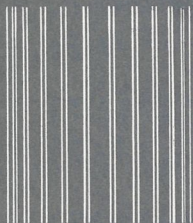


COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

C. WALLER BARRETT, the Chairman of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, is completing the second of two terms in office.

ROLAND BAUGHMAN is Head of the Special Collections Department of the Columbia University Libraries.

HART CRANE (1899-1932), American poet. The Columbia Libraries have a major collection of his correspondence, manuscripts, and memorabilia.

JOHN L. MAHONEY is Assistant Professor of English at Boston College.

FRANCIS T. P. PLIMPTON is a lawyer, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Barnard College, and a member of the Council of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries. He is a son of George Arthur Plimpton, about whom he writes in this issue.

JOSEPH V. RIDGELY is Assistant Professor of English at Columbia University.

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*Articles printed in COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS
are selectively indexed in LIBRARY LITERATURE.*

Columbia Library Columns

VOLUME X

NOVEMBER, 1960

NUMBER I

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Published by THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES,
Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, New York.

Three issues a year, one dollar each.



GEORGE A. PLIMPTON (1855-1936), donor of the Plimpton Collection.



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



The Wide-Ranging Collector: George Arthur Plimpton

FRANCIS T. P. PLIMPTON

VOCATION and avocation do not usually complement or compliment each other: Theodore Roosevelt's bird watching, his cousin's stamp collecting, and Winston Churchill's bricklaying and oil painting had little to do with their respective governmental lives. Few men happily blend their business and non-business lives into a harmonious whole.

Columbia is, however, the beneficiary of a unique combination of vocation and avocation — the George Arthur Plimpton collection of educational manuscripts and early printed books. This was the gift of an educational publisher who, as he calmly put it in the preface of his "The Education of Shakespeare", had

"the privilege to get together the manuscripts and books which are more or less responsible for our present civilization, because they are the books from which the youth of many centuries have received their education."

The Plimpton Library came to Columbia just before the donor's death in 1936; originally housed in Low Library, it is now in the Special Collections Department in Butler Library. There a striking portrait of the donor, by Blanche Ames (Mrs. Oakes Ames) of Boston, presides benignly but searchingly over some

16,000 manuscripts and early editions of what he called "our tools of learning."

The collection, which contains many notable items, will be the subject of a separate article which will be printed in the February, 1961, issue. The focus of the present article is upon the collector as a man and as a discriminating assembler of books, manuscripts, and other objects of utility and value.

The collector brought together not only educational manuscripts and early printed books, but all sorts and conditions of things. In memory of his first wife, Frances Taylor Pearsons Plimpton, who died in 1900, and who was devoted to Italian literature, he presented to Wellesley College, her alma mater, the library of original and early editions of Italian authors which bears her name. Marion Crawford, in an address to the Grolier Club when the library was on exhibition there, said

"The collection . . . is one of the most complete private collections in the world . . . The generous giver who is about to bestow this precious library upon Wellesley College has labored with hands of love, and he has labored long . . . For my own part, when I view this rich and rare collection, I am inclined to esteem the love of the subject which produced it even more highly than I view the books themselves."

A catalogue of the library was published by the Harvard University Press in 1929.

Quite late in life he began a collection of contemporary portraits of English authors, which burgeoned into almost 50 items, ranging from the outstanding Occleve portrait of Chaucer, purchased at the Baroness Burdett Coutts sale in London, through a somewhat dubious 1610 portrait of Shakespeare at the age of 46 by one Lynde (otherwise unknown), a contemporary portrait (1673) of John Bunyan which was formerly owned by Robert Louis Stevenson, and a Dryden by Godfrey Kneller, to a pencil drawing of Shelley by the Lieutenant Williams who was drowned with him in 1822. The collection is now on the walls of the President's House at Amherst College, which is currently occupied by

none other than the collector's second son, Dr. Calvin Hastings Plimpton, the newly installed President of the collector's alma mater.

In a sense the "collection" closest to his heart was his collection of educational trusteeships. Foremost among these was that of Amherst, from which he was graduated in 1876. He became a Trustee of the College in 1890, and served as President of the Board of Trustees from 1907 until 1936. Few, if any, of its members devoted as much time and energy to the affairs of the College, and, a generous benefactor himself, he was a notable extractor of benefactions for the College from others.

He presented to the College an interesting theatrical collection, but, more importantly, an extensive one relating to the French and Indian Wars, and, in particular, to Lord Jeffrey Amherst, who gave his name to the town and the college, was the captor from the French of Louisburg, Ticonderoga and Montreal, and who, as commander-in-chief of the British Armies in North America, accepted the surrender of French Canada. The collection comprises a wide variety of broadsides, contemporary maps, engravings, original letters (many from Lord Amherst) and other documents pertaining to the wars and to the earlier struggles of the colonists against the French and the Indians.

The collection now covers the walls of the Lord Jeffrey Inn in Amherst, where it provides an interesting opportunity to visitors to that lovely town to study a little-known part of North American history. The collector was the author, incidentally, of the chapter on Massachusetts' participation in the French and Indian Wars in the Tercentennial History of Massachusetts, which was published in 1930 under the editorship of Albert Bushnell Hart.

The next trusteeship in his collection was that of his school, the Phillips Exeter Academy, from which he was graduated in 1873. He was elected a Trustee in 1903, serving until December, 1935. His gifts to the school included the Plimpton Playing Fields, the Plimpton Playing Fields beyond (a matchless collection of some

400 acres of athletic fields and woods), the Phillips Church (the school church), and, among other documents, the original 1638 deed of the town of Exeter from Indian Chief Wehanownowit to John Wheelwright. Once again he was an indefatigable collector of funds for the endowment of the school.

His trusteeship connection with Columbia came early. In 1889, when he was only 34 years old, he was a prime mover in the founding of Barnard College. Convinced and determined that New York should provide higher education for women — not then a widely held conviction or determination — he was one of the seven members of the Committee that succeeded in getting 52 New Yorkers to pledge \$100 a year for four years to start the College off — rather slender auspices for such a novel undertaking. Undaunted, the College opened its doors on October 7, 1889, in a brownstone house at 343 Madison Avenue, with a board of 22 Trustees (of which he was one) outnumbering the 20 students.

Jacob H. Schiff, leading member of the banking firm of Kuhn, Loeb & Co., was the first Treasurer of the College; when he resigned in February 1893, he was succeeded by our collector, who began an unparalleled career of 43 years in the treasurership. He inherited from Schiff two \$1,000 bonds and \$16,000 in debts. Imminent were next year's deficit of \$30,000, the expiration of the four-year pledges and the financial panic of 1893. Nevertheless by the end of 1893, he had closed his Treasurer's books free of debt — the result of his own and others' indefatigable efforts.

From then on his treasurership of Barnard was a continuous record of success in collecting money for the fledgling institution. He was instrumental in securing the gifts of the funds that made it possible for Barnard to move to Morningside Heights, and to build its initial buildings. In particular, through his friendly cultivation of Mr. H. W. Carpentier, who had virtually no friends or companions other than a collie dog, Barnard benefited by almost \$1,500,000. The College's principal building, Barnard Hall, which was given by the late Jacob H. Schiff, was also the result of his

friendship with Mr. Schiff, and his continued insistence on Barnard's needs. When our collector died, in 1936, the endowment of Barnard, a large part of which he was personally responsible for collecting, had risen from a deficit figure of \$14,000 to a credit figure of \$9,250,000. As the Barnard Trustees recorded in their minutes:

"A very large part of this money came to Barnard because of his faith in the value of the college, and his untiring efforts to communicate this faith to others. He had an extraordinary gift for conveying his vision and making his hearers feel that the chance to help was an opportunity and a privilege . . . but it is for his contribution to the spirit of Barnard that we owe him the greatest debt. He always supported the brave, the farsighted, the generous policy. He had incomparable optimism, sincere and understanding sympathy with women's desire for an education; and genuinely appreciated the honor and dignity of the teaching profession as represented in the faculty."

His collection of trusteeships extended north of Columbia to the Union Theological Seminary, on whose Board of Directors he sat for many years, and, in a different direction, to the Constantinople College for Women (now a part of Robert College in Istanbul), where again he proved himself a collector of benefactions. He was to a considerable degree responsible for raising the funds which provided the College's impressive buildings overlooking the Bosphorus. When the latter were dedicated in June, 1914, he represented the Trustees and made the principal speech.

Another trusteeship was close to Columbia, that of the Academy of Political Science, which he helped his Amherst contemporary Professor John W. Burgess to form, and of which he was Treasurer from the inception. Indeed for many years he was the publisher of its *Political Science Quarterly*.

The Church Peace Union was among his collections of trusteeships; he had been largely instrumental in persuading Andrew Carnegie to endow it, and he served as its Treasurer from the

beginning. He was also a Trustee of the World Peace Foundation, founded by his partner, Edwin Ginn.

No such a laborer in the vineyard of education could avoid a collection of honorary degrees: they came from the University of Rochester, the University of Richmond, St. Lawrence University, Amherst College, New York University and Columbia itself. At the conferring of the last-mentioned, President Butler said:

“... bringing to the calling of publisher in the field of education an exceptional knowledge of the history and literature of educational method; builder and interpreter of what is doubtless the most unique and most complete collection in existence of books and manuscripts to illustrate the development of scholarship in teaching; who rocked the cradle of Barnard College and now after forty years in its service rejoices in its distinction and prosperity, I gladly admit you to the degree of Doctor of Letters.”

Several of his collections centered around his ancestral Lewis Farm, in his native Walpole, Massachusetts, an 800-acre farm which had been in his mother's family since 1742. There, for many years, he collected livestock. Determined to prove the clearly erroneous proposition that a New England farm can be made to pay, he consistently increased his dairy herd until at one time it numbered no less than 120 head. At this point, to the relief of his family, the cow barns burned down and, mercifully, were never rebuilt. Another collection was of black-faced highland sheep. He was fond of narrating the encounter he once had with a Scottish gentleman in the Knickerbocker Limited en route from New York to Providence. He was telling the Scotsman with great pride of his herd of 24 of these sheep, when the other, as soon as he was able to get in a word, blandly announced that he had 15,000 of them. The collector had his own sheep sheared, the wool carded and spun at the Farm, woven by neighboring ladies in need of employment, and then the cloth dyed with his own vegetable dyes. He wore the resulting somewhat shapeless homespun with enthusiasm and vocal pride.

He would take his own wheat over to a neighboring gristmill, and consume with relish the rather unusual colored bread that was baked at home from the flour.

He was an early collector of samplers, including several sewn by his own ancestors, and their lugubrious mottoes decorated the halls of the Farm. In addition to those from New England, there were some handsome ones from Spain.

Another of his collections related to slavery. This was composed of a large number of broadsides from the pre-Civil War South (where he had travelled in his youth, as a schoolbook salesman), announcing auctions of slaves, rewards for runaway slaves, etc. Among other interesting items were the log book of the master of an African slave trader and the will of a southern gentleman who recited that due to the war he had no property to leave, but that he gave, devised and bequeathed to all of his descendants, forever, an undying hatred of the Yankee nation. A large part of the slavery collection is now at the Phillips Exeter Academy. It used to decorate the walls of the large remodelled cowbarn which was attached to the Lewis Farm house in true New England fashion; also on the walls were numerous paintings, Currier & Ives lithographs, and other material illustrating the early history of New England. The floor of the barn was dedicated to badminton, and its owner could be seen, well into his seventies, smiting the elusive shuttlecock, albeit from a somewhat stationary position. At one end of the barn he constructed a stage on which the local theatrical amateurs disported themselves.

One of his unique collections was of cigar store wooden Indians. These have now become virtually unobtainable, but, with an unerring eye for collectibles, he would approach guileless cigar store proprietors and offer to take the wooden Indians from their front steps without charge. The result was an imposing collection around the courtyard of the Lewis Farm. Once he incautiously put one of the gaily colored tribe in the woods peering out at a nearby equestrian statue of an armed Puritan. Although

promptly abducted by some of the local youth, it was safely recovered after the insertion of a notice in the local paper: "lost, strayed or stolen — one wooden Indian".

A minor "collection" of his consisted of Chinese ancestral graves bordering on the then property of Canton Christian College in South China (now Lingnan University and in the Communist pale). He had a brief bout of pneumonia while visiting the College in 1920 and, in gratitude for his not having to enter the grave, presented the College with the most appropriate present he could think of — an ancient cemetery plot on the College's boundary which had prevented the latter's expansion. As a consequence of the same trip to the Far East, he presented a girls' dormitory to Doshisha University (founded by a Japanese contemporary of his at Amherst College) — not as impressive a donation as might be supposed, however, since the edifice consisted largely of bamboo. He also collected old oak panelling from Lord North's house near Oxford when it was being torn down and from other old English houses; and salvaged the brick fireplace from Sir Isaac Newton's house in London, which had also been the home of Fanny Burney. These now adorn the library of his Amherst fraternity house, Delta Kappa Epsilon.

The collector died at Lewis Farm on July 1, 1936, a few days short of his 81st birthday. The *Columbia University Quarterly* said of him:

"... in all these seemingly diverse activities there is a clear unity: his career was built on the inspiration of making the instruments and the opportunities of learning more rich, more accessible, and more stimulating. He bettered whatever he touched. His life was uncommonly rich and fruitful. He was born a comparatively poor boy; he died a great friend, patron, and exemplar of the high cause of learning, scholarship, and enlightenment."

What Membership in the Friends of the Columbia Libraries Has Meant to Me

C. WALLER BARRETT

AS MY TERM as Chairman draws to its close, I have a distinct feeling of gratitude that the opportunity has come my way to play a role in the development of the Friends' organization. I should say at once that I did not become a member until the birth pangs and growing pains were a thing of the past and the Friends had become a firmly established and thriving concern. The gratitude I feel stems from a casting up of accounts as to what I have been able to accomplish as a member and officer of the Friends and what I have received in return. Striking a balance in this rather hard-boiled manner, I find the scales heavily tipped in the direction of benefits received. This is indeed so obvious that I have sought this opportunity of saying something about what has happened to me in the hope that others will be influenced to share my own experiences.

