COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS

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COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS

Preface by the Librarians

By way of preface to Mary A. Benjamin's lively article, "Columbia Wakes Up!" (see page 5), the editor has asked Dr. White, Dean of the School of Library Service, and Dr. Logsdon, Director of Libraries, to give their impressions of the Library's former seeming indifference to—but present interest in—the acquisition of rare books and manuscripts.

The Greatest Gift of All

THE editor asked me to tell the University side of Mary Benjamin's story, "Columbia Wakes Up!"

The awakening came gradually. Building up the staff helped. Columbia managed to assemble an excellent library staff. They know their business, pull together, inspire confidence.

But the staff needed help from the outside to improve the climate in which it works, and how wonderfully helpful in this regard the Friends are proving to be. It took a while to get started. Dallas Pratt agreed in 1948–49 to serve as chairman of a committee to enlist the organized support of public-spirited citizens on behalf of the Libraries. One by one other committee

members were added, the first meeting being held in April, 1950. The decision to launch a Friends organization followed in the autumn. At Christmas, Mr. and Mrs. Donald F. Hyde and Henry Rogers Benjamin gave $1500 to get started. The wheels turn slowly in a university sometimes, but within six months (our darkest period) the proposal to launch the new organization had been approved and a public call to membership was issued.

That was May 1, 1951. By September 30, 1953, the Friends contributed $16,158.98 and, as this goes to press, turned over to the Libraries book collections having an estimated value of $88,675.50.

This is a splendid record for the first two years. Miss Benjamin looks past this record to the moral support which the Friends are mobilizing. This in the end is, of course, the greatest gift of all.

CARL M. WHITE

Perspective

TIME gives perspective to events as a view of the whole from a distance gives perspective to physical objects. The committee of three blind men had difficulty identifying the elephant. Each was close to a part of the scene but could not compare notes to determine that the tree, the wall and the snake were really after all an elephant.

In the pages which follow Mary Benjamin pictures the Columbia Libraries as awakening to a new sense of responsibility in the acquisition, care and appreciation of fine books and manuscripts. The "awakening" implies that things were not always so—and indeed Columbia is not alone either among libraries or dealers in falling short of desirable attitudes and practices. Her thought-provoking article views the scene from the vantage point of an experienced dealer, a Columbia graduate, and a Friend of the Columbia Libraries. Our editor would have us give the

University side of the story—the why, for example, of Columbia's earlier lack of interest in rare books and manuscripts and why the recent change.

It is here that only time and distance can give the necessary perspective to see the whole and to give proper weight to the forces and events of Columbia's recent library history. Some of us have perhaps been too close to the scene to picture it accurately. But the deadline is today; so the risks must be taken.

The primary responsibility of the Columbia Libraries is to support study and research at Columbia. This task properly has first call on the staff and book funds provided from the University's income. Quantitatively a substantial portion of the library budget goes for services, books, journals, and binding which would not come within the usual definition of rare books and manuscripts. The exceptions are generally of three kinds: (1) provision for the care of previously acquired books and manuscripts which by reason of time and circumstances deserve special handling; (2) provision for teaching and research requirements involving rare books and manuscripts; (3) acquisitions made possible by gift or from gift funds.

It is recognized, of course, that almost any item of the type under discussion is potentially useful in an institution like Columbia with a broad and diversified program of research and study. It is likewise true that current scholarly journals in such fields as Science and Medicine are more important to, say, cancer research than a Darwin letter. It would be fine to have both, but in the past, at least, choices have been necessary, leading perhaps unduly to the impression that Columbia was not interested in the latter.

Columbia seems to be known generally as a rich institution. True, its financial, physical, and staff resources are substantial. Nevertheless, when weighed in relation to the tasks undertaken even a million-dollar library budget falls short of accomplishing all that needs to be done in support of research and instruction. In my opinion this background of fact, operating through the

years, has given the impression that Columbia tends to be "utilitarian" in its acquisition policy. This condition, however, does not excuse or justify attitudes, activities or failures to act which have generated among dealers and collectors the conviction that Columbia has been indifferent to the importance of rare books and manuscripts.

It is heartening, indeed, to know that the impression of an awakening Columbia is beginning to replace one of somnolence. This is progress–but there is certainly much more to be done. The Friends organization and the *Columbia Library Columns* give us all new channels of communication. Mutual understanding of our common purposes will surely lead to increasing cooperation among those interested in the acquisition and preservation of rarities.

RICHARD H. LOGSDON

Columbia Wakes Up!

MARY A. BENJAMIN

IN 1890, my father, Walter R. Benjamin, who was newly established in his work in autographs, jolted librarians by commenting in his monthly publication, *The Collector*, that "about the deadest thing in this country is the average Historical Society." Rubbing salt into the wound, he added: "Not one in a dozen has the slightest sign of life about it." He did not include in his statement the manuscript divisions of institutional libraries because in his day these were almost non-existent. When, thirty-five years later, I joined him in the business, he had found little reason to change his opinion, and his criticism seemed to me to apply equally well to most of the institutional manuscript divisions.

The change in attitude that has come about since 1925, marking an awakening interest in our great manuscript collections, has been a gradual but steady one. Institutional libraries, laggard indeed in starting, have today in many cases taken the lead in the field. Whether to attribute the new outlook to more enlightened librarians, to the loyalty of alerted alumni, or to the efforts of those groups called Friends of the Library, is difficult to say, but it is probable that all three factors enter the picture. Whatever the reason, those responsible for the change have obviously awakened to the fact that the backbone of any educational institution is the Library, which must provide books and research manuscripts—vital intellectual support—for the great student body.

Books and manuscripts do not, of course, appear miraculously on the shelves of a library. They are added slowly, sometimes singly, sometimes in bulk, by means of gifts and purchases. Pity the poor librarian, who today must have administrative talent, book knowledge, and an attractive personality that will woo donors into swelling the institution's collections, and the additional

ability to befriend the dealers, who supply this needed and often scarce material. Gifts, of course, are the most desirable and least expensive way of increasing a library's holdings. Additions by purchase are, however, sometimes highly desirable, if not imperative, and no well-rounded, balanced and progressive institution can avoid facing this unfortunate necessity.

Where rare book and manuscript collections are being actively developed, one will find that dealers are rendering cooperation and assistance which is of paramount importance. The dealers (I am referring here and elsewhere in the article to dealers in manuscripts and rare books) can and do form a powerful bloc in the development of libraries all over the world. Not only do they supply rare books and manuscripts, but they also make available to librarians their services in appraising gift collections–services which are of particular importance these days when the Government may investigate the possibility of fraud. Librarians, who in the past were not averse to doing such appraising themselves, are chary of doing so today. Burdened with weightier problems, they are aware of their lack of complete familiarity with market values, and also hesitate to expose donors and themselves to unpleasant repercussions from tax authorities who might claim that such appraisals involved a contract between two interested parties. That appraisals by some librarians have, in the past, been abused is common knowledge in the trade. The day of reckoning with government authorities will, however, hold no fears for those librarians who wisely seek counsel of their dealer friends.

A perhaps lesser known advantage of cultivating the dealers' friendship is that, because of the special bond of good will and trust existing between them and private collectors, dealers can influence and encourage collectors to donate material to a friendly institution–or not to donate, as the case may be.

The importance of the dealers, and the impetus given by them to a library's growth, has definitely not been fully appreciated until recent years. In the past, suspicion and distrust of them was

more the rule than the exception. The fact that dealers earned their livelihood by means of trading in books and autographs, and hence had to make a profit, seemed to damn them. In the eyes of some librarians they were looked upon, at very best, as some form of incipient racketeer and treated with corresponding brusqueness. That among the dealers there were those who because of their knowledge and long experience rightfully considered themselves professionals was completely overlooked.

Many things have helped dispel this former ungracious attitude. No doubt the establishment of the Antiquarian Booksellers Association of America, among whose chief purposes are the desires to publicize bookcollecting and to promote good will between librarians, collectors and dealers, has done much to do away with a few of the misconceptions. The A.B.A.A. requires of its members definite standards of conduct and a code of ethics. (Having had the privilege of serving on the Governing Board for two years, I know the carefulness with which the qualifications of proposed new members are checked).

But even before the A.B.A.A. came into being, signs of change had already appeared. The organization merely served to verify and establish a recognition of which librarians were already becoming aware. With this awareness came the realization that only with full and complete cooperation between librarian, dealers, and that indispensable group of loyal alumni and well wishers called Friends of the Library, could desired results be hoped for. The work of the Friends in promoting good public relations for their college, in the spreading of good will, in the making of gifts, and in the encouragement of gift-making by others, is incalculable.

Nowhere, perhaps, has the forming of a group of Friends of the Library brought about a greater change of heart than at Columbia. The Friends have, in my opinion, been directly responsible for a most extraordinary and much-needed about-face in the attitude of those connected with the Columbia Li-

brary, although I recognize that Roland Baughman, the Head of Special Collections, has played an important part, too. I rejoice in this in a very particular way.

My position in connection with Columbia is a peculiar one. I am both an insider and an outsider. I am an insider in that I am a Barnard graduate, married to a Columbia alumnus who is now a member of the faculty. Understandably, I am keenly interested in Columbia's welfare and am anxious to see my Alma Mater occupy a rightfully high place in the bookworld. I am an outsider, however, due to the fact that my profession of handling autograph letters and manuscripts necessitates a profit in my transactions whether they are with private collectors or with libraries, including Columbia's. This dual position enables me, however, to have a fairly wide perspective. I am in touch with the University group, and I am also well aware of my colleagues' reactions to Columbia. I can truthfully say that until very recently the opinion of Columbia held by the rare booktrade was highly unflattering. And there was ample reason for this unfriendliness.

For years the indifference, if not ill will, felt in the trade for Columbia had been a matter of mortification to me. No graduate of a college enjoys having any aspect of his or her Alma Mater looked upon as unprogressive or second-rate. Yet this seemed to be the general opinion as far as Columbia's interest in acquiring rarities was concerned. This was hard to take, yet I well understood the reason behind such reactions. My own efforts at quoting to Columbia specialized material of significance had met with no response.. In the old days, sometimes, I might as well have offered the Library a family of auks for all the interest I aroused. This lack of common courtesy, multiplied many times over, did little to inspire feelings of warmth towards Columbia. One or two members of the faculty regretted the University's inertia in this, but they were unable to bring about any change in the status quo. Autographically and bookishly speaking Columbia could be considered nonexistent.

In contrast one heard repeated mention of lively meetings, attended by dealer-members, being held by the Friends of Yale, of Dartmouth, and of the Princeton Libraries. Of Columbia one heard nothing. The Library had no Friends, and apparently few friends. If the Columbia Libraries were increasing their holdings —and no doubt they were to some extent—the extent was unpublicized. Certainly little effort at maintaining diplomatic relations with dealers was made, or apparently desired. It is no wonder, then, that the general impression was that in the rare book and manuscript area the Columbia Library was still of the 1890 vintage.

Today the picture has changed heartwarmingly. In the brief two years of the Friends' existence at Columbia, they have succeeded in breaking down a very solid wall of prejudice against the University, and for this all alumni and alumnae are in their debt. Much has been accomplished in the way of goodwill, and reverberations of these murmers of new life are already noticeable in many quarters. The name of Columbia is heard more often in collecting circles, and the stimulating meetings and interesting programs sponsored by the Friends are being talked about. Blank looks and unfriendly remarks are no longer the rule.

But the work of the Friends has only begun. There is still a long way to go and much to do. Recently a New York librarian was bewailing the fact that so many New York collections—correspondence of notable New York State and City figures, manuscripts and personal papers of New York authors, poets, and statesmen—were going to out-of-State institutions. Here is very solid work to be attended to. Valuable research collections should not be allowed to slip away. Owners should be persuaded to house what they have at Columbia; those who are unaware of the significance of what they own must be enlightened. A sense of loyalty to the State and particularly to Columbia, New York's greatest and oldest University, should be instilled and nurtured. For those important collections which cannot be secured by gift, funds should be raised for acquisition by pur-

chase. These aims may sound like pipe dreams, but the Friends of other libraries have for years been successfully undertaking such projects. It is high time that Columbia shook itself out of its lethargy—especially now that so much attention is being focussed on the coming Bicentennial.

When I was first approached to become a member of the Friends, I was admittedly not very enthusiastic, for it was difficult for me to believe that anything but dynamite could bring about a change in the earlier conditions. I was greatly encouraged, however, after talking with Dr. Carl White, who at that time was Director of Libraries, and with Mr. Roland Baughman. I found that with them I could speak freely and therefore had no hesitation in voicing my disappointment in the relations which had existed between Columbia and the rare book dealers. I stated that I thought the authorities had been ill-advised in failing to befriend the trade. It was soon made clear to me that times had changed and that a welcome awaited my colleagues and myself. And so I joined the Friends and have had no cause to regret the step.

As a direct result of Columbia's new policy, I know of at least one case—and I understand there are others—of a colleague who influenced a collector to present a fine group of first editions to the Library. And the dealer in question is not a Friend. But he had been treated as a friend by the Friends and had been invited to one of their functions. Unable to attend, he nevertheless sought to show his appreciation in tangible form.

I, too, in a small way, have been able to channel collections to Columbia. In at least one case the gift would not have materialized but for the prompt and ready cooperation of Mr. Baughman and a member of the Friends.

It is difficult to explain how much it means to the long-established dealer in old letters, such as myself, to house an item appropriately—to find the right home for it. Success begets a feeling of gratification that is difficult to describe. My first contact with the Library, just after joining the Friends, was such an ex-

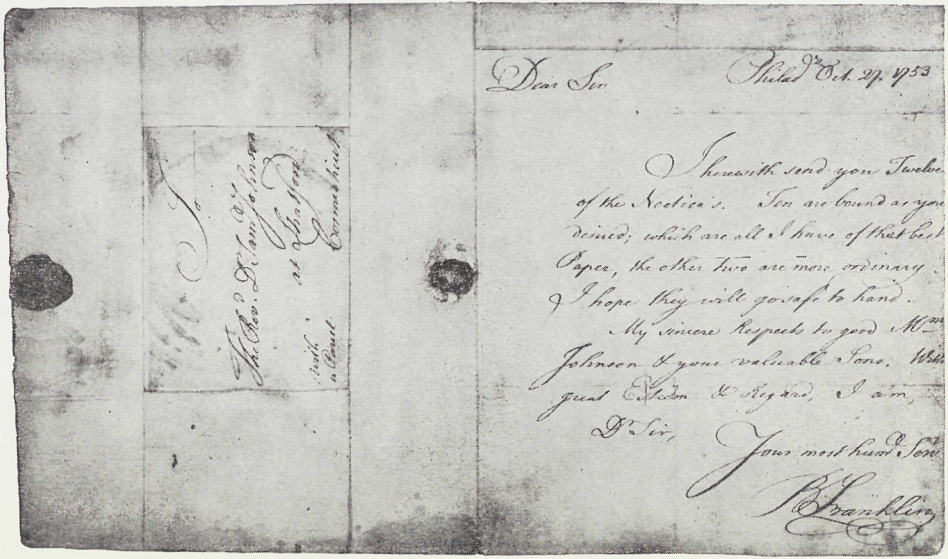
perience. Perhaps I should not tell the story—it is somewhat personal—but it represented for me the first real evidence of intelligent interest and appreciation of manuscripts I had noted at Columbia. Had the story not had a happy ending, I fear my faith in the awakening of Columbia would have suffered.

What happened was that a wonderful letter, of prime importance to Columbia's early history, was secured for the Library through the generosity of a Friend. This letter is now on deposit at Columbia and is to be formally presented next year. Its acquisition could only have happened through the goodwill and cooperation of the Friends.

By acting promptly I had been able to secure from a colleague's catalogue, sent me in friendship by first class mail, a Benjamin Franklin letter. It seemed reasonably priced and for this reason I wanted it. It was only after studying the letter that I realized the full significance of what I had acquired and its potential value to Columbia. I showed it to my husband, who became as excited over the letter as I, and we both agreed that, no matter what had been its previous indifference to autographs, Columbia must be given the chance to acquire it.

There was a little problem involved in that another institution —one of two which specialize in Franklin—had customarily been given first refusal on any Franklin material I obtained. As orders for the catalogued letter piled up upon the dealer who had listed it, my name was given out as the purchaser, and I surmised that there would be complications. And there were.

But, first, what was there about the item which was of such importance? It was a letter, entirely handwritten and signed by Franklin—an item valuable and desirable in any light—dated October 27, 1753, and addressed to the Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson, whose book entitled *Elementa Philosophica: Containing Chiefly Noetica,* had been published by Franklin in 1752. Dr. Johnson, first President of Kings College, as Columbia was then known, had written this treatise with the specific intention of using it as a textbook in his first class in philosophy and logic at the College.



Letter from Franklin to Samuel Johnson, President of King's College.

The letter was one of many (several of which were already at Columbia) that passed between Johnson and Franklin, who were friends of long standing, but whose correspondence has been scattered through the years. In it Franklin mentions sending Johnson twelve copies of the "Noetica," as he referred to it, but regrets his inability to supply more than ten of the volumes on good quality paper.

What I did not know when offering this letter to Columbia was the fact that the Library owns two copies of this very first edition of the book. One of the two is of particular interest in that it is heavily annotated and carries numerous corrections and changes—even as to title—in the hand of Dr. Johnson, who presumably contemplated the publication of a revised edition (this never materialized).

Could any letter fit more appropriately in a collection than this one? A finer exhibition trio can scarcely be visualized.

I do not believe I had the letter in my hands more than a few hours when I determined to take the measure of the new Friends. I phoned Dr. White and told him what I had, where I had secured it, what I had paid, and what my price was. To my delight, his response was immediate. "We must have that letter. Please hold it. I'll see what I can do. It may take a little time." I assured him I would wait.

I had scarcely put back the receiver when a long-distance call came through. It was, as I feared, the out-of-state librarian inquiring about my new Franklin letter. He understood I had been the lucky purchaser; I knew his institution was collecting Franklin*iana*; what was I asking for it? I told him, but in some embarrassment I added that, much as I regretted it, this was one case where I could not offer him the item. I informed him of the circumstances, and frankly admitted that I had no assurance that Columbia would take the letter as I had never sold them anything before. Unwilling to give in, he stressed the point that his institution's collection of Franklin letters was the most comprehensive in the country. Wouldn't it be a most appropriate addition to

Elements of Philosophy:

~~Elementa Philosophica~~:

A short System of the Mind & Morals

Containing chiefly,

a LOGIC

NOETICA,

which explains & directs the Operations

~~Or Things relating to the~~

of the

Mind *or* Understanding:

in the Search of Truth.

AND

an ETHICS,

which explain & direct the

~~Or Things relating to the~~

Temper &

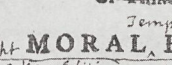
a right MORAL BEHAVIOUR, in pursuit of Happiness:

a New Edition much improved with many additions & amendments

By SAMUEL JOHNSON, D.D. & first

President of Kings College at New-York,

for the Use of that College.



Whatever the World thinks, He who has not much meditated on GOD, the Human Mind & the Summum Bonum, may possibly make a thriving Earth-worm; but will most indubitably make but a sorry Patriot & a sorry Statesman.

Bp Berkeley's Siris §350.

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed by B. FRANKLIN, and D. HALL, at the *New-Printing-Office*, near the Market. 1752.

Title page of Johnson's *Elementa Philosophica*, with corrections in his hand.

their papers? I did not deny this fact but stood my ground, stating that I felt strongly that in this case my Alma Mater had a prior claim. Realizing that he could not break down my determination, the librarian accepted the situation gracefully and simply said that if the letter was not purchased by Columbia, his institution would definitely take it.

