December 1969

Robinson Manuscripts and Letters

Richard Cary

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq

Recommended Citation
Colby Library Quarterly, series 8, no.8, December 1969, pg.479-487

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mtkelly@colby.edu.
Robinson Manuscripts and Letters

By Richard Cary

Side by side with Edwin Arlington Robinson's numerous inscribed books and periodicals in the Colby College Library (see three preceding issues of CLQ) ranges an impressive accumulation of his manuscripts and holograph letters. The first category includes four of his book-length poems; the second comprises the largest extant collection, over one thousand. The hundreds of unpublished items written to and about EAR have served and will continue to be available to scholars as indispensable ligatures for articles, theses, and books.

I. Manuscripts by E. A. R.

Antigone by Sophocles. Holograph, two brief passages versified from Harry DeForest Smith's prose translation, 2 pp., 1894.

Cavender’s House. Holograph, poem, 44 pp., signed, 1928.

Flammonde (first 8 lines). Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed, 1924.

Fortunatus. Typescript, poem, 1 p., with one revision, signed.

The Galley Race. Holograph, poem, 7 pp., signed, 1890.

Gideon. Holograph, poem, 2 pp., signed, 1931.

The Growth of “Lorraine.” Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed.

Haunted House. Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed.


Karma. Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed.

King Jasper. Two holographs, poem (June-August, September 1934); one typescript (1935), 269 pp., with revisions, signed.

Lancelot. Holograph, poem, 86 pp., with revisions, inscribed to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1917.

Lazarus. Holograph, poem, 8 pp., signed.

The March of the Cameron Men. Holograph, poem, 11 pp., with revisions, signed, 1931.

Maya. Manuscript, poem, 1 p., signed.


Notebook. Holograph copies of verse and prose (in his boyhood), 13 pp., signed.

Notes for book jacket of Lilla Cabot Perry’s Jar of Dreams. Typescript, 3 pp., with holograph notes by EAR and LCP.


Octave XI (“Still through the dusk”). Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed, 1927.
Ponce de Leon. Two holographs, 21 pp., with revisions, signed, 1931.
Quatrain (“We were all boys”). Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed, 1897.
Sainte-Nitouche. Holograph, poem, 7 pp., signed.
Sisera. Three holographs, poem, 20 pp., with revisions, signed, 1931.
Taliifer. Holograph, poem, 57 pp., with revisions, 1932.
Tasker Norcross. Holograph, poem, 9 pp., signed.
Toussaint L’Ouverture. Two holographs, poem, 16 pp., signed, 1931.
Veteran Sirens. Holograph, poem, 1 p., signed.
The Wife of Palissy (Partnership). Holograph, poem, 2 pp., signed.

II. MANUSCRIPTS ABOUT OR TO E. A. R.

Aiken, Conrad. Typescript, article, “Three Meetings with Robinson,” 1 p., signed.
Anon. Notes (2) on Hermann Hagedorn’s biography of EAR, 2 pp., requesting exclusion of the book from Gardiner High School and Library.
Barstow, James S. Holograph note on “Mr. Flood’s Party,” 1 p.
Burnham, George. Notes on Hermann Hagedorn’s biography of EAR, 20 pp., in Ruth Nivison’s hand. Some sheets signed by Burnham; some comments by Emma L. Robinson.
Bynner, Witter. Holograph, poem, “To Edwin Arlington Robinson,” 1 p., signed; typescript, with the title rendered as “In a River Town,” 1 p., signed.
Hagedorn, Hermann. Typescript, address at the Memorial Meeting in honor of EAR, Gardiner, Maine, 1935, 10 pp.
--------. Typescript, article, untitled, 1 p., signed.

http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq/vol8/iss8/9
Colby Library Quarterly 481


Louis, Alfred H. Notes, letters, newspaper clippings, copies of Louis’ letters, essays, and poems made by Denham Sutcliffe for his article, 1943.


Maynard, Samuel. Holograph, note on publication of Captain Craig, 1 pp., signed S. M.

Nivison, Ruth. Holograph, biographical notes on EAR, 3 pp.


Richards, John. Typescript, address at unveiling of EAR Memorial Tablet, Gardiner, Maine, 1 p., 1936.