Speaking generally, it would be difficult to find any association which has a more laudable purpose than a group devoted to the growth and enrichment of a great university library. Since it is generally conceded, nowadays, that the library is the heart of the university, the members of a library group may well feel that their efforts are closely related to the very fundamentals of higher education. To be more specific, the Columbia library is not only one of the outstanding university libraries but also a great research institution in its own right. To be associated with others engaged in the development and enhancement of this particularly impressive example of the ideal in libraries has given me a welcome sense of identification and accomplishment.

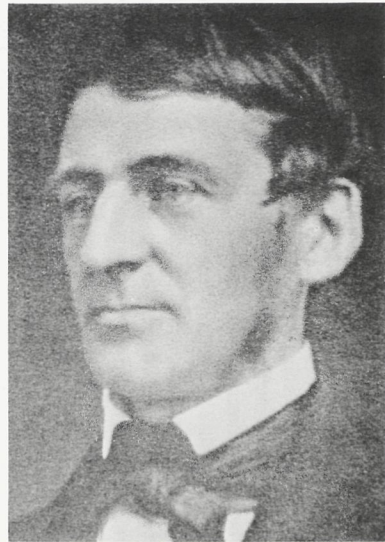
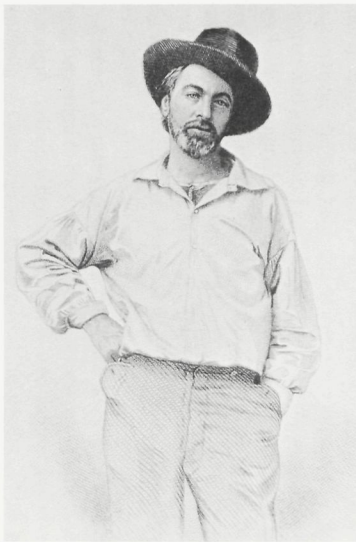
I do not speak thoughtlessly or lightly when I say that my association with the other members of the Friends has been one of unalloyed enjoyment. It has been a continuing pleasure to be thrown together with so many individuals of a high level of intellectual attainments and cultural interests. When I speak of Friends of the Libraries, I naturally include members of the Library staff, the University administration and the faculty who have taken such a gratifying interest in the affairs of the Friends.

The functions provided by the Friends' organization have been a periodic source of intellectual stimulation and social diversion. I have watched the Bancroft dinners (sponsored by the Friends and at which all members are invited guests) grow in size and importance; the one held this season set a high-water mark in interest and glamour. I shall long remember the soaring beauty of the Low Memorial Rotunda, product of the genius of Charles Follen McKim of the firm of McKim, Mead & White, with its vast array of tables set with pale blue covers and winking candles, and the waiters in their red coats. I should think the audience that night, in its intellectual distinction, would be hard to equal anywhere.

Among the many occasions on which important material has been presented to the Libraries, there stands out that beautiful and nostalgic evening when Mark Van Doren capped forty years of teaching at Columbia with the gift of his papers. Those present will not soon forget his words, as ever modest and unassuming, nor the words of President Kirk and Dean Barzun. It was indeed quite an emotional affair and moisture was discernible in many eyes.

These functions have all been fully reported in our journal *COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS* (sent without charge to all members), a periodical in which we have the greatest pride. It has been by no means the least accomplishment of the Friends' organization, and in common with many others I have learned to look forward to each number with increasing anticipation.

I could go on, but I think I have given some idea of what it has meant to me to be a member of the Friends. I am certain that the overwhelming majority of our members have had similar experiences. I am equally certain that there are a great many others in this metropolitan community who would derive similar benefits and would find that a modest investment of \$10 or more per year would pay great dividends.



MONCURE DANIEL CONWAY, WALT WHITMAN, AND RALPH WALDO EMERSON. These portraits were made in about 1855, the period referred to in Professor Ridgely's article.

Whitman, Emerson and Friend

J. V. RIDGELY

66 **I** CELEBRATE myself," Walt Whitman announced in the first edition of *Leaves of Grass*, and he was not only to continue the celebration himself but also to draft apostles to help beat the drums. The notable (if sometimes unwitting) press agency of two of these admirers — Ralph Waldo Emerson and Moncure D. Conway — is recalled by a volume now owned by Columbia University which was shown in the Libraries' recent "Highlights" exhibit. The gift of Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel, the book is a fine copy of the first (1855) edition of *Leaves of Grass* which was presented by the author to Conway; included in it are two interesting association items: a holograph note from Whitman to Conway dated July 21, 1870, and a transcript in Whitman's hand of Emerson's famous letter of July 21, 1855, greeting Whitman "at the beginning of a great career."*

How did Whitman come to send this transcript to Conway? The answer is to be found in the association of the three men which began almost as soon as Whitman first published his book of verse. Conway, former student at the Harvard Divinity School and an enthusiastic Emersonian, had gone to see the master in Concord in the summer of 1855, not long after Emerson had received his gift copy of *Leaves of Grass* from Whitman. Emerson, as enthusiastic in conversation as he was in his letter of "greeting" to Whitman, urged the young Conway to pay a visit to the new poet in Brooklyn. Conway dutifully obeyed, buying a copy of the book to take with him on the steamer to New York. "I read the poem with joy," he later recalled in his *Autobiography*. "Democracy had at length its epic." He was equally taken with the man himself, whom he finally located at work in a printing office

* The letter is reprinted at the end of this article.

in the "fearfully far" reaches of Brooklyn. Whitman told Conway that he was the first to visit him because of his poems, and he eagerly inquired for more news of Emerson. The two men continued their talk on the ferry to New York; and, as Conway reported to Emerson in a letter, he "came off delighted with him . . . He is clearly his Book."

The next year Whitman, having written and published several reviews of his own book in an effort to gain readership, also found a way to turn Emerson into a blurb writer. Without seeking Emerson's permission, he printed the full text of Emerson's personal note in a new edition of *Leaves of Grass*, and managed to have his sentence of "greeting" stamped in gold on the backstrip. Since Whitman had already allowed a newspaper to quote the letter, Emerson might justly have been piqued at this democratic use of his words by his democratic poet. Conway, however, records that Emerson did not complain "seriously," though he did remark that if he had known his letter would have such an audience he "might have qualified his praise." "There are parts of the book where I hold my nose as I read," he confided to Conway, but such sensitivity did not keep him from visiting the poet too.

On a second excursion in 1857, recalled Conway, he took a good look around the bard's home. There were no books about that he could observe, but — somewhat disconcertingly — there were on the bedroom wall two engravings of Silenus and Bacchus. The day, however, passed soberly in a ramble around Staten Island and a long swim. In the 1860's Conway became active in the anti-slavery movement, and during the Civil War he went to England to plump for the Northern cause. It was there, during a long residence as the free-thinking pastor of a London congregation, that he was able to perform his greatest services for Whitman: acting as his literary agent and assisting behind the scenes in W. M. Rossetti's edition of a selection of the poems. Only once did Conway slip in his faithful attention to the Whitman legend and that was in an article which he contributed to an English periodical in

1866. Either recollecting poorly or doctoring his account for greater interest, Conway told of a visit in which he found Whitman lying on the sand in 100-degree heat — a place and attitude, so Whitman informed him, that often aided the composing of his “pomes.” Even worse than this probably fanciful account, so far as Whitman was concerned, was Conway’s recalling those pictures of Silenus and Bacchus. It was an association that could well have been left unrecorded. *Leaves of Grass* had from the beginning been attacked for supposed immorality and obscenity, and Whitman had recently been fired from his government job in Washington after the Secretary of the Interior had scanned his book. Since Whitman had managed to get another post, this suggestion of Bacchic influence, however far in the past, could hardly have been welcome. From this time on Whitman was to remain somewhat suspicious of Conway, though he was obviously too valuable to drop completely.

In 1870 Conway was involved in the plan of an English publisher to reprint some of Emerson’s early writings, and he began collecting reminiscences of Emerson’s old friends. Perhaps the work on this projected volume (which was never published) stirred up memories of Emerson’s relationship with Whitman, for on July 7 he wrote to Whitman and requested a copy of Emerson’s 1855 letter. Whitman replied in the note which is now preserved in the volume in Special Collections:

Washington.

July 21, 1870.

My dear friend,

I have just received your letter of the 7th inst. I appreciate your kindness in the matter of the poem. I send herewith a verbatim copy of Emerson’s note, as requested. Nothing very new or special with me, these days. I am well as usual — am still em-

ployed in the Attorney General's Office. A new edition of my book will be printed this fall [the fifth edition of Leaves of Grass, published 1871], with another small volume in prose [Democratic Vistas, 1871]. You shall have early copies, may-be in sheets.

Farewell for the present. I send you my love — write whenever you can.

Walt Whitman

The "kindness in the matter of the poem" undoubtedly refers to some service of Conway's as Whitman's agent — possibly in connection with a poem which had been accepted by the *Fortnightly Review* but which was never printed in it. Whitman's enclosure, still with the covering letter, is "verbatim," except for a few changes of punctuation and the misreading of a word. (Emerson's original letter is now in Charles E. Feinberg's Collection of Whitmaniana.)

Conway's interest in both Whitman and Emerson continued through their declining years. In 1882 Conway published his anecdotal *Emerson at Home and Abroad*, and with Whitman he maintained a correspondence at least as late as 1887. Whitman in turn had a good deal to say about Conway to his disciple Horace Traubel during his last few years — not all of it favorable. "Conway was always a friend," he told Traubel; but once, after looking at Conway's books on Emerson and Carlyle, he remarked: "Conway always excites both my interest and my suspicion." What Whitman felt was suspicious in Conway was something he had good reason to recognize — the fanciful adaptation of biographical fact. Searching for an example a bit farther from home, Whitman fastened upon Dickens. The novelist, Whitman maintained, had something of the "same makeup as Conway: if a story is not interesting make it so." Whitman could not be ungrateful for Conway's freely given services — but perhaps the memory of those engravings of Silenus and Bacchus still rankled.

EMERSON'S LETTER TO WALT WHITMAN

CONCORD, MASSACHUSETTS, 21 *July*, 1855.

Dear Sir —

I am not blind to the worth of the wonderful gift of "LEAVES OF GRASS." I find it the most extraordinary piece of wit and wisdom that America has yet contributed. I am very happy in reading it, as great power makes us happy. It meets the demand I am always making of what seemed the sterile and stingy nature, as if too much handiwork, or too much lymph in the temperament, were making our western wits fat and mean.

I give you joy of your free and brave thought. I have great joy in it. I find incomparable things said incomparably well, as they must be. I find the courage of treatment which so delights us, and which large perception only can inspire.

I greet you at the beginning of a great career, which yet must have had a long foreground somewhere, for such a start. I rubbed my eyes a little, to see if this sunbeam were no illusion; but the solid sense of the book is a sober certainty. It has the best merits, namely, of fortifying and encouraging.

I did not know until I last night saw the book advertised in a newspaper that I could trust the name as real and available for a post-office. I wish to see my benefactor, and have felt much like striking my tasks and visiting New York to pay you my respects.

R. W. Emerson.

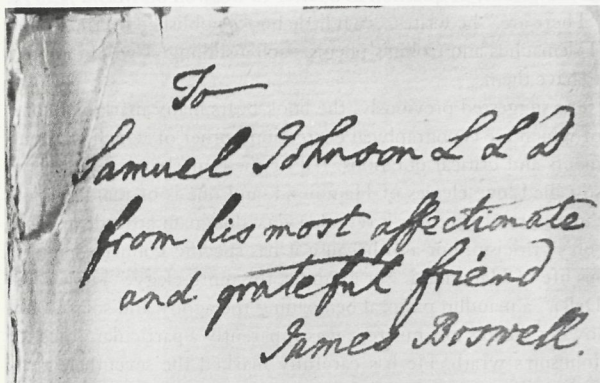
Dr. Johnson at Work: Observations on a Columbia Rare Book

JOHN L. MAHONEY

THE extraordinary range and depth of the literary criticism of Samuel Johnson, the great eighteenth century English man of letters, is too familiar to bear any reexamination. The brilliant and searching studies of scholars like Walter Jackson Bate (*The Achievement of Samuel Johnson*) and Jean Hagstrum (*Samuel Johnson's Literary Criticism*) have provided not only a clear and penetrating view of Johnson's evaluations of specific works of art, but also a thoroughgoing analysis of the basic principles which underly his approach. Johnson's regard for literature as an enlarger of man's mind and spirit, and his insistence on the need for a more stirring and imaginative presentation of truth pervade his reading of Shakespeare, Milton, Dryden, Pope, and a host of other great English poets. His devotion to the "grandeur of generality," to the great law of probability or truth to life, and his impatience with whatever distorts these ideals to concentrate on what is particular or transitory are fundamental to his analysis of many literary endeavors. "The irregular combinations of fanciful invention," he contends in his famous "Preface to Shakespeare," "may delight a-while, by that novelty of which the common satiety of life sends us all in quest; but the pleasures of sudden wonder are soon exhausted, and the mind can only repose on the stability of truth."

It seemed particularly important to the present writer, therefore, to call attention to a fascinating volume which he recently had the pleasure of examining in the Phoenix Collection of the Department of Special Collections of the Columbia University

Libraries, and which, to the best of his knowledge, has not been commented on previously. It is *The Poems of William Collins*, edited by Robert and Andrew Foulis, and published in Glasgow, Scotland, in 1771. Included in the volume are "Love Elegies by Mr. Hammond written in the year 1732," the Mr. Hammond being James Hammond whose biography Johnson included in his *Lives of the English Poets*.



Inscription on the flyleaf of *The Poems of William Collins* (1771). (Phoenix Collection)

The volume is of great interest and significance in itself because it is a presentation copy from James Boswell to Johnson. The inscription on the flyleaf reads: "To Samuel Johnson LLD from his most affectionate and grateful friend James Boswell." A note attached to the back cover of the volume bears witness to the authenticity of the dedication. It was written on January 24, 1857, by one of the owners of the book, George Daniel, an author, antiquary, and book collector, and it states: "Presentation copy from *James Boswell* to *Dr. Johnson*. The red ink notes & red ink markings are Johnson's, and were made for his life of Hammond.

The *three stanzas* which he has marked at page 94 he has quoted and condemned in Hammond's life. This highly interesting and valuable little volume is from the library of Peter Cunningham, at the sale of which it fetched Five guineas."

The book is also important because the markings it contains provide a most interesting illustration of Johnson at work and of his approach to a particular author. He had expressed his interest in the volume in question in a letter to Boswell on May 27, 1775. "There are," he writes, "two little books published by the Foulis, Telemachus and Collin's poems, each a shilling: I would be glad to have them."

