Scope and Contents
These materials, occupying .66 linear feet, supplement the collection of editions of Robinson’s own work and critical books about the poet donated to St. Lawrence by former president Dr. Frank Piskor. Included are three holograph Robinson letters as well as photocopies of letters from other collections. Also included are photographs, information about the MacDowell Colony, Robinson criticism from periodicals, information on other collections of Robinsoniana, and Dr. Piskor’s correspondence about his collection. The dates of the materials range from 1897-1963.

Biographical
Edwin Arlington Robinson was born in 1869 in Head Tide, Maine. Shortly after his birth, his family moved a few miles away to Gardiner, Maine, the town which he immortalized in his poems as Tilbury Town. Although he attended Harvard for two years, he did not fit into the literary set there, and he returned to Gardiner where financial reverses were rapidly dragging his family into poverty. After the final disintegration of the family estate, Robinson moved to New York City, where he lived until his death in 1935. The MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, N.H., was his second home and a place where he could talk to other writers.

In 1896, Robinson published--at his own expense--his first book of poems, The Torrent and the Night Before. His reputation grew, and he eventually earned three Pulitzer Prizes, although critics and readers often found his work baffling and bleak. Although his poetry is traditional and Romantic in some ways, it is starkly realistic, always dealing with the theme of man living in a hostile and lonely world.

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VII. Periodical Issues Containing Robinson Criticism


2 3  Colby Library Quarterly Series 2, No. 1, February 1947.


Colby Library Quarterly Series 2, No. 9, February 1949.

Colby Library Quarterly Series 7, No. 12, December 1967. [Entire issue devoted to Robinson]

Colby Library Quarterly Series 8, No. 4, December 1968.


5  The Kennebec Journal October 18, 1936. [In a specially-made binder with a photograph of the memorial]
“Robinson’s Friends Present Memorial Tablet to Gardiner,” pp.1+ Photograph of speakers and guests at Robinson Memorial, p.1.


7  Mark Twain Quarterly Vol. 2, Spring 1938. [Entire issue devoted to Robinson]
MacDowell, Mrs. Edward. “Robinson at the MacDowell Colony,” p.16.
Clemens, Cyril. “Robinson Collection at Gardiner, Maine,” p.18.

Hudson, Hoyt H. “Robinson and Praed.”

Coxe, Louis O. “E.A. Robinson” (Head Tide, October 1963): [a poem]