

March 1962

A Bibliography of the Published Writings of Mary Ellen Chase

Richard Cary

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.colby.edu/cq>

Recommended Citation

Colby Library Quarterly, series 6, no.1, March 1962, p.34-46

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by Digital Commons @ Colby. It has been accepted for inclusion in Colby Quarterly by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ Colby. For more information, please contact mfkelly@colby.edu.

34 Colby Library Quarterly

decline of a region, she has rendered honestly the anatomy of failure; in depicting with compassion and truth the life of its folk, she has given us the anatomy of goodness. One need not be from Maine to understand what has happened there and of what she has written. No man is excluded from her metaphor of strength and spiritual affirmation, and hers has always been a human voice understood by all who are willing to listen.



A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE PUBLISHED WRITINGS OF MARY ELLEN CHASE

By RICHARD CARY

A RECURRENT nightmare afflicts the bibliographer who is also a perfectionist. He is reaching out for a card file which contains every item published by the author under scrutiny, every title with correct place of publication, date, volume number, inclusive pages, etc. In short, a complete, *complete*, COMPLETE bibliography. Just as his hand is about to descend upon the file, the ground opens up, swallows it ruthlessly, and closes over with a mocking sigh. The only sound to be heard thereafter is the crackle of subterranean flames as they consume each item, card by card. The harried bibliographer wakes with a start and grimly resumes his task of picking through irresponsible indices, thumbing through interminable leaves of periodicals, and writing frantically to likely sources for succor.

The author himself is frequently helpful, having about the house copies of unindexed ephemera without which the ideal of completeness can never be achieved. But in the present instance I append this warning to future bibliographers: *Do not apply to Mary Ellen Chase!* Of all authors I have known, she is the most monumentally unaware of precise data on what and where she has published. And she will, if you insist, ensnare you with engagingly vague references.

Colby Library Quarterly 35

The periodicals list below is admittedly wanting. Many of the earliest publications are lost in the midst of Miss Chase's disarming indifference to her finished work (she keeps no record, nor, indeed, does she read the final printed versions of her writings). Only one of her numerous anonymous pieces is here recorded. And, with wry surrender to Time's ineluctable forward march, not every entry is fully documented.

Deepest thanks are due Margaret L. Johnson, Librarian of Smith College, who placed the college archives at my disposal.

BOOKS

- His Birthday.* Pilgrim Press, Boston, 1915.
- The Girl From the Big Horn Country.* Page Co., Boston, 1916.
- Virginia of Elk Creek Valley.* Page Co., Boston, 1917.
- The Art of Narration* (with Frances K. Del Plaine). F. S. Crofts & Co., New York, 1926.
- Mary Christmas.* Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1926.
- Thomas Hardy From Serial to Novel.* University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, 1927.
- Uplands.* Little, Brown & Co., Boston, 1927.
- The Writing of Informal Essays* (with Margaret Eliot Macgregor). H. Holt & Co., New York, 1928.
- The Golden Asse, and Other Essays.* H. Holt & Co., New York, 1929.
- Constructive Theme Writing for College Freshmen.* H. Holt & Co., New York, 1929. (Revised edition, 1938. Third edition, edited by Henry W. Sams, 1957.)
- The Silver Shell.* H. Holt & Co., New York, 1930.
- A Goodly Heritage.* H. Holt & Co., New York, 1932. (New edition, 1957. Reprinted by Avon Books, New York, 1945. Translated into German, 1948; into Vietnamese and Urdu, 1953; into Tamil, 1954; into Telugu and Bengali, 1955.)
- Mary Peters.* Macmillan, New York, 1934. (Translated into German in Vienna, 1946, and in Augsburg, 1948; into Burmese, 1956; into Hindi and Marathi, 1958.)
- Silas Crockett.* Macmillan, New York, 1935.