As suggested previously, the book bears many markings, some of which are typographical corrections, other of which are comments and critical notations. All of these markings refer to the so-called love elegies of Hammond, and one is of major importance not only because it reveals a very dominant attitude in Johnson's criticism, but also because it has specific connections with his life of Hammond. For example, the ninth elegy, "He has lost Delia," a maudlin pastoral bemoaning the agony and sorrow following the loss of a mistress, was apparently a particular object of Johnson's wrath. He has carefully marked the seventh, eighth, and ninth stanzas which are quoted here:

Wilt thou in tears thy lover's corse attend?
With eyes averted light the solemn pyre,
Till all around the doleful flames ascend,
Then slowly thinning, by degrees expire:

To sooth the hov'ring soul be thine the care,
With plaintive cries to lead the mournful band,
In sable weeds the golden vase to bear,
And cull my ashes with thy trembling hand:

Panchaia's odours be their costly feast,
And all the price of Asia's fragrant year,
Give them the treasures of the farthest east,
And, what is still more precious, give thy tear.

Interestingly enough, these three stanzas, as noted before, are the same ones quoted and treated so harshly in the life of Hammond. Johnson, always impatient with pastoral themes and techniques, and using the same argument that he employed in his critique of Milton's "Lycidas," charges that the stanzas, as well as the whole pastoral approach, lack truth. Surely, he says, referring to the lover's plea in the three stanzas, "no blame can fall upon a nymph who rejected a swain of so little meaning." Arguing at greater length, he contends:

But the truth is, these Elegies have neither passion, nature, or manners. Where there is fiction, there is no passion; he that describes himself a shepherd, and his Neaera or Delia as a shepherdess, and talks of goats and lambs, feels no passion. He that courts his mistress with Roman imagery deserves to lose her; for she may with good reason suspect his sincerity. Hammond has few sentiments drawn from nature, and few images drawn from modern life. He produces nothing but frigid pedantry. It would be hard to find in all his productions three stanzas that deserve to be remembered.

Another marking in the book notes that the seventh elegy is "unnatural"; still another suggests that the poems have "no life." In short, the comments and notations are excellent examples of Johnson applying his great criterion of probability to works involving the pastoral and mythological and finding these works wanting. The volume provides an interesting picture of a great critic at work.

An Unpublished Hart Crane Poem

While searching among the Hart Crane Papers in the Columbia University Libraries for materials which would contribute to a critical biography of the poet, the late Jethro Robinson came on the following early, hitherto unpublished poem. Written when Crane was sixteen, the little fable which the poem recites seemed to Mr. Robinson to be a significant revelation of the young poet's humble aspiration and a portent of what he was more successfully to accomplish in the future. In fact, Mr. Robinson had tentatively titled the first section of his study "The Moth That God Made Blind." The drafts of Mr. Robinson's uncompleted work, his notes and outlines, and his correspondence with friends and relatives of the poet have been presented to the Columbia University Library as "The Jethro Robinson Addenda to the Hart Crane Papers". — Lewis Leary.

THE MOTH THAT GOD MADE BLIND

Among cocoa-nut palms of a far oasis,
Conceived in the light of Arabian moons,
There are butterflies born in mosaic date-vases,
That emerge black and vermeil from yellow cocoons.

Some say that for sweetness they cannot see far, —
That their land is too gorgeous to free their eyes wide
To horizons which knife-like would only mar
Their joy with a barren and steely tide —

That they only can see when their moon limits vision,
Their mother, the moon, marks a halo of light
On their own small oasis, ray-cut, an incision,
Where are set all the myriad jeweleries of night.

So they sleep in the shade of black palm-bark at noon,
Blind only in day, but remembering that soon
She will flush their hid wings in the evening to blaze
Countless rubies and tapers in the oasis' blue haze.

But over one moth's eyes were tissues at birth
Too multiplied even to center his gaze
On that circle of paradise cool in the night; —
Never came light through that honey-thick glaze.

And had not his pinions with signs mystical
And rings macrocosmic won envy as thrall,
They had scorned him, so humbly¹ [?] low, bound there and tied
At night like a grain of sand, futile and dried.

But once though, he learned of that span of his wings, —
The fluorescence, the power he felt bud at the time
When the others were blinded by all waking things;
And he ventured the desert, — his wings took the climb.

And lo, in that dawn he was pierrotting over, —
Swinging in spirals round the fresh breasts of day.
The moat of the desert was melting from clover
To yellow, — to crystal, — a sea of white spray —

Til the sun, he still gyrating, shot out all white, —
Though a black god to him in a dizzying night; —
And without one cloud-car in that wide meshless blue
The sun saw a ruby brightening ever, that flew.

Seething and rounding in long streams of light
The heat led the moth up in octopus arms:
The honey-wax eyes could find no alarms,
But they burned thinly blind like an orange peeled white.

And the torrid hum of great wings was his song
When below him he saw what his whole race had shunned —
Great horizons and systems and shores all along
Which blue tides of cool moons were slow shaken and sunned.

¹ Crane wrote "himbly".

A little time only, for sight burned as deep
As his blindness before had frozen in Hell,
And his wings atom-withered, — gone, — left but a leap: —
To the desert, — back, — down, — still lonely he fell.

I have hunted long years for a spark in the sand; —
My eyes have hugged beauty and winged life's short¹ spell.
These things I have: — a withered hand; —
Dim eyes; — a tongue that cannot tell.

(HAROLD) HART CRANE

¹ Tentatively amended to "brief" on the manuscript.

Notable Purchases, 1959-60

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

In each November issue of LIBRARY COLUMNS we undertake to draw the attention of our readers to the purchase, through the use of regular or special Library funds, of certain rare or unusual books and manuscripts during the preceding year. This is the third article in the series, which was begun in 1958 — EDITOR.

BEYOND question, the most important purchase made during the past year was that of the private library formed by the late Professor Arthur Jeffery. This collection, numbering more than 5,000 titles, has been assembled by Professor Jeffery over many years, and represents his scholarly activity and authoritative interest in Near Eastern studies. It is particularly rich in works relating to the Koran and includes numerous extremely rare printed editions — as well as manuscripts — of various texts, translations and commentaries. (This group of Koranic materials is probably without equal in any private library.) There are also many biographical and critical studies of Mohammed, works on Arabic grammar and ancient poetry, on Semitic culture in general, on the Bible and on Christian theology. In addition there are numerous photographic copies of Arabic manuscripts in various Near Eastern libraries.

Columbia's interest in the history and literature of the Near East is of long standing, and was fostered by the gift in 1931 of the David Eugene Smith library which had strong holdings in Koranic and other Persian and Arabic manuscripts. In keeping with this avowed enthusiasm of Dr. Smith, we have been able to acquire in the past year, through the endowment established in 1944, a fine group of nine Near Eastern manuscripts. Among these are six copies of the Koran and a volume of religious poems, in the main beautifully written, illuminated and bound, produced



Vers la fin de l'année 1612, par une froide matinée de décembre, un jeune homme dont le vêtement était de très-mince apparence, se promenait devant la porte d'une maison située rue des Grands-Augustins, à Paris. Après avoir assez long-temps marché dans cette rue avec l'irrésolution d'un amant qui n'ose se présenter chez sa première maîtresse, quelque facile qu'elle soit, il finit par franchir le seuil de cette porte, et demanda

Picasso illustrations for Balzac's *Le chef d'oeuvre inconnu*, Paris, 1931. This reproduction of two facing pages shows the variety of the artist's style. (Albert Ulmann Fund)

in the 18th and 19th centuries. Of particular interest are two scroll manuscripts of astrological tables, including almanacs and times for prayers, in the exquisite calligraphy of Sulaimān Hikmatī, dated A.H. 1211 (1791/2) and A.H. 1217 (1798/9) respectively.

Other individual book manuscripts that have been purchased during the year include eight of various dates from the late 15th to the 18th century. The earliest is a manuscript on paper of Boethius' *De consolazione philosophiae*, written in Germany about 1500 (Lodge Collection). A student's manual in Latin, written in the early 16th century on twelve paper leaves, was also purchased (Smith Collection). An unusually interesting item, a "registrum" in Latin comprising a record of custom receipts and disbursements, public works, housing, salaries of the clergy, etc., in various parts of Poland, 1532 to 1535, was purchased with general funds, as were two Latin manuscripts relating to the Cabala. One of the latter, "Tractatus Cabalisticus", on 89 paper leaves, was written in Italy in the 17th century. The other, *Cabala id est scientia occulta*, is on 24 vellum leaves and is of Italian 18th-century origin. Three mathematical manuscripts were purchased for the Smith Collection: Mathias Cupel's *Mundus Mathematicus*, comprising 99 paper leaves of lecture notes taken down by the author's pupil, Ferdinand Franz Schwartz, in 1681-2, and with which is bound Cupel's lectures at Prague on statics, hydrostatics and aerostatics; Pitet's *La Cosmographie*, 1705, a manuscript on paper in which twenty-two engraved folding plates have been inserted; and *L'Usage du compas de proportion*, an 18th-century French manuscript that is apparently unpublished.

A few later manuscripts have also been acquired. These include: two letters by William Dean Howells, dated March 19, 1897, and February 19, 1905; a leaf containing a twenty-four line poem by N. P. Willis, presumably in his hand; and two letters of Winston S. Churchill, the earlier dated September 19, 1908, and the other, which is undated (about 1909) addressed to Edward VII and bearing the latter's autograph notation, "Appd ER".

M23624/09

W. S. Churchill
W. S. Churchill

Secret of State,
Whitehall Gardens,
S.W.

Mr Churchill, with his humble duty to Your Majesty,
has the honour to recommend that the persons named
on the accompanying statements should be awarded the
medals mentioned therein, in recognition of the
gallantry displayed by them in saving life.

Winston S. Churchill

Undated letter written about 1909 by Winston S. Churchill to Edward VII. The latter's autograph notation appears at the top.

Eight 15th-century printed items were purchased for addition to the Gonzalez Lodge Classical Library. The earliest is an Italian translation of Justinus' *Epitomae*, Venice, 1477. An edition of Terence's *Comoediae*, published in Lyon by Jean du Pre in 1488, of which no other copy is recorded as being in the United States, was also acquired. Other incunabula include: Cicero, *De officiis*, Venice, 1493; Diodorus Siculus, *Bibliothecae historicae*, Venice, 1496; Suetonius, *Vitae XII Caesarum*, Venice, 1496; Dionysius Halicarnaseus, *Antiquitates Romanae*, Reggio Emilia, 1498; Luchinus de Aretio, *De prologis*, Venice, 1498 (unrecorded in the U. S.); and Apuleius, *Asinus Aureus*, Bologna, 1500.

By far the majority of books purchased for the Lodge Collection fell into the general category of 16th and 17th-century redactions, mainly by continental scholars. Three English works, however, deserve special mention. These are: the London, 1553, edition of the English translation of *The Golden Boke of Marcus Aurelius*; Richard Reynoldes' *A Chronicle of all the noble emperours of the Romaines* (London, 1571); and the first edition of Thomas May's *A Continuation of the subject of Lucans historical poem till the death of Julius Caesar* (London, 1630).

An acquisition of signal importance to the Law Library is the very rare first edition of *Constitutiones legitime seu legatine regionis anglicane . . .*, printed in Paris by Wolfgang Hopyl, 1504. The volume consists of two parts. The first contains the "legatine" constitutions — that is, the canons proclaimed in England by the papal legates Otto and Ottobono in the years 1237 and 1268 respectively. These constitutions are extensively annotated by a certain John of Ayton (variously termed Athon, Acton, Eaton), a canon of Lincoln, who wrote his commentary during the years from 1333 to 1348. The second part contains provincial canons promulgated by the archbishops of Canterbury from the time of Stephen Langton, at the council of Oxford in 1222, to the early years of the 15th century.

The East Asiatic Library reports the purchase of the great

Dai-Nihon zoku zokyo, in 750 volumes, published in Kyoto, 1905-1912. This indispensable tool of scholarship contains treatises by Japanese priests, as well as certain Buddhist texts not found in other Tripitaka.

One volume purchased for Special Collections by means of the fund recently established by Ruth Ulmann Samuel in honor of her father, Albert Ulmann, is of extraordinary significance to our graphic arts holdings. It is the great folio edition of Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu*, printed in Paris in 1931. This magnificent volume represents all that is finest in recent French bookmaking. It combines text by Balzac with brilliant typographical treatment by Aimé Jourde and with superb illustrations by Picasso. These last comprise thirteen original etchings and sixty-seven other designs which were cut on wood for Picasso by Aubert. The edition consisted of 305 copies, of which this is No. 139.

Our Growing Collections

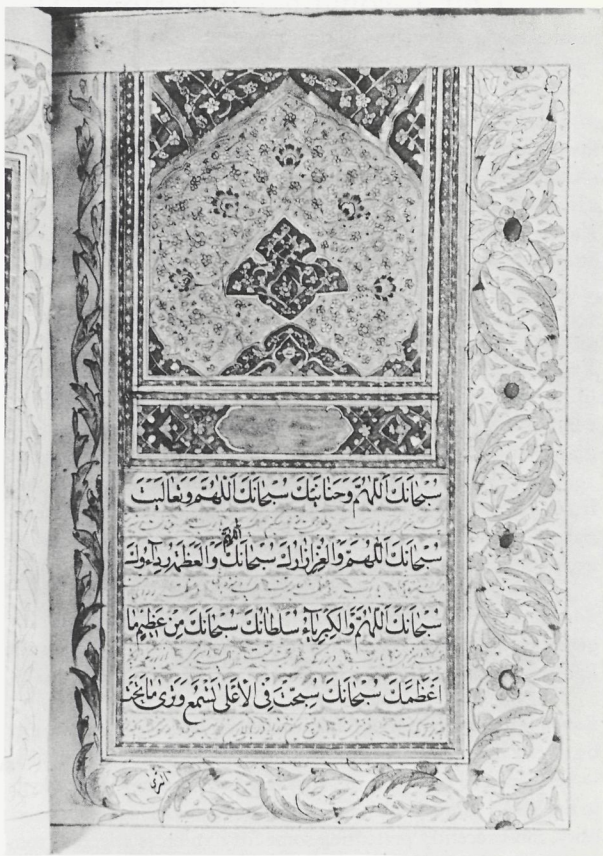
ROLAND BAUGHMAN

A.I.G.A. gift. The American Institute of Graphic Arts continues its project of making Columbia University the repository of a definitive file of the award-winning books in the "Fifty Books of the Year" series. Receipt of the selections of the year 1958 brings the series virtually up to date, and opens the way for serious students to observe in a single place the important tendencies in American book design since 1923.

