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Recent Acquisitions

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

THANKS to the kindness of Mr. Philo C. Calhoun, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, we have received a copy of Thoreau’s Walden—the first edition, 1854. It arrives just in time to help us celebrate the centenary of this memorable publication. (In March Dr. Richard Cary addressed the Colby Library Associates on “Walden After One Hundred Years.” We sincerely regret that we lack space for printing this address, for we feel sure that many of our readers would be glad to have it laid before their eyes.)

To Marian E. Hague (Mrs. William B. Hague, of Gorham, Maine) we are indebted for a nice crisp copy of the first edition of The Alhambra, by “the author of The Sketch Book” (Washington Irving, of course), Philadelphia, Carey & Lea, 1832; two volumes in the original boards.

From Professor Edward J. Colgan we have received a broadside copy of Edwin Markham’s “The Man With the Hoe,” autographed in 1929 by the author. Professor Colgan has also given the Library a copy of Lambert Bos’s Ellipses Graecae (i.e., Greek Ellipses), Leipzig, J. C. Martin, 1713, in the preface of which the author boasts—as if it were something new—that he has arranged his examples in alphabetical order. Professor Bliss of our Classics Department informs us that through the Middle Ages and the early Renaissance, writers “never got farther than alphabetizing the initial letter or the first two letters,” and the only predecessor recognized by Bos, in the use of true, full alphabetical order, is one Franciscus Sanctius, whoever he may be! This book on Greek Ellipses was once in the library of George Washington Keeley (1803-1878), who for many years (1829-1852) was Professor of Mathematics and Natural Philosophy in Waterville College.

From Mr. John W. S. Hammond, of Arlington, Massachusetts, we have received four further contributions to our growing shelf of the products of the Merrymount
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Press. This latest quartet covers D. B. Updike’s work over a period of thirty-five years, from 1899 to 1934. If we can keep up the pace set during the recent growth of our Merrymount Press Collection, we shall be nicely equipped for observing the centenary of Updike’s birth when 1960 arrives. Mr. Hammond has also sent us an inscribed and autographed, mint-condition copy of James B. Connolly’s Sonnie-Boy’s People. In the inscription Mr. Connolly expresses his own preference (among the stories contained in this book) for “Tim Riley’s Touch.”

Mr. John Frost, of New York City, has given us an interesting addition to our collection of Mainiana (is there such a word? if not there ought to be! how else can one refer concisely to “books about Maine and books by Maine authors”?). Mr. Frost’s gift is a copy of A Romance of New Meadows by Emma Frances Harmon Raymond (Lewiston, Maine, 1900). The story deals with the legend that Captain Kidd once wintered in the New Meadows river and buried his booty, or some of it, in Maine.

CENTENARY OF A FAMOUS MAN

On April 9 the Colby Library Associates recognized the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of a man who never lived. Dean Ernest C. Marriner addressed the Associates on “The Centennial Sherlock,” for the weight of authority has it that Sherlock Holmes was born in 1854. Colby is one of the few colleges that have never been distinguished as the scene of a mystery story. Sherlock Holmes was doubtless so busy, when he came to the United States in 1914, that he had no time to visit Waterville. So far as we know, this college community had no German spies to attract him. But it had, and still has, a lot of people, Library Associates among them, who think they hear the sound of a hansom cab rumbling over the cobble-stones of Baker Street and hear a voice say, “Come, Watson, come! The game is afoot.”