Index Benefactorum
My dear Mr. Barbe,

I may as well be honest at the outset and tell you that your question as to why American colleges do not produce more poets and novelists is one that I cannot answer. Barrett Wendell once asked me if I had taken the regular course in English composition at Harvard, and when I told him that I had taken only one year of it, he said, "You're damned lucky." This was more than twenty years ago; and since then, so far as one can see, no overpowering literary geniuses have emerged from Harvard, or from anywhere else. I'm afraid the only answer is that they don't happen very often—though let us hope that a few may be growing somewhere on earth. I believe in colleges, but I doubt if they have much to do with the genesis of literature, except in indirect ways.

Yours sincerely,

E. A. Robinson

This letter is among the Waitman Barbe papers in the West Virginia University Library. It is used with the permission of that library and the poet's niece, Mrs. Ruth Nivison.

INDEX BENEFACTORUM

Dauntless investigation of space yields daily triumphs to unpent cosmologists, who have now succeeded in photographing galaxies six billion light years away. The space problems of a diffident, earthbound editor touch no such terrifying proportions, but they have a certain discomfort of their own—there are only so many pages per issue per annum in which to cram everything that needs to be said and must so often be excised. More than occasionally we sigh in envy of the infinitude into which moon-haunted scientists can launch their ideas.

Frequent victim of our procrustean space allowance is a detailed account of gifts received from our loyal, farflung constituency. How we love to dwell upon the excellencies, the minute and seductive points of the numerous books and manuscripts that come to us in welcome flood. And how ruefully
we consign these neatly typed sheets to oblivion’s bin as the aborning issue takes shape and press of space inexorably forces them out. Once again the periodical frustration besets us. There is not room enough to elaborate on the individual items so kindly bestowed, but (O minimum mitigation!) we can at least inscribe the names of our benefactors and address most ardent thanks to them collectively. Follows a listing of Colby friends who, during the past year, have swelled our accumulations of rare books, manuscripts, special collections, reference works, and materials for general circulation. We beseech the indulgence of those mishaply omitted and of that fondly intangible soul, Anonymous, whose heart is large and whose residence at large.

Mrs. Helen N. Achilles
New Haven, Connecticut
Charles F. Adams
Auburn, Maine
Mrs. Oksana Asher
Brooklyn, New York
Prof. Archille H. Biron
Waterville, Maine
Dr. J. Seelye Bixler
Jaffrey, New Hampshire
Miss Susan D. Bliss
New York, New York
Frederick A. Bonsal
Saugus, Massachusetts
B. F. Booth
Montgomery, Alabama
Mrs. Theodora Bothwell
Fredonia, New York
Wilmon Brewer
Franconia, New Hampshire
Mrs. H. H. Bucholz
Woodbridge, Connecticut
Philo C. Calhoun
Bridgeport, Connecticut
Mrs. Richard Cary
Waterville, Maine
George E. G. Catlin
London, England
Claud M. Chester
Noank, Connecticut
Class of 1960
Colby College
Mrs. Harold W. Coffin
Bangor, Maine
Ambrose C. Cramer
Rockport, Maine
Mrs. Helen C. Cushman
Mount Vernon, Maine
Colby Library Associates
All points
Mrs. Lincoln Colcord
Northampton, Massachusetts
Rev. Frederick R. Daries
Indianapolis, Indiana
Jerome E. Delisle
Waterville, Maine
Richard N. Dyer
Benton Falls, Maine
Miss Elizabeth Edwards
Albany, New York

Millan L. Egert
Bethesda, Maryland

Charles E. Feinberg
Detroit, Michigan

Patrick A. Ferry
Valhalla, New York

Mrs. Donald B. Flood
Springfield, Massachusetts

Ronald Francis
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Miss Eloise Franco
West Rindge, New Hampshire

A. Eugene Fudge
Massillon, Ohio

Nathaniel M. Gallin
New York, New York

Rev. Daniel Gambrills
Chicago, Illinois

Prof. James Gillespie
Waterville, Maine

C. M. Goethe
Sacramento, California

Mrs. Berenice J. Grimmer
West Baldwin, Maine

Geoffrey Handley-Taylor
London, England

James A. Healy
New York, New York

Mrs. Susan Hendrickson
Albany, New York

Mrs. Thomas Hewes
Farmington, Connecticut

Miss Kate S. Heyman
Brooklyn, New York

Herbert P. Houghton
Stamford, Connecticut

Capt. R. Lloyd Jones
Higganum, Connecticut

Fred Jordan
New York, New York

Mrs. Derril O. Lamb, Jr.
Brunswick, Maine

R. K. T. Larson
Norfolk, Virginia

Reuben D. Law
Provo, Utah

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
Newton Lower Falls, Massachusetts

Fred R. Lord
Augusta, Maine

Miss Lillian L. D. Lowell
East Orange, New Jersey

George L. McKay
New Haven, Connecticut

Dr. Morton McMichael
Portland, Maine

Mrs. Grace T. Martin
Stillwater, Oklahoma

Alan Mirken
New York, New York

Mrs. R. H. Mower
Berkeley, California

Rev. Clifford H. Osborne
Waterville, Maine

Herbert S. Philbrick
Evanston, Illinois

Bern Porter
Pasadena, California

Prof. Frederick A. Pottle
New Haven, Connecticut

Ernest L. Remits
Ottawa, Canada

Miss Kathrine Rice
Brookline, Massachusetts
Mrs. Kenneth Roberts
Kennebunkport, Maine

Arthur G. Robinson
Wellesley, Massachusetts

Prof. Leonora C. Rosenfield
Washington, D. C.

Miss Ann F. Rossiter
Locust Valley, New York

Prof. Donald Rothchild
Waterville, Maine

Miss Anna Russell
Arcadia, Florida

Mrs. Lorimer B. Slocum
Darien, Connecticut

Dr. Austin Shaw
Anacorest, Washington

Dr. Stacy B. Southworth
South Braintree, Massachusetts

Raymond Spinney
Boston, Massachusetts

Charles T. Sprading
Los Angeles, California

Mrs. Edward F. Stevens
Long Island, New York

W. H. S. Stevens
Alexandria, Virginia

Reginald Sturtevant
Livermore Falls, Maine

Arthur B. Tourtellot
New York, New York

Henry C. Turk
Lawrence, Kansas

Mrs. William H. Upson
Suffield, Connecticut

David C. Weber
Cambridge, Massachusetts

John A. Webb
Hingham, Massachusetts

Mrs. Jason Westerfield
Portland, Maine

Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel E. Wheeler
Manchester, New Hampshire

John M. Willem, Jr.
New York, New York

Misses Adeline & Caroline R. Wing
Bangor, Maine

Mrs. Thomas Wriggins, Jr.
Meadowbrook, Pennsylvania