Anshen gift. As the executor of the estate of the late Professor Ernest Jäckh, Dr. Ruth Nanda Anshen has presented a collection of his papers to Columbia University. The collection as received comprises sixteen file boxes and twelve scrapbooks of photographs and clippings, and more than fifty letters, dated 1908-1913, largely concerned with the publication and review of Professor Jäckh's voluminous scholarly writings. Much of the material reflects his keen interest in German-Turkish relations and his expeditions into the Near East.

Bodenheim gift. Miss Addie S. Bodenheim of New York has generously presented three fine letters written to her by Justice Benjamin Cardozo (A.B., 1889; A.M., 1890; LL.D. Hon., 1915).

Bonom gift. A year ago we acknowledged in these pages the gift by Mr. Paul J. Bonom of a fine series of long-playing records which replaced outworn 78's that had been available to students in the Music Library. Mr. Bonom continues his thoughtful generosity, most recently presenting some fifty volumes selected from his library, chiefly relating to art and American history.



EL-JAMALI GIFT. A sample page from the manuscript of Shi'ah prayers in Arabic and Persian script.

Burgess gift. Mrs. Elisha Payne Jewett Burgess (A.B., 1918 B) has commenced the gracious task of selecting materials from her personal files to form at Columbia the "John W. Burgess Family Collection". Many items have already been received — letters, photographs, and various memorabilia — but there will be much to add and describe in the months to come.

Clark gift. Professor and Mrs. Donald L. Clark (A.M., 1906; Ph. D., 1911) have presented a group of thirteen useful first editions by modern authors. The majority of the volumes bear presentation inscriptions from the authors to Professor Clark.

Dixon gift. Sir Pierson John Dixon has placed in our care the original typescript of his Latin poem, "Corcyra", which was awarded the Montague Butler prize in 1925.

Dow memorial gift. Staff Sergeant Richard Dow has presented the library formed by his father, the late George W. Dow. The collection comprises 680 volumes of general nature.

Eberstadt gift. Mr. Lindley Eberstadt (A.B., 1932) has presented a remarkable collection of 121 books and pamphlets, dated between 1795 and 1840, many of which bear the authors' inscriptions to James Kent, the first professor of law at Columbia College who subsequently presided over the State Court of Chancery. The items apparently came from Kent's own library, and are extremely welcome here because of our interest in reconstructing the personal collection of one of Columbia's foremost figures.

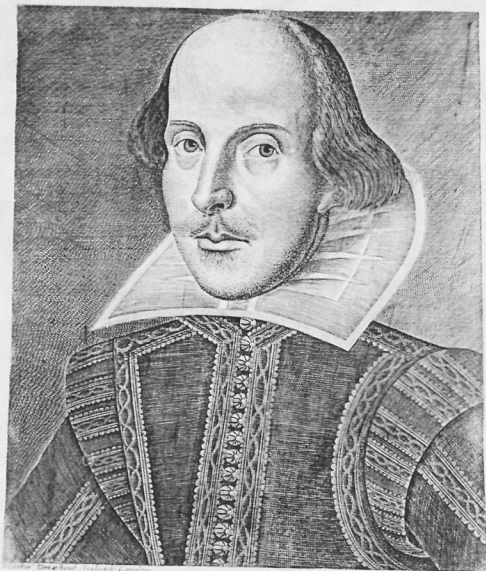
El-Jamali gift. Dr. Fadhil El-Jamali, through the good offices of his son, Mr. Usameh El-Jamali, recently presented a beautiful manuscript of Shi'ah prayers in Arabic and Persian script, dated A.H. 1247 (A.D. 1831), as a token of his affection for President Kirk and Columbia University. The volume is an exquisite specimen of Near Eastern bookmaking, with the Arabic version in black ink, interlined with the Persian translation in red.

MR. WILLIAM
SHAKESPEARES

Comedies , Histories, and Tragedies.

Published according to the true Original Copies.

The Third Impression.



L O N D O N,
Printed for Philip Chetwinde, 1663

SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS, THIRD FOLIO. (Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel)

Engel gift. In February, 1959, we reported that Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel had carried Columbia University a long way toward our goal of having all four of the great 17th-century folios of Shakespeare's plays represented on our shelves. At that time Mr. and Mrs. Engel had presented a beautiful copy of the Fourth (1685) Folio, leaving only the Third (1663/4) as a lacuna.

Now we can report that Mr. and Mrs. Engel have accomplished the nearly impossible. They have found and presented a matchless copy of the first variety of the Third Folio — "London, Printed for Philip Chetwinde, 1663".

This volume contains the title-page in its first state, date 1663 and bearing the Droeshout portrait of Shakespeare; the famous verse by Ben Jonson, "To the Reader", appears alone on the leaf facing the title. As our readers know, the second state of this edition omits the portrait from the title-page, and the third state, dated 1664 (really a new edition, though it is not so called), lists seven additional plays of which only "Pericles" is now (and only in part) attributed to Shakespeare. Copies with the 1664 title have the second state of Jonson's verses, in which they appear beneath the portrait of Shakespeare on the leaf preceding the title.

Thus Mr. and Mrs. Engel have completed a series that was begun for us in 1881, when the First Folio (1623) came to Columbia in the bequest of Stephen Whitney Phoenix.

Fellows gift. Miss Harriette L. Fellows, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has generously presented eight Civil War letters to Columbia, as well as other memorabilia of the period. The letters were written to Miss Fellows' grandfather, Augustus Lafever of Battle Creek, Michigan, by two of his workmen, George Barnes and Henry Berry.

Frick gift. Professor Bertha M. Frick has presented a number of items from her shelves relating to David Eugene Smith, whose mathematical library is one of Columbia's chief treasures. Miss

Frick was formerly Curator of the Plimpton, Smith, and Dale collections, and among the items presented are some which were inscribed to her personally by Dr. Smith.

Friedman gift. These pages are almost never without an acknowledgment to Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) for his gifts to the Library collections. On the present occasion we are especially grateful, for the items he has sent are truly exceptional. Space does not permit a full listing. Suffice it to say that the gift includes eight beautiful Arabic and Persian manuscripts, all Korans except for an early copy (1562/3) of Jami's poem "Joseph and Potiphar's Wife"; two fine Chinese documents written and embroidered on long scrolls of silk, and bearing citations of titles in Chinese and Mandarin; three silver-gilt repoussé bindings; an original Chinese water-colored drawing, framed; a collection of twenty-three books, including a *Golden Legend* printed at Venice in 1480 and a copy of Livy's *Decades* printed at Venice in 1495. In addition there are 49 prints of works by William Hogarth and four color-plates from Wheatley's "Cries of London" series.

Gaccione gift. The twelve volumes comprising the Marquis Biographical Library have been generously presented to the Casa Italiana by Mr. Anthony S. Gaccione.

Gallagher gift. Mr. Thomas Gallagher (A.B., 1941) has presented the original typewritten manuscript, with autograph alterations, of his famous novel, *Fire at Sea*.

Hathaway gift. Two interesting scrapbooks have been presented by Mr. Calvin S. Hathaway. The volumes contain clippings collected by Mr. Hathaway's grandfather, Byron Groo of Salt Lake City. Mr. Hathaway writes: "The clippings were pasted into these scrapbooks in the office of my grandfather, Byron Groo, apparently during the period of his editorship of the Salt Lake City *Herald* from 1875 to 1892, and I suspect that some of them may be editorials that he wrote himself."

Heydecker gift. Mr. Wayne D. Heydecker (A.B., 1911) has presented a most unusual item, a lecture on Constitutional Law which he found among the papers of his father, Edward LeMoyne Heydecker (A.B., 1883; A.M., 1884; LL.B., 1885). The work, which is entitled "Constitutional History of the United States", is a gelatin-process reproduction of the original manuscript.

Hofe gift. In the November, 1954, issue of the *Columns*, we acknowledged the gift of the three rare Woodrow Wilson books by Mr. George Douglas Hofe (B.S., 1914; A.M., 1915, TC). Mr. Hofe has again shown his interest and generosity by presenting another Wilson item, the rare, privately-printed edition of the inaugural address that was delivered on March 4, 1913.

Jay gift. Columbia University now has in its collections some 5,000 original letters to and from John Jay. The majority of these have come in two large groups, but we are also much in the debt of various descendants of Jay for the generous gift of scores of letters which they had carefully preserved in honor of their illustrious ancestor.

Recently yet another descendant has joined with us in our effort to preserve Jay's original correspondence. Mr. John Jay of Williamstown, Massachusetts, has presented six remarkable letters from Jay to his son, Peter Augustus Jay, dating from May 14, 1815, to June 20, 1817.

Jeffery gift. Mrs. Arthur Jeffery has presented a collection of the manuscripts (published and unpublished), notes, card files, clippings, and miscellanea pertaining to her husband, the late Professor Arthur Jeffery, long a beloved member of the faculty of Columbia University. Professor Jeffery was an internationally known authority on the Koran, and his private papers will be a mine of information for his colleagues.

Joffe gift. Recently Dr. Judah A. Joffe (A.B., 1893) found

among the offerings of a European book-dealer a pristine copy of Laurentius Valla's *Elegantiae linguae Latinae*, Venice, 1499. Upon learning that Columbia did not possess any 15th-century edition of this work, he generously offered to purchase the volume for us.

Kawabata gift. Mr. Yasunari Kawabata of Kamakura, Japan, has made a most generous and thoughtful gift of two notebooks containing manuscript jottings by Lafeadio Hearn. The gift was made to Columbia through Professor Donald Keene at the time of his visit to Japan during the past summer.

Hearn's notebooks are eagerly sought by collectors, through whose benefactions they have for the most part come to rest in permanent research institutions. They are of great interest to scholars, for they contain the notes, memoranda, sketches, adumbrations of later writings, and the like of one of the world's great literary artists. Columbia is delighted and grateful to have been chosen as the repository of such treasures.

Korean Publishers gift. The Korean Publishers' Association of Seoul has given the East Asiatic Library over 300 volumes of Korean-language materials selected for display at the 1960 International Book Exhibition. The publications, all recent imprints, are primarily in the fields of the humanities and the social sciences; valuable reference works are represented.

National Central Library gift. The National Central Library of the Republic of China, through its Director, Dr. Chiang Fu-tung, presented to the East Asiatic Library the entire 1,657 volumes of Chinese books displayed at the International Book Exhibition at Columbia University in June. Especially prominent among the publications are the 954-volume set of the twenty-five dynastic histories in which is recorded all official history of China up to the Republican Era, and a 6-volume work containing reproductions of 300 masterpieces of Chinese paintings selected from the Palace Museum collection.

Nicholls gift. Mr. E. M. Nicholls of Sydney, Australia, has added to an exceptional collection in Avery Library of the architectural drawings of Walter Burley Griffin (1876-1937). The present gift comprises twenty-seven drawings, mostly in ink and wash, some in the Japanese technique on silk, and all of remarkable beauty. Mr. Griffin, a Chicago architect, was a friend and associate of Frank Lloyd Wright. He won the international competition for the design of a national Capital in Australia, Canberra, and subsequently moved there to practice his profession. Mr. Nicholls, the donor of these drawings, was his partner in Sydney.

Plimpton gift. Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton has added three scarce American editions of books that are gratefully received in the library formed by his father, the late George A. Plimpton.

Robinson gift. Mrs. Belle B. Robinson has kindly presented the manuscripts and notes which her son, the late Jethro Robinson (A.B., 1943; A.M., 1950), had amassed in his study of the work of the American poet, Hart Crane. The collection, which is to be known as "The Jethro Robinson Hart Crane Papers", contains much that will be valuable to students and scholars. The letters from Crane's relatives give information about him and his family which could be had from no other source.

Sanford gift. Professor Vera Sanford (A.M., 1922 TC; Ph.D., 1927 TC) has deposited the notes and transcriptions of commentary on the Latin poet Juvenal gathered by her sister, the late Eva Sanford. The notes cover manuscript and early printed sources from classical times to 1600.

Schimmel gift. Mr. Stuart B. Schimmel has presented a fine autograph letter from John Jay to his son, Peter Augustus Jay, written on December 7, 1799. The letter is of especial interest to Columbia, for we already possess the related correspondence, which

deals with various matters pertaining to the building of Bedford House near Katonah, New York.

Tindall gift. Professor William York Tindall (A.B., 1925; A.M., 1926) has donated a fine copy of the privately printed edition of his *Beckett's Bums*, London, for T. E. Hanley, 1960.

Van Doren gift. Professor Mark Van Doren (Ph.D., 1921), whose gift of his manuscripts and notes was the theme of the Annual Meeting of the Friends on January 18, 1960, has added a remarkable collection of 98 letters to him from various noted authors. The collection includes letters from Mary Austin, Havelock Ellis, Amy Lowell, George Sterling, and many others, but those from John Gould Fletcher represent the longest and most numerous series (50 letters, June 3, 1927, to June 25, 1940).

Vermont University gift. Through the good offices of Mr. David Stoller, Curator of the Collections in the University of Vermont Library, ten early mathematical works have been added to the David Eugene Smith collection.

Activities of the Friends

Finances

As announced in the spring, the November issue rather than the May issue of *Columns* will from now on regularly contain the annual statement as to the amount which has been contributed by the Friends during the twelve-month period ending on March 31. This shift was necessitated by reason of our having moved back into March the deadline for the May issue in order that the latter might reach our members before they departed on their vacations.

During the period from April 1, 1959, to March 31, 1960, \$7,407.67 in unrestricted funds and \$5,280.38 for specified purposes were received, making a total of \$12,688.05. The total cash gifts from the Friends over the past nine years now amount to \$160,810.81.

The comparative figures for contributions by our members during the past years are indicated in the following table.

