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"The Spectre" After Fifty Years

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When you have read the modifications you will be able to choose; or suggest."

The finishing touches were given the "weird story" in London in December, but it was almost a year before it was printed. Then it appeared, as the leading contribution and with five illustrations by H. R. Millar, in the special Winter Number of Jerome K. Jerome's weekly, To-Day, November 17, 1894. Mrs. Henniker collected it two years later in her volume In Scarlet and Grey (London, 1896). This final text shows a number of verbal alterations and a considerable improvement in the taste of several passages (notably at the end of Chapter VI and the beginning of Chapter VII). The story, nevertheless, was not well received. Mrs. Henniker's own work, which made up the bulk of the volume, was considered decidedly superior, and she was not commended for the collaborator she had chosen. The Academy found the story "marred by those deflections from good taste which seem to have become characteristic of Mr. Hardy's later art." The Athenaeum thought it "might well have been omitted," and the Spectator called it "undoubtedly very effective and indeed gruesome, but also superfluously repulsive" and concluded, "Mr. Thomas Hardy, in his later phases, is hardly a judicious literary counsellor." All this was three years after the story had been written. Poor as it was, it was being read, it must be recalled, in the shadow of Jude the Obscure and the obloquy that attended that novel.

"THE SPECTRE" AFTER FIFTY YEARS

The date of the first appearance of "The Spectre of the Real" is November 17, 1894. On the fiftieth anniversary of this event the Colby College Library will exhibit, from its Hardy Collection, supplemented with one book borrowed for the occasion, a group of "Spectral" volumes
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which have survived the half-century. On November 17, 1944, the following items will be on exhibition:

1. "The Spectre of the Real" as it appeared on pages 5-15 of To-Day: a reproduction of the copy in the Yale University Library. Colby has no copy of the original.

2. In Scarlet and Grey, by Florence Henniker: London, John Lane, 1896. Hardy's name does not appear on the cover of this book, but it is given on the title-page, as the part-author of "The Spectre" which is printed on pages 164-208. This marks the first book-appearance of the story. The copy to be exhibited, in the original bright-red cloth, was presented by Mrs. Henniker to "Pearl Craigie,"—i.e., Mrs. P. M. T. Craigie, who wrote under the pen-name of John Oliver Hobbes. After her death in 1906, her book was acquired by George Barr McCutcheon, and in 1925 it came into the possession of Paul Lemperly, of Cleveland, Ohio, and after his death, it was presented to the Colby College Library by Mr. Herman Oriel of New York City.

3. In Scarlet and Grey: Boston, Roberts Brothers, 1896. This first American edition, bound in sky-blue cloth, bears the same decorations on the front cover that appear on the English edition, but Hardy's name appears on the American book, as it does not on the English copy. "The Spectre" is printed on pages 164-208.

4. In Scarlet and Grey: London, John Lane, n.d. (?1905); Canvas-Back Library, green boards, linen spine. This edition was printed from the same plates as the first English edition. This copy was bought by Miss Rebekah Owen, the New York lady who persuaded Hardy to change the ending of The Mayor of Casterbridge. She died in 1939. Her book was presented to the Colby College Library by Mr. Carroll A. Wilson, of New York City, in 1941.

5. Outlines, by Florence Henniker: London, 1894. This collection of four short stories bears the dedication: "To my friend Thomas Hardy these little stories are inscribed. December 1893." The copy to be exhibited has the distinction of being Hardy's own; it is inscribed by Mrs. Henniker.
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on the half-title: "Thomas Hardy, from Florence Henniker. Feb. 1894." This book is now in the possession of Professor Richard L. Purdy, of Yale University, who has not only lent it to the Colby College Library but has also contributed the accompanying account of Hardy's collaboration with Mrs. Henniker.

On this fiftieth anniversary of the first appearance of the story, Professor Purdy's account is as appropriate as it is welcome. The significance of his report will be appreciated by Hardy readers who recall that the sole statement which Hardy permitted Mrs. Hardy to make on this subject (in Later Years, p. 27) was that, in December, 1893, "his London engagements . . . included the final revision with Mrs. Henniker of a weird story in which they had collaborated."

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES AND MEMORANDA

Among recent contributions to the manuscript-collection in the Colby Library one of the most interesting is the original manuscript written by the Rev. George Dana Boardman Pepper and delivered by him while pastor of the Baptist Church, Waterville, Maine, at the time of Abraham Lincoln's death. This manuscript is a gift from his children, Charles Hovey Pepper, artist, Mrs. Jessie E. Pepper (Mrs. Frederick M.) Padelford, and Mrs. Annie Pepper Varney.

The appeal of the Librarian to all Colby Library Associates for autograph correspondence from men of letters, historians, scientists, and statesmen, brought an immediate and pleasing response. Hundreds of such letters have been added to our files, and an interesting sampling of them was on exhibition at Commencement time in May. Further