My situation was now an enviable one. I promptly telephoned Dr. White once again. The opportunity of telling him that Columbia was free to take or not to take, as far as any monetary advantage to me was concerned, was too good to miss. I wished him to know that I was not using my newly formed membership in the Friends to exploit the University. I told him, however, that if Columbia failed to buy it, I would really be disgusted. I could not believe that all the alumni had hearts of flint. And they didn't! It must have been the following day, or two days later at most, that Dr. White jubilantly gave me the happy news that Columbia had found a purchaser and eventual donor—Edmund A. Prentis.

The Friends were really on the move! Here was a positive result of perfect and harmonious cooperation between Librarian, collector-Friend and dealer-Friend. May such a wise and sympathetic teamwork continue to build up Columbia's Libraries not only in the Bicentennial year, but in many centenaries to come!

The "Fifty Books" Over Thirty Years

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

EXACTLY what progress is being made in the United States in the direction of better printing and better bookmaking? In view of the conflicting opinions of experts, varying all the way from scathing rebuke to enthusiastic flattery, how can the men who are doing the work be sure whether their progress is slow or fast—or even whether it is backward rather than forward?"

Searching questions, these. They were asked in the introduction of the listing of the first exhibition of the "Fifty Books of the Year," the exhibition representing the output of American printers and publishers during the year 1923. The author of the introduction went on to say: "The American Institute of Graphic Arts . . . believes that the nearest approach to a specific answer will come through the adoption of some definite measure or yardstick which can be applied at regular stated intervals and in the presence of those most concerned. This belief has taken concrete form in the present exhibition."

It might seem reasonable to assume that the "yardstick" which the A.I.G.A. set out to establish three decades ago, after being applied annually on thirty occasions, has achieved a degree of monotony, a pattern, an evidence of policy. Indeed, the very word "yardstick" would imply that such a result would be inevitable. But the Institute wisely took steps to circumvent this by adopting a system of rotating juries—different each year, representing divergent opinions and fresh reactions, alive and sensitive to the need for flexibility. At the same time, public interest in the project has never faltered. "The Show" is eagerly awaited and enthusiastically attended each year, not only in those cities where it is regularly scheduled for display, but as traveling ex-

hibitions to museums, libraries and clubs all over the United States. This has meant that the juries responsible for the content of the displays have never had reason to feel that they were working in a vacuum, but—quite the contrary—have known that they were in a position to reach a wide and effective audience. Finally, the competition for inclusion has been keen, almost from the beginning, among those who are directly concerned with the problems of book production as it ought to be, and the selecting juries have always had rich representations of each year's output of books from which to choose the annual awards.

All this has resulted in a three-way guarantee of variety and of a high level of interest during fat years and lean, periods of depression, wartime denial and postwar inflation, and in the face of everchanging tastes and technology.

Over and over again, those who have been charged with the responsibility of making the annual selections have emphasized the fact that the intention has never been to decide which are the fifty *best* books of any given year, but to achieve a *representation* of publications that most fully illustrate the current ideals of the craft. The "yardstick," then, is not a set of hard and fast rules that restrict the free judgments of the selectors. It is rather an adjuration to the jury to bear in mind the basic purpose behind the exhibit, and takes the form of a broad recommendation in the vein of the following (which is extracted from the catalogue of the current show): "Selection of the Fifty Books . . . is to be based upon your judgment as to those books which represent the highest standards of bookmaking in relation to their purpose and price, *with special emphasis on those which the jury thinks most likely to raise these standards.* [Italics added.] The Fifty Books Committee hopes that your selections will result in a balanced, representative show of all the main categories of American bookmaking, not topheavy in any one classification."

The primary objective of each year's jury is of course attained when the selection is complete and the show goes on the road. Representatives of the publishing trades, the press, booksellers'

organizations, graphic arts training schools, libraries, and of an interested public gather to speed the new exhibition on its way. Throughout the country other cross sections reflecting the same or other specialized groups attend the various showings, and the particulars of the selection are discussed and debated widely with full treatment as to praise or criticism. Thus the exhibitions directly stimulate a wide interest in current evidences of sustained or improved quality in the technology of book production. This, it is true, is precisely the motive that inspired Morris and other protagonists of the "revival of fine printing" at the turn of the century and later; these men, too, sought to show by example the satisfaction that is the result of making books "better than necessary," as Updike put it. The American Institute of Graphic Arts has taken the matter one important step farther. Limited editions and the productions of private presses naturally find a place in each year's showing, but only when they have a special contribution to make to the total picture of contemporary publishing achievement. Principal emphasis is on the trade book, with a view to drawing attention to the success with which high standards in design and workmanship can be applied to the everyday volume for everyday sale at everyday prices.

This has fostered an unpremeditated effect of the Fifty Books exhibitions that grows more useful and striking with each succeeding year—the opportunity for serious study of the *cumulative* results of continued publicity directed specifically at bookmaking techniques and trends. "It will be interesting," observed George H. Sargent in reviewing the first exhibition in 1923, "to compare these fifty books with those selected for, say, the fifth annual exhibition. Will the books of 1927 be better than these of 1923—and in what respects?" And in 1947, on surveying the selections made during a quarter of a century, John T. Winterich was able to conclude that "The trade book has had its face washed and its hair combed and can now hold its own with the tenderly nurtured children of Limited Editions Avenue and Private Press Boulevard." Mr. Winterich further observed an "in-

creasing awareness that a book is a physical entity as well as a spiritual and intellectual one, an artifact no less than a vehicle for the text, something to look at as well as to look into."

The conviction on the part of the A.I.G.A. that its Fifty Books selections possess a unique collective usefulness to research into developments in modern American book production recently led to an important decision. A full set of selections made over the past thirty years has been given to Columbia University to form part of the library resources of the new Graphic Arts Center. Many of these books were already at Columbia, in its Rare Book, Book Arts, Typographic, and general collections; but such items had, of course, been selected as *texts* or individual specimens. The Institute's generous gift now makes it possible for Columbia to maintain the Fifty Books *as a unit*, documenting in the fullest possible degree the story of American typography over a whole generation. The collection will be added to as each new year's selection is made, and will thus form a continuing, ever complete resource for exhibitions, study groups, seminars and colloquies relating to graphic arts problems and topics, and of course as exemplars for use in class instruction.

The exhibition possibilities of the collection are literally endless: "Modern Text-Book Production in America"; "American Book Illustration Over Thirty Years"; "Binding Trends"; "American Type-Faces in Application"; "Current Fashions in Children's Books"; "The Place of Limited Editions Among the Fifty Books"; "Best Sellers and Quality Production"; "Letter Press and Offset." The list is limited only by one's imagination.

One spectacular possibility occurs almost automatically—a full-scale showing of *all* of the fifteen hundred selections made since the beginning of the Fifty Books exhibitions. Just how or when so grandiose a project can be brought to reality is a matter that will require considerable thought and planning—and assistance. The thought we are already giving; the help we know will come when the rewards which such an exhibition would bring are realized by our friends.

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

IN earlier pages of this issue Miss Benjamin compliments the University on its burgeoning importance as a repository for manuscript and printed rarities. We in the Libraries are in a favored position to observe the actual steps by which that welcome result is being gained. The good will of Friends, faculty, members of the Columbia family, and others who appreciate the value of the University's contribution to the cultural life of New York and the nation, is bringing an ever-increasing store of rare source works. It is deeply satisfying to us that we have been able to bolster that good will substantially through judicious purchases made possible by special endowments, for this serves to convince potential donors that we are serious in our desire for Columbia to assert her rightful position of leadership in the preservation of unique research materials.

The momentum of the program has become powerful. Even during the recent summer months, when a retarding of the rate of acquisition might have been expected, impressive numbers of highly significant gifts were received. The following paragraphs furnish some of the details.

Manuscript Collections

The Nevins Papers: Professor Allan Nevins has commenced the project of transferring to the Libraries his extensive files of letters and papers. The work has not progressed far enough for more than the roughest estimate of the scope of the gift, but even so it is apparent that Professor Nevins in his busy career

has been in correspondence with an amazing cross section of America's important figures—political, commercial, social, and literary. In addition, the voluminous notes and data which he has gathered in support of his many published studies are to be included in the collection, to the delight and profit of future generations of scholars.

The Adams Papers: Mrs. James Truslow Adams has made extensive additions to the collection of correspondence of her late husband. The present gift comprises seventeen file boxes and six albums of letters.

Papers of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace: Some 200 cartons and files of letters and papers from the archives of the Endowment, ca. 1913–1950.

The Haig Collection: Correspondence, manuscripts, and reference works of the late Professor Robert Murray Haig of Columbia University, relating to his work in the field of political economy. Forty-seven cartons and twenty-four files, presented by Mrs. Haig.

The Pfeiffenberger Papers: The scrapbooks, typescripts, and manuscripts of the late Dr. Otto E. Pfeiffenberger, relating to political, legal, and literary topics, ca. 1939–1950. Presented by Mrs. Pfeiffenberger.

Architectural Drawings: A group of seven architectural drawings for alterations to the Senate Chamber of the United States Capitol, executed by Mr. Edward Steese of the firm of Carrere and Hastings, 1928–1929. Presented to the Avery Architectural Library by Mr. Steese.

Ward Papers: A collection of letters, documents, and photographs relating to members of the Ward family of New Jersey,

1795–1873. Presented by Mr. Robert E. Schmitz to accompany his previous gift of the manuscript diaries of John D. Ward, 1827–1830.

The Manuel Komroff Collection: The first part of this valuable collection has just been received. It consists of 42 items, including manuscripts, typescripts, and published books representing Mr. Komroff's activities as an author and editor, autographs, letters, and inscribed copies of the works of various well-known authors. Presented by Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Komroff, who plan to make substantial additions to the collection from time to time.

The Welch Gift: Twelve important and valuable items, including letters and other manuscripts of prominent musicians of the 19th century. Included are two letters by Richard Wagner, one by Verdi, another by Schumann, and a leaf containing various music jottings believed to be in the hand of Beethoven. Presented by Miss Alberta M. Welch.

Book Collections

The Lamont Gift: Approximately 5,000 books in all subject fields. Among them are 150 rare items, including Thomas à Kempis, *Opera*, Nuremberg, 1494; Edmund Spenser, *Works*, 1679; Jonathan Swift, *A Tale of a Tub*, 1704; and a number of scarce Robert Frost items, some of which are annotated or inscribed by the author. Presented by Dr. and Mrs. Corliss Lamont.

Printing Technology: Books and bound periodicals (33 items) relating to printing and typography, including several items dealing with the machinery produced at the Robert Hoe Company. Presented by the Robert Hoe Company.

Brander Matthews Presentation Copies: Thirty-three volumes inscribed by Brander Matthews, mostly of his own writings for presentation to his mother. The gift of Mr. Ian Forbes Fraser.

Tammaniana: Eighteen works to be added to the Kilroe Collection of Tammaniana. Bequest of the late Edwin Patrick Kilroe.

The Lewis Gift: About 600 books and pamphlets in the field of the sciences, humanities, and fine arts. Several of the items are rarities, including the 1616 edition of John Hayward's *The Sanctuarie.* Presented by Mr. Clarence McKenzie Lewis.

Sales Catalogues: A collection of some 225 volumes of catalogues of book dealers and auction houses. Presented by Mr. Walter Toscanini.

The Engel Collection: A truly remarkable collection of rarities selected from their library for presentation to Columbia by Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel. Included in the gift are 65 of the rare copyright editions of various works by Kipling; runs of the *United Services College Chronicle* (1881–1894) and *The Friend* (1900), to which Kipling contributed; the rare Lahore, 1886, edition of *Departmental Ditties;* an inscribed copy of the 3-volume *Poems: 1886–1929;* and a fabulous copy of *Schoolboy Lyrics* (Lahore, 1881), inscribed "Rudyard Kipling. Feb. 10, '99."

The collection also contains Gelett Burgess items of the utmost rarity, including an original drawing of the "Purple Cow" and both issues of the first number of *The Lark.* There is a fine copy of the first issue of Twain's *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn;* a copy of Clement C. Moore's *Poems* inscribed "To N. F. Moore, Prest. Col. Coll. with the kind regards of the author. July 1844;" and *La Maniere de Bien Penser,* Amsterdam, 1709, inscribed "S. Johnsons Book [first President of King's College] given him by Madam Berkeley the Dean's Lady. 1730."

Perhaps the most appealing item in the collection, however, is Stevenson's *A Child's Garden of Verses* (1885), the first edition with the binding in the first state, and inscribed "To Nellie Frances Van de Grift from the author & the author's wife March 14th 1885." This is unquestionably one of the most important presentation copies of this work now in existence. "Nellie," Stevenson's youngest sister-in-law, was a California girl, and her copy, inscribed immediately upon publication, was most likely the first to reach this country. The intimate use of "Nellie" betrays the warm affection beneath the apparent formality of the inscription.

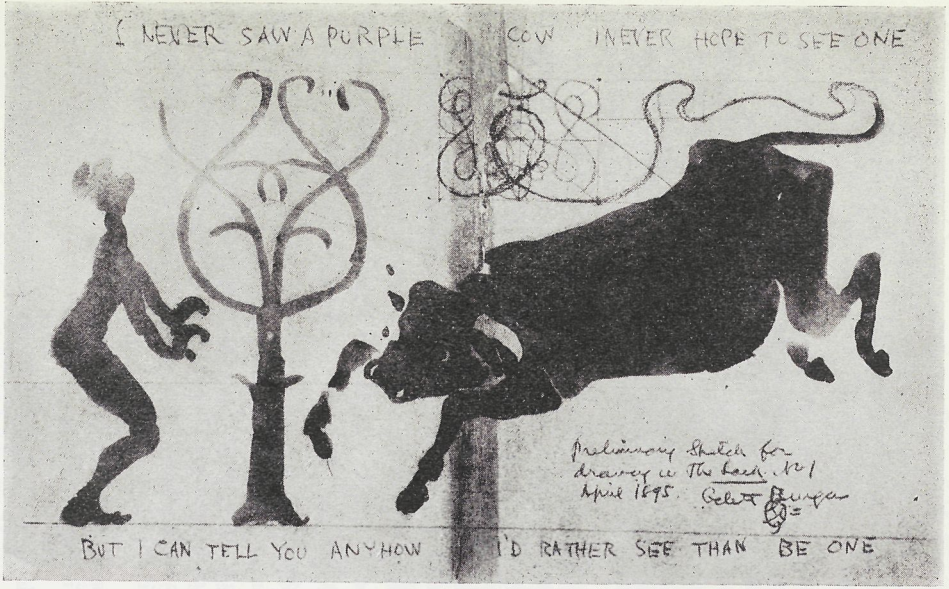
Architectural Photographs: A commemorative series of special photographs recording the architecture of William A. Delano, prepared for the American Institute of Architects in connection with his receiving the Institute's 1953 gold medal award. Presented to the Avery Architectural Library by Mr. William A. Delano.

The Tillson Collection: A considerable part of the personal library of the late Benjamin Franklin Tillson, mining engineer. Included in the gift are a collection of publications issued by the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and the original charts and blueprints used in Mr. Tillson's *Mine Plants*, published by the Institute. Presented to the Egleston Library by Mrs. Tillson.

Legal Works: A collection of about 325 books and pamphlets relating to law. Presented by Professor Philip C. Jessup.

Individual Gifts

Ariosto, *Orlando Furioso*, Venice, 1730. The gift of Dean Margaret B. Pickel.



Gelett Burgess' original sketch of the "Purple Cow." Engel Gift.

Bellah, James Warner, proofs and press-revised manuscripts of his recently published series of six Civil War stories. The joint gift of the author and Mr. Stuart Rose, Associate Editor of *The Saturday Evening Post.*

Benjamin, Park, A.L.S. to Mr. Fields regarding the M.L.A. poet of the year. The gift of Mr. Howard S. Mott.

Boccaccio, *Genealogia,* Venice, 1564. The gift of Dean James K. Finch.

Hoe, Richard March, bronze portrait by Miss Nell Van Hook. The gift of Mr. Harold March Hoe.

Hôryûji Temple, Nara, Japan. A portfolio of 43 prints of the Temple, of which 26 are in color, accompanied by descriptive matter by eminent Japanese and American authorities on Buddhist art. The gift, expressing gratitude for American aid in support of higher education in Japan, comes from the Japanese University Accreditation Association, representing educational institutions in Japan.

Joffe, Judah A., *Elia Bachur's Poetical Works;* two copies, one on colored paper. The gift of Mr. Judah A. Joffe.

Jonson, Ben, *Workes,* 1640. A fine copy in its original binding, formerly owned by William Legge, who later became the first Earl of Dartmouth. Legge's signature occurs in several places in the book, and the Dartmouth armorial bookplate was discovered under the front pastedown. The gift of Professor William Y. Tindall.

Josephus, *Works* [in English], London, 1655. The gift of Mrs. Virginia Henderson.

Mayer, Fred, *Static and Dynamic Causes of the Secession of the South,* March 1940; typed manuscript. The gift of Mrs. Ed. Lyndon.

Manuscripts, presented by their authors: Dangerfield, George, *Era of Good Feelings* (Bancroft award, 1953); Goldman, Professor Eric P., *Rendezvous With Destiny* (Bancroft award, 1953); Tufts, Anne Blanchard, *As the Wheel Turns.*

Medieval Manuscript. An affidavit of executorship and an inventory of the possessions of Peter de Alios, deceased. Copy (made ca. 1400) of an original dated in the parish of Canillo, the Province of Andorra, August 22, 1384. The manuscript was presented by Professor Austin P. Evans, to whom it had been given by Professor Richard Emory of Queens College. Professor Evans included a transcription and translation of the document, prepared by members of his seminar.

New York Temporary Rent Commission. Manuscript record of decisions and proceedings. Presented to the Law Library by Professor Herbert Wechsler, one of the Commissioners.

Proposal for Correcting . . . the English Tongue, 1712. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Steegmuller.

The Reprisal of the Tars of Old England, 1776. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Francis Steegmuller.

Riederer, Ludwig, *Dictate über Physik*, 1853. Manuscript written by Riederer at the age of 16. Presented by his son, Dr. Herman S. Riederer.

Rycaut, Paul, *History of the Turkish Empire from the Year 1623 to . . . 1677*, London, 1680. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman, who also contributed funds to have the volume rebound in full leather.

Schwenter, M. Daniel, *Deliciae Physico-Mathematicae*, 1636. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman.

Smith, Helen Evertson, *Rebels and Royalists of the American Revolution.* Typed manuscript, unpublished. The gift of Professor Emeritus Robert L. Schuyler.

Soane, John (English architect), A.L.S. to the Marquis of Buckingham regarding a design for the House of Lords, 3 October 1799. The gift to Avery Architecture Library from Mrs. Harold G. Henderson.

Table of Ancient Coins, Weights and Measures . . . London, 1727. The gift of Mr. Harry G. Friedman.

Tagliacozzi. Butler, Samuel, *Hudibras* (1st and 2nd parts) London, 1663–64. John Locke's copy, with some Rabelaisian Latin verses in his autograph, mentioning Tagliacozzi's plastic surgery experiments. Purchased by Dr. Jerome P. Webster for inclusion in the Webster Library of Plastic Surgery.

Thackeray, William Makepeace, *English Humorists*, 1853. The gift of Dean Margaret B. Pickel.

Thomson, James, *The Seasons*, 1744. Autographed by the author. The gift of Professor Erik Barnouw.

Tractatus de Incarnatione, 17th-century manuscript copy of an earlier religious thesis. Presented by Professor and Mrs. Joseph L. Blau.

Volk Publications. Three fine editions of recently published works: *The Charter of the United Nations* (1948); *The Signing of the North Atlantic Treaty* (1949); and *The Rights of Man* (1950). The gift of Mr. Kurt H. Volk.

