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Recent Acquisitions

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RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Among the unpublished autograph letters which have recently come to the Library is one dated August 10, 1955, written by the late Lord Dunsany, of Dunstall Priory, Kent, in which he mentions the Colby College Library. For our possession of this letter we are indebted to Mrs. Hazel G. Littlefield Smith, of Palos Verdes Estates, California.

Mr. Dan H. Lawrence, of Hofstra College, has given us a typed signed letter of Upton Sinclair dated December 27, 1929. The letter was written from Pasadena, California, to R. H. Burnside, and concerns “a new play” which Sinclair had written.

From Mrs. Elizabeth Eaton Hincks we have received a copy of her privately printed Undismayed. This 218-page book, beautifully printed in 1952 by The Lakeside Press of Chicago, tells the envigorating story of a Yankee chaplain’s family during the American Civil War. The thirteen illustrations were drawn by Mrs. Hincks herself; the “Charlie” of the story was her grandfather. On page 100 there is an 1864 reference to the “patriotic hymn which has only become familiar to us in these War years, though it was written over thirty years ago.” The hymn thus referred to is Smith’s America, “first sung ... in the old Park Street Church in Boston,” where the 125th anniversary of that occasion was recently celebrated. Shortly before Christmas 1957 Mrs. Hincks herself visited the Colby Treasure Room in which the autograph manuscript of S. F. Smith’s famous hymn is displayed.

To Mrs. Curtis M. Hutchins, of Bangor, a member of the Board of Trustees, we are indebted for an extremely dainty contribution to our collection of editions of Edward FitzGerald’s Rubáiyát. When the centenary of this famous work rolls around next year, Mrs. Hutchins’s gift is certain to attract the attention of many an eye among those who come to view the centennial exhibition which
the Library is planning. It is No. 434 of an edition limited to fifteen hundred copies, "designed, decorated, and illuminated by hand by Valenti Angelo . . . for the members of The Limited Editions Club" in 1935. The book is printed on specially designed yellow paper, with decorations in red and blue. The hand-"illumination" is in both gold and silver; other illustrations are in various colors. The little volume is bound tastefully in yellow leather. This edition does not follow any one among the four or five versions composed by Edward FitzGerald, but its editor (who is not identified) states that it provides "a definitive text carefully selected from his five differing versions and issued in this edition for the members of The Limited Editions Club."

From Trinity College Library we have received a very welcome copy of a MAINE IMPRINT, namely, *The Federalist, on The New Constitution, written in the year 1788 by Mr. Hamilton, Mr. Madison and Mr. Jay; Hallowell, Maine: Glazier & Company, 1826*. The book is bound in the original calf.

To Arthur G. Robinson we are indebted for two large and impressive folios entitled *A Description of the Empire of China and Chinese Tartary . . . from the French of J. B. Du Halde: London, Edward Cave, 1738-1741*. The books, bound in brown calf, are *ex libris* Wilson S. Howell. Father Du Halde was a Jesuit priest, whose knowledge of and enthusiasm for China rivals that of Marco Polo. The numerous maps were provided by the English translator, whose name is not given.

To Mrs. William F. Rogers, of Braintree, Massachusetts, we are indebted for an interesting addition to our Lovejoy Collection. This is a seven-page autobiographical manuscript which includes a contemporary account of the murder of Elijah Parish Lovejoy. This autograph was written by a native of Bloomfield, Maine, who had been engaged in the lumbering business in Old Town in the year 1837. His narrative continues:

"Old Town had been very prosperous from 1833 till
1835. Business [then] became very much depressed, lumbermen failing every day, and I lost most all I had earned and what I [had] received from my father, about $200; and [so] I concluded to try some other part of the world. I succeeded in collecting $165 out of $1000 [due me], and started for Alton, Illinois, in October 1837. I arrived there November 3, 1837. As the steamboat landed at the levee, it was boarded by Border Ruffians and other Godforsaken creatures in search of a printing press. Elijah P. Lovejoy had previously set up a press and published an Abolition Paper which the aforesaid gentry said should not continue. They had destroyed one press and they knew that another one was expected, but the day and the hour of its arrival they knew not. It [Alton] did not look very flattering [for me to plan] to locate there, but my money was growing beautifully less very fast, and I had only about $60 left. I called upon the Rev. Mr. Lovejoy as he was a Maine man and I had formed an acquaintance with his brother and sisters at Old Town. I found him a very genial, sociable, gentlemanly sort of a man, an enthusiastic Abolitionist, determined to establish his press or die in the attempt. He told me he expected to be assassinated, but he said that free speech must be tolerated and that he felt it his duty to go ahead, trusting in God and the righteousness of the cause. The press arrived on the morning of November 7, and the rabble congregated that evening at the Saloons, and after partaking freely of fighting fluid they commenced their work of destruction. They killed Mr. Lovejoy and destroyed the press, little expecting that from that moment slavery was doomed. I found that there was to be a change of Landlords in the Hotel where I stopped, and I engaged with the incoming Landlord as clerk. I helped him through the winter and spring, and [then] he failed. . . . I came back to Skowhegan in 1842.”