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Robinson Books and Periodicals: I

Richard Cary

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The Colby College collection of Robinsoniana is the most extensive and at the same time the most personal in existence. This is due directly to the generosity of the poet's two nieces, Mrs. Ruth Nivison and Mrs. Barbara Holt, whose initial deposit of materials twenty years ago made possible the Edwin Arlington Robinson Memorial Room in the Colby library. The artifacts ranged from his inseparable rimless eyeglasses, the gold pencil he last used to write his poems, and his three Pulitzer Prize diplomas to multiple copies of inscribed first editions, his library, hundreds of his letters, more than a score of his manuscripts, and numerous photographs and reviews.

Over the years this original accumulation has been significantly augmented by friends and admirers of Robinson, notably Mr. H. Bacon Collamore, Miss Margaret Perry, Mrs. Laura E. Richards and family, Mr. George Burnham, Miss Mabel Daniels, Mrs. Doris Variell Hart, Mr. Carl W. Marr, Mrs. Chester Baker, Mr. Cyril Clemens, and the loyal members of our Colby Library Associates.

In this centennial year it would be auspicious to present a complete listing of the collection, but the length of it—in view of space available in CLQ—is prohibitive. It would, in any case, virtually duplicate the official bibliography. Therefore, it is proposed to docket in this and succeeding memorial issues in 1969 only published items of associational value marked by Robinson or persons known to him, and to tally in full his manuscripts and letters, as well as other autograph items relevant to his life and work, now in the Colby collection. We trust these compilations will open new insights and provide firm credentials for the growing host of Robinson scholars.

I. BOOKS BY E. A. R.


2. "To / Marie Robinson / from E.A. Robinson / 1934" on front endleaf.
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6. “To / Mrs. Henry Richards / from E.A. Robinson / 1934” on front endleaf. Letter by EAR to Mrs. Laura E. Richards pasted on front flyleaf. “So Fargo slept again, and had a dream” inserted by Mrs. Richards following line 20 on page 2, with note in bottom margin, “Cf letter at / back of this volume.” An advertisement citing EAR as “the greatest living American poet,” and his note in top margin, “I didn’t do this,” laid in. Letter by EAR to Mrs. Richards, and a passage excised from another of his letters, pasted on back endpaper.

3. “To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A. Robinson / 1921” on front endleaf.
5. “To / Lilla Cabot Perry / from E.A. Robinson / 1921” on front endleaf.

3. “To / Mrs. T.S. Perry / with the sincere regards of / E.A. Robinson” on front endleaf.
4. “Samuel Maynard” on front endleaf in his hand, with note signed “S.M.” on verso. Letter by EAR to Messrs Small Maynard & Company pasted on front flyleaf, with letter by EAR to Mr. Samuel Insull, Jr., on verso.
5. “E.A. Robinson / 2 December 1913” on title page.

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2. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed slip pasted on front endleaf, and “Edith Brower” penciled above it.
3. “Laura E. Richards” on front endleaf in her hand.


2. “To / Marie Robinson / from E.A. Robinson / April 27, 1929” on front endleaf.
4. “To / George Burnham / from E.A. Robinson / April 26, 1929” on front endleaf.
5. “To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A. Robinson / April 27, 1929” on front endleaf. Photos of EAR pasted on front endpaper and back endleaf.
6. “To / Lilla Cabot Perry / with all good wishes from / E.A. Robinson / April 26, 1929” on front endleaf.


2. “For Miss Brower— / from E.A. Robinson / 4 December 1897” on front endleaf. “Edith Brower” on front endpaper in her hand. Newspaper clipping pasted on front endpaper, and numerous notations by Miss Brower throughout the text.


3. “To / George Burnham / from E.A. Robinson” on title page. Corrections made, as above. (Only in this volume did EAR
also correct "That" to "The" on page 474, stanza 3, line 3 of "Tact.")


5. "Laura Richards / 1921" on front endleaf in her hand, also letter by EAR to Mrs. Richards pasted thereon. Letter by EAR to Mrs. Richards pasted on first flyleaf. Photo of EAR pasted on second flyleaf. "To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A. Robinson / 1921" on title page. Printed caricature of EAR pasted on back endpaper


7. "To / Carl Marr / from E.A. Robinson / 1921" on title page, also "11/18/21" penciled in Marr's hand. Corrections made, as above.


2. "To / Lilla Cabot Perry / with the best wishes of / E.A. Robinson / September 20, 1929" on front endleaf.