The Editor Visits the East Asiatic Library

SOME think of libraries as ivory towers—hushed, book-encrusted retreats insulated from the world, inhabited by librarians more familiar with the life of the Middle Ages or Ancient Rome than with the tumults of today. Yet if there is anything which has struck us on our visits to the various Columbia libraries, it is the way life has of breaking into even the most cloistered and esoteric of them. In the Medical Library, for instance, the rise and fall of the Nazi regime could have been charted in terms of the changing quality of the German journals received during the years 1933–1945. The East Asiatic Library is similarly a faithful barometer of political pressure areas in the Far East, and the Librarian, Howard P. Linton, could keep up with events in that part of the world without opening a newspaper—simply by studying the vicissitudes of the flow of Oriental publications into his Library.

The outbreak of World War II was heralded by the disappearance of Japanese periodicals from the mails. They did not appear again until 1948. Since then, the circulation of materials in the Japanese language has risen about 400 percent, which is twice the increase in the use of Chinese items. Some of this increase represents the interest of Americans whom the war introduced to Japan; now Mr. Linton wonders whether the circulation of Korean books (only 30 in 1952–53) will start to climb.

The descent of the Bamboo Curtain around China has also been felt in the East Asiatic Library. Very wisely, the Library takes the position adopted by President Eisenhower in his Dartmouth College speech last June 14: that the best way to aid scholars in a democracy which challenges and is challenged by a totalitarian regime is to bring them the most extensive and up-

to-date information possible about that alien ideology. Along with twelve other American libraries Columbia has a government license to import publications from the mainland of China, and books and periodicals still come from a bookseller in Peking. If, as sometimes happens, certain "sensitive" items (for example, those dealing with projects of strategic significance) are withheld from the shipment, they can frequently be obtained from Hong Kong. This city is, in fact, the chief source of China mainland publications. As might be expected, there is an increasing publication in Russian of books on China.

The East Asiatic Reading Room, a lofty room in Low Library, acquires a special flavor from the art objects which are exhibited there. We noticed a replica of a Japanese family shrine ("made especially for the Library," Mr. Linton remarked, rather surprisingly). An oval lacquer tray, in which appeared an exquisite landscape of mountain, cloud and sea fashioned entirely from rocks and white sand, was proudly exhibited as an example of "Bonseki" work, from the hand of Miss Miwa Kai, the senior Library Assistant. The most striking object of all, looking unmistakably Italian, was introduced to us as "the Baldacchino": a structure with four marble pillars, supporting a bronze canopy and clock, which memorializes the Class of 1874. After many wanderings it came to rest in its present location. "It's all right here," said the Librarian, in a resigned voice, "now that we have learned how to avoid bruised hips."

The Chinese library contains 134,280 volumes, and is surpassed in this country by very few such collections. It was interesting to learn that its foundation was laid by the Chinese Government, which in 1902 presented the University with the great encyclopedia known as Ch'in Ting Ku Chin T'u Shu Chi Ch'êng ("Fixed by Imperial Authority Ancient-Modern Illustrations-Books Gathered Together."). This immense work, beside which the Encyclopedia Britannica is a mere pigmy, is divided into 5,044 books bound in 1,672 volumes and contains 852,408 pages. First published in 1728, the Library was presented

with the second edition (1895–98), of which only 250 copies were printed.

One of the foundation stones of the Japanese Collection also derives from an official source: the 594 volumes of publications made under Imperial direction since the 8th Century. This was donated to Columbia by the Japanese Imperial Household. In April, 1948, over 4000 books and 6000 periodicals, all in Japanese, were given to the Collection by a friend of the Library. The periodicals filled a great need for recent material, and helped build up what is now an up-to-date, working collection. This tied in nicely with the establishing, after the war, of the East Asian Institute, which has been instrumental in shifting the emphasis of Oriental study at Columbia to social sciences in relation to the contemporary Far East. This is in contrast to the earlier, perhaps too-exclusive, preoccupation with the humanities.

The cataloging of Chinese and Japanese books, which the Librarian patiently tried to explain to us, is complicated by the difficulty of knowing how a Japanese author pronounces his name. Thus a name written in the characters "pine-tree-wind" is usually given the Japanese pronunciation, "Matsukaze," *unless* it is pronounced, in the Chinese manner, "Shofu." The choice depends on family tradition, and is purely arbitrary. In the East Asiatic Library an elaborate file gives the correct pronunciation in romanized form, supported in each case by various weighty authorities.

The calligraphy of the characters on some of the file cards was extraordinarily beautiful—to hunt through them would be, not a chore, but an aesthetic adventure. There is also a scroll hanging in the Reading Room with calligraphy by Rai Sanyô (1781–1832). To see this masterpiece is alone worth a trip to the East Asiatic Library. The artist might well have been exemplifying the words of China's 4th Century master, Wang Hsi-chih, who wrote of the art of calligraphy:

"*Every horizontal stroke is like a mass of clouds in battle formation, every hook like a bent bow of greatest strength, every*

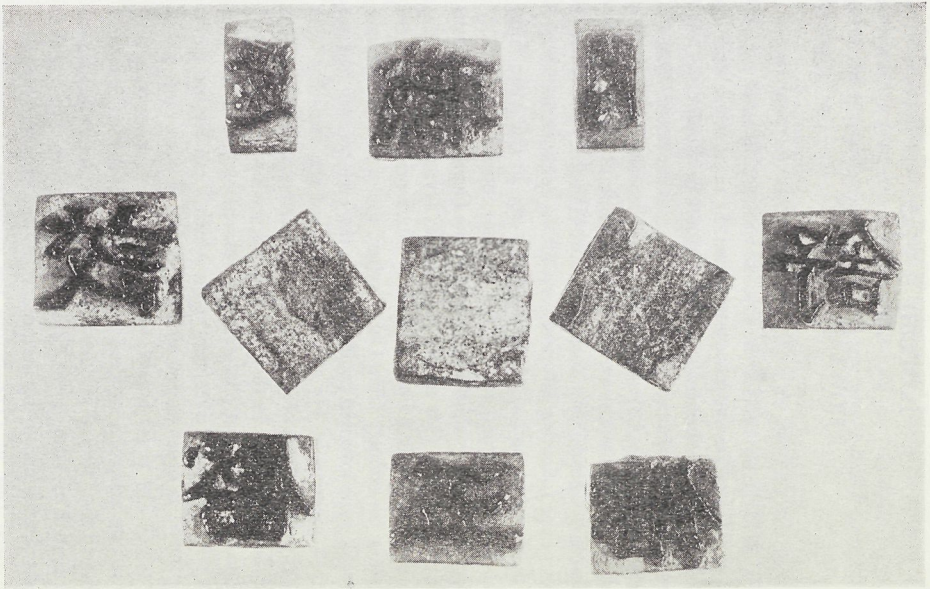
dot like a falling rock from a high peak, every turning of the stroke like a brass hook, every drawn-out line like a dry vine of great old age, and every swift and free stroke like a runner on his start."

As we were leaving, another gift from the Far East caught our eye: the magnificient folio entitled *Wall Paintings in the Kondô Hôryûji Monastery*. The universities of Japan wished to express their gratitude to American universities for their reception of Japanese students since World War II, and collected from their libraries 240 copies of this work, which they then sent to university libraries in this country. As we admired this gift, we fervently hoped that Japanese libraries contained as generous and imaginative tokens of American good will!

Korean Type

HOWARD P. LINTON

THE true date for the first use of movable metal type in Korea has yet to be established. In 1232, the scholar Yi Kyoobo mentions the acquisition of *Books of Ceremonies* printed from movable metal type, and the British Museum owns a type-printed book with title pages bearing the dates 1317 and 1324. Thomas Carter, from whose book *The Invention of Printing in China* (New York, Columbia University Press, 1925) most of the following information is taken, doubted the validity of these claims, and accepted the date 1403. In that year, King T'ai Tsung (reigned 1401-1419) set into motion the foundry which had been established as a unit of the Department of Books in 1392, the first year of the 500-year Yi Dynasty. T'ai Tsung regretted that only a small number of block-printed books were reaching his country from China, where use of the earthenware movable type invented by Pi Sheng in the 11th century had not proved practicable. He also acknowledged the fact that "the books printed from blocks are often imperfect, and moreover it is difficult to print in their entirety all the books that exist. I ordain therefore that characters be formed of bronze and that everything without exception upon which I can lay my hands be printed, in order to pass on the tradition of what these works contain." The royal family, along with others who wished to contribute privately, assumed the costs. The best of calligraphers designed the "several hundred thousand" characters making up the font. T'ai Tsung's son, Shih Tsung (reigned 1419–1451) is credited with improving the process. By the time the third font had been cast in 1434–before the invention of printing in Europe, as Mr. Carter points out–classical literature and books of history and morals were being put out at a rate of "more than forty sheets" a day.



Korean bronze printing types in the Columbia Collection.

Much significance is given to the type mould developed by the Koreans. Around 1600, the scholar Song Hyon described it: "Characters were first cut from beech wood, these were the models. Then sand was taken from the shore of the sea where the reeds grow. This was placed in a trough and the wooden letters pressed against it. In this way the negative moulds were made, from which the type was cast. Over these were placed a cover with openings, and melted bronze poured in. When this cooled, it became type."

Mr. Carter concludes his chapter on Korean type with the sentence that "It is a strange fact that the nations the symbols of whose languages present more difficulties to the typographic printer than those of any other languages in the world, should have been the first nations to invent and develop the art of typography."

The East Asiatic Library's collection of Korean movable type, purchased in Japan in the 1930's, is of unknown date, but it is similar to early varieties. It consists of 11 bronze and 35 wooden characters. The bronze type was cast for actual printing, while the wooden type was used as master designs in the preparation of matrices.

Despite the existence of a Korean alphabet, the Koreans—especially the scholars and officials—have for many centuries used Chinese characters in their writing. The meanings are, however, not always the same in the two languages; certain characters, moreover, were adopted as suffixes aimed to clarify the meaning of another Chinese character to the Koreans. The three bronze types in the illustration have the Chinese meanings (from left to right): to return, to repay; the duties of office, an official position; to flash, shun, dodge.

Activities of the Friends

An Evening With Jacques Barzun

THE NEXT meeting of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries will be held on December 8th at 8:30 p.m. in the Social Room of Butler Library. At this time the Friends will have an opportunity to meet Jacques Barzun, well-known author and Professor of History at Columbia University, and to preview the exhibit of books and manuscripts prepared to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Louis Hector Berlioz. Perhaps most widely known in recent years as the author of the *Teacher in America* (1945), Professor Barzun is also the author of *Berlioz and the Romantic Century* (1950) and of a forthcoming volume, *New Letters of Berlioz, 1830–1868.* The latter volume is one of twelve distinguished books in the forthcoming Columbia Bicentennial Editions and Studies series which exemplify the current scholarship of members of the Columbia University faculties. Earlier works by Professor Barzun include *The French Race: Theories of its Origins* (1932), *Race: A Study in Modern Superstitions* (1937), *Of Human Freedom* (1939), *Darwin, Marx, Wagner* (1941), *Romanticism and the Modern Ego* (1943).

An Evening With John Mason Brown

The Friends of the Columbia Libraries will act as co-sponsors with the Institute of Arts and Sciences on the occasion of the evening with John Mason Brown, January 27, at 8:30 p.m., in McMillin Theater, Broadway at 116th Street. Tickets ($1.00) may be obtained from the Institute, Room 304, School of Business, Columbia University.

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* * *

As a Friend of the Columbia Libraries you are asked to assume no specific obligations. We rely on your friendship towards our institution and its ideals. However, if members express their support through annual donations of books or other material, or cash, we shall have a tangible indication that our program to arouse interest in the pressing needs of the Libraries has been successful. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.*

* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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FEBRUARY 1954 • VOLUME III, NO. 2

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THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES publish the *Columns* three times a year at Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y. Current single numbers, one dollar.

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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

RAY L. TRAUTMAN has been Professor of Library Service at Columbia since 1948. During World War II he was Colonel in charge of the Libraries Branch of the Special Services Division, Army Service Forces, and later became Vice President and Manager of Omnibook Magazine.

ALFRED H. LANE is Supervisor, Gifts and Exchange Division of the Acquisitions Department, Columbia University Libraries.

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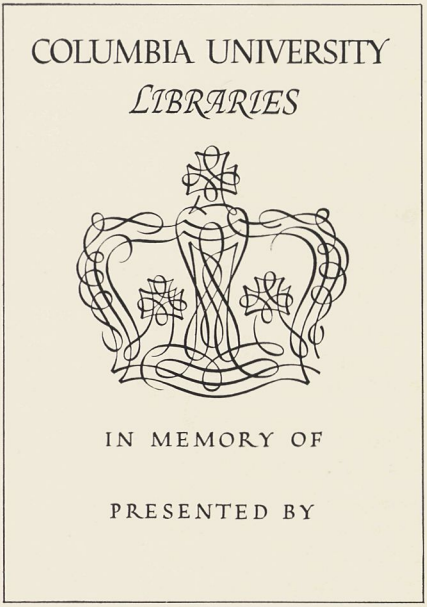
Books as Living Memorials

WHEN a friend or business associate dies, individuals and organizations feel a desire to express sympathy in a way which is thoughtful and appropriate. The sending of flowers is the usual tribute, and, because of their beauty, or because they were loved by the deceased, or even because, though beautiful, they are ephemeral—like human existence—flowers will often express feelings in a way which nothing else can.

On the other hand, the laying of a wreath beside dozens or hundreds of others sometimes seems too easy and too trite a way of conveying a message of sympathy. Furthermore, flowers are not always desired by the family. Troubled by this, a member of the Council of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries—Mrs. Franz Stone—suggested that a much more expressive and enduring tribute might take the form of books presented to a library in memory of the deceased. She further developed the idea in a recent letter: "A very important aspect is the thoughtfulness shown by the selection of a book or books. It is not a cold and impersonal gesture which can be executed by lifting the telephone. A business concern as well as an individual can show appreciation of the quality of an individual by choosing Book Memorials in a field in which that person either excelled or showed particular

interest." She added: "We have given several such Memorials ourselves and I think it will interest you to know that every letter we have received in response—not only from personal friends but from business associates as well—has been very much more than the usual formal expression of thanks."



The memorial bookplate.

The Council of the Friends has therefore had a bookplate designed which will be inserted, properly inscribed with the name of the person in whose memory the gift is made and with the name of the donor, in each book purchased as a memorial by the Columbia Libraries. The bookplate, reproduced here, is by the

distinguished calligrapher N. Krinsky. Printed in sepia on cream paper, and representing the Columbia crown, it is the very satisfactory result of much time and effort expended by the artist and members of the Council. Anyone wishing to make such a memorial gift may do so by sending a contribution—tax deductible—in any amount, large or small, to the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y. An accompanying letter should indicate the names to be inscribed on the bookplate, the special field or fields of interest appropriate to the person memorialized (to guide the selection of the book or books), and the name and address of the member of the bereaved family (or of the organization) to whom the Libraries should send a letter describing the memorial gift. Later, the donor will be notified what books have been selected.

The Director of Libraries has emphasized the lasting character of these gifts: "Institutions, including libraries, serve as logical agencies through which memorials may be maintained since such institutions outlive the individual and his generation. Furthermore, a book not infrequently outlives even the institution which first acquired it and serves as a living memorial in the sense that each new use by a reader who benefits from the gift perpetuates this memory." Dean White expressed a similar idea when speaking of a letter he planned to write to the family of one in whose name a Memorial Book had been given. He said: "When I write, I shall be the spokesman of all those who will use the book, now and in the years ahead. I know they will feel they have a share, even though a small one, in the memorial, and would wish me to speak of it in writing."

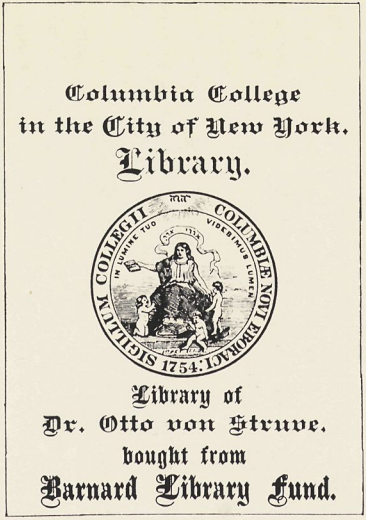
We commend this plan to all friends of Columbia who may wish to pay tribute in a way which is enduring and free from the triteness of conventional gestures.

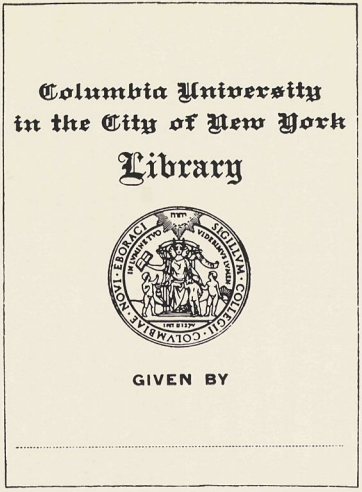
Ex Libris Universitatis Columbiae

ALFRED H. LANE

TIME WAS – a couple of hundred years ago—when the total library collection owned by Columbia University (King's College at that time) was a matter of a very few volumes, which presented a comparatively slight problem in identifying the books as Columbia's property. Now, with a collection of over two million volumes and with over 300 different bookplates in use by the Libraries, the problem is immensely complicated.

The traditional means of identification of printed books is by a bookplate—so it was then, and so it is now. In 1795 Alexander Anderson, a Columbia Medical College student, was commissioned by Dr. William Samuel Johnson, then president of Columbia College, to design a bookplate. (It is reproduced above.) The story of this commission and its execution is all recorded in detail in Anderson's diary which now reposes in Special Collections. "February 28, 1795, Dr. Mitchell delivered to me a medal, from the design of which I am to engrave a plate for the College Library." On the third of March "saw Dr. Johnson on the subject"; on the





The "girl" bookplate of 1887 (left), and the "male" plate (right) used since 1896.

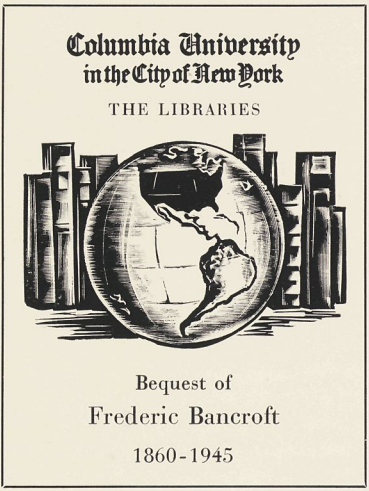
14th "sketched the design for the College Library plate"; on the 16th "began to etch the College plate"; on the 21st "finished the College plate, took it to Towt, and got proof"; on the 23rd "left the College plate with Burgess for impression"; on the 25th "got four impressions of the College Plate, and left it with Dr. Johnson." May 7th, "after considerable inquiry I found out Brockholst Livingston and presented to him my account for the College Library plate; he paid it, 2.8."