	<i>Cash Gifts</i>			<i>Book and manuscript gifts</i>	<i>Total value of gifts</i>
	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>For special purposes</i>	<i>Total</i>		
1950-52 *	\$4,348.00	\$41.00	\$4,389.00	\$2,515.00	\$6,904.00
1952-53	4,423.00	4,132.98	8,555.98	43,653.00	52,208.98
1953-54	3,166.00	13,223.50	16,389.50	53,643.00	70,032.50
1954-55	2,413.00	29,930.00	32,343.00	15,251.00	47,594.00
1955-56	4,470.50	13,977.00	18,447.50**	22,380.80	40,828.30**
1956-57	3,755.00	28,974.96	32,729.96	17,936.85	50,666.81
1957-58	5,463.50	15,477.12	20,940.62	67,791.09	88,731.71
1958-59	5,516.20	8,811.00	14,327.20	13,299.25	27,626.45
1959-60	7,407.67	5,280.38	12,688.05	36,980.25	49,668.30
	\$40,962.87	\$119,847.94	\$160,810.81	\$273,450.24	\$434,261.05

* December 1950-March, 1952. Subsequent years begin April 1 and end March 31. As of March 31, our association had 374 members.

** Corrected figures.

In addition to the monetary gifts, the Friends have during the above-indicated year augmented the Libraries' resources for research by presenting rare books, manuscripts, and other items which have an estimated value of \$36,980.25. (The principal items have been described in "Our Growing Collections".)

Meetings

Fall Meeting on November 17. As we go to press, plans are being completed for the first meeting of the new academic year, which will be held in Wollman Auditorium in Ferris Booth Hall on the above-indicated date. The program will have the general title "Exploring the Ocean Deeps". The speaker for the occasion will be Dr. William Maurice Ewing, the Director of the Lamont Geological Laboratory of Columbia University who is one of the foremost explorers of the ocean. He will draw upon experiences which he has had as leader of expeditions to the polar regions, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and around the world on the University's research ship, the Vema.

CREDIT

The plate showing two illustrations by Picasso is reproduced from Balzac's *Le chef-d'oeuvre inconnu* (Paris, A. Vollard, 1931).

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.)

OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE most Columbia University Press books at 20 per cent discount (through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends).

FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS.

* * *

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

ANNUAL. Any person contributing not less than \$10.00 per year (dues may be waived for officers of the University).

CONTRIBUTING. Any person contributing not less than \$25.00 a year.

SUSTAINING. Any person contributing not less than \$50.00 a year.

BENEFACTOR. Any person contributing not less than \$100.00 a year.

Checks should be made payable to Columbia University. All donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

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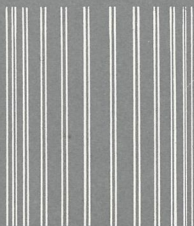
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COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

ROLAND BAUGHMAN is Head of the Special Collections Department of the Columbia University Libraries.

DON CARLOS BUELL was Major General, commanding the Army of the Ohio at the battle of Shiloh.

ERIC L. MCKITRICK is Associate Professor of History at Columbia University.

FRANCIS T. P. PLIMPTON is a lawyer, Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Barnard College, and Vice Chairman of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries. He is a son of George Arthur Plimpton, about whose collection he writes in this issue.

EDMUND ASTLEY PRENTIS is a graduate of the Columbia School of Mines, Class of 1906.

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Columbia Library Columns

VOLUME X

FEBRUARY, 1961

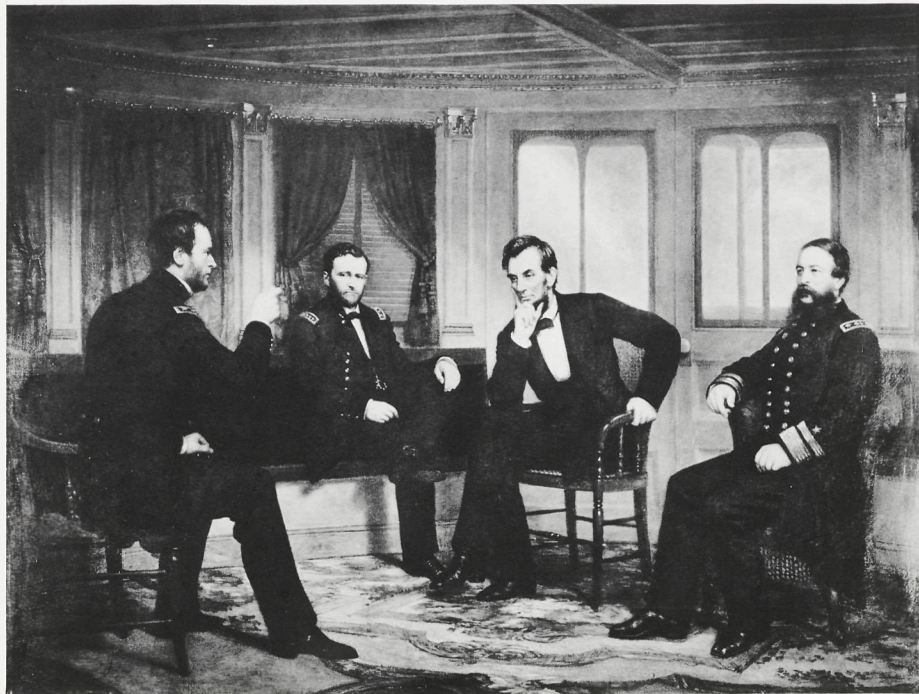
NUMBER 2

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Published by THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES,
Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, New York.

Three issues a year, one dollar each.



G. P. A. Healy's "The Peace Makers" shows (left to right) Sherman conferring with Grant, Lincoln, and Admiral Porter on board the steamer *River Queen* at City Point, Virginia, late in March, 1865.



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



General Buell's Version of Shiloh

ERIC L. MCKITRICK

THE immediate purpose of General Grant's operations in the Western theater of war, beginning early in 1862, was to bring as much of Confederate Tennessee under Union control as possible, while the more general objective (achieved at Vicksburg in mid-1863) was control of the entire Mississippi. The Battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing, fought April 6 and 7 following Grant's February capture of Forts Henry and Donelson on the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers, successfully culminated the first phase of this effort.

The Union victory at Shiloh was gained at a high price. That battle was the first major engagement in the West; it was also one of the bloodiest of the entire Civil War. Grant's Army of the Tennessee, whose leading division was commanded by William T. Sherman, was all but routed on the 6th, though discipline was to some extent restored by evening. The following day the Union forces, strengthened by Lew Wallace's fresh division and by the arrival of the Army of the Ohio under Don Carlos Buell, were able to rally and drive the Confederates from the field. The enemy, whose preparatory movements had been largely screened by the rough wooded terrain along the Tennessee River, had struck before expected on the morning of the 6th. The troops that were camped on the west bank around Pittsburg Landing had had plenty of time to entrench but had not done so; Grant

was breakfasting at a headquarters nine miles down the river on the other side when the fighting began; not many who saw the first day's butchery ever succeeded in describing it with detachment. For a good part of the day the Union forces were an ill-controlled mob, crazed with panic, surging back and forth over their own comrades' corpses. Few of the commanders had much idea where the others were or what they were doing. There were 13,000 casualties out of about 63,000 engaged, and on the Confederate side, the loss was 11,000 out of 40,000. The Confederates lost their commander, Albert Sidney Johnston, one of the South's ablest generals.

The experience of Shiloh, despite its victorious outcome, was a traumatic shock to all who had participated in it. For many years afterward there would be bitterness and recrimination between Grant's command, whose chief spokesman was Sherman (Grant himself remaining aloof), and that of General Buell. The controversy over just how the blame for the first day's errors should be assigned, and where the credit for the second day's recovery should be awarded, is by its very nature such that nobody can ever quite settle it. It was carried on, both at service reunions and in print, for as long as any of the participants remained alive.

Generally speaking, the dispute revolves about the following points: (1) The degree to which carelessness on Grant's and Sherman's part permitted them to be caught on the morning of the 6th; (2) the slowness of Buell in arriving; and (3) the extent to which Buell contributed to the victory. Buell arrived by boat during the first afternoon, and the first thing he saw was the milling chaos of stragglers fleeing from the lines. He was shocked, and said so. Sherman, doubtless touchy over the multiple implications of this, never gave Buell the credit which the latter thought he should have had for the battle's outcome, and actually objected when he thought Buell's work of the 7th was praised too highly. Buell, for his part, was not inclined to be charitable toward what he thought were slovenly preparations.

Such a situation, as we may see, can make for endless wrangling. Buell, a conscientious and able soldier, had a case; so, for that matter, had Sherman, even though Shiloh was not by any means his or Grant's finest hour. Though we cannot go into the merits of the case here, it is worth saying that there was no charlatanry on either side. It was an honest — and extremely bitter — difference of viewpoint.

The following document, one of several bearing on the argument, is being published for the first time. It was written as a letter to the editor of the *United States Service Magazine*, Henry Coppée, some time in 1865 as a rejoinder to one that Sherman had published in the January number of the same journal. Shortly after this time the magazine went out of existence and Buell's letter was never printed. The original of the letter was discovered about twenty years ago by Allan Nevins, now DeWitt Clinton Professor Emeritus of American History, in the possession of a rare book dealer in Baltimore. Professor Nevins purchased the letter and has recently given it to the Columbia Libraries. The text is here given in full.



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This picture of Southern boys in camp indicates the youthfulness of many of the troops. This factor, which was present with Union troops as well, led both to heroism and on occasion to panic and rout.

The Battle of Shiloh, or Pittsburg Landing.

DON CARLOS BUELL

To

Professor Henry Coppée [Editor],
United States Service Magazine,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Major General Sherman is apprehensive that the sketch of Lieutenant General Grant published in the June number of the United States Service Magazine, is "likely to perpetuate an error, which General Grant may not deem of sufficient importance to correct". He reminds you that his "life is liable to cease at any moment" — says that he "happens to be a witness to certain truths which are now beginning to pass out of memory, and from what is called history" — a result which it appears he does not like; and on these grounds, he asks you to excuse a "long letter", which he informs you "is very unusual" for him, and which I have only seen in the papers of this city, under the caption of "*A Vindication of General Grant*"

General Sherman tells you that "as General Taylor is said in his latter days to have doubted whether he was at the battle of Buonavista at all, on account of the many things having transpired there, according to the historians, which he did not see, so he (General Sherman) begins to doubt whether he was at the battle of Pittsburg Landing of modern description"; but he omits to mention, by way of perfecting the comparison that General Taylor was the Commander-in-Chief at the battle of Buonavista, and that his doubt had allusion to the pretensions of an ambitious subordinate, whose position was, perhaps, more analagous to



The siege-battery, above the Landing, that was a part of the "last line" in the first day's battle when the Confederate advance was finally halted.

General Sherman's than was General Sherman's to General Taylor's. However that may be, if General Sherman will turn to the published accounts of the battle of Shiloh given at the time by eye witnesses from his own camps, he will be better satisfied with the "modern descriptions".

If General Sherman really desired to vindicate General Grant, he has in some respects executed his purpose very poorly; and if on the contrary he only yielded to an inordinate egotism and itching for fame, by inviting more than the liberal praise which has already been bestowed on him, and above all by gratuitously disparaging the services of others, then he has fallen short of a deportment suited to his official honors.*

The passage in your article to which he takes exception —

*This paragraph was crossed out in pencil on the manuscript, possibly by someone other than the author. The latter's corrections were made in ink.

— EDITOR

leaving out some complimentary allusion to myself — is in words that, “but for the immediate and timely arrival of General Buell’s forces, and the conduct of that officer, the disaster of the first day (at the battle of Shiloh) might not have been retrieved”; and by way of vindicating General Grant from such an aspersion, he goes on to say a great deal about himself and less about General Grant. He tells you that “General Grant visited his division about 10 o’clock a.m.” during the first day’s fight, and “after some general conversation, remarked that he (Sherman) was doing right in stubbornly opposing the progress of the enemy; and in answer to his (Sherman’s) inquiry as to cartridges, told him that he (Grant) had anticipated their want”, etc., and “then said his (Grant’s) presence was more needed over at the left”. He tells you that General Grant visited him again “about 5 o’clock, before sunset”; and after they had explained to each other the condition of affairs, and “agreed that the enemy had expended the furore of his attack, they estimated their losses, and approximated their then strength”. He tells you that General Grant then ordered him, (the commander of a division,) [“]* to get all things ready and assume the offensive next morning”. This he says “was before General Buell had arrived”; leaving it to be inferred that General Grant had not made known to him the fact that he had seen General Buell, that his troops were then actually arriving at the river, and that support was certainly to be expected from that source; but that without reference to such support he had determined to assume the offensive with the remnant of his force. As if doubtful whether even his own troops who were present at that battle would credit such a representation of the case, he reiterates that he “knows he had orders from General Grant to assume the offensive, before he (Sherman) knew Buell was on the west bank of the Tennessee”; and that “the troops in the front line had at 4 o’clock p.m., checked the enemy, and were preparing the next

*Except for a few editorial additions, in brackets, Buell’s article is reproduced exactly as he wrote it.



Wounded men and stragglers coming back to the landing, while ammunition wagons go towards the front.

day to assume the offensive ["]. He remembers [“] the fact the better from General Grant’s anecdote of his Donelson battle, which he told him then for the first time — that at a certain period of the battle, he saw that either side was ready to give way if the other showed a bold front, and that he determined to do that very thing, to advance on the enemy, when, as he prognosticated, the enemy surrendered”. You are thus given to understand, according to General Sherman, that at a certain period of the battle at Donelson, General Grant’s thirty or thirty five thousand men were ready to give way if his adversary ten or twelve thousand strong, with an impassable river in his rear, had shown a bold front, and that Grant triumphed by bravado. You are told that at 4 o’clock, p.m. on the 6th of April,—by which time the camps of his army, with 4000 prisoners and half of his artillery, were in the hands of the enemy; 6,000 of his men killed or wounded; 20,000 routed and demoralized and swarming down the river for miles, with longing eyes turned to the opposite shore, or crouching beneath the bank in a paralysis of fear; and with probably not more than 10,000 men in ranks on the field of battle — you are told that under these circumstances General Grant “thought the appearances the same, (as at the battle of Donelson,) and he judged with Lew Wallace’s fresh division, and such of our startled troops as had gained their equilibrium, he would be justified in dropping the defensive and assuming the offensive in the morning”!¹ And General Sherman reiterates again, as if to insist that this determination was formed without regard to the succor which was at hand, that he “received such orders before he knew General Buell’s troops were at the river”. He assures you also that “there was no

¹ Sherman’s letter states at this point: “I never was disposed, nor am I now, to question any thing done by General Buell and his army, and know that approaching our field of battle from the rear, he encountered that sickening crowd of laggards and fugitives that excited his contempt, and that of his army, who never gave full credit to those in the front line, who did fight hard, and who had, at four P.M., checked the enemy, and were preparing the next day to assume the offensive.” *United States Service Magazine*, Vol. III, no. 1, January 1865, page 2.

mistake" in debarking that army on the west bank of the river — that "it was not then a question of military skill and strategy, but of courage and pluck", with much more such matter which it would be wearisome to repeat. But even the merit of committing no error in that particular, according to General Sherman, was not General Grant's but General Charles F. Smith's, by whom the selection of the ground² and all the dispositions of the troops were made, before General Grant succeeded to the command.