3. Letter by EAR to William Norman Guthrie pasted on front endpaper, another on back endpaper. Numerous marginal notes and note sheets by Guthrie laid in.


2. "To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A.R. / 1925" on front endleaf.


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4. “To / George Burnham / from E.A. Robinson / September 17, 1930” on front endleaf.

2. “Laura E. Richards / 1935” on front endleaf in her hand, with her bookplate.

3. “To / Edith Brower / from E.A. Robinson / 1920” on front endleaf. Quotation from Merlin in Miss Brower’s hand on verso of half-title page. Underlines, questions, and emendations by Miss Brower in the text.
4. “To / Mrs. Richards / with all good wishes of / E.A. Robinson / 1920” on front endleaf.
5. “To / Lilla Cabot Perry / with the good wishes of / E.A. Robinson / 1920” on front endleaf.

2. “To / T.S. Perry / with the sincere regards of / E.A. Robinson / 1916” on front endleaf.
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4. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed slip laid in. Mrs. Emma L. Robinson’s copy.
5. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed slip laid in. George Burnham’s copy.

The Man Who Died Twice. Macmillan Company: New York, 1924. Limited to 500 copies, of which this is No. 70. “E.A. Robinson” on front flyleaf.

The Man Who Died Twice. Macmillan Company: New York, 1924. “To / Emma L. Robinson / from E.A.R. / 1924” on front endleaf. “We have the choice of death or life. / We can live to lust, ambition, to selfish- / ness—these are the spiritual death” on half-title page in Mrs. Robinson’s hand.
5. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed card laid in. George Burnham’s copy.

Matthias at the Door. Macmillan Company: New York, 1931. Limited to 500 copies, of which this is No. 393. “E.A. Robinson” on colophon page.

8. “To / Anna Hempstead Branch / from E.A. Robinson / 1931” on front endleaf.

3. “E. A. Robinson” on front endleaf and title page. Insertion, as above.
4. “E.A. Robinson” on title page. Insertion, as above.

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_Nicodemus._ Macmillan Company: New York, 1932. Limited to 253 copies, of which this is No. 42. "E.A. Robinson" on colophon page.


2. "To / Marie Robinson / from E.A. Robinson / 1932" on front endleaf.


5. "To / Mrs. Henry Richards / from E.A. Robinson / 1932" on front endleaf.

6. "To / Anna Hempstead Branch / from E.A. Robinson / 1932" on front endleaf.


2. "To / Mrs. Richards / with the best wishes of / E.A. Robinson / September, 1915" on front endleaf. Correction made, as above.

3. "T.S. Perry / with the sincere regards of / E.A. Robinson / September, 1915" on front endleaf. Correction made, as above.


2. "To / Thomas Sergeant Perry / who doesn't have to read it— / and Lilla Cabot Perry / who may if she must / E.A. Robinson / 1923" on front endleaf.

3. "With the Compliments of the Author" printed card laid in. George Burnham's copy.
4. Letter by EAR to William Griffith pasted on front endleaf, with his bookplate.

2. “Dear Mrs. Richards, / You don’t have to read / this again, but you may / like to see what B.P. / has picked out / E.A.R. / April 28, 1931” on front endleaf.


2. “Emma L. Robinson—1929 / Sent to me by E.A.R. 1929” on front endpaper in her hand.


3. “To / George Burnham / from E.A. Robinson / November 9, 1928” on front endleaf.
4. “To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A. Robinson / November 12, 1928” on front endleaf.


2. “To / Marie Robinson / from E.A. Robinson / 1933” on front endleaf.
5. “To / Mrs. Richards / from E.A. Robinson / September, 1933” on title page.
7. “To / Thomas Seltzer / with all good wishes from / E.A. Robinson / 1933” on front endleaf.


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7. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed card laid in. George Burnham’s copy.

4. “To Miss Brower, / with compliments of E.A. Robinson / 16 December, 1896” on title page; EAR crossed out the original presentation name, and Miss Brower penciled a line through the date and wrote above it “Jan. 1897”; Miss Brower also wrote two comments and pasted a photo of EAR on this page. The missing fifth line of stanza 2, “Ballade of a Ship,” inserted by EAR on page 7. Newspaper clipping of EAR’s “Octave” (“Saints of all times”) pasted on page 44. Manuscript of EAR’s “Octave” (Idealist?—Oh yes”), signed “E.A. R.”, pasted on inside back wrapper. Numerous markings by Miss Brower throughout the text.


