrick J. Ferry, with sincere /personal regards, as one member of the /'Cather cult' to another./ James R. Shively."

INDIVIDUAL WORKS:


4. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1929. Edition of 170 copies on Rives Cream Plate Paper, with drawings and designs by Harold Von Schmidt, of which this is No. 151, signed by the author.

A Lost Lady. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1923. First edition of 200 copies on Borzoi all rag paper, of which this is No. 107, signed by the author.


Colby Library Quarterly


copies on Nihon Japan vellum, of which this is No. 250, signed by the author.


The Professor's House. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1925. First edition of 225 copies on Esparto Paper, of which this is No. 147, signed by the author.

Sapphira and the Slave Girl. New York: A. A. Knopf, 1940. First edition of 529 copies on Rives Liampre All-Rag Paper, of which this is No. 153, signed by the author.
5. [Danish]. Sapphira. Copenhagen: Gyldendalske Boghandel, 1941.


2. Same edition, with advertisement on verso of title page of three Cather books.


Attributions:
McClure, S. S. My Autobiography. New York: Magazine Publishers, 1914. Special edition for the inspiration of the Field Secretaries of Lewis E. Myers & Co. According to Frederick B. Adams, Jr., “This book [is] ostensibly by S. S. McClure, but actually written entirely by Willa Cather. She used to spend several hours at tea with the publisher each week, listening to the story of his life.” Interestingly, Colby’s volume is inscribed on the front endpaper “To Miss Dorothy MacKeen / with the best wishes of the author / S. S. McClure / New York City, June 24, 1941.”

According to Philip C. Duschnes, "Miss Cather, while an editor of *McClure's Magazine*, put the material into proper presentation and rewrote it for publication."

**CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS**

Miss Cather wrote four introductions to books by other authors, and an essay on Katherine Mansfield. These have now been collected, three in their original form, in *Willa Cather on Writing*, edited by Stephen Tennant, New York: A. A. Knopf, 1949. Colby lacks only her introduction to volume 9 of *The Work of Stephen Crane*.


**IN PERIODICALS**

Included in this section are the appearances of Miss Cather's novels in serial form and items not yet collected. Colby has over sixty first appearances of Miss Cather's work in magazines.


Colby Library Quarterly 91

“Her Boss,” *Smart Set*, LX (October 1919), 95–108.


“Plays of Real Life,” *McClure’s*, XL (March 1913), 63–72.

“The Professor’s House,” *Collier’s*, LXXV–LXXVI (June 6–August 1, 1925), 5, 24, 22, 28; 30, 24, 22, 22, 22. Continued on multiple pages in each instance.


“Training for the Ballet,” *McClure’s*, XLI (October 1913), 85–95.

“Uncle Valentine,” *Woman’s Home Companion*, LII (February–March 1925), 7, 15. Continued on multiple pages in each instance.

“When I Knew Stephen Crane,” *Prairie Schooner*, XXIII (Fall 1949), 231–236. First published in *Library*, 1 (June 23, 1900), under the pseudonym of Henry Nicklemann, and reprinted in the Lincoln *Courier* (July 14, 1900), under Miss Cather’s name.

Youvatshev, I. P., “Four Years in the Schluesselburg Fortress,” *McClure’s*, XXXIII (August 1909), 399–411. With an introduction signed “Editor,” pp. 399–400. For corroboration of authorship by Miss Cather, see the LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS section of this bibliography.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES ABOUT CATHER

Books totally or partly devoted to the life and works of Willa Cather, and articles of biographical or critical nature about her run well over a hundred. References to all of these may be found in existing bibliographies and standard indexes, so will not be repeated here. One item which may escape attention is *Willa* by Ruth Franchere, a fictionalized account of Miss Cather’s early years, published by Thomas Y. Crowell, New York, 1958.

DISSERTATIONS ON CATHER

Of the dozen doctoral theses in the Colby collection, eleven are on microfilm, the German by Ingeborg Reisch is printed.
Cell, number 23, shut her alone
and closed the door. When you watch
and her friend overtook he, she
was related on his iron stool, weeping.
The fortress was now closed again
and filled with prisoners, and today
the conditions there are much more
than those which were described.
The political prisoners are mingled
with common prisoners criminals,
and the prison in so terrible over-
spread that the death rate from
infected there and the death rate is constantly
increasing. The ranks of the solders
selling? inmates, however, are
not allowed to decrease;
and continued
recruited from the youth and genius
of Russia. [Willa Sibert Cather]

R.S. Sign the note either with
my name or yours, " editor," I don't
care which — we relish, Mr. Welch,
the better.
Colby Library Quarterly


**BIBLIOGRAPHIES**

Adams, Jr., Frederick B. “Willa Cather, Early Years: Trial and Error,” *Colophon*, I, No. 3 (September 1939), 89–100. On *April Twilights*, *The Troll Garden*, and *Alexander's Bridge*.