These are remarkable declarations, as regards the facts, opinions and assumptions which they set forth. They relieve General Grant justly of much responsibility that was supposed to rest upon him: they transfer, justly or unjustly, to General Charles F. Smith who is in his grave, the responsibility of landing the Army of the Tennessee on the west bank of the river, and, by inference, of whatever misfortune resulted from that act; which at the same time they undertake to justify on the absurd plea that it was necessary in that way "to test the manhood"³ of the troops: they virtually deny that the Army of the Tennessee was reduced to very straightened circumstances on the 6th of April; and they make

² Sherman wrote that the battle-field "was chosen by that veteran soldier, Major-General Charles F. Smith, who ordered my division to disembark there, and strike for the Charleston Railroad. This order was subsequently modified, by his ordering Hurlbut's Division to disembark there, and mine higher up the Tennessee, to the mouth of Yellow Creek, to strike the railroad at Burnsville. But floods prevented our reaching the railroad, when General Smith ordered me in person also to disembark at Pittsburg Landing, and take post well out, so as to make plenty of room, with Snake and Lick Creeks the flanks of a camp for the grand army of invasion. It was General Smith who selected that field of battle, and it was well chosen. On any other we surely would have been overwhelmed, as both Lick and Snake Creeks forced the enemy to confine his movement to a direct front attack, which new troops are better qualified to resist than where the flanks are exposed to a real or chimerical danger." *Ibid*, pages 3-4.

³ Sherman's statement was as follows: "It was necessary that a combat, fierce and bitter, to test the manhood of the two armies, should come off, and that was as good a place as any. It was not then a question of military skill and strategy, but of courage and pluck, and I am convinced that every life lost that day to us was necessary, for otherwise at Corinth, at Memphis, at Vicksburg, we would have found harder resistance, had we not shown our enemies that, rude and untutored as we then were, we could fight as well as they." *Ibid*, page 4.

General Sherman the dominant figure in the scenes which they depict. Such declarations are not all to be taken on faith. If they are satisfactory so far as General Grant's responsibility for the debarkation of the army on the west bank of the Tennessee is concerned, they are not conclusive in regard to the propriety of that act, or General Smith's responsibility for it; nor above all are they satisfactory in regard to the surprise and neglects which occasioned a loss of 13,000 men to that army, and drove it to the very verge of ruin. The tide of popular favor has given too much weight to General Sherman's expressions to make it a gratuitous labor to expose his falacies [sic], and I shall state some facts affecting these two points. They are not to be set down to the score of crimination or recrimination, for they concern the history of those events, and have an important bearing on the representation which General Sherman has made of my connection with them.

First: The army of General Grant was not, for the particular movement up the Tennessee, an independent force sent to occupy a certain point threatened by the enemy, but was one of two separate armies which were ordered to form a junction and make what General Sherman calls a "grand army of invasion", the objective point of which was expected to be Corinth, where it was understood the enemy was concentrating. To place the two portions of that combined army on opposite sides of a formidable river — one of them within twenty miles of a greatly superior force, as that of the enemy was supposed to be — when no precise time had been fixed for the junction — when in fact the other portion was not prepared to move, and had one hundred and forty miles to march, at a season of the year when unavoidable delays were to be expected — is so repugnant to common sense, that it is unnecessary to say what military rules it violated, or what, if any, it did not violate. The responsibility of that error cannot be made to rest on the memory of General Smith until it is shown what instructions he acted under and what confirmation his acts received. General Sherman does not mitigate the error, to whom-

sover it may attach, by stating in one place that floods prevented him from striking for the rail road at Burnsville, with one division, say 8,000 men, within fourteen miles of "the concentrated armies of Johnston, Beauregard, and Bragg"; to operate against which he admits in another place that a "grand army of invasion" — in fact, more than one hundred thousand men — was forming under General Halleck. His declaration that the question was not one of "military skill and strategy, but of courage and pluck", may answer the purpose of a claptrap, but does not befit a man who aspires to the direction of armies.

Second: A greater mistake than that of false position, was the neglect of all proper measures against the danger with which he says that force was threatened in that faulty position; and probably no person was more justly blamable for that mistake than General Sherman himself. General Grant as the Commander was of course to be regarded as responsible for the acts of his subordinates, and he has not that I have heard attempted to evade the responsibility; but General Sherman states that the disposition of the troops was made before Grants [sic] arrival; General Smith was to my knowledge on his death-bed at Savanna; and if General Grant's presence was necessary at that place, General Sherman, though the second in rank was the only high officer of military education and experience with the troops; his division formed the first line, or advanced guard, and it was natural that General Grant should rely on an officer of his intelligence in such a position for all proper precautions against sudden peril.

At all events, to whomsoever that duty belonged, no condition of things could more have disappointed such an expectation. The troops were distributed in convenient camping places, and so as "to make plenty of room for the grand army of invasion"; no line or plan of battle, or coherency of action, was prescribed and made familiar to the various commands; no entrenchments or other defensive works were prepared; unguarded ravines penetrated the camps and, used by the enemy, prevented direct communication

between some of the corps; the crossings of Lick Creek, three miles distant, which the enemy passed to make the attack, were undefended and unguarded; and a few pickets thrown out half a mile from some of the camps, formed the only safeguard against the sudden onset of an enemy. The consequence was that, so far as preparation for battle is concerned, no army could well have been taken more by surprise than was the Army of the Tennessee on the 6th of April. It was not such a surprise as might result from the fancied absence of an enemy — for the confederate cavalry had actually hovered about the army for two days — but it was the more culpable surprise resulting from a total want of suitable preparation. The enemy deliberately formed his line of battle within one mile of the camps, and in some instances the first indication of his presence in any force, was the appearance of his skirmishes in the camps while the soldiers were leisurely getting out of their beds, or preparing their breakfast by the campfires. When suddenly assailed and enveloped — separated in many cases more than half a mile by dense woods from their comrades of neighboring commands, and of whose fate or condition they could know nothing — what wonder that disorder and confusion prevented them from offering any effectual resistance? It is a scandal to assert that the battle of the 6th was any fair “test of the manhood” of the troops who were routed or captured, though it was indeed a severe test of their discipline. Nor will it do to ascribe the disaster of that day to the rawness of the troops, or the numerical superiority of the enemy. Many of the troops had been months in the service under Grant, C. F. Smith, and Sherman, had taken part in the campaign against Donelson, and seen other service. I myself contributed twelve regiments to that force early in February, and four of them were comparatively old regiments. If part of the force was quite new, that was equally the case with the Army of the Ohio, and perhaps every other then in the field. General Grant’s army was not inferior in numbers to its assailant. It is now known that the latter did not much if at all exceed forty thousand

men while the former must have been nearer fifty thousand strong.

Public opinion at home and abroad has adjudged, justly, that the debarkation of General Grants [sic] army on the west bank of the river was an error, seeing that it was considered to be in the presence of a superior adversary; it has also adjudged that the battle of the 6th was ushered upon the Army of the Tennessee under the auspices of grave neglects; and I have a very poor opinion of the intelligence or candor of those who may undertake to deny that that army was rescued from a destruction which had already virtually overtaken it, by the timely presence and valor of the Army of Ohio. The first fault was in the violation of a military principle, but it would not probably have been attended with disastrous consequences had it not been for the second fault; because, contrary to the previous supposition, the Army of the Tennessee was not numerically inferior to the attacking army, and might at least have been made secure in a strong position. It is the part of true manliness and honesty in those concerned, to frankly admit these facts, and repose on the sturdy efforts which they made to retrieve their error. Faults are not so rare in war, however skillful the officer, as not to be viewed with a generous forbearance when they are balanced by important services and gallant deportment; unless, indeed, they are impudently denied, or attempted to be screened by disparagements or imputations on the labors of others.

I do not know when General Grant visited General Sherman on the 6th, or what order he gave him; but in examining the ground in front of his line, I visited him myself a little after dark. He said nothing to me of any orders that he had received, or of what he proposed to do; but either in answer to his inquiry or at my own volition, I told him that I was going to attack the enemy at day light in the morning, and he expressed gratification that such was to be the plan of action. This so far as I was concerned was not the result of any orders of General Grant, nor was the question discussed between us. I presume that neither of us thought there was

any thing else to do. In his official report General Sherman says nothing about having received orders on the evening of the 6th to advance, or "assume the offensive", on the following morning; but he does say that he received such orders at daylight on the morning of the 7th, and that he then dispatched staff officers "to hurry up all the men men [sic] they could find, and especially" a brigade which had been separated from him during the battle. By that time my troops were actually in motion. General Sherman tells you that he "understood General Grant's forces were to advance on the right of the Corinth road, and Buell's on the left". I know nothing of any such understanding, and certainly I did not pretend to conform to it. I must confess that I did not expect much assistance from General Grant's troops, but I could by no means say now that they did not contribute materially to the success on the 7th. I put Nelson's division in front of their left after dark on the night of the 6th, and Crittenden's remained in the road to take position in the morning according to what I should discover of the ground and the position of the enemy. These divisions advanced about daylight the next morning. Nelson's very soon became engaged, and continued so without any material intermission until the enemy was driven from the field in the afternoon. Crittenden followed Nelson and took position on his right, and McCook, who came up very soon after took position on Crittenden's right. My belief is that McCook was advancing to attack by 10 o'clock, and this is confirmed by General Sherman's official report, although his letter tells you that he waited for me until 12 o'clock. I do not know when General Sherman became engaged. If he waited for me, which certainly would have been very proper, I did not fin[d] him. In the course of the day my divisions passed through and drove the enemy from all of the advanced camps, except on the extreme right; a service which at that time General Sherman and the mass of that army did not hesitate to acknowledge in warmer terms than that they were merely *glad we were*

there.⁴ I do not know how General Sherman found the fighting on the 7th — no doubt much easier than on the 6th. I have quite as little doubt that the enemy found it just the reverse. The fighting which is attended with victory always seems easier than that which is marked by defeat and disaster.

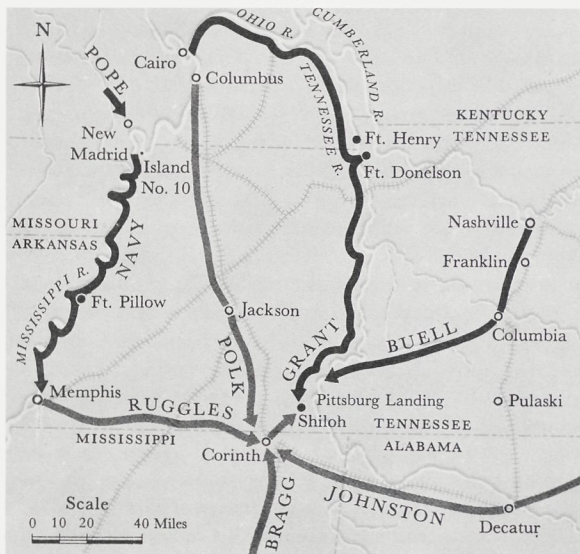
General Sherman tells you that "General Buell's troops took no essential part in the first days fight".⁵ If he studied his words I do not agree with him; but if he means that they took no protracted part in the first days [sic] struggle he is correct. The leading brigade of Nelson's division reached the west bank of the river about sunset, and, with a battery which was standing in park near the landing, was put into position, and repelled an attack which the enemy made with artillery and infantry at that moment at the landing. A member of General Grant's staff on escort farther to the rear was killed in that attack, and the enemy's projectiles fell into the river beyond the transports. It is impossible to tell what force the enemy brought to this attack, for the ground was screened by woods and ravines; but those who witnessed the condition of things about the landing before my troops arrived, will admit that there was very little prospect of resisting even a small force, and will hesitate to affirm that the action of my troops on that occasion was not decidedly an essential circumstance.

General Sherman thinks that "Criminations (such as he gives authenticity to in his letter) ought to be frowned down"; and he is, himself, the first official that I know of who has made the imputations contained in the following sentence which appears in his letter: "Our Army of the Tennessee have indulged in severe criti-

⁴ Buell refers to the following sentence of Sherman's: "I admit that I was glad Buell was there, because I knew his troops were older than ours, and better systematized and drilled, and his arrival made that certain, which before was uncertain." *Ibid.*, page 3.

⁵ Sherman's sentence continued as follows: "... and Grant's army, though collected together hastily, green as militia, some regiments arriving without cartridges even, and nearly all hearing the dread sound of battle for the first time, had successfully withstood and repelled the first day's terrific onset of a superior enemy, well commanded and well handled." *Ibid.*, page 2.

cisms at the slow approach of that army, (the Army of the Ohio,) which knew the danger that threatened us from the concentrated armies of Johnston, Beauregard, and Bragg that lay at Corinth". I will give you the facts to show that these imputations are unwarranted. The evidence to establish what I shall relate, is of record, but would too much encumber this letter, already longer than I could wish.



This map shows the movement of Union and Confederate troops leading up to the Battle of Shiloh.