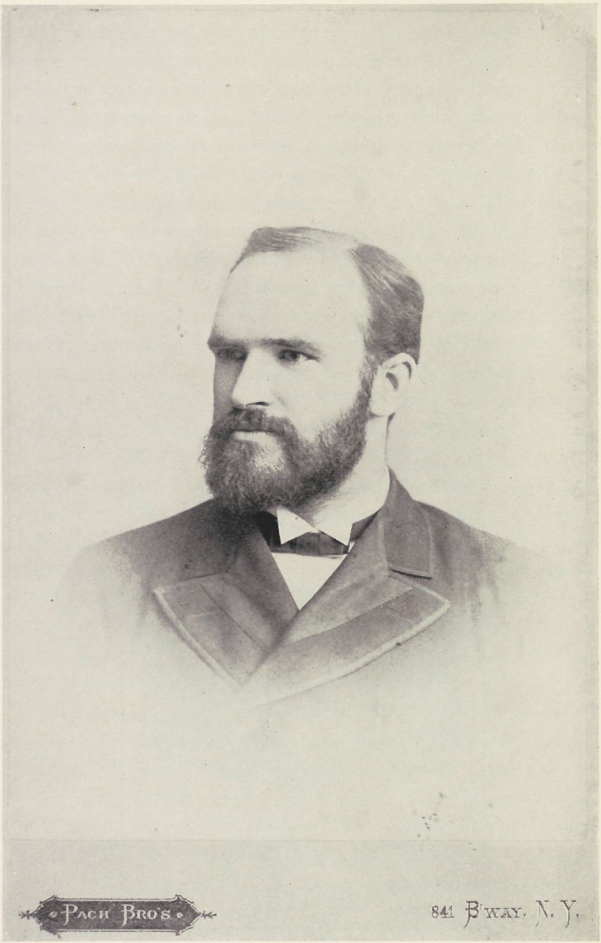
This, then, was the beginning of the Columbia bookplate. While Anderson moved on to further success as an engraver, Columbia continued to use his bookplate until the latter part of the 19th century, when changes in the seal brought changes in the bookplate design. About one of these changes there is an amusing story.

It was in 1887, near the end of the administration of President Frederick A. P. Barnard (for whom Barnard College was named). Until that time Columbia College was sacrosanct to men. Women were not considered fit to share a place in the academic sun with men students at Columbia. But in 1887 a full academic course for women was established for which a certificate was granted (the Bachelor's degree was not offered to women until Barnard College was officially established two years later). In order to celebrate this triumph for women Melvil Dewey, Columbia College Librarian of decimal classification system fame, changed the bookplate in a slight way which most people did not notice.

In the seal on the bookplate in use up to that time the figures of three little boys were standing at the knees of Alma Mater. Dewey performed a "biological miracle" by changing one of the boys to a little girl. This redesigned plate remained in use for nine years, until the name of Columbia College in the City of New York was officially changed to Columbia University in the City of New York. This, of course, meant that a new bookplate should be designed, and the "girl plate" was discarded. Insofar as can be determined, only Dewey and President Barnard shared the secret of the girl on the seal, and they undoubtedly chuckled often over the trick they had played on the Columbia public.

After 1896 the seal (all male again) continued to form the basic design for many Columbia bookplates. In addition, of course, many specially designed plates were brought into use for various specific groups of materials, until today we use some 300 different plates. They vary in style from pictures and engravings to seals and even to plain—or fancy—text; from small sizes (1″ x 1″) to large sizes (about 4″ x 5″); some are in black and white, some in sepia, and some in full color; in purpose they vary from special funds and bequests to special departmental libraries. It is our current hope, however, that the number of bookplates can soon be reduced to simplify book preparation operations and thereby also to simplify the instruction which has to be given to new staff members who do the bookplating work.





Melvil Dewey

Melvil Dewey and the 'Wellesley Half-Dozen'

RAY L. TRAUTMAN

COLUMBIA COLLEGE had been in operation for more than a hundred years by the time Professor John W. Burgess arrived from Amherst College in 1876 to teach Political Science. He was keenly disappointed in the Columbia Library, which had a total of about 25,000 old books if those owned by the student societies were included. This number of books might have been adequate if it had not contained so many duplicates, broken sets, and incomplete runs of periodicals. The library was under the sole custody of the Reverend Beverly Robinson Betts. He kept it open from one to three hours daily, during which time he grudgingly permitted the withdrawal of books. In one of his annual reports to the Trustees he proudly announced that he had saved them almost half of the $1,500 which they had appropriated for the library that year.

Professor Burgess and other members of the faculty protested and complained to President Frederick A. P. Barnard about the library. He agreed that something should be done but he felt that little could be accomplished short of a complete reorganization. This the College was not ready to undertake immediately. One of the reasons for delay was the lack of space for the library. A new library building was contemplated but construction was postponed until 1880. It was 1883 before it was finally completed. In the meantime Burgess was allowed to open a laboratory or working collection of books in history and political science. This pattern was followed by several of the other schools and departments of the College. However, it was not a complete solution to the problem of having usable collections of books close at hand.

President Barnard began to look for a new chief librarian who could carry out some of the long needed improvements in library service and help in the development of the book collections. His first letter to Melvil Dewey on the subject, in March 1883, described the position to be filled and invited recommendations and comment. Dewey promised his full cooperation and indicated that he would investigate the matter and submit the names of those librarians he considered fully qualified for such an important post. Barnard decided that Dewey should have the position and it was arranged for him to meet with the Trustee's Committee on the Library. Dewey made such a profound impression on them that he was urged to consider accepting the appointment himself. A dozen letters of recommendation for Dewey from his friends in the library world made it appear that he was the outstanding person in America for the job. He was promised a free hand and the full support of the President if he would permit his name to be submitted to the Trustees as a candidate.

Melvil Dewey was appointed Librarian in Chief of Columbia College by the Trustees on May 7, 1883, at a salary of $3,500 per year. He was to enter upon his duties immediately. The forced resignation of Betts as librarian was accepted at the same meeting. All other library assistants were given dismissal notices effective August 15, 1883, in order that Dewey might select his own staff. President Barnard also proposed to the Trustees that a school for the training of librarians should be opened at Columbia in connection with the library and that Dewey should be in charge of it. This was referred to the Library Committee of seven Trustees for consideration but a year was to pass before they made their favorable report. This led to the establishment of the School and the naming of Dewey as Professor of Library Economy—in addition to his position as Chief Librarian.

One of the first things Dewey had to do after his appointment was to select a library staff. Scores of applications for positions were received as a result of the publicity given to the announcement of a new chief librarian and a new library building for

Columbia College. Among the fourteen librarians and library assistants selected by Dewey during the first year there were six known as the "Wellesley half-dozen." These girls, all young, pretty, and vivacious, were hand-picked by Dewey with the help of his wife from the June 1883 graduating class of Wellesley College. Miss Annie Roberts Godfrey had been librarian of Wellesley College for three years prior to her marriage to Melvil Dewey in 1878, at which time her sister Lydia Baker Godfrey succeeded her as librarian. Dewey had made a number of visits to the Wellesley College library as an adviser, beginning in 1876 when he took up residence in Boston. It was natural for him to go to the Wellesley campus, where he was well-known, when he had need to employ college-bred young women to work as library assistants in his library.

The six Wellesley girls were: Alice Ayers (Mrs. Benjamin D. Smith), Mary M. DeVeny (Mrs. Edmund A. Wasson), L. Adelaide Eaton (Mrs. Adelaide E. Abbe), Nellie F. Page (Mrs. Helen Page Butler), Martha G. Tyler (Mrs. Martha T. Buckham), Louise Langford (died 1890 unmarried).

Winifred Edgerton (Mrs. F. J. H. Merrill) was a Wellesley girl who is often referred to as a member of the half-dozen. She was never a paid staff member although she frequently visited with the other six and often helped them with their duties. She was the first woman to be awarded a degree by Columbia.

There were no schools for the training of librarians in 1883. In fact, with the exception of teaching, there were almost no opportunities for educated young women to obtain gainful employment or to continue graduate study toward higher degrees. Librarianship was one of the new fields of work which a few pioneer library leaders felt women should enter. Dewey was one of the early champions of women and his scheme for the training of librarians, although not fully worked out in 1883, provided that women would be admitted to his school.

It might be said that Dewey, in a sense, took advantage of the situation in the employment of assistants for the subordinate posi-

tions in the Columbia library. He set the salary scale at $500 per year for college graduates and gained for himself and Columbia a reputation for parsimony which it has never been able completely to overcome. For this $500 each employee was expected to work 2,000 hours. There were no paid vacations, sick-leaves, salary increases or other benefits. His principal assistant librarians received $800 to $1,000 per year while his own salary had been increased to $5,000. Dewey tried to justify the low salaries for his assistants on the grounds that, initially at least, they were filling subordinate positions on an apprentice level in the library, and that they might eventually be qualified to administer libraries of their own. Practice work under careful supervision was considered to be an essential part of such training. The facilities of a large, well-organized library under the charge of an enthusiastic librarian, supplemented by regular lectures or talks and a program of guided reading and study, were expected to provide the proper setting and stimulus for the preparation of librarians for more responsible positions.

In anticipation of the opening of the School of Library Economy two preliminary classes made up of "pupil assistants" were conducted to gain experience. Classwork in the form of lectures or meetings was held late in the afternoon.

President Barnard developed the habit of dropping in at the library almost every afternoon where he sometimes visited with Dewey or observed the various library staff members at their assigned tasks. There were many administrative matters pertaining to the library in which Barnard was interested and he devoted a great deal of time to them. He sometimes had to use his influence and authority to back up Dewey who was a stickler for following library rules and who was not always tactful in carrying out the reorganization plans of the library. On the whole, however, the new library and its administration were well received. It was open for reading, reference and the withdrawal of books for fourteen hours every day except Sunday. It was staffed by courteous and attractive girls which, to say the least, was an innovation in

a men's college. The educated segment of the general public was invited and welcomed to the library. Gifts were solicited, gratefully received, and duly publicized, all of which helped to focus attention on the new library—which was being developed into a centralized university library.

Barnard and Dewey had much in common. Both were vitally interested in higher education for women, which may have been due in part to their enjoyment at being in the presence of attractive, intelligent, educated women. There are some old letters of Barnard's going back to the 1883 period which indicate that he was very fond of some of the Wellesley girls, even keeping in touch with them for several years after they had left the library.

Dewey and his wife entertained in their home all of the girls from his library and later from the library school, and many are the stories told of their Friday evening get-togethers. There were usually games, singing, dancing, food, and fun for all. The lifelong correspondence which Dewey carried on with these girls had its beginning during their early Columbia years together. Four of the five surviving members of the Wellesley half-dozen went to the Lake Placid Club for a reunion with the Deweys in 1928. The last surviving member of this group, Mrs. E. A. Wasson (Mary M. DeVeny), died on June 3, 1953, thus closing this chapter in the organization and development of the Columbia libraries.

More Reminiscences of the 'Wellesley Half-Dozen'

WITH the thought that the reader might like to know more about the 'Wellesley half-dozen' (see the preceding article), we have extracted from the archives of the Library a bundle of letters whose faded pages bring to life the Columbia Library of the Eighties, Melvil Dewey, President F. A. P. Barnard, and their 'six little girls from school.' Here are some excerpts:

Mr. Gordon Wasson, son of Mary DeVeny Wasson, sends some reminiscences of his mother. The letter was written in November, 1952, when Mrs. Wasson, the last survivor of the Wellesley girls, was 92.

"My mother confirmed that she went to work for Melvil Dewey immediately after she graduated from Wellesley in the spring of 1883. She says that the great man was well-known on the Wellesley campus, and around Boston, where he was discussing his system [the Dewey Decimal Classification System] with everyone interested in the subject. It was on a visit to Wellesley, she thinks, that he engaged her and the five other girls. They were all pretty, and full of the vivacity of youth and health: my mother was known for her laughter. They went to work in July. They all lived together in the same boarding house, an arrangement that gave them a cheaper rate. She thinks that they each paid $7.00 a week for room and board, and in addition her own wash came to about 50 cents. Since Melvil Dewey paid the girls only $11.00 a week to begin with, there was not much left over after meeting the essential weekly outlays. My mother's recollection is that Mr. Dewey was always parsimonious in his payroll.

"The girls worked together in the library,—a 'large well-floored

room with pictures about.' Most of them were engaged in actual cataloguing according to the new system, which Mr. Dewey was always talking about.

"Mr. Dewey always kept up his interest in his original six girls, and when my mother was already advanced in years, she went up to Lake Placid as his guest at his famous Club to renew their friendship. Later, in the late 1920's, I was there as a guest of a member, and when I introduced myself to Mr. Dewey, he made a great fuss over me. I remember him in his big, rather bare office, working at a high desk, the telephone being installed deliberately at the farthest corner of the room, so that whenever it rang he would have to walk across the big room to it. Mr. Dewey was obviously a man who combined two qualities that were both developed in him to an abnormal degree: proselytising zeal and a shrewd sense of practical advantage."

The affectionate relationship which existed between Mr. Dewey and the girls when they were actually working with him is illustrated by the following two letters.

26 April, 1884.

"My dear Mr. Dewey:

We are so sorry not to have you here to-day, but hope the rest will do you good. . . .

Alice says if she 'can administer any comfort or consolation' send and she will be with you at once. [Dewey is apparently off on a trip.] Nellie says send Mr. Dewey (Love)[6] from us Wellesley girls, but I want you to understand that I send that much myself. . . . If there is anything any one or all of us can do, you know you have but to say the word. . . .

Sincerely,

Mary M. De Veny."

7 May 1884.

"My dear Mr. Dewey:

. . . How we miss you, Mr. Dewey, and I am truly *lonesome* without you. Dr. Barnard came in on Monday just after you left and remained until after five o'clock telling me about the successful meeting. He was here again yesterday for more than two hours & became acquainted with Mattie & they had a regular Edgerton time of it, here in the office. The manilla [*sic*] envelopes have come, but nothing unusual or extraordinary occurs.

All the girls send love, especially Your Mary M. De Veny

Hurry back!"

That the interest of President Barnard, also, continued in the girls, even after they had left Columbia, is shown by the following letter written by him to Mary De Veny on January 21, 1886.

"My dear Miss Mary:

I learned, yesterday, after you had gone away, how nearly I came to having the pleasure of seeing you. Why did not you send in your name? I would have choked off the Professor without ceremony, if I had known that you were at hand; and so I would have done with the whole Faculty, if they had been here.

When you come again, you must not be so unobtrusive. Rather than miss you I would send away even so important a person as a trustee of the College.

It is not often I see you now, but I miss you every time I go to the Library, and that is daily.

Sincerely yours, F. A. P. Barnard."

Nellie Page, later Bates, was considered the 'flighty' member of the six, but she settled down and became the only one to remain permanently in library work. It is apparent that she kept up her interest in her career, even after her marriage, as shown by this letter to Dewey in 1892:

"It is a long, long time since I have heard of you and your library doings and I am so interested that I felt compelled to write & ask you how your Library School is progressing & what new depar-

tures are being made. I see that the Library graduates obtained their degree this year. That is capital. . . . We recall very frequently those halcyon days at Columbia, when you allowed us two young heathen to revel in Room 6 and lunch off that old Greek tombstone and loll away our morning in the august chairs that De Witt Clinton and Benj. Franklin deigned to die in.

"With the best of wishes for your continued success & the kindest thoughts toward you & yours, I am, very truly, your 'Light Headed' girl, Nellie F. Bates.

"I fear I am not as light-headed as I was. You know circumstances alter even *Light Heads*."

Still another of the six, Alice Ayres, is represented in our bundle of letters. She writes in 1885, to Dewey:

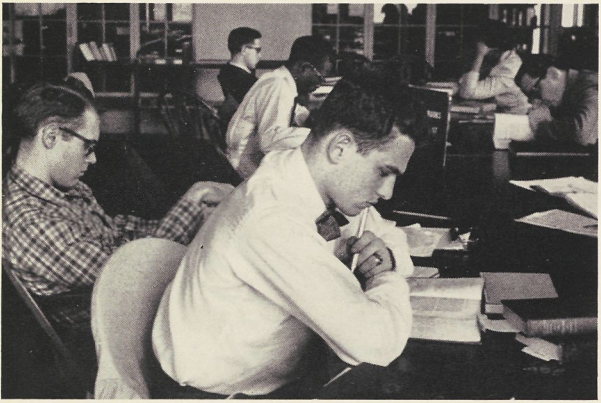
"I hear once in a great while of the C.C.L. [Columbia College Library] and am always interested in all its doings. You must have accomplished very much this year with all your librarians. . . . We were quite surprised to learn from Miss de Veny and Miss Tyler that they, too, have left the beautiful walls of Columbia. We supposed they would be the last to go. But you have two of the original six left, and I think the place will always seem like home to us, and I am sure we shall never lose our interest in it."

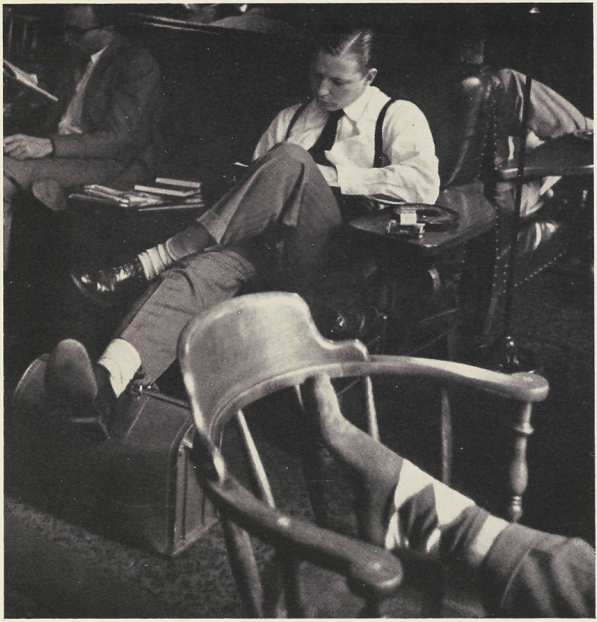
Many years later, in 1929, Alice Ayres wrote another letter filled with nostalgic reminiscences, to Melvil Dewey.

"What good times and what profitable times we had in New York. It was an unusually congenial group of girls and the presence of Mrs. Langford added much to our happiness at the house,—and then you made conditions so pleasant at the Library that our first year in 'business' was a delightful one . . . . Do you remember the time when I was in the accession dept. at Columbia Lib. and the Norwegian author came to my desk and asked for a book—I didn't know that it was his—and I refused to let him take it because it had not been entered on my book? How he went to your office and you came with him and introduced him to me and you laughed in your good natured way? How small I felt . . . . It is certainly a long time since we were all there in Columbia . . . ."

Reading room of the Columbia Library of the 1880's, 49th St. campus.

Compare the formally garbed students—derbies and canes on the tables in front of them—with the relaxed, coatless, even shoeless (!) but no less intent students of to-day, shown opposite in two of the reading rooms in the present Columbia Library.





Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

IN making the presentation of the Gibbon and Poe volumes that are more fully described hereafter, Mr. Solton Engel (AB 1916) remarked that they are "presents for a nice old lady on her two-hundredth birthday." The Bicentennial has encouraged many generous gifts to the Libraries from alumni and friends, and birthday packages are being heaped about the feet of Alma Mater in growing numbers.

Gift Collections

Adams Papers: The gift by Mrs. Adams of the correspondence and papers of the late James Truslow Adams was noted in these pages recently. In order to provide adequate background material for a projected biography of Adams, we have sent out requests to his known correspondents to present to the collection whatever Adams letters might be in their files, or to lend them to us to be copied. To date some seventy letters have been presented by nine individuals (Messrs. Jacques Chambrun, Hawthorne Daniel, Thomas E. Dewey, Harold Ginsberg, Lawrence H. Gipson, Henry Hazlitt, Orrin G. Judd, Arthur Krock and Thomas S. Lamont). The returns are as yet by no means complete, many persons having promised to search their files when the opportunity arises. In addition several recipients either have sent photostatic copies (thirty-nine from Mr. Paul W. Garrett on behalf of the General Motors Corporation) or have lent for copying originals which they wish to keep for personal or other reasons.

Architectural Drawings: Mr. Henry Killam Murphy has presented

to the Avery Architectural Library a series of twenty original architectural drawings of his own work, done mainly in China.