Robinson, Emma L. Holograph, biographical notes on EAR, 1 p.


Smith, Harry DeForest. Holograph, Antigone by Sophocles translated in prose, with two brief passages versified in EAR's hand, 117 pp., 1894.


III. LETTERS BY E. A. R.

Adamic, Ermigard (1), 1926.
Asbury, Mr. (1), 1912.
Ballentine, Edith Perry (1), 1916.
Bartlett, Truman H. (2), 1912.
Beaman, A. G. (1), 1933.
Beebe, Lucius (1), 1926.
Blair, John (2), 1933.
Braithwaite, William Stanley (1), 1914.
Brower, Edith (189), 1897-1930.
Burnham, George (212), 1911-1935.
Clemens, Cyril (1), 1931.
Collamore, H. Bacon (57), 1926-1935.
Cournos, John (2), 1928-1930.
Dickstein, Louis (1), 1928.
Getchell, Everett L. (1), 1931.
Griffith, William (1), 1921.
Guthrie, William (2), 1931.
Insull, Samuel, Jr. (1), 1924.
Isaacs, Lewis M. (2), 1920-1929.
Latham, Harold Strong (2), 1929-1931.
Legg, Marie Robinson (14), 1912-1935.
Libby, Herbert C. (1), 1934.
Long, Frank B., Jr. (1), 1926.
Lund, Mr. (1), 1929.
MacDonald, Pirie (1), 1929.
Macy, John A. (1), 1897.
Marr, Carl W. (2), 1921-1924.
Maxcy, Mrs. Frank S. (1), 1926.
Moore, Charles Leonard (1), 1901.
Mullins, Helene (1), 1927.
Nivison, Ruth (50), 1913-1935.
Nivison, William (1), 1933.
Norton, Carrie Belle Parks (1), 1927.
Perry family (1), n.d.
Perry, Lilian Cabot (149), 1913-1933.
Perry, Margaret (21), 1922-1934.
Colby Library Quarterly 483

Perry, Thomas Sergeant (140), 1914-1928.
Ranck, Carty (1), 1919.
Ranck, Mrs. Carty (1), n.d.
Richards, Laura E. (32), 1901-1935.
Robinson, Emma L. (36), 1913-1934.
Robinson, Marie and Barbara (2), 1926-1932.
Roedel, Miss (1), 1927.
Samuel Maynard & Co. (1), 1900.
Spicer-Simson, Theodore (1), 1934.
Unidentified correspondents (4), 1902 - n.d.
Van Dyke, John Charles (1), 1927.
Variell, Arthur Davis (54), 1922-1929.
Variell, Katharine Schley (1), 1925.
Weaver, Miss (1), 1925.
Weyman, Mr. (1), 1934.
Ximena, Modesta (2), 1931.

IV. LETTERS TO E. A. R.

Betts, Craven Langstroth (1), 1934.
Brower, Edith (1), 1926.
Cestre, Charles (1), 1932.
Collamore, H. Bacon (81), 1926-1935.
Cushing, Harvey (1), 1929.
Drinkwater, John (5), 1930-1932.
Durant, Will (1), 1931.
Edward MacDowell Association (2), 1923-1926.
Eggleston, Edward (1), 1896.
Flaccus, Kimball (1), 1931.
Fox, Stella (1), 1922.
French, Joseph L. (1), 1922.
Galsworthy, John (1), 1923.
Garland, Hamlin (1), 1933.
Gosse, Edmund (1), 1923.
Klenze, Camillo von (1), 1931.
Ledoux, Louis V. (1), n.d.
Colby Library Quarterly

Lodge, Henry Cabot (1), 1920.
MacKaye, Percy (1), 1933 (also signed by Marion and Christy MacKaye and Dorothy and DuBose Heyward).
Perry, Lilla Cabot (4), 1923-1932.
Prokosch, Frederic (1), 1931.
Roosevelt, Theodore (12), 1905-1918.
Schumann, Alanson T. (1), 1907.
Spicer-Simson, Theodore (1), n.d.
Van Loon, Hendrik Willem (1), 1927.
Variell, Arthur Davis (2), 1923-1924.