First: The coöperation between the Army of the Ohio and the Army of the Tennessee for a campaign against the enemy's forces in the neighborhood of Corinth, was concerted between General Halleck and myself while we were yet independent commanders

— he commanding the Department of Missouri, and I the Department of the Ohio — and while my army was concentrating at Nashville. His troops moved by water up the Tennessee, that being the most convenient, and in fact the only practicable route for them. I deemed it best that mine should march through by land, because such a movement would clear middle Tennessee of the enemy, and facilitate the occupation of the Memphis and Charleston rail road through north Alabama, to which I had assigned General Mitchel. I believed also that I could effect the movement almost as promptly that way as by water. and I knew that it would bring my army upon the field of future operations in better condition. I commenced my march from Nashville on the 15th of March with a rapid movement of cavalry, followed by McCook's division, to seize the bridges which were yet in the possession of the enemy. The latter, however, succeeded in destroying the bridge over Duck river, at Columbia, forty miles distant, and another a few miles further north. At that time our armies were not provided with ponton trains, and rivers had to be crossed with such means as we could make. The streams were out of their banks, Duck river was a formidable barrier, and it was not until the 31st that the army was able to cross. I state that the work of bridging was under intelligent officers whom I continually urged to complete it as soon as possible, and that it was prosecuted with energy and diligence; and no man is at liberty to throw doubt upon the fact without evidence to the contrary. In the meantime I had been placed by the War Department under the orders of General Halleck, and he designated Savanna on the east bank of the Tennessee as the place for our junction. The distance from Columbia is ninety miles and was marched at the rate of fifteen miles a day without a halt. The distance from Nashville is one hundred and thirty miles, and was marched in nine marching days; and twelve days were occupied in bridging streams. The rear divisions, in consequence of the battle made forced marches. The urgency was widely greater, but did General Sherman move more

rapidly in going to the succor of Rosecran's army which had been defeated at Chicamauga [sic] and was then sorely beleaguered at Chattanooga? I have not the data from which to draw the comparison exactly, but I should like it to be drawn with that, or any



Major General Don Carlos Buell

other march that General Sherman has ever made under similar circumstances; though I do not pretend that that would decide whether my movement was rapid or slow.

Second: The assertion that I knew that General Grant was in jeopardy has no foundation in truth, and I shall show that General Halleck and General Grant themselves could not have believed that such was the case. I have already stated that the original object of my movement was not to succor General Grant's army, but to form a junction with it for an ulterior offensive campaign.

Savanna on the opposite side of the river from the enemy had been designated for the junction, and I supposed that the force I was to join was there, until within a few days of my arrival, when I casually learned otherwise; and then I was told that it was secure in the natural strength of the position. To make sure of what it was, in fact, unreasonable to doubt, I had previously, on the 18th, telegraphed to General Halleck: "I understand that General Grant is on the east side of the river; is it not so?"; and the reply did not inform me to the contrary. I was in communication with General Halleck by telegraph, as was also General Grant by telegraph and steamers; and I was in communication with General Grant by courriers [sic]. At no time did either of those officers inform me of Grant's actual position or that he was thought to be in danger. But, furthermore, on the 3rd of April, as I approached Waynesboro, thirty miles from Savanna, I advised General Halleck by telegraph that at that place the road forked to strike the river at several points, one of them being Hamburg, which it appeared to me might be a more suitable point for me to cross than at Savanna, nine miles lower down. In reply, General Halleck approved of my suggestion, and directed me to halt at Waynesboro, saying that he could not leave St. Louis before the 7th to join us; but as his dispatch did not reach me before I arrived at Waynesboro, I made no halt, but continued my march to Savanna. And further yet: the day before his arrival at Savanna, General Nelson, who commanded my leading division, advised General Grant by courier [sic] of his approach, and was informed in reply that it was unnecessary to hasten his march, as he could not at any rate cross the river before the following tuesday [sic]. Nevertheless that division, and myself, arrived at Savanna Saturday, as I had directed. The next morning General Grant was attacked at Pittsburg Landing. And in spite of the declaration which General Sherman now makes, the presumption is irresistible [sic] — from a careful consideration of his letter, from the facts which I have related, and from the weight which his experience and his official position in

that army gave him with General Halleck and General Grant — that he must have shared in their feeling of security. I believe that direct evidence can be adduced of the fact, to doubt which, indeed, would be more unreasonable than even to suppose that his opinion misled their judgment.

To return to the question with which General Sherman opens his letter, I have no doubt that you formed your opinion concerning the battle of Shiloh from a careful study of the subject; and I am even more confident that an accumulation of evidence will sustain you in the conviction expressed in your article, that “but for the immediate and timely arrival of General Buell’s forces, the disaster of the first day might not have been retrieved”. General Sherman’s official report is better than his later memories. He may since have been dazzled by the map of the battle issued from General Halleck’s Head Quarters, on which are arrayed four magnificent divisions of the Army of the Tennessee, leaving of course but a small cover for the Army of the Ohio. Yet one of what had been the divisions of that army acted under my direction in the battle of the 7th, as did other scattered regiments. Its position was at first in reserve, and later in the day it served at various points between McCook and Nelson. It numbered possibly fifteen hundred men, was commanded by Colonel Tuttle, of Iowa, and did good service. There is another significant fact: my regiments did not wander from the control of their division commanders; yet I find one of them, the 32nd Indiana, Colonel, now General Willick, credited in the official report of General Lew Wallace, with coming to the support of a portion of his division, which occupied the extreme right, and between which and mine are represented, on the map referred to, three full spaced divisions of General Grant’s army. I do not mean by this that General Grant had no other troops besides Wallace’s division there or that they did less than their duty, but I mean that the Army of the Ohio fought victoriously upon three fourths of the front of that battle field.

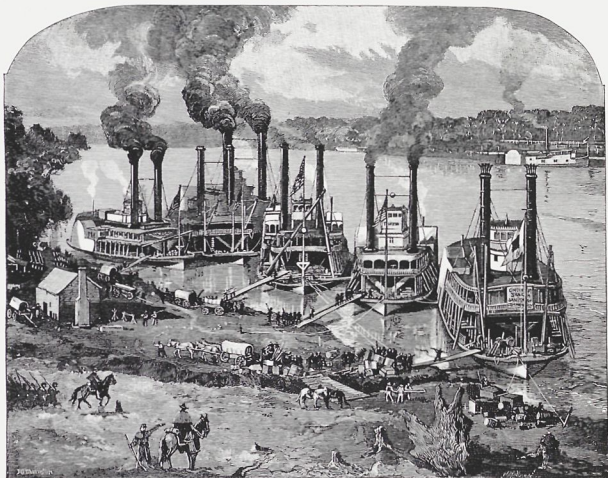
I have taken up General Sherman's letter with no pleasure, but it was due to the army which I commanded that I should write what I have written.

D. C. Buell

Bibliographical Note:

The reader interested in a further look at this problem — in considerable measure a problem in emphasis — may find all the evidence he needs in the Columbia Library. There are, for instance, the reports of Sherman and Buell in *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Ser. I, Vol. X, 248-54, 291-96; Buell's "Shiloh Reviewed", *Battles and Leaders of the Civil War*, I, 487-536; Grant's "Battle of Shiloh", in *ibid.*, I, 465-86; Sherman's *Memoirs*, I, 252-75; and Grant's *Personal Memoirs*, I, 330-70. Two good modern accounts, whose viewpoints differ somewhat with regard to the principals, are Kenneth P. Williams, *Lincoln Finds a General*, III, 345-95; Allan Nevins, *The War for the Union*, II, 65-87, 541-43.

— ERIC L. MCKITRICK



Pittsburg Landing a few days after the battle, showing some of the transports which brought Buell's army and the steamer (second from the right) which was General Grant's headquarters during the battle of Shiloh.

The Plimpton Library

FRANCIS T. P. PLIMPTON

In the November, 1960, issue of the Columns, Mr. Plimpton set forth a brief biographical sketch of his father, the late George A. Plimpton, who presented his marvellous library of the "tools of learning" to Columbia University in May, 1936, just a few months before his death. In the following article our contributor discusses the collection itself, delineates the motives and objectives which prompted its collector, and points out a few of the highlights in a library which must stand for all time as one of the principal treasures now available to scholars at Columbia University.

— EDITOR

MY FATHER was fond of describing his Library in terms of the "Tower of Knowledge", a five-story structure that is pictured with its learned inhabitants in one of his favorite books, the *Margarita Philosophica* (Freiburg, 1503), an important encyclopedia written at the close of the fifteenth century by the Carthusian Gregorius (or George) Reisch, confessor to Maximilian I, teacher of Eck and Waldseemüller and assistant to Erasmus.

The woodcut plate in the *Margarita* reveals a somewhat apprehensive child being presented with a hornbook (to learn his letters) by a stern medieval lady teacher, designated Nicostratæ (the mother of Evander, from whom he received the gift of letters), who is unlocking the Tower with a large key marked *congruitas* (the way to wisdom). Picture-windows on the first two floors disclose benched pupils (*triclinium philosophie*, the banquet of philosophy) listening to Donatus (ca. 333), grammarian and teacher of St. Jerome, and, above, Priscian (ca. 500), called by Gibbon "the last of the Old Romans whom Cato or Tully could have acknowledged for their countryman." From windows in the three

Francis T. P. Plimpton



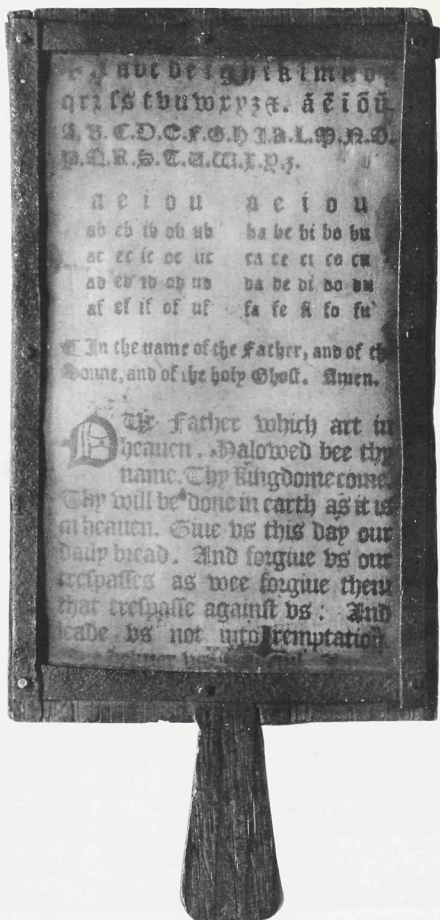
THE TOWER OF KNOWLEDGE (from *Margarita Philosophica* by Gregorius Reisch, Freiburg, 1503) showing the various stages in medieval education.

upper floors gaze the stolid visages of logician Aristotle, rhetorician Cicero ("Tully"), arithmetician Boethius, musician Pythagoras, geometrician Euclid, astronomer Ptolemy, natural philosopher Pliny, and moral philosopher Seneca — all of whom personify the *trivium* and *quadrivium* of the medieval educational discipline. Peering over the crenellated battlements of the topmost turret is theologian and metaphysician Peter Lombard, who died ca. 1160. He alone among these eleven master teachers had lived within a thousand years of the time the woodcut was designed, and by that fact the conservatism of medieval education can be judged.

The Plimpton Library fully illustrates the laborious climb of the child from his first grasp of the hornbook to his eventual communion with Peter Lombard on the theological heights. Indeed, any description of my father's library must inevitably begin with mention of the exceptional collection of some forty hornbooks which he managed to bring together. "Hornbooks" is the generic term, because they were most often small slabs of wood, fashioned to be held by tiny thumb and fingers, with the letters, numbers, and moral precepts protected by transparent horn; some of the Plimpton specimens, however, were cast or engraved in metal or carved in ivory. My father's personal bookplate and that of the Library that is now at Columbia is in the form of a hornbook; as the Amherst Trustees said in their memorial of him:

His book-plate is an engraved reproduction of the lettered and numbered face of an ancient hornbook — letters and numbers, the first things put into a child's hand on the road to learning and, when combined together by the mind, the last thing a man has to say at the journey's end.

From these handy (in the literal sense of the word) alphabet-teachers developed the primers; the Library has notable examples, beginning with a manuscript *Primer* of Chaucer's time (circa 1400), containing the alphabet, the Exorcism, Lord's Prayer,



Blackletter hornbook, printed on paper, under transparent horn. Wooden frame, brass bound. English, 17th century.

Creed, Ten Commandments, Seven Deadly Sins, etc.; of the last the author says (miscounting):

Pride wrathe & enuy ben synnes of the fend. Couetice and auarice ben synnes of the world. Gloteny slowthe & lecheri ben synnes of the flessch. & thes ben the large weyes to helle & many passen therbi to helle for thei will not bysi them to knowe gods cōmaundēmets.

One of the most distinguished primers in the Library is Henry VIII's *The Primer, in Englishe and Latyn* (1545). This copy had once been owned by Thomas Thirlby, Bishop of Westminster under Henry VIII, who commissioned him, together with the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Duke of Suffolk, and the Earl of Southampton, to examine Catherine Howard, Henry's fifth queen; they obtained the confession of her "light living" that led her to the scaffold in 1542. (Thirlby, be it noted, was later deposed by Queen Elizabeth for his refusal to take the Oath of Supremacy and was sent to the Tower himself.)

Having learned his letters and numbers, a child must then learn how to fashion them himself, to write. The Plimpton Library's collection of books on the techniques of writing is among the greatest ever formed. The copybooks range from the earliest manuals of manuscript calligraphers to later exquisite examples printed from wood and copper plates. Included is the only recorded copy of the first English edition (1570) of *A Booke Containing Divers Sortes of hands* . . . by John de Beau Chesne and John Baildon, which contains no less than thirty-seven styles of writing — among them the "texte hand", the "bastard secretary", the "small bastard secretary", the "secretary", a "secretary hande, written withe the lefte hand" (which must be read with a mirror), and others. The year of publication of this volume was most probably the one in which Shakespeare entered school, and his signature most closely follows the "secretary" style. The various hands are illustrated with texts that are all quite noble and pious:

If thow haddest the wisdome of Salomon, the bewtie of Absolon, the puissance of Sampson, the long lyfe of Enoch, the richesse of



Mould for making clay or gingerbread hornbooks, 18th century.
Matthew Prior (1664-1721) is said to have written:

To Master John the English Maid
A hornbook gives of ginger bread
And that the child may learn the better
All he can name he eats the letter.

Cresus, the power of Octavian; what can all this avayle the, whan the body is dead.