Campbell Gift: Professor Oscar James Campbell of the Department of English presented more than sixty volumes of English and Swedish literature and bibliography, selected from his library.

Clemmer Memorial: Egleston Engineering Library has received a gift of twenty-five works on electrical engineering, made in memory of the late Albert E. Clemmer (EE 1952) by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Clemmer.

Coykendall Gift: Each year for more than a decade Mr. Frederick Coykendall has made extremely generous gifts to the Columbia Libraries of rare books and manuscripts from his own collection. In the aggregate these gifts have numbered in the thousands, and while they have for the most part consisted of first and rare editions of 20th-century poetry, there have been notable exceptions to that rule—beautiful sets of the original issues of *The Spectator* and *The Tatler*, for example, and the first English translation of Boccaccio's *Decameron*, to pick only a few from many.

This year Mr. Coykendall has continued his benefactions, presenting a total of 103 items. Among them are some truly extraordinary volumes, including first editions of Coleridge's *Christabel*, 1816, and *Biographia Literaria*, 1817; Edward Fitzgerald's *Euphranor*, 1851, and a corrected presentation copy of the 1882 edition; an immaculate copy of the first edition of Bryant's *Poems*, 1821; the scarce second issue of Longfellow's *Voices of the Night*, 1839; a presentation copy of George Moore's *Martin Luther*, 1879; a set of the early editions of Carlyle's *Sartor Resartus*, including the privately printed first edition of 1834, with a letter from Carlyle to Leigh Hunt laid in, a set of the sheets as published by *Fraser's Magazine*, 1833–34, the first American edition, 1836, and the regular London edition, 1838; and, finally, a complete run of the famous "Keystone" series of thirty-five novels of British authors, published by John Lane, 1894–97.

But this itemization, remarkable as it is, does not do justice to Mr. Coykendall's generosity, which in the course of only a few years has made Columbia a leading repository for the scarce and costly "limited editions" so commonly chosen by recent American and British poets for their works.

Freudenthal Gift: Professor Alfred Freudenthal of the Department of Civil Engineering presented a collection of twenty-four useful volumes in the field of engineering construction to Egleston Library.

Goodyear Donation: Mrs. Evelyn Goodyear has presented to the Avery Architectural Library various materials relating to the work of her father, Nelson Goodyear, and her grandfather, William Henry Goodyear. The gift includes nine albums of architectural photographs and a box of architectural slides.

Griswold Gift: Miss Florence K. Griswold presented an interesting group of material from her collection, including two framed specimens of palm-leaf manuscripts, an original deed (1729) from Charles Lord Baltimore to Thomas Brown, various manuscripts and letters of F. L. Woodward, and a number of books and pamphlets from her library.

Knopf Imprints: For a number of months Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Ernst have been presenting selected publications issued by the firm of Alfred A. Knopf of New York. To date more than a hundred volumes, representing the best of the current Knopf productions, have come to the Libraries. Mr. and Mrs. Ernst's plan involves the display of the books where they may be freely handled and read by students, and to that end they have been placed openly on tables and shelves in the College Library.

The incentive behind this gift is the belief—which many share—that Mr. Knopf's publishing firm has maintained the highest possible standards not only in the selection of texts for publication but

also in the physical form which those texts have been given. For several decades Knopf's Borzoi imprint has been the hallmark of quality and importance in literary and typographical achievement.

Lotz Gift: Professor John Lotz of the Department of General and Comparative Linguistics has presented a remarkable selection of Swedish, Finnish, and Hungarian materials, totalling nearly 200 items.

Manuscripts and Printed Rarities: A carefully selected group of twenty-one items, including seven letters from well-known literary figures (James Bryce, Wilkie Collins, James T. Fields, W. E. Henley, Andrew Lang, Richard Le Gallienne, and George Meredith); several early financial and transportation documents, printed and manuscript; and a scarce political pamphlet, *The Downfall of Tammany Hall*, New York, 1871, written by "A. Oakey Hall" and illustrated by Thomas Nast. Presented anonymously.

Mark Twain Letters: To most of us Mark Twain is somewhat legendary—a contradictory, vaguely improbable personality who managed to produce not only works that have held charm and inspiration for generations of young and old readers, but also explosive pronouncements of profound unbelief which display a disregard for orthodoxy that is only superficially impish. But to Mrs. Benjamin Rogers, Twain is no mere problem in literary criticism. He is a reality, a friend of her youth who had quick sympathy and ready thoughtfulness, who was an affectionate tease and an imaginative companion whose years and infirmities were no barrier to his participation in the parties and outings and fireside gatherings of her family and friends. Best of all, he was the writer of marvellous, whimsical letters that have kept her memory of him bright and vital through the decades that have passed since his death in 1910.

And so it is that one of the most exciting gifts that has ever been made to the Columbia Libraries is the result of Mrs. Rogers'

recent decision to place in our care the treasured little packet of thirty-six letters which Mark Twain wrote to her more than forty years ago, when she was a young matron and he was in his seventies.

Rogers Gift: Mr. Harold Rogers has long been a faithful donor to the East Asiatic Library, and in recent months has continued his presentations of scarce and unusual Japanese books and serials.

Strassburger Bequest: Nearly five hundred books and serials on the subject of art and architecture came to the Libraries as the bequest of Mr. William J. Strassburger (1901 Arch.). In addition there is a notable collection of medallions, numbering 267 pieces, including a complete double set of the annual issues of the Society of Medalists. The collection is equipped with special cabinets for proper storage, and with attractive easels for exhibit display.

Adrian Wilson Imprints: Mr. John Edmunds presented a group of sixteen ephemeral pieces issued by Adrian Wilson at his Interplayers Press in San Francisco.

Individual Gifts

Audin, Marius, *L'Épopée du Papier,* Paris, 1945. Presented to the Graphic Arts Collection by Leon Pomerance.

Authors' Manuscripts: Louis Paul's *The Man Who Came Home,* presented by the author and the Crown Publishers; James Warner Bellah's *The Valiant Virginians* in the proof sheets and regularly published book form, presented by the author and the publisher, Ballantine Books. (This latter gift provides us with a complete cycle of Mr. Bellah's most recent work, from manuscript through proof stages, serial and book publication.)

Gibbon, *The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, 1776–88. First issue.

Gibbon, it has been remarked, could not have written his monumental and definitive *Decline and Fall* if he had lived in America and had been forced to rely for his documentation on the resources of the American libraries of his day. This is not the place to expound on the obvious improvement that has come about in the intervening years—except to notice, in passing, the debt which American libraries owe to the benefactions of their friends.

To Columbia, such a friend is Mr. Solton Engel (AB 1916), who, with Mrs. Engel, recently presented the finest copy of the first edition of Gibbon's work which it has been the privilege of this writer ever to have seen. The set (six volumes) is in its original boards, its leaves untrimmed and pristine, and it bears eloquent witness that its previous owners have handled it with utmost reverence. Only two marks of earlier provenance are present—the heraldic bookplate of Baron Hambra, and that of the late Frank J. Hogan, whose collection was made up of the finest copies of the most important works that could be obtained.

Joffe Gift. Barrett, Joseph H., *Life of Abraham Lincoln*, 1865 (the scarce second edition with the added material on the assassination); *Causerie*, 1880 (inscribed to William Dean Howells); and Stewart, George, *Evenings in the Library*, 1878 (also inscribed to Howells). Presented by Mr. Judah A. Joffe.

Juncker, Christian, *Das Guldene und Silberne Ehren-Gedachtniss des Theuren Gottes Lehrers D. Martini Lutheri . . .*, 1706. Presented by Mr. Horace Taylor.

Poe, *Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems*, 1829.

Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel gave this book, together with the Gibbon discussed above, as a "birthday present" to Columbia. The entire edition of *Al Aaraaf*, published by Hatch and Dunning of Baltimore in 1829, probably did not exceed a hundred copies,

and of these scarcely a dozen are known to exist today. It was the second of Poe's works to be published in book form, being preceded only by the separate edition of *Tamerlane*, 1827.

This copy has an honorable pedigree, for it bears the bookplates of such notable collectors as Jacob Chester Chamberlain, Walter Thomas Wallace, Frank Brewer Bemis, and Frank J. Hogan. Moreover, it contains a presentation inscription from Poe's sister, Rosalie Mackenzie Poe—"Presented to E [name erased] by her Friend Rose M. Poe."

It is an uncut copy, in its original boards, and with the rare leaf preceding the text containing the sonnet beginning "Science! meet daughter of Old Time thou art. . . ." It is protected by an elaborately tooled morocco case which is in turn provided with a solander slip-case, all by the New York binder, Bradstreet.

Washington Hand-Press.

The Department of Special Collections was recently alerted to receive a shipment estimated to weigh some 250 pounds. This particular Christmas package contained a Washington hand-press of a kind that has not been in general use for nearly a century. The gift was made through Mr. Fred Moore of the Lakeside Press, who persuaded the former owners, the American Bible Society of Astor Place, New York, to present it to the Columbia University Graphic Arts collection.

The so-called Washington press was manufactured by the Robert Hoe Company in New York until at least 1902, although by that time it had long been superseded by more modern devices. In it pressure is generated by means of a kind of knee-joint or toggle. As the handle is moved around, the knee straightens out, lowering the platen which in turn presses the paper against the inked type.

Columbia University now owns four varieties of old style upright hand-presses. Two of these are wooden screw-presses—a large 18th-century specimen of the kind Franklin might have used, and a table model Ramage press of about 1825 vintage. These

came with the purchase of the library of the American Type Founders Company. The third, an iron press invented and constructed by the London firm of J. Cope and Sherwin, bears the manufacture date of 1830 and involves an especially intricate multiple-lever and cam mechanism for exerting pressure. This press has no known provenance—it has "just always been here," my colleagues tell me. The addition of the Washington press does not exactly complete the picture (we lack a Blaeu, a Stanhope, a Columbian, and an Albion—for example), but for an institution without pretenses as a museum this University can furnish a surprisingly full documentation of the various stages in the development of the hand-press before inventors realized that no *real* improvement could come without a basic change in principle.

It may be of interest to those of a hand-craft bent to know that all of our presses, with trifling repairs, could be put into perfect working order.

Apologia

In the November issue we reported the gift of an autographed copy of James Thomson's *The Seasons*. This was presented by Professor Emeritus Adriaan J. Barnouw, whose gifts to the Libraries have been numerous and important. By accident the donor was listed in the November issue as Professor Erik Barnouw and we wish herewith to correct the record.

The Editor Learns How Librarians Are Made

WHAT distinguishes a profession which has really "arrived"? "An out-going, *social* motivation," said Carl White, Dean of Columbia's School of Library Service. We were visiting the School recently, curious to see "how librarians are made." The Dean continued: "This is as true for the profession of librarian as it is for that of physician and teacher. Nowadays, the library schools look with something less than favor on the would-be librarian who seeks admission with merely the 'I-just-love-books' motivation. This kind of person wants to be left alone with books, and resents the fact that in the modern library with its myriad readers, people are always interrupting him!"

There is nothing anti-social, certainly, about the Columbia Libraries. We once wrote an editorial entitled "A Library is People," emphasizing the friendly out-goingness which we have always found there, and naturally we were pleased when Dean White recalled the editorial, and said that it caught something of the spirit which goes into the making of librarians at Columbia.

None of the lively-looking young people we ran into later at the School looked as if they were going to turn into crabbed custodians of books, like the fierce old librarian we remember in our school-days. We called him "Monkey," perhaps because of his agility in dodging around among the bookshelves in order to chase the boys *out*. To elude him and to steal forbidden, bookish pleasures in the stacks became an occupation for a few of us, but sometimes "Monkey" would surprise the most persistent by an unexpected welcome into the world of books which he guarded so passionately from the profane.

This treatment may have challenged some into a life-long affection for reading and books, but many were discouraged. The

modern Library School aims to produce librarians who neither drive people away nor sit lumpishly waiting to be consulted—but who work to bring the library and its many services *to* people.

To do this they have to become acquainted not only with books and their uses, but also with all other methods by which knowledge is communicated. Miss Darthula Wilcox, the vivacious Librarian of the School of Library Service, demonstrated this when she took us on a tour of this "librarians' library." She showed us the various "micro" techniques of printing: microfilm, microprint and microcards. One hundred pages of a book can be perfectly reproduced on a single card. In addition to the basic collections in library science and bibliography, we saw special collections on publishing, book clubs and audio-visual aids (including much recent TV program material). The modern library student thus becomes aware of many channels of knowledge other than the library itself. He aims to be not a mere housekeeper of books, but a specialist in the science of communication and an educational leader in his community.

The Library of the School of Library Service was started by that methodical man Melvil Dewey, who began systematically to collect books for it several years before the School opened in 1887. Despite early vicissitudes, including removal to Albany to be administered by the New York State Library, and total destruction there by fire in 1911, it is now a fine collection of 29,000 titles and 61,000 volumes.

After our tour with Miss Wilcox, we wandered around alone. We learned something about the curriculum of the School by glancing at the titles of books on the reserve shelves. Then we came upon a shelf of books for recreational reading, and we give the titles here as an indication of how broad are the interests of to-day's library student: *Have You Read 100 Great Books?; An Introduction to Research in English Literary History; Scholar's Workshop; The Alphabet; The Writing Trade; This Was Publishing; Some Billion Dollar Questions About TV; Dickens' Christmas Stories; Hollywood Looks at its Audience; The Reader Over Your Shoulder; The 26 Letters; The University of Wisconsin.*

William W. Bishop, Librarian of the University of Michigan, used to say that until the number of books in his Library passed the 100,000 mark, he had some personal knowledge of every one of them. Perhaps the typical graduate of Columbia's School of Library Service, Class of 1954, will not aspire to such a vast acquaintance with books. Nor is he likely to have the kind of training in the specialty of rare books and manuscripts which is the hall-mark of the European graduate librarian. But he does specialize in putting books to work. To do this he has to know something about modern library thought, and about the history of books and the use of libraries in the diffusion of knowledge. He has to familiarize himself with the bibliographic keys to the kingdom of learning as well as with the "landmark" ideas and books which dominate each of the major divisions of academic study. He has to understand the best methods of building, organizing, conserving and housing library collections. These are the things he learns in the courses and reading-rooms of the School of Library Service.

Last summer we acquired, not without effort, a ticket of admission to the Reading Room of the British Museum. Nothing except the paint seems to have changed in that august rotunda since Karl Marx wrote *Das Kapital* there. The catalogue, into which titles are written (in longhand), or pasted—often not even in alphabetical order,—is contained in huge, cumbersome volumes. The archaic system of classification has to be constantly explained to readers by apologetic librarians. The Reading Room has an ineffable distinction all its own, but it badly needs the attention of a Melvil Dewey, who at the age of five systematically rearranged the contents of his mother's pantry, and thus launched a career of which the Dewey Decimal Classification of books and the Columbia School of Library Service were two of the culminating achievements. In contrast to systems prevailing elsewhere, they represent a practical and pragmatic approach which is typically American. The term "library science" is used at the Columbia School of Library Service: our visit convinced us that a new science was indeed in the making there—something in which friends of Columbia and her libraries can take pride.

Activities of the Friends

ON THE evening of December 8 a group of the Friends met in the Social Room of Butler Library to hear an informal address by Professor Jacques Barzun, Professor of History at Columbia University, dealing with Hector Berlioz, the 150th anniversary of whose birth is being celebrated this year. Professor Barzun, who has contributed greatly to modern understanding and recognition of the composer, spoke engagingly of the vast transformation which Berlioz made in European music in the period between 1830 and 1860. It was during that period that the industrial techniques which brought the railroads into being made possible the brass instruments which form such an important part of the modern orchestra. In his composing Berlioz utilized fully the sonorous possibilities of this expanded orchestra. In addition to his composing, Berlioz was a critic and an extensive writer on musical topics with his collected writings filling many volumes. Following the death of Berlioz in 1869 there was a marked decline in interest in his compositions, but since the 1920's there has been a re-awakening in which Professor Barzun has played an active role, partly through his letters and personal contact with composers and others of influence in musical circles, and partly through his book *Berlioz and the Romantic Century* which was published in 1950. His *New Letters of Berlioz, 1830–1868*, has just been published by the Columbia University Press as part of its Columbia Bicentennial series.

Professor Barzun's gift of Berlioz memorabilia laid the foundation of the Libraries' collection which includes books by and about Berlioz, many of his musical scores, and hundreds of pictures and letters. Professor Barzun selected a few of the items from the collection for display and special comment at the meeting of the Friends. He has also selected a much larger group of items which the Libraries will have on display until March 31 in the exhibit area on the third floor of Butler Library.

Professor Barzun's lively, entertaining, and informative remarks and the general sociability which followed during the refreshment period made a memorable evening for all of those who attended.

* * *

By the time this issue of *Columbia Library Columns* is mailed, the Friends will have had the opportunity to hear another renowned speaker on the evening of January 27, when John Mason Brown is scheduled to talk at a McMillan Theater program sponsored jointly by the Institute of Arts and Sciences and the Friends of the Columbia Libraries.

* * *

Other events during the coming months include the Bancroft Award dinner which is always a notable occasion and which will be held on April 20, and a March meeting which will be held at the home of Dr. Dallas Pratt at which Roland Baughman, Head of Special Collections, will talk on the Wise forgeries. As soon as the date has been set for the latter event, members will be informed.

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* * *

As a Friend of the Columbia Libraries you are asked to assume no specific obligations. We rely on your friendship towards our institution and its ideals. However, if members express their support through annual donations of books or other material, or cash, we shall have a tangible indication that our program to arouse interest in the pressing needs of the Libraries has been successful. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.*

* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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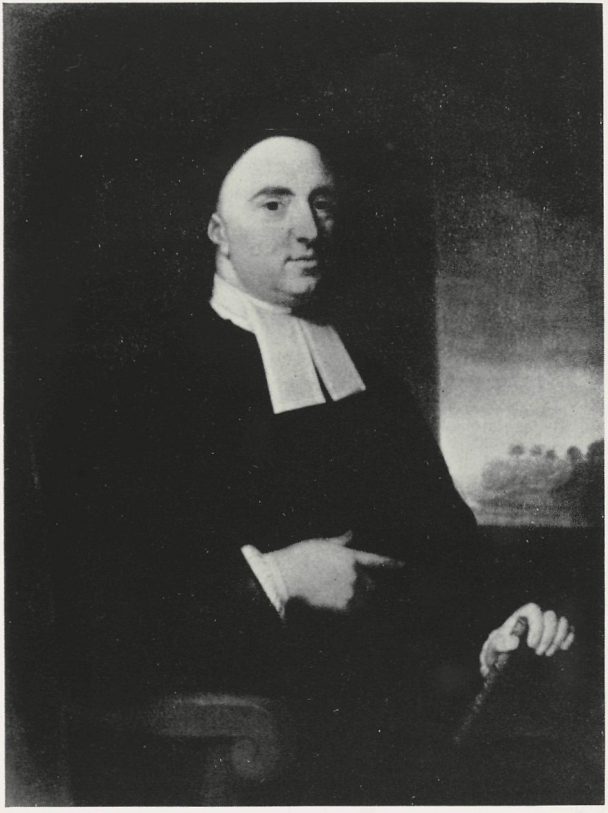
COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS

The Vicissitudes of Books

TWENTY-FIVE books and documents which have been banned or destroyed, many of them considered to be among the world's great masterpieces, will be on exhibit in Butler Library until June 30. The exhibition is part of the University's Bicentennial celebration and was designed to suggest the problem of censorship and its bearing on the Bicentennial theme, "Man's Right to Knowledge and the Free Use Thereof." Among items included are Thucydides' account of Pericles' funeral oration, which was banned in 1937 in Greece; the copy of *Ulysses*, by James Joyce, which was seized as the basis for the famous 1935 test case; a first edition of *Boris Godunov*, by Alexander Pushkin, which was personally censored by Czar Nicholas I of Russia; and Ovid's *Ars Amatoria*, for which he was banished from Rome by Augustus Caesar in 8 B.C.