V. LETTERS ABOUT E. A. R.

Adler, Elmer (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1936. Copy of reply (1).
Barnard, Leonard M. (1) to Cyril Clemens, 1938.
-------- (3) to Carl J. Weber, 1942-1946.
Bates, Esther W. (1) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1948. Copy of reply (1).
Beebe, Lucius (1) to H. Bacon Collamore, n.d.
Benét, William Rose (1) to Earle Walbridge, 1942.
Bets, Craven Langstroth (8) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1938-1939.
Blackwood, Algernon (2) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1939.
Brann, Louis J. (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Brett, George P. (2) to Margaret Perry, 1935.
Brooks, Van Wyck (1) to Cyril Clemens, 1939.
Brown, Rollo Walter (1) to Cyril Clemens, 1938.
Burnham, George (10) to Ruth Nivison, 1931-1939.
-------- (1) to Margaret Perry, 1935.
-------- (7) to Emma L. Robinson, 1935-1937.
Butler, Nicholas Murray (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1935.
Cestre, Charles (1) to Cyril Clemens, 1937.
-------- (1) to H. Bacon Collamore, 1927.
Clemens, Cyril (1) to Louis V. Ledoux, 1935.
Collamore, H. Bacon (1) to Eugene F. DuBois, 1935.
-------- (6) to Lewis M. Isaacs, 1935.
-------- (51) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1940. Letters by Collamore to Carlyle Strout; E. A. Lightner to Collamore and to Margaret Perry; W. B. Knight to Collamore.
-------- (1) to Emma L. Robinson, 1936.
Colby Library Quarterly 485

Cross, Wilbur L. (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1935; also signed by Henry S. Canby.
Daniels, Mabel (3) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1936.
-------- (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Deland, Margaret (1) to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1920.
Drinkwater, John (1) to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1920.
DuBois, Eugene F. (1) to H. Bacon Collamore, 1935.
-------- (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1935. Copy of tribute by Robinson Jeffers, and report of autopsy on EAR.
Dunnack, Henry E. (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Fillmore, Parker (6) to Ruth Nivison, 1936-1939. Copy of In Memoriam minutes of MacDowell Colony, and printed notice of EAR memorial meeting there.
-------- (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Fraser, Laura Gardin (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1936.
Frost, Robert (1) to James S. Barstow, 1942.
Gibson, Alice S. (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1936.
Gosse, Edmund (1) to Robert Bridges, 1923.
Greenslet, Ferris (1) to Carl J. Weber, 1943.
Hagedorn, Dorothy (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1936.
-------- (1) to Emma L. Robinson, 1937.
Hagedorn, Hermann (1) to George Burnham, 1937.
-------- (1) to Everett L. Getchell, 1936.
-------- (9) to Emma L. Robinson, 1936-1937.
Hagedorn, Mary O. (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1938.
Hall, James Norman (2) to Carl J. Weber, 1944-1945.
Hauck, Arthur A. (1) to Charles A. Knight, 1935.
Hogan, Charles Beecher (3) to Ruth Nivison, 1927-1936.
Isaacs, Lewis M. (2) to H. Bacon Collamore, 1935.
-------- (93) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1939. Copies of replies (10); copies of Isaacs letter to Emma L. Robinson (1); of Hagedorn letter to Isaacs in Mrs. Nivison's hand; of George P. Brett letter to Isaacs; notice of residuary legatee assignment; copy of memorandum on unliquidated investments; letter and statement of mortgage.
-------- (6) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
-------- (1) to Marie L. Robinson, 1936.
Jackson, E. Shirley (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1937.
Johnson, Franklin W. (1) to Charles A. Knight, 1935.
-------- (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1938. Copy of reply (1).
LaFarge, Florence (1) to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1927.
Larrabee, Edith (2) to Richard Cary, 1960.
Latham, George W. (1) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1946. Copy of reply (1); letters of Mrs. Latham (2) to Sutcliffe; of Mrs. Herbert Campbell to Sutcliffe (1).
Leducx, Louis V. (8) to Cyril Clemens, 1935-1938.
-------- (38) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1939. Copies of replies (4); copies of Isaacs letters to Ledoux (2); reply (1).
486 Colby Library Quarterly

