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Recent Gifts to the Library

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Mr. Philo C. Calhoun, of Bridgeport, Connecticut, has presented twenty-five volumes of choice Americana to the library. The gift includes five Hawthorne firsts, five Whittier firsts, four first editions by Oliver Wendell Holmes, three Emersons, two Longfellows, one Thoreau, and various other authors and titles, including a first edition of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

From Mrs. Allana Small Krieger, we have received a copy of George Drisko's *Life of Hannah Weston*, published at Machias, Maine, by C. O. Furbush in 1857.

Mr. F. W. Lafrentz has given us a copy of H. R. Driggs's *Westward America*, No. 249 of 500 copies containing forty colored illustrations by W. H. Jackson.

Mrs. Mary Bragg Weston, ’01, has given the library a nicely-bound set of the 1751 two-volume edition of Terence's comedies in Latin—a timely bicentenary gift.

From Mrs. William Abbott Smith we have received a copy of Anthony à Wood's *Athenae Oxoniensis* (London, 1721) in two volumes.

Professor Alfred K. Chapman has given the library a copy of an early edition of John Lyly's *Euphues* (London, about 1580).

From Miss Sarah Field Splint we have received a copy of George Bainton's *Art of Authorship* (London, 1890), in which Hardy, Howells, Miss Jewett, Henry James, and others comment on their writing habits.

From Dr. Walter Peirce, of Santa Barbara, California, we have received a copy of the Christmas Book Number of *John o' London's Weekly* which contains Webster Evans's report of Sir Newman Flower's reminiscences of Thomas Hardy. According to Sir Newman, Mrs. Hardy startled Edmund Gosse one day by saying: "I always beat my husband every morning." "Beat him!" exclaimed Gosse. "Yes. But only with a rolled-up copy of the *Times*.

Dr. Edward F. Stevens, '89, has made another extensive
contribution to the Book Arts Collection of which he is
the founder. Five of his gifts are “College Monographs” il-
illustrated by Edmund H. New and inscribed by him to Dr.
Stevens. Others include Charles Crandall’s Representative
Sonnets by American Poets, special editions of Thoreau’s
Walden and Early Spring in Massachusetts, and a large-paper
edition of The Pilgrim’s Progress bound in full levant
morocco. We have previously received from Dr. Stevens,
and (we fear) have not previously announced, the gift of
copies of a first edition of Henry James’s The Golden Bowl,
and three volumes of James Russell Lowell, beautifully
bound in three-quarter calf by Sangorski & Sutcliffe of
London.

President Bixler has given the library a copy of the fac-
simile edition of the Geddes Burns. For fear that that state-
ment may not be wholly clear to all our readers, let us ex-
plain. A copy of Burns’s Poems Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect
(Edinburgh, 1787) once belonged to the Rev. Dr. Alexan-
der Geddes, a Catholic clergyman in Edinburgh. Burns
once borrowed the book from him and in it wrote out
twelve complete poems and also inserted autograph ex-
planations of many of the blanks he had left in the printed
text of the 1787 Edinburgh edition. Dr. Geddes died in
London. His book descended to his sister, then to her
daughter, then to Dr. Henry Goadby, a Detroit physician;
from him to Mrs. Goadby, who sold it in 1863 to James
Black, whose widow sold it to W. K. Bixby, who allowed
the book to be exhibited in the Burns Cottage at the
Louisiana Purchase Exposition in 1904. In 1908 the Bib-
liophile Society of Boston was allowed to print 473 copies
in a facsimile edition, “for members only.” One of these
copies later came into the possession of Dr. Nathan H. Gar-
rick (b.s., Colby, 1910), who in 1950 gave it to President
Bixler. The book is beautifully bound in brown calf. All
Colby Library Associates will applaud President Bixler’s
act in presenting this fascinating volume to the library.

From Willis F. and Flora B. Washburn we have received
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a copy of *Quicken the Current* by Mary C. Eudy—a first edition, autographed by the author.

From Mr. James A. Healy, of New York and Portland, we have received a copy of T. W. H. Crosland’s *Last Poems* (London, 1928), No. 67 of an edition limited to 325 copies.

Among the most unusual books recently acquired, we place John Ball’s *Treatise of Faith* (London, 1631). This book, published only fifteen years after Shakespeare’s death, has apparently become an extremely scarce item—at least in America. Copies are recorded at Harvard and at Yale, in the Folger Library at Washington and in the library of the Union Theological Seminary in New York City, and a fifth copy in the Huntington Library in California. Colby’s copy makes a sixth. Are there others? If so, where?

The state of our Bewick collection has been improved by the acquisition of a copy of the Cheshire House edition of the *Select Fables of Aesop*. The book contains sixty-eight engravings by Thomas Bewick; our copy is No. 375 of an edition limited to 1,200 copies.

If, as you read these words, you are suffering from the summer’s heat, perhaps this woodcut by Thomas Bewick will help you to cool off. This engraving, one of those presented to the library by T. Raymond Pierce, ’98 (see the *Colby Library Quarterly* for May, 1949), is Bewick’s amusing attempt to illustrate an early experiment with stilts before the days of snowshoes.
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From Dean Julian Park (of the University of Buffalo) we have received a copy of Edmund Gosse’s book on Gray—a copy lifted high out of the ordinary run of “English-Men-of-Letters” books by reason of the fact that it is inscribed by the author, Gosse, to W. E. Henley. It makes a most welcome addition to our “sentimental library.”

From Mr. E. N. Sanders, of Parkstone, Dorset, England, we have received a copy of Desmond Hawkins’s stimulating little book (1951) on Thomas Hardy. A recent issue of Radio Times (London) reports the gift of “a collection of 700 volumes” to the Thomas Hardy Memorial Room in the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester (Hardy’s “Casterbridge”)—a gift which includes “almost every edition of Hardy’s works published both in England and abroad.” The London announcement makes no mention of the man who made so princely a gift to the Dorset County Museum, but he is known at Colby to be the same Mr. Sanders (named above) who gave Hardy’s armchair to the Colby Library just a year ago.

SOME GOOD ADVICE TO THOSE WHO HAVE BOOKS TO GIVE

The current number of The New Colophon contains some remarks by the late Randolph G. Adams which are, we think, worth passing on—not to those whose names appear in the pages above, names of men and women who have made presents to the Colby library—but to those who are, perhaps, wondering what to do with their books, to owners who have not yet made up their minds. With the kind permission of the publishers of The New Colophon, we quote the following lines. (All Colby Library Associates are urged to pass this good advice on to places where it will do the most good!)

“If a book collector begins ‘I plan to leave my books to