The vicissitudes of books! In this issue, Roland Baughman writes of their forging (he plans an exhibit for this summer of "the Wise Forgeries"), and Polly Lada-Mocarski and Laura S. Young warn of their fragility and susceptibility to decay. Banned, burned, forged and neglected—it is a grim picture. But some books have happier fates. So, if the reader will turn the page, he will find mention in John Murray Cuddihy's article of a volume which has defied the envious years, and still exists in our Columbia collection as a pleasant symbol of a notable 18th-century friendship and of a more humane use of books.



George Berkeley: a portrait painted by John Smibert in 1725, three years before Berkeley came to America.

Berkeley and Johnson: The Story of a Friendship

JOHN MURRAY CUDDIHY

IN A book—*La Manière de Bien Penser*—recently presented to Columbia there appears the following inscription: "S. Johnson's book—given him by Madam Berkeley, the Dean's lady." There is a story behind this brief inscription. The "Dean's lady" referred to was the wife of the Anglo-Irish philosopher, George Berkeley, Dean of Derry, later Bishop of Cloyne. The "S. Johnson" who received the book was not the English Samuel Johnson (who, every reader of Boswell recalls, contemptuously kicked a stone by way of repudiating the Bishop's "immaterialist" philosophy), but was the American philosopher, Samuel Johnson, first President of King's College, later Columbia University. This Johnson was no enemy to the Bishop; he was a friend and disciple.

The year 1953 saw the celebration of the Bicentennial of Berkeley's death. In 1954 we are celebrating the Bicentennial of Columbia's birth. This little book, finding its way into the Library at this time, is a happy reminder of the link between these two events. Behind its inscription lies a friendship, a long correspondence, and the excitement of ideas. The Library has eight of the letters that passed between these two men. From these and other equally fragmentary signposts we can reconstruct, in its main outlines, the story of this friendship.

In a "Catalogue" Samuel Johnson kept of all the "Books read by me from year to year since I left Yale College"* there is, among

* This—and all subsequent citations from the papers of Samuel Johnson—is from *Samuel Johnson: President of King's College, His Career and Writings*, edited by Herbert and Carol Schneider (New York, Columbia University Press, 1929. 4 Vols.).

others, the following entry: "1727–28, The 5th year at Stratford. Aet. 32. Dr. Berkeley's *Principles of Human Knowledge*." We don't know why Johnson read this work of Berkeley just when he did. Perhaps he had heard that this fellow Anglican was coming to Newport, Rhode Island, the following year, and he wished to "brief" himself on the Bishop's philosophy before he met him. Perhaps it was chance. In any case, he was enormously impressed with Berkeley's *Principles*. We read in Johnson's *Autobiography* the following: "Mr. Johnson had read his *Principles of Human Knowledge* from which he had conceived a great opinion of him and it was not long before he made him a visit that he might converse with so extraordinary a genius and great scholar . . . He was admitted to converse freely on the subject of his philosophical works, and presented with the rest which he had not seen, and to an epistolary correspondence upon them. . . ."

If we turn to the Catalogue of his reading for 1727–28 we can see how avidly he reads "the rest" of the Bishop's works: the *Principles* again, the *Dialogues*, and the *Essay Towards a New Theory of Vision*.

Then, from Stratford, Connecticut, a hundred miles away, he writes his first letter to Berkeley at Newport. (Berkeley was forty-three at this time: eleven years older than Johnson.) In a neat hand, he lays before Berkeley eleven difficulties he and his friends have had in understanding the "immaterialist" philosophy. He finds himself "almost convinced." But (for example) does not this philosophy render the human body, which "seems from the make of it to be designed for an instrument . . . of conveying the images of external things to the perceptive faculty within," a superfluous instrument? Is not our idea of distance based on a definite, measurable, external distance, the distance "for instance, between Rhode Island and Stratford? Truly I wish it were not so great, that I might be so happy as to have a more easy access to you, and more nearly enjoy the advantages of your instructions." Johnson admits to being confused by the upheaval this philosophy

makes in his thoughts "since I am, as it were, got into a new world amazed at everything about me."

Berkeley excuses his tardy reply two months later by pleading "a gathering or imposthumation in my head" and thanks Johnson for the "objections of a candid thinking man." He promises to send him his *De Motu;* he proceeds to submit "these hints" (i.e., further ideas) which "he enjoys giving to thinking men, who have leisure and curiosity to go to the bottom of things. . . ."; and he suggests that Johnson read his works two or three times over.

This Johnson duly does, as we can see from his reading list of that year. His *Autobiography* speaks of "several visits" with Berkeley, "and on each spent as much time with him at his house, as he could possibly be spared from home." We know next to nothing of what went on during these visits. Probably interminable philosophical discussions. An indication of this is given at the close of Berkeley's second reply to Johnson: "If at any time your affairs should draw you into these parts, you shall be very welcome to pass as many days as you can spend at my house. Four or five days' conversation would set several things in a fuller and clearer light than writing could do in as many months." It was during one of these visits, when Berkeley was writing his *Minute Philosopher* against infidels and atheists, that Johnson perhaps expressed surprise at the Bishop's insight into these "worldly" thinkers, for he writes in his *Autobiography:* "He had, as he told Mr. Johnson, been several times in their clubs in quality of a learner and so perfectly knew their manner. . . ." The letters themselves make only one reference to these discussions. Johnson writes: "I think I once heard you allow a principle of perception and spontaneous motion in beasts."

But as one reads through all the correspondence and wades through the thickness of its ideas and argumentation one can feel the genuine affection breaking in. After all, the purpose of Berkeley's stay in America (viz., to await funds from the English Parliament to found a College in Bermuda) had failed. His philoso-

phy had been ridiculed on the Continent and anything but well received in England. And here, in America, he finds an ardent and noble follower. It must have consoled him. The *Autobiography* recounts: "The Dean being about to leave America, Mr. Johnson made him his last visit on which occasion he expressed a real friendship and gave him many very valuable books and they parted very affectionately and he condescended to hold a kind correspondence as long as he lived. He left Boston in September, 1731." Just before he sails for Boston to embark for England Berkeley hastily writes Johnson a note in which he tells of leaving behind "a box of books" which he desires be given to "such lads" at the College of New Haven (later Yale) "as you think will make the best use of them." Why does Berkeley desire to "be useful to" the "College of New Haven"? He tells Johnson: "The more so as you were once a member of it."*

The subsequent correspondence has little to do with philosophy. The contents may be summarized roughly as follows:

Berkeley disposes of his Newport farm, the annual income to go to Yale lads who deserve it, who are good in classics, and who pass an examination in the presence of Johnson.

He sends over 1000 books for the Library at New Haven.

He is about to send Johnson "a treatise against those who are called 'Free Thinkers' . . . but on second thoughts suspect it might do mischief to have it known in that part of the world what pernicious opinions are boldly espoused here at home."

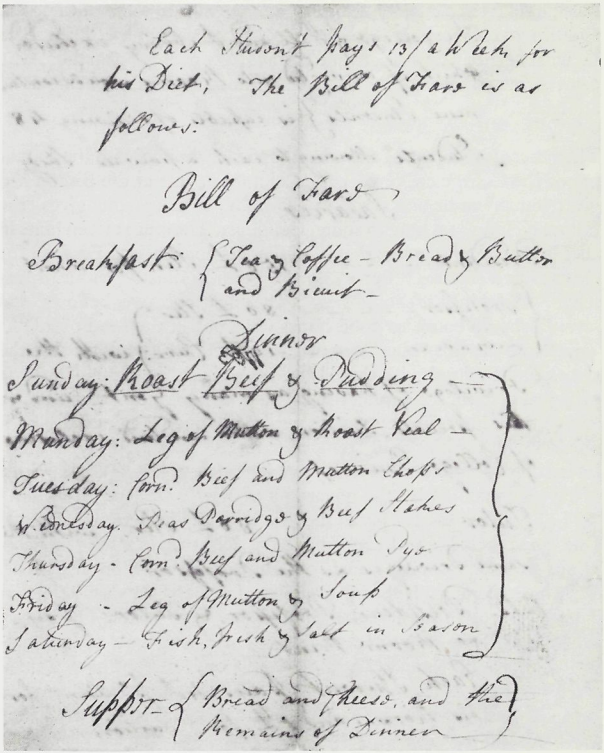
Several letters of Johnson inform Berkeley of religious conditions in America, and of the improvement in classical scholarship due to the Bishop's benefactions. He writes of the wave of religious enthusiasm that follows in the wake of the preacher Whitefield. Perhaps he had

* Johnson writes that he had "retained a kindness" for Yale, his Alma Mater, despite its Rector; he writes in his *Autobiography:* Mr. Johnson "was frequently there [at New Haven], and to all appearance was respectfully treated by Mr. Williams, then Rector, though he knew him to be a zealous dissenter, a great enemy of the Church [Anglican] and of a very insidious temper."

taken a tip from Berkeley, for he goes *incognito* to some of these fire and brimstone meetings. He is an Anglican and he is a little appalled by what he sees: Convulsions and cramps seize people "even those who came as mere spectators" and "even without their minds being at all affected."

Then there is that part of the correspondence dealing with the founding of the College at New York (Columbia). Just as the Bishop had given "hints" to be observed in philosophy, so in 1749, he gives "the following hints" on how to found Columbia. There are eleven hints in all. He first of all suggests that the founders not apply to England for charters and statutes " but to do the business quietly within themselves." He thinks it should have a President and two Fellows, and says: "I should conceive good hopes were you at the head of it." As is well known, this "hint" was carried out. The Bishop says that the Greek and Latin classics should be emphasized, and adds: "But the principal care must be good life and morals to which (as well as to study) early hours and temperate meals will much conduce." In connection with the hint as to "temperate meals" for Columbia lads, it is interesting to note that twelve years later Johnson and a committee of three, appointed by the governors of King's College, drew up a "Bill of Fare for Every Day in the Week" [See illustration over leaf.] One cannot help but feel, as one reads the 'Bill,' that Johnson remained, in diet as in philosophy, a faithful disciple of the Bishop of Cloyne. Berkeley recommends "small premiums in books, or distinctions in habit" as a way of encouraging the students to do better. The Bishop even gives hints as to accommodations: "I would advise that the building be regular, plain, and cheap, and that each student have a small room (about 10 feet square) to himself." The College should not look for much money at the start: "A small matter will suffice to set one a-going" and it will eventually thrive, provided that they make "a handsome provision for the President and Fellows."

One further statement in the Bishop's letter is notable; under the misapprehension that Johnson has (in a letter now lost) asked for financial help in founding Columbia, he writes: "I recommended this nascent seminary to an English Bishop, to try what might be done there. But by his answer it seems the colony is judged rich enough to educate its own youth." This remark must have hurt Johnson a little, for we find him writing (on Sept. 10, 1750) that he had not intended Berkeley to "promote any collection for this intended college. The


Each Student pays 13/ a Week, for his Diet; The Bill of Fare is as follows:

Bill of Fare

Breakfast: { Tea & Coffee – Bread & Butter and Biscuit –

Dinner

Sunday: Roast Beef & Pudding –
Monday: Leg of Mutton & Roast Veal –
Tuesday: Corn. Beef and Mutton Chops
Wednesday: Peas Porridge & Beef Steaks
Thursday – Corn. Beef and Mutton Pye
Friday – Leg of Mutton & Soup
Saturday – Fish, Fish & Sett in Season

Supper – { Bread and Cheese, and the Remains of Dinner

King's College bill of fare, 1763–64, copied out by John Jay while a student there.

utmost that I had in my thoughts was that as I had heard your Lordship was collecting some books for a present to the Library of Cambridge College, I apprehended if you knew of an Episcopal College going forward in these parts, you would perhaps rather turn such a benevolent design towards founding a Library for that. . . ." As for "your Lordship's hints," Johnson is very pleased with them. The "hint" that he be the first President of Columbia is flattering, but Johnson feels he cannot afford to leave his 'Colony.' Moreover, even if he could leave, the founding had been so long delayed "that I shall be too far advanced in life to think of any such undertaking. . . ." When the trustees were nominated shortly after, Johnson gives them Berkeley's recommendations, and writes the Bishop: "They are thankful for the notice you so kindly took of what I had mentioned to you in their behalf, and will form their College on the model you suggested to me. . . ."

Only two more letters passed between them. One is a letter of Johnson to Berkeley accompanying Johnson's *Elementa Philosophica* and asking for the Bishop's corrections. The other is a reply of Berkeley to Johnson, who had asked him if he knew of Hutchinson's writings. Berkeley answers: "I am not acquainted with them. I live in a remote corner where many things escape me."

Three years later Berkeley is dead. Four years later Columbia is founded, and Johnson comes to New York to be its first president. He becomes more and more involved in administrative duties. Sorrows come to him. But he never forgets Berkeley and what he has meant to him. He has tender memories of him. William Smith, who arranged for the London edition of his *Elementa Philosophica*, wrote in the Preface: "He [Johnson] often visited the Dean while he was in Rhode Island, who was then writing his *Minute Philosopher;* and I remember, some months ago, when I was at his house in Connecticut, our author took up the book, and reading some of the Dean's rural descriptions, told me they were, many of them, exactly copied from those charming landscapes that presented themselves to his eye in that delightful island at the time he was writing."

Portrait of Samuel Johnson, President of King's College from 1754–1762, painted by an unknown artist about 1761 when President Johnson would have been sixty-five years of age.

Even as he was dying Johnson remembered Berkeley. In 1772, his son, William Samuel Johnson, writes to Bishop Lowth of Oxford: "My father often wished, and repeated it the morning of his departure, that he might resemble in his death his friend, the late excellent Bishop Berkeley, whose virtues he labored to imitate in his life, and Heaven heard his prayer; for, like him, he expired sitting up in his chair, without a struggle or a groan. . . ."

A few words in conclusion. In this account one feels, unavoidably, that "Hamlet" has been discussed and Hamlet left out. The Hamlet here, for these two men, is ideas; to each of them, ideas are immeasurably important and powerful. We have had to skirt this central fact.

But even from the little that has been said, one fact forces itself upon the attentive reader: these two men, as compared with ourselves, were ceremonious and restrained, but they were completely alive.

Each, in his wide-narrow way, endeavored to "go to the bottom of things." Each, when he got near that bottom, found a reality far richer and intrinsically more precious than the regnant 'corpuscularian' philosophy of their day allowed. "Quite at the commencement of the epoch," Whitehead writes of Berkeley, "he made all the right criticisms, at least in principle." By recurring to these two men, we can the better discover where we are.

The Peccancies of T. J. Wise, et al.

Some Aftermaths of the Exposure

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

IT IS almost exactly twenty years since John Carter and Graham Pollard revealed the fakery behind those troublesome "nineteenth-century pamphlets." Their disclosures were first published in the summer of 1934. They laid open with surgical precision the fatty layers of bibliographical misinformation surrounding the origins and subsequent histories of the pamphlets, and brought to light a series of virulent facts. It is easy enough now to ridicule the "experts" whose lack of vigilance had permitted the disease to spread to such an advanced stage—indeed, such ridiculing speedily became the favorite line with certain people who were, apparently, gifted with very clear hindsight. The simple fact of the matter is that most of us in the fields of collecting, bibliography, and librarianship were caught flatfooted by the exposure, and were dumbfounded to learn that the costly little pamphlets which we had cherished so proudly were, in reality, spurious things without honorable pedigree, without value to collectors, and without merit or significance to scholarship.

It should be clearly understood that, with one or two exceptions which came dangerously near to giving the show away before it was well begun, the forger had not tried to imitate known editions. Nor did he create texts, as most literary forgers before him had done. His contribution to the fine art of fraud was beautifully simple and direct. Selecting an authentic text that had not appeared in separate form he reprinted it with an earlier date than that of the bonafide edition; and then labored diligently to inject into the bibliographic record some gossipy cock-and-bull story of its origin—that would not conflict too seriously with the known facts.

The strength of the scheme lay in the cleverness with which the forgeries were made to look just about as they ought to have looked. Make no mistake—this forger knew his business; so well, in fact, that he successfully overrode all attacks on his pamphlets for a whole generation. Even today we would be powerless to do more than point the finger of suspicion, if Carter and Pollard had not found technical anachronisms in certain of the pamphlets—which the forger could have avoided if he had had any reason to suspect their existence. We must not forget that nearly half of the books in Carter and Pollard's list are there on negative evidence alone, and nothing concrete has appeared since 1934 to close the cases against them.

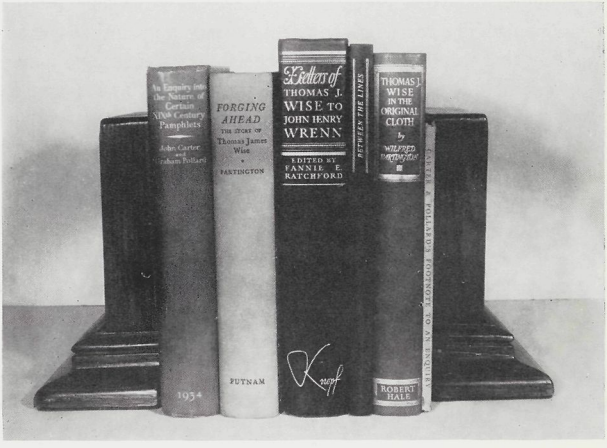
For the most part, the fabricated "rarities" contain poems, essays and similar short works by about fifteen English authors who were popular with collectors and critics during the later Victorian period. The booklets posed as rare separate printings either of well-known works that were otherwise available only in collected editions, or of obscure early contributions to periodicals and anthologies made when their authors were still struggling to reach prominence. The reason given for such separate printing was invariably that the author needed a special limited issue "to secure the copyright," or "for private circulation" among his friends. Only very seldom were they supposed to have been regularly published, because the whole purpose of the forger was to create the impression in the minds of wealthy collectors that these were important rarities, hard to find and expensive to acquire.

Although the pamphlets were variously dated from 1840 onward, not one of them could furnish a verifiable pedigree extending backward beyond the late '80's. They began to be "discovered" about the year 1888, after which new titles cropped up in the rare-book market and in specialized bibliographies at the rate of about half-a-dozen annually for the next ten years. Their appearance naturally caused considerable stir, because each new discovery displaced and deflated a published version already in circulation.

The man whose name was mentioned most frequently in connection with the discoveries was Mr. Thomas James Wise, a London business-man and book-collector with a growing reputation as a bibliographical expert in such groups as the Shelley and Browning Societies. It is true that quite frequently the "finds" were first reported by other authorities, but even then Wise's name invariably cropped up somewhere in the discussion.

That was both his strength and his weakness. In the ten years from 1888 to 1898 Wise rose to pre-eminence in the field of 19th-century English bibliography, due in no small part to his astonishing keenness in ferreting out and describing unheard-of first editions. But it was that same omnipresence in the background of the forged pamphlets which finally brought him under scrutiny, and which he was so pitifully unable to explain when Carter and Pollard published their exposure of the fraud a generation later.