——— (2) to Margaret Perry, 1936. Copy of request for letters of EAR.
——— (2) to Thomas Sergeant Perry, 1927.
——— (1) to Harold T. Pulsifer, 1947.
——— (2) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
——— (2) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1945-1946.
Lord, Alice Frost (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1935.
——— (1) to Emma L. Robinson, 1935.
Louis, Alfred H. (1) to Craven Langstroth Betts, 1903.
MacDowell, Mrs. Edward A. (3) to Cyril Clemens, 1938.
——— (2) to Emery Neff, 1947-1949.
——— (1) to Margaret Perry, 1933.
MacKaye, Percy (3) to Laura E. Richards, 1935. Copy of reply (1).
——— (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Malone, Ted (6) to Ruth Nivison, 1939-1940.
Marsh, Elizabeth (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1935.
Marvin, Mrs. H. H. (1) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1948. Copy of reply (1).
Mason, Daniel Gregory (1) to Norman Hood. Copy sent to Emery Neff.
Moore, George Foot (1) to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1929.
Neff, Emery (17) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1946-1947.
Nivison, Ruth (1) to Hermann Hagedorn, and (on verso) to Lewis M. Isaacs (1); both copies in Mrs. Nivison's hand.
——— (2) to Lewis M. Isaacs, 1937-1938.
——— (4) to Franklin W. Johnson, 1938-1939. Copies of replies (3); letter of Carl J. Weber to Johnson, and reply.
——— (2) to Louis V. Ledoux, 1939.
——— (1) to Laura E. Richards, n.d.
Perry, Bliss (1) to Margaret Perry, 1935.
Perry, Margaret (32) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1939. Letters of Mrs. Edward A. MacDowell (1); of Lewis M. Isaacs to H. Bacon Collamore (1); of Collamore to Miss Perry (1).
Phelps, William Lyon (1) to Thomas Sergeant Perry, 1927.
Ranck, Carty (9) to Ruth Nivison, 1935-1936. One is partly written and signed by George Burnham.
——— (2) to Laura E. Richards, 1935. Copy of reply (1), and of letter by LER to Editor of New York Herald Tribune Books (1).
——— (1) to Emma L. Robinson, 1937.
Randall, David A. (2) to Carl J. Weber, 1946.
Richards, Henry Howe (2) to Carl J. Weber, 1943-1946.
Richards, John (3) to Franklin W. Johnson, 1936, with proposal for permanent memorial for EAR. Copies of replies (2).
-------- (1) to Lilla Cabot Perry, 1931.
-------- (2) to Margaret Perry, 1935.
-------- (2) to Emma L. Robinson, 1935-1936.
Richards, Rosalind (1) to Arthur Dehon Hill, n.d.
Robbins, Linville W. (3) to Franklin W. Johnson, 1940-1941. Copies of replies (3); copy of letter by Johnson to Charles A. Brown.
-------- (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
-------- (5) to Carl J. Weber, 1941.
Saben, Mowry (5) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1947. Copies of replies (3).
Schmitt, Howard G. (1) to Emery Neff, 1948.
-------- (1) to Ruth Nivison, 1939.
-------- (1) to Margaret Perry, 1939.
-------- (1) to Emma L. Robinson, 1938.
Sills, Kenneth C. M. (1) to Charles A. Knight, 1935.
Smith, Harry DeForest (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Souther, Louise (2) to Margaret Perry, 1937.
Sutcliffe, Denham (9) to Emery Neff, 1946-1948.
-------- (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1938-1939. Copies of replies (2).
Trilling, Lionel (1) to Denham Sutcliffe, 1947.
Tryon, James L. (1) to Ernest C. Marriner, 1942.
Turner, Frances Wright (1) to Henry E. Dunnack, 1935.
-------- (1) to Margaret Perry, 1935.
Weber, Carl J. (2) to Ruth Nivison, 1939-1940.
Wells, Henry W. (1) to Carl J. Weber, 1940.
Wilder, Fessenden (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.
Williams, Alice Meacham (3) to Carl J. Weber, 1941-1943.
Williams, John L. B. (1) to Laura E. Richards, 1935.

Poetry is a language that tells us, through a more or less emotional reaction, something that cannot be said. All poetry, great or small, does this. And it seems to me that poetry has two characteristics. One is that it is, after all, undefinable. The other is that it is eventually unmistakable.

E. A. Robinson