Adams, Jr., Frederick B. “Willa Cather, Middle Years: The Right Road Taken,” *Colophon*, I, No. 4 (February 1940), 103–108. On *Alexander's Bridge*, *O Pioneers!*, *The Song of the Lark*, and *My Antonia*.


Lewis, Edith. Check list of foreign translations of Cather novels, five typewritten sheets compiled in 1958; also seven additional type-written sheets gathered from other sources by Patrick J. Ferry.


LETTERS AND MANUSCRIPTS

CATHER MANUSCRIPT:
Four-page holograph; introduction to I. P. Youvatshev, “Four Years in the Schluesselburg Fortress,” McClure's, XXXIII (August 1909), 399–411. The introduction as published with the article is signed “Editor.” This manuscript is signed [Willa Sibert Cather].

CATHER LETTERS:
To Mr. Winter, 2 pp. holograph, November 5, [n.y.]. Thanks him for his letter concerning her book about the untamed prairie country, which she had written for a small audience whose recollection of it would be enhanced by a simple account. Signed: Willa Sibert Cather.

To Everett L. Getchell, 1 p. holograph, January 28, [n.y.]. Suggests that no book should be classified as ”Literature” until it is at least a hundred years old. Signed: Willa Cather.

To Mrs. Williams, 1 p. typed, April 19, 1932. Expresses deep sympathy for the sorrow she is now facing. Signed: Willa Cather.

To unidentified correspondent, 1 p. holograph, November 16, 1939. On the face of an envelope mailed to her in care of Alfred Knopf, Inc., and marked “Please forward / Personal,” Miss Cather apologizes for her delay in answering the letter as it was sent to the wrong address. “501 Madison Avenue” is rubber-stamped adjacent to and above the Knopf address. Signed: Willa Cather.

To Carl J. Weber, 1 p. typed, November 17, 1941. Discusses letters she received from Sarah Orne Jewett and the value of some of them for their excellent advice to young writers. Signed: Willa Cather.

To Carl J. Weber, 1 p. typed, December 12, 1944. Does not remember writing about her visit with A. E. Housman for any publication, but intends one day to compose an accurate account of it. Signed: Willa Cather.

To Carl J. Weber, 1 p. typed, January 10, 1945. Describes the circumstances of her visit with A. E. Housman at his lodgings at Highgate,
calling the statement made in *Forum* of October 1936 absolutely untrue. Signed: Willa Cather.

To Carl J. Weber, 1 p. typed, January 31, 1945. Declares that A. E. Housman was not rude on the occasion of her visit but, on the contrary, very courteous. Objects to further questions on this matter, claiming the right to be reserved about her personal experiences. Signed: Willa Cather.

**LETTERS RELATING TO CATHER:**

Maxwell Geismar to Patrick J. Ferry, 3 typed notes, one dated November 19, 1953. Comments on the similarities and differences between Miss Cather, Ellen Glasgow, and Edith Wharton.

Edith Lewis to Patrick J. Ferry, 45 holograph letters, 1953-1961. Miss Lewis, friend and biographer of Willa Cather, gives numerous insights into her life and works, and criticizes her critics.

Phyllis McGinley to Patrick J. Ferry, 1 holograph postcard, October 30, 1960. A devotee of Miss Cather’s fiction, she likes best the stories in *Obscure Destinies*.

Katherine Anne Porter to Patrick J. Ferry, 1 holograph letter, November 16, 1952. Miss Cather “attracts very interesting people!”

Elizabeth Shepley Sergeant to Patrick J. Ferry, 1 typed letter signed, January 14, 1954. Her favorite among Miss Cather’s books is *My Antonia*; among her short stories, “On the Gulls’ Road.”

Stephen Tennant to Patrick J. Ferry, 7 holograph letters, 3 notes, 1952–1957. Tennant writes of his meetings with Miss Cather and of her writings he prefers.