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Colby Library Quarterly

PROGRAM OF TRANCHELL'S OPERA

THE Hardy Collection at Colby includes an extensive list of programs of Hardy plays. Thanks to Mr. E. N. Sanders, of Parkstone, Dorset, England, we have been able to add to this collection a copy of the program for the first performance of Peter Tranchell's three-act opera The Mayor of Casterbridge, performed in the Cambridge Arts Theatre during the 1951 Festival of Britain. A review in the London Times remarked of this opera: "Tranchell has seized the mood of Hardy's novel with a precision uncanny in a composer whose idiom seems naturally so sophisticated. . . . He has devised ensembles, duets, and other set pieces with a strongly effective, and fundamentally romantic feeling for mood and placing." And Eric Blom (editor of Music & Letters), in reviewing the opera in The Observer, London, Sunday, August 5, 1951, remarked: "Mr. Tranchell has decisively leapt to fame at a single bound. His second act is a near-masterpiece."

The program for the first performance is accompanied by a page of the Cambridge Daily News for July 31, 1951, on which the first performance of the opera was advertised. A letter from Mr. Sanders gives further interesting information about the performance, and his interest in adding to his previous generous contributions to Hardiana at Colby has been of great assistance in keeping our records of Hardy plays and adaptations complete and up to date.

CONNOLLY NOTES

READERS who recall Dean Marriner's Jim Connolly and the Fisherman of Gloucester (1949) and visitors who have seen the Connolly Collection in our library (for our possession of which we are indebted to Mr. James A. Healy of Portland and New York City) will be interested to know that we have just learned, as we go to press, that Mr. Con-