5. “With the Compliments of the Author” printed slip laid in. George Burnham’s copy.


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3. "For / George Burnham / from E.A. Robinson / 1927" on front endleaf. Correction on page 86, as above.


5. "To / Lilla Cabot Perry / from E.A. Robinson / March 17, 1927" on front endleaf. Face of dust jacket pasted on front endpaper, with "By special dispensation. Publication postponed / until May. So / please don't order / any copies now, / if you were thinking of / doing so. / E.A.R."


Tristram. Literary Guild of America: New York, 1927. "If I were not such a rotten / draughtsman / and if this paper were not so / hard to draw on / I would have done a better job / But anyway / you see / I have read the book / and / enjoyed it / and I want to say Thank you. / Henrik Willem van Loon. / The Literary Guild / New York / 7/6 XXVII" on front endleaf in his hand. Beginning at the front endpaper and extending throughout the text, van Loon has illustrated some fifty pages with striking watercolors.


2. "Ruth Robinson / September 1914" on front endleaf in her hand.

3. "With the Compliments of the Author" printed slip pasted on front endleaf, also "Edith Brower" in her hand. Photo of EAR pasted on verso of "Act I" page.


5. "With the Compliments of the Author" printed slip pasted on front endleaf, also "T.S. Perry / from E.A.R. / Hancock, Sept. 28, 1914" in Perry's hand. Printed program of performance of Van Zorn pasted on front endpaper.

II. PROOF SHEETS OF BOOKS BY E. A. R.


Set 1: Proof of complete poem on 29 galleys. Verbal changes on galleys 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 21, 22, 27, 29.


Half-title page, dedication page, and pp. 1-63 of this edition
stripped from covers and used by EAR for revised text to produce galleys for *Collected Poems*, 1921. “Copy for Collected Poems / printed 1921 / E.A. Robinson” on half-title page. Verbal changes on pp. 6, 8, 9, 10, 18, 58, 60, 61, 62, 63.

*Captain Craig.* Houghton, Mifflin & Company: Boston, 1902.

Proof of “Captain Craig,” pp. 1-84, on 14 leaves. Verbal changes on pp. 1, 75, 76.


Half-title page and pp. 11-121 of this edition stripped from covers and used by EAR for revised text to produce galleys for *Collected Poems*, 1921. Three notes by EAR on half-title page: 1) “(1890-1897) / To the memory of my Father and Mother / italics”; 2) “Copy for Collected Poems / published 1921 (Macmillan) / E.A. Robinson”; 3) “Half title and dedication / before each section in / collected edition.” Penciled below these: “Given to me / by Mr. E.A.R. / May 21, 1921 / W van R W.” Verbal changes on pp. 11, 12, 23, 32, 34, 40, 55, 89. Directions to change format or omit poems on pp. 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 19, 24, 25, 36, 37, 41, 43, 56, 58, 85, 91, 93, 118, 119. Notes on pp. 13, 35, 51.


Ten sets of page proofs on 508 galleys.

Set 1: *The Children of the Night*, pp. 1-64 on 33 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 14, 1927.”

Set 2: *Captain Craig*, pp. 1-112 on 57 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 15, 16, 17, 1927.”

Set 3: *Captain Craig*, pp. 113-185 on 37 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 17, 1927.”

Set 4: *The Man Against the Sky*, pp. 1-107 on 54 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 17, 20, 1927.”


Set 8: *Lancelot*, pp. 1-129 on 65 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 26, 27, 1927.”

Set 9: *Roman Bartholow*, pp. 1-186 on 94 galleys, rubber-stamped “Sep 29, 30, Oct 1, 1927.”


EAR has written brief notes on Sets 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and made verbal changes on Sets 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, 10.


Proof of front matter, 12 pp. “Mr. Lund— / Please send corrected proof / of front matter, all the galleys of / Collected Poems and Cavender’s House / to Room 411, 30 Ipswich St. / Boston / E.A.R.” on half-title page. “OK / EAR” on title page. Two corrections on acknowledgments page. “Corrected Contents to be / sent to author” on Contents page.
As an example of the artistic integrity of a man of letters, Edwin Arlington Robinson was perfect. His style of writing in poetry was unique . . . . Some of his best shorter poems will never be equaled in their kind . . . . He was one of the sanest people who ever moved among us.

WILLIAM ROSE BENET (1938)