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The SOHO Bibliography of Henry James

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Volunteer Soldier of America, With Memoir of the Author and Military Reminiscences from General Logan's Private Journal.

Blaine's letter reads as follows:

Augusta, Maine
25 April 1886

Dear General

Don't be fretted or disturbed by any efforts made by newspaper reporters to represent you and me as antagonistic . . .

I thank you for speaking so cordially in regard to the matter—but I want you to know that I am not one of the uneasy kind and care little for what the ubiquitous reporter puts in circulation—

—As to the Army bill you need no assurance of course that I never sent a word of any kind to any person for or against it—

I am not meddling in any legislature, but am a quiet citizen living the most quiet of lives—Hope soon to hear that your book is issued from the press. You found I am sure that it is wearing work—

With kind regards to Mrs. Logan
I am very sincerely yours
JAMES G. BLAINE

Senator Logan

THE SOHO BIBLIOGRAPHY OF HENRY JAMES

In the February 1947 issue of this quarterly, the following brief announcement was printed on page 14: "Mr. H. B. Collamore, of Hartford, Connecticut, has given his entire Henry James Collection to the Colby Library. This is a gift of such magnitude and importance as to require detailed analysis and report later. All that we do here is to announce the gift and to invite our readers to rejoice with us that the Colby James Collection can now, by reason of this immense boost, take rank with the best collections of Henry James to be found anywhere."
This brief announcement did not go unnoticed in the literary world. Scholars from New York, Philadelphia, and more distant cities began arriving in Waterville, in order to inspect some of the rarer items in Mr. Collamore's collection, and when Rupert Hart-Davis, of Soho Square, London, undertook the publication of a definitive James Bibliography, his agent had to make a special visit to the Colby campus. That was more than five years ago.

The Soho Bibliography of Henry James has at last appeared—the authoritative work of Leon Edel and Dan H. Laurence. It is an impressive book of more than four hundred pages, ending with a 25-page index. We turned at once to page 391, where the name Colby is found, and were startled to find only one page-reference—a reference to the issue of the COLBY LIBRARY QUARTERLY for June 1943 (four years before Mr. Collamore presented his collection to Colby) in which we reprinted in full Henry James's review of Zola's Nana. We noticed also that Mr. H. B. Collamore was entered in the Index as “J. B. Collamore.” If, then, we were to judge this book by its Index, we would not think very highly of it!

Fortunately, however, the Index is not a good indication of the wealth and the completeness and the accuracy of the work. We have leafed through the book itself and have convinced ourselves that Mr. Laurence—that one of the two compilers who visited the Colby Library five or six years ago—missed nothing when he came here to place the Collamore Collection under his microscopic eye. We have therefore supplemented the publisher's Index with a Colby Index of our own making, and on pages 10, 17, 55 (twice), 90, 100, 107, 214, 215, 249, 267, 268, 276, 317, 382, and 384, we find abundant evidence to support our original announcement of eleven years ago, that the Collamore gift “is a gift of . . . magnitude and importance.”

Edel and Laurence speak of the “notable collection . . . at Colby”; they state that our copy of the Point of View is
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the only one known; they refer to our “unique copy” of The Real Thing; on page 214 they reproduce, as an illustration in their book, a Colby item which (on page 215) they call “an important piece”; they note that our copy of Guy Domville is one of only five, that our copy of The Other House is one of only three, and that we share with Harvard the proud possession of a copy of the so-called “70th Birthday Letter.” Etc., etc.

The four hundred and more pages of this book are packed full of information, and no student of Henry James will henceforth dare to work without the constant aid of this authoritative compilation. We are proud to find the Colby Collection in it; we hail the publication of the book as a splendid achievement, in spite of the fact that the clerk (or whoever he was) who made the Index didn’t do a very thorough job from our admittedly prejudiced point of view. A reading of these scholarly pages (apart from the Index!) arouses anew our vivid sense of indebtedness to Mr. H. B. Collamore.

SOME NOTEWORTHY RECENT GIFTS

From Mr. Walter Beinecke, Jr., of New York City, we have received a “mint” vellum-bound copy of the privately-printed edition of Thomas Hardy’s An Indiscretion in the Life of an Heiress. This is Copy No. 16 of an edition limited to one hundred copies printed at the Curwen Press, Plaistow, England. It is inscribed “To J. W. Mackail from Florence Hardy October 1934.” John William Mackail (1859-1945) was the author of the biographical sketch of Hardy which was printed in the Order of Proceedings at the unveiling of the memorial statue of Hardy at Dorchester, three years before the date of Mrs. Hardy’s gift of this book. Mackail was the son-in-law of Sir Edward Burne-Jones.