36 Colby Library Quarterly

- This England*. Macmillan, New York, 1936. (As *In England Now* by Collins, London, 1937.)
- Dawn in Lyonesse*. Macmillan, New York, 1938. (By Collins, London, 1938. Adapted as a play in three acts, *Land's End*, by Thomas Job, and presented at the Playhouse, New York City, December 11, 1946.)
- A Goodly Fellowship*. Macmillan, New York, 1939. (By Collins, London, 1940. Translated into German, 1948. Reprinted by Bantam Books, New York, 1957. Reissued as a Macmillan paperback, 1960.)
- Windswept*. Macmillan, New York, 1941. (By Collins, London, 1942. Overseas Edition, Council on Books in Wartime, 1943. Translated into German, 1943; into Swedish, 1946.)
- The Bible and the Common Reader*. Macmillan, New York, 1944. (Revised edition, 1952. By Collins, London, 1946. Translated into German, 1951.)
- Jonathan Fisher, Maine Parson, 1768-1847*. Macmillan, New York, 1948.
- The Plum Tree*. Macmillan, New York, 1949. (By Collins, London, 1950. Edition in Braille, London, 1953. Adapted as a play by L. McMahon and R. Sengel, Dramatic Publ. Co., New York, 1953.)
- Abby Aldrich Rockefeller*. Macmillan, New York, 1950.
- Readings From the Bible*. Macmillan, New York, 1952.
- Recipe For a Magic Childhood*. Macmillan, New York, 1952.
- The White Gate*. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1954. (As *Adventures in the Imagination of a Child* by Collins, London, 1955. Overseas Edition, Council on Books in Wartime. Translated into German and Sinhalese, 1958.)
- Life and Language in the Old Testament*. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1955. (By Collins, London, 1956. Translated into German, 1957.)
- The Edge of Darkness*. W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1957. (By Collins, London, 1958; People's Book Club, Family Book Club, and Abridged Books, 1958. Translated into Marathi, 1959; into Persian, 1961.)

Colby Library Quarterly 37

- Sailing the Seven Seas.* Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1958.
- Donald McKay and the Clipper Ships.* Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1959.
- The Lovely Ambition.* W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1960. (By Collins, London, 1961. Translated into French, Spanish, Italian, German, Portuguese, Swedish, and Japanese by U. S. Information Agency, 1960; into German, Munich, 1961. In *Reader's Digest Condensed Books*, 1960. In the *Philadelphia Sunday Bulletin*, July 16 and 23, 1960.)
- The Fishing Fleets of New England.* Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1961.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOOKS

- "The Influence of the King James Bible on Two Great Masters of 19th Century Prose," in M. B. Crook (editor), *The Bible and Its Literary Associations* (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1937), 362-375.
- "The Teaching of English," in R. M. Gay (editor), *Essays on the Teaching of English* (Harvard University Press, Cambridge, 1940).
- Preface to *The Book of Job* (Limited Editions Club, New York, 1946).
- "New England: Land of God," in *Look At the U.S.A.* (Houghton, Mifflin Co., Boston, 1947).
- Preface to *The Book of Ruth* (Limited Editions Club, New York, 1948).
- Introduction to Thomas Hardy, *Far From the Madding Crowd* (Dutton, New York, 1951), vii-xxiv. Everyman's Library edition.
- "Our Goodly Heritage," in *The Northampton Book*, edited by The Tercentenary Committee (Northampton, Mass., 1954), 394-397.
- Introduction to W. W. Livengood (compiler), *Americana* (Women's National Book Association, New York, 1954).
- "What Is a Good Citizen," *Book of Knowledge Annual* (Grolier Society, New York, 1955).

38 Colby Library Quarterly

Introduction to Eleanor Terry Lincoln (editor), *Prose For Comparison* (W. W. Norton, New York, 1956).

Introduction to William Allan Neilson, *Intellectual Honesty* (Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, Mass., 1956).

"On Teaching and Teachers," in D. Louise Sharp (editor), *Why Teach* (H. Holt & Co., 1957).

Introduction to Henry Fielding, *Joseph Andrews* (W. W. Norton & Co., New York, 1958), v-xvii. The Norton Library edition.

