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Another Kelmscott "Hand and Soul"

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to be able to announce that two holograph notes by Emily Dickinson are now in the Colby library—the gift of Mrs. B. K. Emerson, of Amherst. The fact that they are appropriate additions to the file of famous autographs at Colby is made doubly clear when we add that Miss Dickinson’s notes were addressed to President Bixler’s grandmother, Mrs. Julius H. Seelye.

In 1874 Julius Seelye was elected to Congress, where he served as a member of the House of Representatives from 1875 to 1877; and in 1876 he was elected President of Amherst College. On the occasion of one or the other of these elections, Emily Dickinson wrote:

My dear Mrs Seelye—
Let me congratulate not you, but ourselves.
E. DICKINSON.

And on another occasion, when Mrs. Seelye had apparently sent Miss Dickinson a timidly-worded suggestion, the reply came:

Dear Friend,
I requite the celestial suggestion with Blossoms resembling it, and ask with your own timidity, "Will they intrude?"
E. DICKINSON.

Since their receipt by the Colby College Library, these two notes have been on exhibition in the temporary Treasure Room.

ANOTHER KELMSCOTT “HAND AND SOUL”

In our issue for January, 1946, we reported that the Boston Colby Club had presented to the Library a copy of William Morris’s printing of Rossetti’s Hand and Soul—a copy purchased by Mrs. Patrick Campbell and presented “in dear remembrance” to Thomas Hardy. The Boston Colby Club has now supplemented this gift with another
copy of the Kelmscott Hand and Soul—this one with the Chicago imprint: “Sold by Way and Williams.” This most recent addition to our Kelmscott Press collection is in a unique vellum binding; the book carries the certificate of one member of the Chicago firm to the effect that this copy was the only one bound in mottled brown vellum, instead of the light-colored vellum in which other copies appear.

In reporting our acquisition of the copy with the London imprint, “Sold by William Morris,” we stated that this was the fourth copy to reach New England. This statement calls for correction, for the Maine State Library at Augusta also has a copy of the Chicago edition of Hand and Soul. There are thus now six copies on record in New England libraries. Harvard, New Hampshire, Colby, and the Maine State Library have copies with the Chicago colophon; Brown and Colby have copies with the London colophon. The Colby Library is the only one in New England with a copy of both the London and the Chicago issues of the little Kelmscott book.

It is just fifty years since the appearance of the famous Kelmscott Chaucer, the first copy of which was delivered to William Morris on June 2, 1896. The Colby copy is on exhibition on this fiftieth anniversary. The occasion provides an opportunity for tabulating the present holdings of Kelmscott titles in New England libraries, and for bringing up to date the census which we first printed in March 1944. Now, two years later, the list reads:

Harvard University 47
Colby College 28
Yale University 22
Brown University 13
Dartmouth College 10
Smith College 10
Wellesley College 10
Williams (Chapin L.) 10
T. B. Mosher Estate 7

Connecticut College 3
Amherst College 2
Haverhill Public Library 2
Radcliffe College 2
Bangor Public Library 1
Lowell Public Library 1
Maine State Library 1
Mt. Holyoke College 1
U. of New Hampshire 1