Not that Wise had not had frightening moments almost from the beginning. There had been several occasions when his un-



The Literature of the Exposure, 1934–1948.

masking must have seemed dangerously close, long before Carter and Pollard came into the picture. As early as 1904 two English scholars, Cook and Wedderburn, compilers of the definitive edition of Ruskin's works in 39 volumes, flatly accused four "rare" Ruskin pamphlets, dated variously from 1849 to 1868, of being later printings designed solely to deceive collectors. And several years before that, in January, 1898, Robert Proctor, the final authority on typographical matters at the British Museum, had reported in the pages of *The Athenaeum* that William Morris's pamphlet, *Sir Galahad*, supposedly printed in 1858, could not possibly have been produced by the publishers named in the imprint, because they had never owned the type from which it had been printed. As if that were not enough, in 1901 an American book-dealer, George D. Smith, openly denounced several Tennyson and Swinburne pieces that were being fed into the market too fast to justify their reputation as valuable rarities. As late as 1920 Mrs. Flora V. Livingston of Harvard's Widener Library reversed Wise on a number of his points of priority, including his canonization of the forged "Ottley, Landon" edition of Swinburne's *A Word for the Navy*. Again, in 1922, Wise's weakness in regard to the bibliography of earlier works was castigated by Professor John W. Draper of Bryn Mawr. Draper reviewed the newly-published Wrenn Library catalogue which Wise had edited and claimed responsibility for, in the April issue of *Modern Language Notes*, devoting several pages to enumerating the errors in the work. Draper concluded, caustically, that "Some of them are merely stupid blunders; but others, unfortunately, suggest an intentional desire to mislead, and to make the items appear more important than they are."

Wise carefully kept out of the public discussions arising from these mutterings. He had had one rather close call, and he was not a man to have to learn a lesson twice. When tempted to make a hot rejoinder, he had only to recall the incident involving Stevenson's essay *Some College Memories*. That pamphlet, dated 1886, contains a short essay which had been published by T. and A.

Constable in an anthology, *The New Amphion*. When the separate made its first public appearance in an auction in 1897, fetching £12, the Constables wrote a letter to *The Athenaeum*, calling it "merely a pirated reprint, of which the sale is illegal." Despite the obvious authority with which the Constables spoke, *The Athenaeum* editors, before publishing the charges, consulted with Wise, and it was presumably he who prepared an unsigned editorial paragraph which appeared beside and in rebuttal of the accusation, but which completely ignored the main points at issue. Whereupon the Constables wrote another letter, setting forth in tabular detail their case against the pamphlet. It should have been quite clear to Wise that the matter had gone too far for anything less than direct answers to the charges, but, lacking experience and relying too much on his growing reputation, he defended the pamphlet over his own signature in the next issue of *The Athenaeum*. Having no better strategy available, he again resorted to irrelevant generalities, and there was no disguising the obvious fact that he had, after all, no real reply to the accusations. That brought him very close to disaster, for his letter evoked a sarcastic rejoinder from a third party, the internationally prominent bookseller, Frank T. Sabin. Whereupon Wise realized his dangerous position and hurriedly dropped out of the controversy; and he never again permitted himself to be drawn so deeply into the public defense of what he knew to be, in the last analysis, beyond justification.

Thereafter, Wise's published statements about the forgeries usually were woven out of irrelevant gossip and categorical pronouncements, all carefully designed to create the impression that a consistent story had been told, and that he had drawn on a vast fund of detailed information which it would be folly to challenge. When his comments are analyzed, far too many of his statements are found to be either wholly unsupported, or attributed to dead or obscure persons from whom there could be no danger of contradiction. Whenever possible, of course, facts were cited from authorities whom no one would dream of questioning. But too

often such factual citations are padding, and either have no real bearing on the matter in hand, or they have been carefully distorted, amplified, or purposely misinterpreted to suit Wise's case. He ran no great risk in doing that. The worst that could happen would be a letter of gentlemanly remonstrance from the injured party, published in the correspondence column of some learned periodical—which Wise, in his own time, could answer with a letter that would further befog the issue; and the matter would thus drag along until all concerned would be thoroughly sick of it. Meanwhile, Wise's original distortion would stand in his published bibliography, the only part of the whole business that would be remembered. This is not the magnification of a single occurrence into a generality; it happened over and over again.

In any case, the fact remains that no lasting impression was made by any of the published challenges, disquieting as they may have been to Mr. Wise and to the more thoughtful collectors who were active around the turn of the century. All of the challenges had been largely forgotten when Carter and Pollard began their investigations some thirty years later. The important thing was that Wise had never been directly implicated, nor had anyone else been convincingly accused of responsibility for *all* of the frauds. When, for example, the type facsimile of Swinburne's *Siena* (1868) was exposed in the early 1890's, it was laid at the doorstep of John Camden Hotten; on the other hand Tennyson's *The Lover's Tale* (1870)—a forgery of a piracy, by the way—was assigned to Richard Herne Shepherd. These two men, Hotten and Shepherd, seem to have alternated as whipping-boys at that time in all matters of unauthorized publication.

Nevertheless, it should be made quite clear that not all 19th-century bibliographers, dealers, and collectors were completely taken in by the fraud. On the contrary, no less than nine of the forgeries had been openly indicted and, if we may judge by mysteriously fluctuating auction records, there were murmurings against many others. The reason that the suspicions progressed no farther than they did lay simply in the fact that no one guessed the

true extent of the operations, or noticed the continuity and basic similarity that linked the pamphlets together. As a consequence, the matter resolved itself into a series of unrelated investigations, with each newly questioned book comprising a separate problem.

When Carter and Pollard took up the work, however, they were immediately struck with the fact that they were dealing, not with a series of individual problems, but with a single problem that involved a whole group of pamphlets, all connected by obvious similarities in—to use their own words—"date, format and bibliographical status," and the "habit of turning up, in well-defined groups, in miscellaneous auction sales and in the catalogues of certain booksellers; always in fine original condition." Before long another common factor became apparent; in the background of each pamphlet was always to be found one man, alone or with others—T. J. Wise.

The *Enquiry* which Carter and Pollard published in 1934 set out to do one thing—to establish the true status of the 50-odd pamphlets which had attracted their suspicions. When their work was done they had not only proved their cases against more than half of the suspects to their own and to most other observers' satisfaction—they had in the meantime discovered the most likely candidate for the role of the original forger. Lacking legal proof, however, they did not openly charge Mr. Wise, but they entangled him in such a web of circumstantial evidence that, after a few Pyrrhic efforts to shift the blame, he retreated into a silence no less damaging. At the time of his death three years later he had still made no adequate explanation of his position.

Carter and Pollard's exposure of the forgeries and the part that Wise had played had a varied reception. The early reviewers of the *Enquiry* fall readily into a few categories. There were those who exulted in the discomfiture of the libraries and wealthy collectors who suddenly found themselves owning worthless forgeries instead of rare first editions. There were those more scholarly reviewers, such as R. B. McKerrow, A. J. A. Symons, I. A. Williams, to name only a few, who saw the book for what it

was—an important step toward an era of sounder bibliographical study. But there were still other reviewers who tried to discount the whole proceeding. Most of the people in the last group were friends of Wise, or bibliographers who had in their own studies depended on his statements, and they simply could not bring themselves to accept without struggle the deadly conclusion that was forced upon them. Among these were such men as Gabriel Wells whose pamphlet "The Carter-Pollard Disclosures" appeared soon after the *Enquiry* was published. Wells made much of the fact that Carter and Pollard had brought in no clinching verdict against Wise, but had, as he thought, attacked the character of an aging man, ill and defenseless after a long life spent in the service of bibliography. Another Wise supporter was J. Christian Bay, who cried down the significance of the forged items, and in general belittled the importance of Carter and Pollard's studies. He too pointed out that the disclosure " should never have been printed as a grand insinuation—or if you please as a mystery story without the final solution."

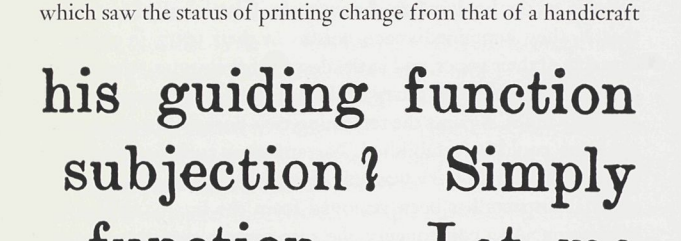
Completely untypical, but nevertheless indicative of the acrimony which the exposure incited was the amazing correspondence which ran in the English *Publishers' Circular* from December of 1934 to the following March. The unknown columnist—unknown to me, that is—who signed himself "Alpha," deeply resented the *Enquiry's* slur on English integrity in general and on Wise's in particular. In trying to show that the faked pamphlets must have been of American origin, Alpha vaulted from one absurdity to another, making assumptions and flat statements without regard to the obvious facts, until, apparently, the editorial board saw the ridiculous position in which the magazine was being placed, and put a stop to his fancies. From that day to this no serious attempt has been made to discount the major guilt of T. J. Wise, although Miss Fannie Ratchford, who will be mentioned at greater length later in this discussion, has enjoyed a measure of success in her efforts to place Harry Buxton Forman and Edmund Gosse in the defendants' box along with Wise.

It has been said that Carter and Pollard's *Enquiry* has been "perhaps the most widely reviewed book of the quarter century," and it is certainly true that the book has attracted attention from all sides, calling forth praise—as well as some criticism—from many of the most prominent students of bibliography. For the authors brought to bear on the problem a technique that had never before been applied—we must wonder why—to the study of modern books.

It may be helpful to summarize briefly the methods by which positive proof was established against the forgeries. When it became clear that none of the books had a provenance traceable to the stated date of origin (overwhelmingly suspicious when it is remembered that most of them were supposed to have been printed "for private circulation," the very kind of book which authors are most likely to autograph for their friends), Carter and Pollard searched for possible anachronisms within the texts, in the papers of which the pamphlets were made, and in the designs of the types from which they were printed. The fraudulence of five of the 50-odd booklets was determined when the forger was shown to have used a wrong version of the text or preliminary matter; and in this connection Carter and Pollard not only took full advantage of the earlier work of editors such as Cook and Wedderburn, but added some discoveries of their own.

The study of the ingredients of paper yielded some valuable data which may serve future investigators well—not only as regards the limited field of the forged pamphlets, but in the broader aspects of research involving all undated works of the related period. Carter and Pollard brought to general notice two very useful points in the chronology of papermaking: first, the date 1861, when esparto grass came into use in England as an ingredient of paper; and second, the date 1874, when the sulphite process for the manufacture of wood pulp was perfected. Both dates have withstood the cross-fire of controversy that flared up when the exposure was published. And on the evidence of those dates 22 of the suspected pamphlets were proven to have fraudulent imprints.

Investigation into type designs led Carter and Pollard into another productive field. In this instance, while the actual findings have specific reference only to a handful of pamphlets, they furnish an excellent example of modern bibliographical technique —and one which shows how much valuable work remains to be done in the typographical history of the 19th century, a period which saw the status of printing change from that of a handicraft



The forger's special type—with kernless 'f' and 'j' and wrong-font query sign. (Enlarged reproduction).

to one of our most highly-mechanized industries. Carter and Pollard's specific contribution lay in their identification of a certain mixed font of type, the discovery of the printers who had created the mixture, and the fixing of the period during which it had been in use. The purposes of this discussion will be served by simply stating that the mixture was found to consist of three elements—the body type, two special characters of an unusual design (lower case "f" and "j"), and an interrogation mark that was definitely "wrong font." The printers who created and used this three-way mixture were the Clay company of London, and the period of use was set from 1880 to 1893. (The period was later extended through the researches of the present writer to 1877 on the one hand and to 1895 on the other, without affecting the

validity of the type evidence.) Carter and Pollard were thus able to show that sixteen of the suspected books, supposedly printed from 1842 to 1873 by printers in widely separated localities, were actually not produced until much later, and originated in a single printing office. When that fact was established, the pamphlets lost all standing as the first editions which they were represented to be.

Some of the books were shown to be false by all three tests—that is, they contained anachronisms in their texts, in the constituents of their paper, and in the design of their type. Altogether, tabulation showed that thirty of the original 50-odd suspects were certainly fakes. Against the remaining two-dozen titles no positive evidence could be established. Nevertheless, twenty years have passed since the *Enquiry* was published, and not a single one of the original suspects has been removed from the list by further investigation. As a consequence the case against even those which had to be set aside as "not proved" has gained strength by default. On the other hand, only a bare half-dozen pamphlets have been *added* to the list (two by the present writer in 1936 and four "Ottley, Landon" imprints exposed by Carter and Pollard in 1946) —a tribute indeed to the carefulness and precision of the original study.

After the wave of formal reviews had spent its force, the greater implications of the disclosure began to be felt as scholars adjusted themselves to the new status of T. J. Wise. As things stand today, the forging of editions of Victorian literary works seems to be pretty fully documented, and the losses in that connection can be counted.* If we pass over the financial aspect, we are forced to

* I detest footnotes, but, since no "scholarly" article can be without at least one, this seems to be the place for mine. In 1861 Emily Faithfull & Co. produced *Victoria Regia*, an anthology edited by Miss Adelaide Proctor, who had persuaded a number of authors to contribute pieces on the understanding that the profits from the venture were to go to charity. Two of the known forgeries listed by Carter and Pollard are separate printings of contributions to *Victoria Regia*—Tennyson's *The Sailor Boy* (1861) and Thackeray's *A Leaf out of a Sketch-Book* (1861). Both were printed on paper not available at the purported date of issue. The story as given by Wise in his bibliography of Tennyson is that special issues of twenty-five copies of each of the items were prepared for the authors in acknowledgment of their generosity. Wise also says that a third contribution, Coventry Patmore's

admit that nothing essential had been lost because of Wise's pamphlet forgeries. Even though the Reading 1847 imprint on the "Sonnets of E. B. B." must be disregarded—along with the pretty story that was fabricated to support it—at least the sonnets themselves remain. And the date of their first appearance in print has only to be moved along three years to 1850—which is just where it had been before Wise drew attention to his fictitious separate.

But the fact that Wise was involved in the fraud has much more serious implications. For Wise, in his half-century of collecting and bibliographical pontification, dealt in all periods of English literature from Spenser to Conrad. As a consequence, any student in whatever field who finds himself tempted to rely on Wise's categorical statements is warned of the risk that he is running. The question is no longer the relatively simple one of whether certain "rare first issues" are what they have been represented to be. It is a much larger problem, involving all phases of bibliography upon which Wise has set his stamp. That seems an almost intolerable conclusion to reach. Wise occupied the pinnacle of his profession so long that his opinions have been accepted without question by scholars who were better men than he in every respect. The full import of the disheartening warning will be realized only when one recalls the eleven large volumes of Wise's "Ashley Library Catalogue," and the fuller treatments that fill the many specialized bibliographies and the countless forewords and essays which Wise contributed during his life.

That the warning is not merely asking for trouble has been many times demonstrated. After the publication of *The Enquiry* one of the first to notice—in print, at least—Wise's wider bibliographical weakness was William H. McCarthy, Jr., then with the Wrenn

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The Circles, was separately printed in the same way and for the same reason. But, so far as Carter and Pollard knew in 1934, and so far as I have been able to determine since then, *no copy of the Patmore piece is extant!* Most probably it never existed, because Patmore was not worth forging, and Wise merely created a mare's nest to bolster his two saleable fakes. But if a copy of *The Circles* should ever turn up, it will almost certainly have to be added to the list of forgeries. It remains a possibility that *all* of the Wise forgeries have not yet been isolated.

Library at Austin, Texas. In an article published in 1936, Mr. McCarthy discussed the chronological order of three known variants of the first edition of Byron's *The Corsair*, 1814. Before he had finished, he had exactly reversed the order as established by Wise in his "Ashley Catalogue" in 1922, and, in greater detail, in his *Byron Bibliography* published ten years later.

John Carter also undertook to face Wise down on his own ground. This occurred in the pages of the *Times Literary Supplement* a few months before the *Enquiry* was published, in connection with the vexed question of the four variants of Tennyson's leaflet, *A Welcome to Alexandra*, 1863. Wise had established a chronological sequence for two of the variants, not knowing of the existence of the others. Carter demonstrated that no priority of issue could possibly be established, since it was clear that the piece—a four-page leaflet—had been set up twice, both settings being printed simultaneously as a "work-and-turn" operation. When the first run was found to be insufficient to meet the demand for the poem (it was circulated widely on the occasion of Alexandra's visit to England) a second run was undertaken; but this time the forms of type were locked up in a different position. Thus all four variants are readily accounted for; but inasmuch as no corrections were made between the runs, and since the time element can be measured in days—possibly in hours—it is now impossible to say which pair of variants came first. And because no textual differences are involved the whole question becomes academic, even to collectors. One variant is as desirable as another.

In the spring of 1938 Mrs. Janet Camp Troxell published in *The Colophon* an exhaustive study of "The Trial Books of Dante Gabriel Rossetti," in which she made some important corrections of the bibliography of that author as it had been set down by Wise. Mrs. Troxell's work is typical of what must be done—Wise's writings must all be reviewed and corrected or amplified in the light of sounder and more definitive research than he saw fit to perform.

But none of the examples which I have cited reveal anything

worse than a human weakness for making honest mistakes. It is true that for decades Wise was always the first to admit that he was infallible, and it is equally true that the growing mass of evidence to the contrary is not entirely unpleasant news to younger bibliographers who are learning that, after all, everything has *not* been done. But evidence of a more ominous side of Wise's activities is growing. He was not merely a slipshod bibliographer whose work must now be done all over again. He was not merely a forger of a well-defined group of Victorian literary pamphlets, the essential value of which was doubtful from the beginning, and by means of which he was able to prey on wealthy collectors. It is now beginning to be shown that there is an entirely different aspect to his operations that has nowhere been discussed comprehensively because its existence has only recently been suspected, and because many years of research will be required before even an estimate of its possible extent can be reached.

The late Professor George F. Whicher of Amherst sounded the first published warning of the new danger in his article in *The Colophon* in the summer of 1937. He discussed what he and the late Professor John Edwin Wells had learned about the 1798 edition of Wordsworth's *Lyrical Ballads*—a volume which Wilfred Partington has also analyzed in his biography of Wise, originally published under the title *Forging Ahead* in 1939, and re-issued later as *Thomas James Wise in the Original Cloth*. Wise's copy of *Lyrical Ballads* has a cancelled leaf containing a correction of the text. In his bibliography of Wordsworth, Wise asserted that any copy *without* the cancel must of course be the earlier issue, but he added that such copies would seldom be found. As a matter of fact they are not at all rare, except insofar as the entire edition is rare. No other copy than Wise's (it is now in the British Museum with the rest of the Ashley Library) of the corrected variety has ever come to light. There is a very good reason for that; even in photographic reproductions the cancel shows up as an obvious piece of trumpery. The result of Wise's dictum was the creation of a false premium for all other copies than his own—a very curious

state of affairs indeed, until it is recalled that Wise, though he tried to disguise the fact, was primarily a rare-book agent.

Miss Fannie Ratchford, Librarian of the Rare Books Collections at the University of Texas, has noticed a similar instance. In an article in the *Southwest Review*, Miss Ratchford demonstrated that the rare first issue of Tennyson's *Enoch Arden*, 1864, with the variant title-page reading *Idylls of the Hearth*, is an almost certain example of fraudulent tampering. Wise and Forman had stated that, after the volume had been completely printed, Tennyson suddenly decided to change the name of the poem. Accordingly the "Idylls of the Hearth" title-page was cancelled and the "Enoch Arden" version was inserted. But Miss Ratchford has shown that the exact opposite is true, for all extant copies of *Idylls of the Hearth* have stubbed-in titles and all *Enoch Arden* title-pages are originals. The result is a manufactured "rarity," and Wise's story simply does not fit the facts.