In addition to these direct contributions to books, Miss Chase's fiction and essays have been widely anthologized. Following is a list of books in which her work is reprinted:

A. L. Bader & C. F. Wells, *Essays For Our Time*.

Robeson Bailey, *Techniques in Article Writing*.

M. A. Bessey & M. D. Ryan, *Literary By-Paths*.

Henry Beston, *White Pine and Blue Water*.

Bennett Cerf, *The Unexpected*.

C. M. Fuess & E. S. Basford, *Unseen Harvests*.

T. P. Harrison & M. G. Christian, *Reading For Ideas*.

I. M. R. Logie, *Careers In the Making*.

H. L. McClay & H. Judson, *Story Essays*.

S. S. Morgan, *Opinions and Attitudes of the 20th Century*.

S. S. Morgan, J. O. Hays, & F. E. Ekfelt, *Readings For Thought and Expression*.

B. E. Peavey, *et al.*, *Literature of Achievement*.

G. W. Sanderlin, *College Reading*.

W. M. & D. B. Tanner, *Modern Familiar Essays*.

University of Puerto Rico, *Readings For Analysis*.

Vogue's First Reader.

E. C. Wagenknecht, *When I Was A Child*.

J. H. Wise, *et al.*, *Meaning In Reading*.

R. A. Witham, *Essays of Today*.

Colby Library Quarterly 39

FICTION IN PERIODICALS

- "A Return to Constancy," *Harper's*, CXXXVII (November 1918), 846-855. Reprinted in *Woman's Day* (May 1942), 24.
- "Marigolds," *Harper's*, CXXXVIII (May 1919), 819-825. Reprinted in *Woman's Day* (August 1943), 24.
- "Sure Dwellings," *Harper's*, CXXIX (November 1919), 869-876. Reprinted in *Woman's Day* (June 1944), 22.
- "Upland Pastures," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXXIX (May 1922), 651-658.
- "The Garment of Praise," *Scribner's*, LXXVIII (October 1925), 422-432. Translated as "Le Manteau de Louange," in *La Nouvelle Semaine Artistique et Littéraire* (March 31 and April 7, 1928).
- "Salesmanship," *Pictorial Review*, XXXI (July 1930), 9. Reprinted in *Scholastic* (April 17, 1937).
- "Mrs. Gowan Gives Notice," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXLIX (May 1932), 611-619.
- "Mrs. Penlust on the Damascus Road," *Atlantic Monthly*, CL (October 1932), 411-417.
- "A Pinch of Snuff," *North American Review*, CCXL (June 1935), 122-143. Reprinted in *Woman's Day* (February 1943), 18.
- "Taxi Driver 63," *Delineator*, CXXVIII (February 1936), 12.
- "The Golden Age," *North American Review*, CCXLI (March 1936), 135-147.
- "A Candle at Night," *Collier's*, CIX (May 9, 1942), 17.
- "Honeymoon, 1854," *Woman's Day* (June 1954), 38.

ARTICLES IN PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS

- "How Four Girls 'Discovered' Maine," *Ladies Home Journal*, XXXIV (May 1917), 18.
- "The Islands Lose a Friend," *Outlook*, CXXXIII (February 21, 1923), 365-366.

