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Recent Gifts To The Library

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RECENT GIFTS TO THE LIBRARY

At the time of Pope's death in 1744, a Frenchman by the name of François Marie Arouet — better known simply as Voltaire — was busily employed in Paris in connection with the fêtes of the marriage of the Dauphin, son of King Louis XV. When the Dauphin's son had himself become king — Louis XVI — and had a son of his own to educate, he ordered Voltaire's *La Henriade* to be newly printed "for the education of the Dauphin." Two hundred and fifty copies were made on the finest vellum paper, printed with new types specially cast by Firmín Didot. The book was published in Paris in 1790, by P. Didot, "by order of the King." Thanks to the generosity of Mr. Philip Hofer, of Harvard University, the Colby Library is now the proud owner of one of these royal copies of Voltaire's *Henriade*.

Mr. Hofer has also presented to the library a copy of the *Illustrations of the Book of Job* by William Blake, reproduced (London, 1937) in full-color facsimile from the original set of twenty-two drawings now in Mr. Hofer's possession.

The librarian regrets that there is not space to mention all the books, letters, manuscripts, and documents, that have been recently given to the library; but among these new gifts the following are specially worth noting:


From Edward F. Stevens, *Books and Printing* by Carolyn F. Ulrich and Karl Küp (in which we are happy to see the *Colby Library Quarterly* mentioned on page 168).


From Miss Emily H. Hall, of the Yale University Library, John K. Bangs' *House-Boat on the Styx*, Lucy Larcom's *As it is in Heaven*, and F. C. Orozco's *The Orozco Frescoes at Dartmouth*.  

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From Miss Elizabeth E. Manwaring, of Wellesley College, Martin Armstrong’s Thirty New Poems, Monk Gibbon’s For Daws to Peck at, and James Malcolm’s London during the Eighteenth Century.

From Mrs. Frederick M. Padelford, a generous portion of the private library of the late Professor Padelford, including a score of volumes of the New Shakespeare Society, several dozen volumes of the Early English Text Society, and extensive files of periodicals (e.g., the Philological Quarterly and Englische Studien) which will fill gaps in the Colby Library.

ADDITIONS TO THE HARDY COLLECTION

From Carroll A. Wilson (in addition to the generous gifts already noticed in preceding pages), sheets of the Cornhill Magazine, London, in which Thomas Hardy’s Far from the Madding Crowd appeared in 1874 and his Hand of Ethelberta in 1875.

From Mr. E. N. Sanders, of Parkstone, Dorset, England, a copy of Snaebjorn Jonsson’s translation into Icelandic of Thomas Hardy’s story “The Duke’s Re-appearance” (Reykjavik, Iceland, 1933). This is the first Hardy story translated into Icelandic. The Colby Library has previously acquired copies of the Icelandic translations of Tess and of Hardy’s Poems.

From Miss Elizabeth Wade White, of Middlebury, Connecticut, a copy of Amy Lowell’s Can Grande’s Castle (New York, 1918), inscribed: “To Thomas Hardy, Esq., with the profound respect and admiration of Amy Lowell. December 1918.” Those who take delight in Amy Lowell’s “polyphonic prose” will be sorry to hear that Hardy did not open the pages of this book beyond page 50!

From Mr. Bruno Huhn, of Forest Hills, Long Island, a two-page holograph letter of Thomas Hardy’s, addressed to Mrs. Henry Allhusen, of Stoke Court, Stoke Poges, Buckinghamshire. Hardy had known her ever since she was a little girl, née Dorothy Stanley, daughter of Lady
Jeune, and had attended her wedding at St. George's Church, Hanover Square, London. The letter reads:

My dear Dorothy:  

Max Gate, Dorchester. Oct. 9, 1896

I find your little note on my return here from a two months’ wandering—mostly in Belgium—from which country of carillons we crossed on Tuesday between two gales. If I am in London on Sunday 25th I will run down with pleasure, for an hour or two at any rate; but I fear I may not be able to leave here, in which case I must put off seeing you till later on, much as I wish to do so.

Believe me Yours affectionately

THOMAS HARDY.

And while we are thus glancing back at Hardy (and recalling that June 2 is his birthday), let us pass on to our readers a query sent in by Professor John Robert Moore, of Indiana University. He asks:

"Has anyone observed the discrepancy (in The Return of the Native) by which Hardy seems to waver between Wisconsin and Canada as the home of Wildeve's uncle? I suppose this may be an old point, but I don't remember having seen a note on it. In Book I, Chapter IX, Wildeve asks: 'Will you go with me to America? I have kindred in Wisconsin.' In Book IV, Chapter VIII, Eustacia's grandfather explains how Wildeve came into a fortune of eleven thousand pounds: 'Uncle died in Canada, . . . so Wildeve has come into everything.'"

Or did Hardy think that Wisconsin was in Canada? (He once asked Hamlin Garland if Harvard was a girls' school!)

Thirty years ago, shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Hardy wrote a poem entitled "Song of the Soldiers." When it was first published by the London Times on Wednesday, September 9, 1914, it was accompanied by a statement that "neither Mr. Hardy nor The Times reserves copyright in the poem." Time and place are both appropriate for quoting the poem for those readers to whom it may not be familiar.
SONG OF THE SOLDIERS

By Thomas Hardy

What of the faith and fire within us
Men who march away
Ere the barn-cocks say
Night is growing gray,
To hazards whence no tears can win us:¹
What of the faith and fire within us
Men who march away?

Is it a purblind prank, O think you,
Friend with the musing eye
Who watch us stepping by,
With doubt and dolorous sigh?
Can much pondering so hoodwink you?
is it a purblind prank, O think you,
Friend with the musing eye?

Nay. We see well what we are doing,
Though some may not see —
Dalliers as they be! —
England's need are we;
Her distress would set us rueing;
Nay. We see well what we are doing,
Though some may not see!

In our heart of hearts believing
Victory crowns the just,
And that braggarts must
Surely bite the dust,
March² we to the field ungrieving,
In our heart of hearts believing
Victory crowns the just.

Hence the faith and fire within us
Men who march away
Ere the barn-cocks say
Night is growing gray,
To hazards whence no tears² can win us;
Hence the faith and fire within us
Men who march away.

¹ When Hardy collected this poem in Moments of Vision, 1917, he changed this line to read: "Leaving all that here can win us."
² In 1917 Hardy changed "March" to read "Press."
³ The first five words of this line were, in 1917, changed to read "Leaving all that here . . . ."