It should be plain that problems such as those just cited are in no way related to the pamphlet forgeries; they represent an entirely different formula. The tendency to group all of Wise's operations together should be discouraged. Indeed, his direct connection with the *Lyrical Ballads* and *Enoch Arden* cancels is presumptive rather than definite. Nevertheless, whether he was responsible for the tampering, whether he took advantage of tampering by others, or whether—most improbably—he was merely the tool of even greater rascals, Wise's canonization of the faked rarities supplies the best point of departure for their exposure. The Ashley Catalogue, replete with unsupported statements, will be the standard reference in this work. Obviously, of course, not all investigations into Wise's circumstantial and categorical pronouncements will yield fresh examples of forgery or fakery. But since we don't know what to trust and what to discard, we shall have to find out the hard way, and all of Wise's work will need to be re-examined. And, fortunately, *some* investigations into what at first glance may appear to be frauds will reveal true rarities, all the more precious for having been removed from suspicion.

John Carter's exoneration of Stevenson's *The Hanging Judge*, in the scarce proof issue of 1887, is a case in point; doubtless such instances could be multiplied indefinitely. But, inevitably, some of the investigations will reveal further examples of bibliographical tampering.

So far in this discussion I have dealt only with the part played by Mr. Wise, and not at all with the vexed question of what assistance he might have had in fabricating and passing off the forgeries. I have never been able, from the beginning of my acquaintance with the exposure, to believe that Wise worked alone and single-handed, but until recently there has been nothing solid upon which to base those suspicions. The possible complicity of Harry Buxton Forman, upon whom Wise tried to thrust the blame in his letters to the *Times Literary Supplement* after the *Enquiry* was published, has been argued long and vehemently by Miss Ratchford. Her best case against him was presented in the introduction of her edition of *The Letters of Thomas James Wise to John Henry Wrenn*, published late in 1944. Her insistence brought considerable censure from reviewers, for she was not permitted to back her assertions with clinching proof—although she knew the proof existed, and had seen it. About a year later, however, she presented the supporting documents in Mr. Carl H. Pforzheimer's publication *Between the Lines; Letters and Memoranda interchanged by H. Buxton Forman and Thomas James Wise* (1945). The evidence is incontrovertible—in one instance, at least (that of Tennyson's *Last Tournament*, dated 1871, but in reality not printed until 1896), Forman must have been hand in glove with Wise. But "once" does not mean "always," and there is much to support the belief that Forman was as completely in the dark about many of the forgeries as anyone else.

As for Edmund Gosse, Miss Ratchford's case against him, in the opinion of most reviewers, amounts to little more than suspicion. Many authorities differ sharply from her views. Professor W. O. Raymond of Bishop's University published a lengthy article in July, 1945, in support of Gosse. Mr. Edmund Blunden, in an article

in the *Times Literary Supplement* of September 28, 1946, seems to sum up the matter fairly in his statement that "Against Gosse, whom Miss Ratchford pursues with a wild but punitive desire, the main exhibit is a single word written in the margin of a proofsheet for one of the forgeries. I knew his handwriting well. That word is not in his hand. Even if it were, it does not prove that he knew the purpose of the printing. Wise was surely equal to that."

It is not likely that the question will ever come to anything more than this—one opinion against another. It will be well to remember, however, that Forman was finally brought to justice mainly because of Miss Ratchford's insistence in spite of almost universal dissent. She may also be right in her opinion of Gosse. But as things now stand not a shred of legal evidence against him has been brought forward.

In my own opinion very little was gained by convicting Forman, and hardly more could be expected from the (altogether unlikely) establishment of Gosse's guilt. Possibly others, so far completely unsuspected, were involved to some extent and on some occasions. To my mind the important consideration is that one person, Wise, was connected with the fraud in *all* of its aspects; and that fact gives us the needed starting point in our work of unravelling the tangle of forgeries, piracies, and altered copies which the *Enquiry* and other more recent studies have shown us exists. It may be justice to uncover the guilt of Wise's accomplices, and it may be very desirable to do so for other considerations. But that project lies in the field of biography, not bibliography. Whatever the moral issues involved in the Wise forgeries, I must admit that, speaking as a bibliographer, I am primarily concerned that the full extent of his various operations be determined, and that clean and faithful records be supplied in place of the ones which can no longer be trusted.

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Their Care, Preservation and Restoration

POLLY LADA-MOCARSKI AND LAURA S. YOUNG

The Council of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries has appointed a Committee to encourage study of the specialized problems concerned with the care, preservation and repair of rare books and manuscripts. There is an urgent need for competent advice on these questions and the Committee plans to develop this subject further from time to time in future issues of *Columbia Library Columns*. In the meantime, anyone desiring further information may write to the Committee on the Binding and Preservation of Books and Manuscripts, in care of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries.

WHAT makes a book rare—what makes it a desirable acquisition—what makes it worth preserving? There are many criteria which can be used to answer these questions. Some things are rare because they are "unusually excellent" in their workmanship or production; some because they are "exceedingly uncommon"; others because they are "of a relatively small class"; and still others are valuable, perhaps not rare, because they represent milestones in human progress, or because of their association with an individual or an institution. These are the materials that constitute, for the most part, our Collectors' items and fill to overflowing our "rare book rooms"; these are the materials that bring joy and prestige to their owners.

Since the turn of the century the number of rare books and manuscripts which have come to this country has increased prodigiously—and is constantly increasing. Has the care and preservation of this material kept pace with its acquisition? Are the owners or custodians of all this valuable material, as well as the great wealth of Americana, properly discharging the responsibility for these holdings which are in the nature of a trust to be preserved

for future generations? The answer, unfortunately, is "no" in far too many cases.

It becomes necessary at this point to state a fairly obvious truth which has nearly been lost sight of in the care and preservation of rare library material—namely, that only qualified craftsmen can provide an adequate solution of the various problems involved.

A book that requires minor repairs today may, without proper attention, need major repairs in a few years; a mutilated page or manuscript letter, if not repaired, may even become irreparably damaged. With each passing year of indifference or neglect, the need for a constructive, integrated program within each library becomes more urgent. Broadly speaking, for such a program there must be an awareness among library administrators, or private collectors, of the necessity of initiating a long-range program to be kept up year in and year out. Such a program must, of course, be related to the over-all budget. At present the emphasis, more often than not, is placed on "acquisition" and "use," to the detriment of care and preservation. The principal reasons for this imbalance are the insufficient attention paid to the latter aspect of librarianship in library schools and the indifference of the private collector to these matters.

It is not suggested that the collector or the librarian himself be an expert binder or restorer. Both of them, however, should be able to recognize the nature of the problem when they see leather bindings turning into powdery dust, hinges cracking, boards severed from their backs or the text badly foxed. They should have enough technical knowledge to judge the qualifications of those to whom they entrust the delicate job of preservation or restoration, and to know that the processes employed have been sound and well executed. To follow any other course is fraught with danger and may even result in serious damage to rare or irreplaceable material or its total loss.

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

ONCE before in these pages attention was called to the fact that library exhibitions, by revealing both strengths and lacks in the collections from which they are drawn, often stimulate gifts of valuable and unusual items. Several instances of this are to be noted in the following paragraphs. Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel, for example, knowing of our desire to hold an exhibition of children's literature next year, have presented a number of key pieces, the latest being the "Peter Rabbit" books described below. The James F. Drake firm presented an original drawing by Palmer Cox for the Alexander Hamilton exhibit, but because it was received just as the exhibit was to be closed, it is being held for the children's books display. The decision to hold during the coming summer an exhibition concerning developments that have come about since the Wise-Forman pamphlet forgeries were first exposed twenty years ago has resulted in the gift of fifteen of the forgeries—three from Mr. Howard Mott and twelve presented anonymously.

Adams Papers: Additions continue to be made to the correspondence of the late James Truslow Adams (Litt.D. 1924), the main part of which was presented by Mrs. Adams. Recently two important additions were received. Mr. Orrin G. Judd presented fourteen letters written to him by Adams between 1934 and 1942; and Mr. Henry Hazlitt added three which he had received during 1930.

Architecture: Mr. William Partridge (1887 Architecture) compiled for and presented to the Avery Architectural Library his manuscript recollections of the work of the architect McKim in

the designing of the Mall in Washington, D.C. Mr. Partridge was Chief of Staff of the Park Commission in 1901 during McKim's stay in Washington, and he saw the work unfold at first hand. The manuscript of more than 100 pages is extended by numerous clippings and other inserted matter, and comprises a unique unpublished document.

Bacon, Francis: Instauratio Magna, London, 1620. The gift of Mr. Winslow Ames (1929 C). It is a fine copy of a very scarce work, which has been in Mr. Ames' family since 1816, when it was presented to his great-grandfather, William Johnson, by Dr. Bruce (presumably the Scotch metallurgist).

Columbiana: Mr. Edmund Astley Prentis (1906 EM) and Mrs. Katherine Prentis Murphy have presented three items of singular importance in Columbia's history. One of these, an autograph letter from Benjamin Franklin to Reverend Samuel Johnson (first President of King's College), dated 27 October 1753 and concerned with Johnson's philosophical treatise, *Noetica*, has been on deposit in Special Collections for some time, the gift being formalized recently in connection with the opening of the Bicentennial celebration. Of the other items, one is a *Breviarium*, printed at Antwerp by the Plantin heirs, 1703, which had been in the library of Reverend Samuel Johnson ("liber ex dono Jacobi Laborie, M.D., Jan. 14 . . . 1723/4"). The remaining item is a copy of N. F. Moore's *Address to the Alumni of Columbia College*, 1848, inscribed by the author to the Reverend John N. McLeod (class of 1826).

Epictetus: Epictetus Enchiridion, Oxford, 1680. The gift of Mr. W. A. Lyon.

Friedman Gift: Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D. 1908) has been a faithful Friend and a regular donor. In recent months he has presented a number of important books and manuscripts: the Bible in

French, printed at Amsterdam in 1669 by the Elzeviers in two magnificent folio volumes; Samuel Daniel, *Collection of the History of England*, 1626; Mrs. John Kinzie, *Wau-Bun*, 1856; Gottfried Kleiner, *Prediger und Hirten-Stimme*, 1739; John Milton, *Paradise Regained* (with *Samson Agonistes*), 1671; John de Serres, *Generall Historie of France*, 1611; Theocritus, Bion and Moschus, *Idylls and Epigrams*, Bibliophile Society, 1905, three volumes; *Veterum Scriptorum qui Caesarum et Imperatorum Germanicorum . . .*, 1584; and a manuscript doctoral degree in canon law, granted to one Joseph de Arce Cabrera in 1642, with pendant seal.

Kendall Collection: Presented by Mrs. Christine Herter Kendall, daughter of the late Dr. Christian A. Herter (P & S 1885) who was formerly Professor of Pharmacology and Therapeutics in the College. The collection comprises an outstanding group of manuscripts, autograph letters, and portraits of important scientists, including twenty-eight letters from personages such as Stephen Hales, Helmholtz, Calmette, Liebig, Leibnitz, Darwin, Voight, Jenner, Linnaeus, Von Guericke, Faraday, and Michael Foster. Many of the letters contain data of scientific and historical importance: for example, Voight's letter of 1863 describes his method of forming blood crystals—the very method that is in use today. There is a leaf from the original manuscript of Darwin's *Origin of Species*, authenticated by his daughter, Henrietta Darwin Litchfield, and presented by her to Dr. Herter.

The collection was presented to the Medical Library through the courtesy of Dr. Hans T. Clarke, Professor of Biochemistry, who is a friend of the family.

Juveniles: Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel (1916 C) have presented the rare first edition of Sarah Austin's translation out of the German of *The Story Without an End*, London, 1834, and a magnificent set of the first editions of Beatrix Potter's "Peter Rabbit" books. One of the latter, *The Tailor of Gloucester* (the second in the series),

contains the bookplate of Edith C. Pollock and a letter of presentation to her in which the author says, "I think if it is ever reprinted the story will be a good deal shortened." Some impression of the remarkable condition of the set can be gained from the fact that several of the volumes are still, after nearly fifty years, in their original printed glassine dust wrappers.

The Brownies at the Burr-Hamilton monument, Weehawken, New Jersey. From the original pen sketch by Palmer Cox which was given by James F. Drake, Incorporated.

Another item of juvenilia came from the firm of James F. Drake, Incorporated, with the presentation of an original pen drawing by Palmer Cox of his famous "Brownies." The drawing, the original sketch for the plate on page 55 of his *The Brownies Through the Union*, 1895, shows the various characters grouped about the monument in Weehawken, New Jersey, which marks the spot where, in the words of one of the Brownies,

". . . Hamilton, indeed,
Met Burr at morn, as was agreed,
And fell in that sad useless strife
That closed his bright and useful life."

Lenin Pamphlets: Mr. Valerien Lada-Mocarski presented two exceedingly scarce and valuable booklets by Nikolai Lenin—early revolutionary pamphlets written by this leader of Bolshevik thought during a crucial period in the formative years of the movement. The titles, translated, are: *What is To Be Done?*, Stuttgart, 1902; and *One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*, Geneva, 1904.

Manuscripts: Our efforts to build a substantial collection of the book manuscripts of recent authors continues to be met with enthusiastic response. Seven such manuscripts have been added recently.

Mr. Millen Brand (AB 1929) has presented four of his own manuscripts: *Local Lives; Poetry; Some Love, Some Hunger;* and his article "How to Read *The Human Comedy*."

Mrs. Reginald Barclay presented the bound typescript of *Two Years Abroad, 1887–89*, written by her mother, Maria L'Hommedieu Fahys.

Miss Henrietta Mason presented the manuscript of her first novel, *White Orchid*.

Mr. Stark Young (AM 1902) sent the manuscript of his *Immortal Shadows* to be added to the file of his other manuscripts which he has presented in the past.

Daniel Gregory Mason Collection: Mrs. Daniel Gregory Mason has presented the papers of her late husband. The collection comprises more than 2,100 pieces, including some 1,350 letters, 90 business papers, 16 composition scrapbooks, 316 manuscript and printed scores, and 130 books, mostly editions of Mason's own writings but including the works of others which he had annotated heavily.

Daniel Gregory Mason, besides being one of America's leading composers, was for many years McDowell Professor in Music at Columbia University, and was a forceful participant in musical circles not only in New York but throughout the country. This collection of his papers will therefore be an invaluable resource for scholars concerning themselves with our cultural history over the past generation.

Nevins Papers: Professor Allan Nevins has completed the transfer of selected parts of his personal and professional correspondence to Special Collections. Included in the gift are approximately 12,000 letters to Professor Nevins from various correspondents, such as James Truslow Adams, Newton D. Baker, Van Wyck Brooks, Willa Cather, Archibald MacLeish, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Carl Sandburg, Harry S. Truman, Henry Wallace, etc. In addition there are several hundred other autograph letters and manuscripts, including letters of Presidents, Civil War figures, financiers, politicians, and authors, as well as groups of material such as the Hewitt and Fremont papers. There are also voluminous notes and typescripts of materials used by Professor Nevins in the writing of his various studies, such as *The Emergence of Lincoln*, *The Ordeal of Democracy*, and *Rockefeller*.

One of the most notable of the lots in the collection is the group of twenty-one closely-written diaries of Brand Whitlock representing his years as minister and ambassador to Belgium during World War I.

Mitchell, Samuel L.: The Picture of New York . . ., 1807. Presented as a Bicentennial gift by Mr. Edward Van Winkle (1900 E).

Mendell Bequest: Through the courtesy of Miss Roslyn J. Mendell the library of the late Dr. Samuel Mendell was presented. The collection comprises nearly 600 text, reference, and serial publi-

cations in the fields of optometry, physiology, anatomy, pathology and psychology.

Raddin Gift: Mr. George C. Raddin, Jr. (AB 1930) presented three autograph letters of Pierre Menard (dated 30 July 1807, 12 August 1808, and 19 August 1809), and one autograph letter from Edmond Menard (son of Pierre) to his mother, dated 4 May 1827.

Russian Works: Professor and Mrs. Philip E. Mosely continued their presentation of useful books and serials relating to Russia and Soviet policy. The current gift numbers more than 850 items.

Wise Forgeries: The interest stimulated in the subject of the Wise pamphlet forgeries by the recent Friends program and the projected exhibition has resulted in the gift of fifteen of the pamphlets. Three of these came from Mr. Howard Mott, and twelve from a donor who prefers anonymity. Columbia now owns twenty-one of the fraudulent items, which augurs well for the success of the forthcoming exhibition.

Mr. Mott also presented three other literary first editions: two by James Branch Cabell (*The Eagle's Shadow*, 1904, first issue, and *The Cream of the Jest*, 1917); and one by Swinburne (a proof copy of Wise's limited issue of *Grace Darling*, 1893).

Activities of the Friends

Finances

DURING the period from April 1, 1953, to March 31, 1954, the Friends have contributed in cash a total of $15,380.50. Of this, $2,166 was given in general support of our activities and $13,214.50 was designated for special purposes. Included in the latter category is $1,500 given by Dr. Jerome P. Webster for the purchase of books on plastic surgery in continuance of the long series of such benefactions from him and $9,000 from a most generous anonymous donor for the purchase of two rare books for Special Collections.

The presenting of funds for the purchase of books as memorial gifts has become increasingly popular. Since the first such gift was made in May, 1952, six members of the Friends have given a total of $1,798 for this purpose. (Reprints of the article entitled "Books as Living Memorials" which appeared in the February, 1954, issue of *Columbia Library Columns* are available, upon request, from the Secretary of the Friends.)

The comparative figures for contributions by our members for the three years since the Friends of the Columbia Libraries came into existence are as follows:

1951–52 (June 1–May 30)	$ 2,950.19
1952–53 (June 1–March 31)*	8,254.08
1953–54 (April 1–March 31)	15,380.50
Total	$26,584.77

In addition to the gifts of funds, Friends have given an impressive number of books and manuscripts to the Libraries. The estimated total value of such gifts for the period from January

* Ten-month period. The reporting period was changed to April 1–March 31 to permit publication of annual totals in the May issue of the *Columns*.

1, 1951, to March 31, 1954, is $99,811.17. (For Library record purposes, a valuation figure is secured for each item or group of items received from a donor. In the absence of specific valuation information, the staff supervisor who has the best knowledge of the subject field involved provides an unofficial estimate.) Some of the donors of books and manuscripts are now, as Friends, continuing generous benefactions to the Libraries which they started before our organization was formed.

Last year at this time our membership was 266; it is now about 280.

Meetings

On the evening of March 26 a meeting of the Friends was held at the home of Dr. Dallas Pratt at which Roland Baughman spoke on the forgeries of Thomas J. Wise, reviewing the investigations which led to the exposure of Wise's activities and describing the impact of the revelations at the Huntington Library where Mr. Baughman was at that time Associate Curator. Much of the substance of his talk is contained in his article in this issue of the *Columns*, plus discussion of the problems which bibliographers and scholars now face as a result of Mr. Wise's fabrications.

The Bancroft Award dinner, a notable literary event which is sponsored annually by the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, was held on April 20. As our members will recall, awards in the amount of $2,000 each from the income of the Bancroft Foundation are made by the Trustees of Columbia University for the two books which the Bancroft Award Jury selects as having been the best published during the preceding year in the fields of American history, American diplomacy, or American international relations. The winning books this year are Clinton Rossiter's *Seedtime of the Republic*, and William L. Langer and S. Everett Gleason's *The Undeclared War*.

Mr. Lada-Mocarski presided, President Kirk presented the awards, and Mr. August Heckscher, chief editorial writer for the New York *Herald Tribune*, gave the main address.

THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

PRIVILEGES

Invitations to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

Use of books in the reading rooms of the libraries.

Opportunity to consult Librarians, including those in charge of the specialized collections, about material of interest to a member. (Each Division Head has our members' names on file.)

Free subscription to COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS.

* * *

As a Friend of the Columbia Libraries you are asked to assume no specific obligations. We rely on your friendship towards our institution and its ideals. However, if members express their support through annual donations of books or other material, or cash, we shall have a tangible indication that our program to arouse interest in the pressing needs of the Libraries has been successful. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.*

* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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