40 Colby Library Quarterly

- "A Kitchen Parnassus," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXXXVIII (August 1926), 249-254.
- "The Golden Asse—A Tribute," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXXXIX (February 1927), 212-220.
- "The Saints in Maine," *Commonweal* (May 23, 1927).
- "Mystical Mathematicks," *Commonweal* (January 25, 1928).
- "Not in Cadiz," *North American Review*, CCXXV (May, 1928), 606-615.
- "Wormwood—For Thoughts," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXLI (May 1928), 629-637.
- "Have You Martin Chuzzlewit?" *Atlantic Monthly*, CXLII (September 1928), 423-425.
- "On Kitchens and Cloisters," *Commonweal* (September 12, 1928).
- "Minorities in College," *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (February 1930).
- "Concerning Old Things and New," *House Beautiful*, LXIX (January 1931), 52.
- "A Library of One's Own," *Current Literature* (November 1931).
- "Maine's Gift to America," *Scholastic* (January 21, 1933).
- "The Life in Books," *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (May 1933).
- "She's Had the Doctor!" *Atlantic Monthly*, CLI (June 1933), 726-732. In *Reader's Digest*, XXXI (September 1937), 91-93.
- "Confidences of a Lecturer," *Commonweal*, XVIII (May 26, 1933), 100-102.
- "The Dean of American Essayists," *Commonweal*, XVIII (August 18, 1933), 384-386.
- "The American Father Attends His Wife's Reunion," *Scribner's*, XCVI (July 1934), 22-24.
- "The Author and His Reader," *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (November 1935), 27.

Colby Library Quarterly 41

- "Chores," *Reader's Digest*, XXVIII (January 1936), 84-86.
Excerpt from *A Goodly Heritage*.
- "What Do You Expect of College for Your Daughter?" *Ladies Home Journal*, LIII (August 1936), 15.
- "A State With Noble History," *Portland Sunday Telegram* (August 26, 1936).
- "Autobiography," *Portland Sunday Telegram* (August 26, 1936).
- "The Abundant Life in Books," *Ladies Home Journal*, LIII (September 1936), 19.
- "Are Parents Afraid of Their Children?" *Ladies Home Journal*, LIV (March 1937), 60.
- "An Unpopular Suggestion," *Writer*, L (April 1937), 102-103.
- "Old-Time Christmases in Maine," *Ladies Home Journal*, LIV (December 1937), 28. In *Reader's Digest*, XXXII (January 1938), 81-84.
- "There Was No More Sea," *Vogue*, XCI (June 1, 1938), 41-43. In *Vogue's First Reader* (Conde Nast Publications, New York, 1942), 343-346.
- "Rather Late for Christmas," *Vogue*, XCII (December 1, 1938), 87. As "Christmas Is a State of Mind," in *Reader's Digest*, XXXV (December 1939), 39-40; in *Vogue's First Reader*, 8-12; in *Literary Cavalcade* (December 1949).
- "New England Summer," *Vogue*, XCIV (July 1, 1939), 34.
- "I Like the Younger Generation," *Ladies Home Journal*, LVI (December 1939), 21.
- "Our Educational Heritage," *American Association of University Women Journal*, XXXIII (January 1940), 74-79.
- "Sink Or Swim," *Scholastic*, XXXVI (February 26, 1940), 17. Excerpt from *A Goodly Fellowship*.
- "My Earliest Teachers," *Reader's Digest*, XXXVI (May 1940), 28-32. Excerpt from *A Goodly Fellowship*.
- "Time to Oneself," *Yale Review*, XXX (September 1940), 128-140. As "You Become Someone—Alone," in *Reader's Digest*, XXXVII (October 1940), 37-40.

42 Colby Library Quarterly

- "Head and Hands Working Together," *Common Ground*, I (Autumn 1940), 3-6.
- "Progressive Education," *New York Times Magazine* (February 9, 1941), 11.
- "In Gratitude to Greece," *Hellas* (May 1941). In *Orthodox Observer* (May 1951).
- "When You Go to New England," *Harper's*, CLXXXIII (August 1941), 294-295.
- "Here We Stand," *Vogue*, XCIX (February 1, 1942), 43. In *Vogue's First Reader*, 232-236.
- "An Ancient Democracy to a Modern," *Common Ground*, III (Winter 1943), 65-71.
- "Now I Know Better," *Woman's Day* (January 1944), 24.
- "Early Reading of the Bible," *National Parent-Teacher*, XXXIX (May 1945), 4-6.
- "If I Were Your Age," *Glamour* (August 1945).
- "What Is the Bible?" *Woman's Day* (November 1945), 25. Excerpt from *The Bible and the Common Reader*.
- "A Maine Country Doctor," *McGill Medical Journal* (December 1945).
- "The Hands Game," *Glamour* (April 1946).
- "Susanna Wesley," *Woman's Day* (May 1946), 22.
- "Pigeon Hill Fishing Village," *Maine Coast Fisherman* (July 1946).
- "A State of Grace," *House and Garden*, XCII (August 1947), 89.
- "The Maine Character," *Holiday* (August 1947).
- "Are You Afraid of Your Children?" *Woman's Day* (October 1947), 44.
- "At Home in England," *Cambridge Review* (October 18, 1947).
- "Walter Tracy of Pigeon Hill," *Maine Coast Fisherman* (December 1947).

