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Announcements and Comments

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Announcements and Comments

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS was fortunate last year to receive a number of handsome donations from new and old friends.

Pride of place goes to Mrs. Raymond Spinney, who donated nearly 300 volumes to the library, forty-one of which will be retained in Special Collections. The most prominent title in an extraordinary assemblage is a first edition of Jonathan Swift's *Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World* by Lemuel Gulliver, 2 v., 1726. The volumes are in excellent condition in 18th century bindings. Another interesting early item is the *Fables of Aesop*, with woodcuts by Thomas Bewick, 1818. Most of the titles in the collection pertain to 20th century authors and include first editions of Ernest Hemingway, *To Have and to Have Not*, 1937 and *Across the River and Into the Trees*, 1950, both with dustjackets; a first edition of William Faulkner, *Sanctuary*, 1931; four signed titles of Carl Sandburg's including *Cornhuskers*, 1918, a first edition of Walter Van Tilberg Clark, *The Ox-Bow Incident*, 1940; Norman Douglas, *South Wind*, first edition, 2 v., 1929; and a now rare and valuable title of Carl J. Weber's, founder of Special Collections, *Fore Edge Painting*, 1966.

Mrs. Dorothy Nichols contributed 96 books, 85 issues of magazines and two original cartoons depicting Sean O'Casey and Lennox Robinson to the James Augustine Healy collection of Irish literature. Mrs. Nichols' gift includes a good number of titles by contemporary authors in editions we did not own, such as Elizabeth Bowen's *The Shelbourne*, Donn Byrne, *Hangman's House*, Mary Lavin, *Tales From Bective Bridge*, Flann O'Brien, *At Swim-Two-Birds*, Somerville and Ross, *Mount Music*. There is also a selection of fine, large-format, picture books pertaining to Irish culture and architecture: Sandy Lesberg, *The Cottages and Castles of Ireland*; John O'Leary, *Ireland, Its Beauty and Splendor*; Desmond Guinness and William Ryan, *Irish Houses and Castles*; and Brian de Breffny, *The Churches and Abbeys of Ireland*, among others.

Bern Porter, (Colby '32) of Belfast, Maine, contributed 106 books, 251 issues of periodicals, 1452 pages of letters and manuscripts, as well as 17 other bound volumes and one second recording to his collection of Contemporary Letters.

J. Seelye Bixler was President of Colby College from 1942 to 1960. At his death in 1986, his daughter, Nancy Isaacs, on behalf of the estate,

transferred President Bixler's papers to the College Archives. The 15 linear feet of material includes lecture and research notes, materials pertaining to his many publications and personal correspondence.

I am pleased to thank our friends once again for their generous support of Special Collections.

J. FRASER COCKS III
Curator, Special Collections

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

JAMES WALTON is an Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. He has published articles on a wide range of British writers and has recently completed a novel.

MARILYN THRONE is an Associate Professor of English at Miami University, Ohio and has published poems and articles on Irish literature and culture.

PETER OTTO teaches at the University of Adelaide, South Australia and specializes in Romantic poetry.

PAULINE WOODWARD is an Assistant Professor of English and Humanities at Lesley College, Cambridge and writes about rhetoric, composition, and women writers.

CYNTHIA J. GOHEEN is in temporary exile from the State of Maine at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, California where she is also working on Jewett and other regional writers.