Colby Library Quarterly 43

- "The Country Doctor on the Maine Coast," *New England Journal of Medicine* (August 19, 1948).
- "Are We Afraid to Be Alone?" *Woman's Day* (October 1949), 68.
- "I Seek My Fortune," *Reader's Digest*, LV (November 1949), 128-132. Excerpt from *A Goodly Fellowship*. Also in the Canadian, English, and Spanish editions of *RD*.
- "My Hometown Resisted," *Tomorrow* (November 1949).
- "The Matter of Manners," *Woman's Day* (February 1950), 56.
- "Abby Aldrich Rockefeller," *Good Housekeeping*, CXXX (June 1950), 56; CXXXI (July), 56.
- "Sorry, We Can't Afford It," *Good Housekeeping*, CXXXI (November 1950), 54.
- "No Cause for Worry," *Christian Science Monitor* (April 18, 1951).
- "Recipe for a Magic Childhood," *Ladies Home Journal*, LXVIII (May 1951), 205-207.
- "When You Go Home," *Coronet*, XXXIII (December 1952), 23-27.
- "Must America Live in Fear?" *Coronet*, XXXIV (July 1953), 19-23.
- "If — and Other Words," *Parents Magazine* (July 1953).
- "A Legacy from My Childhood," *Parents Magazine*, XXVIII (August 1953), 31.
- "The Virtue of Living Fully," *House and Garden*, CIV (September 1953), 126-127.
- "What Has Happened to Common Sense?" *Coronet*, XXXVI (May 1954), 21-25. As "What's Happened to Common Sense?" in *Reader's Digest*, LXV (July 1954), 22-24. Also in French, Spanish, Japanese, and Portuguese editions of *RD*, September, October, November 1954.
- "Approach to the Bible," *Faith Today* (June 1954).
- "Autobiographical Note," *New York Herald Tribune Book Review*, XXXI (October 24, 1954), 8.
- "The Bible in Our Kitchen," *Woman's Day* (November 1954), 37.

44 Colby Library Quarterly

- "Elizabeth Cutter Morrow," *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (March 1955).
- "The White Gate," *National Parent-Teacher*, XLIX (May 1955), 26-33. Excerpt from the novel.
- "The Enjoyment of the Old Testament," *New York World-Telegram* (December 6, 1955).
- "The Language of Christmas," *New York Times Book Review*, LX (December 25, 1955), 5.
- "Hebrew and Greek Writers," *Christian Science Monitor* (March 6, 1956).
- "Name the Three Daughters of Job," *Woman's Day* (May 1956), 77.
- "Are You Afraid of Snakes?" *Reader's Digest*, LXIX (July 1956), 45-48. Also in Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, German, Dutch, Arabic, Burmese, and Norwegian editions of *RD*, September-December 1956.
- "Pitfalls of a Perfectionist," *Coronet*, XL (September 1956), 46-48. In *Catholic Digest* (December 1956).
- "Courtesy on Wheels," *Atlantic Monthly*, CXCVIII (October 1956), 78-79.
- "Blue Hill Christmas," *Down East*, III (November-January 1956-57), 24-25.
- "Maine Minister," *Woman's Day* (December 1956), 14.
- "She Misses Some Goals," *Life*, XLI (December 24, 1956), 23-25.
- "Memorial Day 1900," *Ladies Home Journal*, LXXIV (May 1957), 145.
- "I Buy a Hearse," *Down East*, III (May 1957), 32.
- "My Mind to Me a Kingdom Is," *Instructor*, LXVII (October 1957), 5.
- "To Furious, Long-Suffering, Tired, Aching, Swollen, Discouraged, Patient Housekeepers," *Hampshire Gazette* (September 11, 1959).
- "The Smith College Library," *Smith Alumnae Quarterly* (November 1959).

Colby Library Quarterly 45

- "Land Sakes Alive!" *New England Galaxy*, I (Spring 1960), 3-5.
- "Half a Dollar or 'Huckleberry Finn'?" *New York Herald Tribune Book Review*, XXXVI (April 3, 1960), 5.
- "Maine: A Definition," *New England Guide* (June 1960).
- "The Psalms in Maine," *Chicago Sunday Tribune* (Christmas issue, 1960).
- "The Autumn and the Fall," *New England Galaxy*, II (Autumn 1961).
- "Saturday's Bread," *The Episcopalian* (September 1961).
- "My Novels About Maine," *Colby Library Quarterly*, VI (March 1962), 14-20.

PAMPHLETS

Miss Chase has written numerous pamphlets, of which she recalls:

First Things First. Hampshire Bookshop, Northampton, Mass., December 1941. Defense Pamphlet No. 2.

For the Alumnae Association of Smith College, 1938-39.

For the Alumnae Committee of the Seven Colleges, 1938-39.

BOOK REVIEWS

Space has, alas, run out and we cannot list all of the more than one hundred and fifty books Miss Chase has reviewed in the past four decades. They may be found in the following journals:

Atlantic Monthly
Boston Herald
Boston Post
Boston Transcript
Chicago Daily News
Commonweal
New England Quarterly
New York Herald Tribune
New York Times
Saturday Review
Smith Alumnae Quarterly
William and Mary Quarterly
Yale Review



Editor's Epilogue



Citation: Upon presentation of the L.H.D. at the Colby Commencement in June 1937, Miss Chase was described in part as "An Active and distinguished member of her profession, she has followed the fine New England tradition of such other professors as Longfellow and Lowell, to win distinction in all the fields of prose writing. Maine people do not need to be reminded of *A Goodly Heritage*, the delightful account of her childhood on the Maine coast, nor of her novels of Maine life, *Mary Peters* and *Silas Crockett*. Her own achievement as an author and her deep love for, and knowledge of, the Greek and Latin classics make peculiarly appropriate the degree of Doctor of the More Humane Letters."

Who's Who: Eleanor Shipley Duckett, Ph.D., D.Litt., and L.H.D., is Professor Emeritus of Classical Languages and Literature at Smith College. Her niche in the hall of scholarly fame was secured early with universally respected studies of classical and medieval civilizations such as *Latin Writers of the Fifth Century*, *The Gateway to the Middle Ages*, *Anglo-Saxon Saints and Scholars*, and others.

Helen Kirkpatrick Milbank began her career in the prosaic aisles of R. H. Macy's but moved rapidly into the cockpit of international affairs as foreign correspondent for the *New York Herald Tribune* and the *Chicago Daily News* in the years preceding and during World War II. Her significant articles and books soon placed her on a level with Dorothy Thompson and Anne O'Hare McCormick.

John J. Iorio, Assistant Professor of English at Colby College, is spending his sabbatical year in Florida, teaching part-time and bringing two novels to the *finis* point.

Peak Reached: Editor and Miss Chase share enthusiasm over Maine's First Lady of Literature, Sarah Orne Jewett. In a letter six years ago Miss Chase detailed her first encounter, when a child, with Miss Jewett. She recalled her graciousness and the lavender cotton dress she wore, and named *The Country of the Pointed Firs* as "my ideal when I began to try to write. So far as that ideal goes, it has never lost its secure place." No one questions today that Miss Jewett's mantle has slipped fittingly over Miss Chase's shoulders.