As to grammar, the next basic ingredient of a child's education, the Library has a 13th-century Italian manuscript thought to be by Donatus, and two 15th-century Italian manuscripts that are definitely his, and, more importantly from the viewpoint of rarity, a leaf from a 30-line Donatus grammar printed by Gutenberg *before* the Gutenberg Bible was completed. Other early grammarians are represented by two 15th-century Italian manuscripts on vellum of Priscian's *Grammatica*; a 14th-century Flemish manuscript of Ebrardus' *Græcismus*; a Latin grammar of the same period, *Summa Doctrinæ*, by an Augustinian monk; a 15th-century German manuscript of Wilhelm Wert's *Lilium Grammaticæ*. Two distinguished printed grammars — among a multitude — are Philip Melancthon's *Grammatica Latina* (Paris, 1528) and an otherwise unrecorded edition of William Lily's *Rudimenta* in English (London, ca. 1525), which begins with the admonition:

Whan I have an englishe to be tourned into latyn, I shall reherse it twyes or thryes and loke out ye verbe.

Lily's *Rudimenta* was a forerunner of his complete Latin grammar which he compiled somewhat later, and which dominated English education for centuries, despite a petition brought against it in the House of Lords in 1768.

Among the rhetorics in the Library are a fine 15th-century Italian manuscript in neat miniscules, of Cicero's *Rhetorica*; an 11th-century commentary on Cicero by Marius Fabius Victorinus; and a German commentary, possibly by Hieronymus Mehner, of the early 1500's. There are two fine early 15th-century manuscripts of Cicero's *Tusculanæ*, one of which contains, inside an illuminated initial letter, a rather lugubrious imaginary portrait of the great rhetorician. Sir Thomas Wilson's famous *Arte of Rhetorique* is represented by the scarce first edition, 1553, and by many of the later editions. In discussing composition faults, Sir Thomas says:

Some will set the carte before the horse, as thus. My mother and my father are both at home, even as though the good man of the house were no breaches, or that the graye Mare were the better Horse.

The standard texts for logic were Aristotle's *Topica* and *Analytica*, manuscripts of both being in the Plimpton Library. The Library also contains a manuscript of Aristotle's *Ethica Nichomachea*, written in 1393, and possibly representing Walter Burley's Latin translation. It contains a fanciful portrait of Aristotle, in the first illuminated initial, in the form of a bearded Renaissance scholar.

The Library is particularly strong in arithmetics. *Rara Arithmetica*, by the late Professor David Eugene Smith of Teachers College, published in 1908, called the Library the largest collection of pre-1600 printed arithmetics ever gathered together, and between 1908 and 1936 the collection was greatly strengthened. It contains the very rare Treviso arithmetic of 1478 (*Arte dell' Abbaco*) and the first English arithmetic (in Latin), *De Arte supputandi* by Tunstall (1522) with a Holbein title page. But before the printed books come the manuscripts: two beautifully illuminated 13th-century copies of Boethius' *Arithmetica*; a 14th-century manuscript of the Florentine Paolo Dagomari's *Trattato d'Abbaco*, and many others. Algebra is represented by a Latin manuscript, dated 1456, of Mohammed ibn Musa al-Khowarizmi, writer of the first book bearing the title "Algebra".

Geometry means Euclid, and the Library includes many Euclid manuscripts. The earliest is in Latin on vellum, of about 1260, containing Campanus' commentary on the *Elementa*, and is believed to be the actual copy presented by Campanus to Pope Urban IV while the latter was Jacques Pantaleon, Patriarch of Jerusalem. There are also the first printed edition, published by Ratdolt in Venice, 1482; the even rarer Vicenza reprint of 1491; the first printed edition of Euclid in Greek (Basle, 1533); the first transla-

tion into a modern tongue, Italian (Venice, 1543); and the first edition in English (London, 1570).

The geographies are of special interest. The *Cosmographia* of Pomponius Mela is present in the Venice, 1477, edition. Caius Julius Solinus, third-century Roman, is represented by a vellum manuscript (ca. 1480) of his *De Situ Orbis*, by the first printed edition (Venice, Jenson, 1473), and the Vienna edition of 1520, edited by Joannes Camers, and containing one of the earliest maps of "America", with open water between the two continents and the northern one called "terra incognita". Villanovanus' edition of Ptolemy's geography, published at Lyons in 1535 (rare because John Calvin ordered all copies burned, together with the editor, Servetus), protests against the New World's being called "America". The engraved maps of the world in the Library's first Italian edition of Ptolemy (Venice, 1548) show North America as a part of Asia, and South America as a peninsula. Isidore of Seville's *Etymologiæ* (the *Encyclopædia Britannica* of the Middle Ages), which contains a "map" of the world after the ancient Greek conception — a circle surrounded by Oceanum Mare containing three quadrants allotted to the sons of Noah: Europe to Japheth, Africa to Ham, and all the rest, Asia and the Orient, to Shem — is present in a beautiful 13th-century manuscript and in the second printed edition (Strassburg, 1473). Another early encyclopedia of the greatest significance is the beautiful 14th-century manuscript of the English translation of the *De Proprietatibus Rerum* of Bartholomæus Anglicus.

Construing geography to include travel, the Library contains several noteworthy items — a 15th-century manuscript in Latin of the travels of Marco Polo and another (1456) of the somewhat more imaginary travels of Sir John Mandeville, written by Siberus Herkenbosch de Sittart in the Monastery of Good Boys at Liège.

In astronomy the Library has a 15th-century vellum manuscript of *De Sphæra Mundi* of Johannes de Sacrobosco (John Holy-

wood), and a printed version from the press of Johannes Santritter (Venice, 1488), as well as several anonymous astronomical manuscripts of the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries.

More important, but comparatively unknown, is a contemporary manuscript (late 1300's) of Chaucer's *Treatise on the Astrolobe* formerly in the library of the Earl of Ashburnham and before that the property of Sir Kenelm Digby, and containing his signature. The treatise is addressed by Chaucer to his son Lewis. Allied are a 13th-century astronomical manuscript by Alcantarus, and a 13th-century manuscript commentary on the Lord's Prayer, which annotates "Who are in Heaven" with a panegyric to that locality and some of the road distances — e.g., earth to the moon 15,635 miles, from Venus to the sun 12,436 miles and three halves (sic). Also included is a 15th-century English manuscript on prognostication, astrology, divination, and the like, which may be a paraphrase of Ptolemy.

Music is represented by Boethius, already mentioned, who treats it entirely from the mathematical viewpoint, and by a magnificent leather bound Italian antiphonal, written at Perugia about 1480, and with an especially ornate opening page.

Seneca's moral philosophy is exemplified by a beautifully illuminated manuscript of his *Declamationes*, dated 10 May 1392, and Boethius' *De Consolatione Philosophiæ* (translated first by Alfred the Great and later by Chaucer) by a 14th-century manuscript with a rather sardonic portrait of the author in an opening illuminated initial. The Boethius is bound with the illuminated Aristotle mentioned earlier.

Early books on education are well represented, e.g., *The Governour*, 1557, by Sir Thomas Elyot and *The Scholemaster*, 1570, by Roger Ascham, who taught Queen Elizabeth and Lady Jane Grey, and who upbraided Englishmen generally because they could not equal his queenly pupil, of whom he wrote,

Yea I beleve, that beside her perfit readines, in Latin, Italian, French, & Spanish, she readeth here now at Windsore more Greeke every day

than some Prebendarie of this Chirch doth read Latin in a whole weeke.

The Library has, incidentally, Ascham's own copy, with his autograph, of the 1555 *Abridgement of the Boke of Assises . . . newlye imprynted . . .*

A French manuscript of 1390, written on a vellum strip some fifteen feet long, sets down the history of the Popes, the Roman Empire, France and England, from Julius Caesar to King Charles II. The author does not treat the Popes tenderly:

Benedict of Toulouse [Benedict XII, 1334] was a Bernadine; his life was given up to simony, luxury, and he feared no man.

Clement of Limousin [Clement VI, 1342] made his friends rich and loved follies. The end of his life was filled with fornication, rapines, lies, deceits, covetousness, . . . pride and treason, and he ruled among the wealthy and oppressed the poor. During his reign he did two great and good things: he changed the penances of seven years into indulgences of forty years, and did many good deeds for the afflicted during the time of the mortality [the Black Death of 1348].

The Library is rich in manuscripts and early editions of all the classical authors whose works were the very stuff of medieval and Renaissance education. A 15th-century manuscript of Virgil's *Aeneid* contains a fanciful portrait of the laurel-wreathed author, wide-eyed and small-faced, while another 15th-century manuscript, containing his *Bucolics* and *Georgics*, displays a very different conception — laurel-wreathed, but complacent and heavily jowled. There are 12th and 13th century manuscripts (fragments) of *Thebais* by Statius, a 14th-century manuscript of Horace's *Ars Poetica*, and 15th-century manuscripts of Livy's *Macedonian War* and Sallust's *Catiline*, *Jugurtha*.

In a different category are two 15th-century manuscript fragments of the *Roman de la Rose*, and two magnificent 15th-century English manuscripts of Chaucer's contemporaries, John Gower's *Confessio Amantis* (ca. 1400) and John Lydgate's adaptation of

Boccaccio's *Fall of Princes* (ca. 1470). Noteworthy, also, are seven vellum leaves of a Coptic manuscript of the late 9th century, a gift to the donor from one of his business partners who found them on an expedition up the Nile. Scholars pronounced them a Coptic translation of a discourse ascribed to St. Cyril of Jerusalem, the missing concluding portion of Morgan Library Coptic manuscript 594. Mr. Plimpton suggested to the elder Morgan that all the leaves should be brought together, and pointed out that he could not properly part with a gift; the hint was never taken.

Selecting these few items for special mention has not been easy. There are more than 13,000 separate works in the Plimpton Library, including more than 300 medieval and renaissance manuscripts, nearly a hundred 15th-century printed books, many works written or published in England in the 16th and early 17th centuries, and textbooks of every sort that served the teaching process into the middle 1800's. It took my father more than sixty years to assemble the Library; it now stands as his living memorial to Columbia University, and Columbia's living memorial to him.

The King's College Room

EDMUND ASTLEY PRENTIS

“KING’S COLLEGE, founded in the Province of New York by Royal Charter in the Reign of George II . . .” are the first words inscribed on the facade of the Low Memorial Library. Further, there are two flagpoles in front of it; one, the American, is surmounted by an eagle and the other, the Columbia one, is surmounted by a King’s crown, while the light blue and white Columbia flag itself has a white King’s crown. In addition, one of the principal undergraduate organizations is named the “King’s Crown”, as is one of the undergraduate honor awards. It is obvious how highly cherished are Columbia’s history and traditions.

It seemed only natural that a functional room should be constructed in the Low Library furnished in the style of the mid-eighteenth century, such a room as King’s College might have had, and about which Columbia’s own history could crystalize; a place to display portraits of distinguished members connected with the College in the 18th century and some of the University’s priceless memorabilia. My sister, Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy, my wife and I proposed to give such a room and, with Dr. Kirk’s approval and the approval of the Columbiana Committee, it has been constructed at 210 Low Library.

It is a warm and attractive room, we hope, with its soft colors and its furniture, two-thirds of which is period and the remainder especially made in the 1760 style. Perhaps the most important piece is the ball-and-claw mahogany desk at the west wall. It is a fine example of Early American cabinet work. On it is a standish (an inkwell holder), another good example of the work produced in that distant day and somewhat hard to find now-a-days. Over the fireplace is a British coat-of-arms — an item my father had

Edmund Astley Prentis



(Warman Photo)

Mr. Prentis (left) and Dean Van Derpool looking at the model of King's College. Above the model is a portrait of Bishop Benjamin Moore, the third President of Columbia College.

more than 80 years ago, before I was born. All the candlesticks, sconces, chests, some of the chairs, and the two gateleg tables are mid-eighteenth century pieces or older, as are practically all the accessories. On a late 17th century American chest stands a model of King's College — how old it is we do not know but it was in a partly dilapidated condition when we first saw it in the Columbi-ana Room. We felt it should be exhibited. This led to our final suggestion of the King's College Room, a room devoted not only to the exhibition of historical items but also for committee meetings, tea parties, etc.

Only one color, a subdued but rich crimson, has been used in the upholstery of the sofa, chairs, table covers and curtains, and even at the back of the lighted memorabilia cabinets. The intention was to create a harmonious and comfortable atmosphere. There is a rather dramatic contrast between the red upholstery and the large black and white chequer pattern of the tiled floor. The ochre of the walls, the wood-grain of the panelling and the furniture, and the unobtrusive hues of the portraits — with soft reds again predominating — complete the color scheme.

The portraits in the room, nine in all, were already in the possession of the University. One of them, of Myles Cooper, the second President of King's College, was painted by John Singleton Copley. It is hung just to the left of the fireplace. On the right side is a copy of a portrait (now in the Verplanck Room in the Metropolitan Museum of Art) by the same artist of Samuel Verplanck, the first student to enter King's College. Other portraits are of William Samuel Johnson, the first President of Columbia College; Gouverneur Morris, Class of 1768; DeWitt Clinton, Class of 1786; and Egbert Benson, Class of 1765, who was a revolutionary patriot and the first President of the New-York Historical Society. Over the couch is a fine portrait of George III, who ascended the throne in 1760 when King's College was only six years old; it was painted by Sir William Beechey, a celebrated artist of his day. There is also a portrait of John Stevens, Class of 1768,



(Basch Photo)

Part of the south wall of the room, showing the fireplace and two portraits painted by John Singleton Copley (Myles Cooper, at the left, and Samuel Verplanck, at the right).



The northwest corner of the room showing portraits (left to right) of William Samuel Johnson, Gouverneur Morris, and DeWitt Clinton.

(Basch Photo)

after whom Stevens Institute is named, and of Benjamin Moore, Class of 1768, President of King's College in 1776 and again in 1801. He was the father of Clement Clarke Moore of the Class of 1798 who wrote the famous poem "A Visit From St. Nicholas." Last, but not least, is a portrait of Alexander Hamilton.

In the illuminated cabinets there is an unequalled display of Columbiana, rarely or never on exhibit before. There is a collection of books from the original library of King's College. There are two copies of *Noetica*, a textbook written by Samuel Johnson, first President of King's College, printed by Benjamin Franklin. One of them was used by John Jay of the Class of 1764, while he was a student, the other being President Johnson's own copy. One of the irreplaceable items is the original matriculation book of King's College showing Samuel Verplanck's name as the first student to enter in 1754. In 1776, in this book, there is a notation to the effect that there was no public commencement because of the confusion and trouble prevalent in the country — the tumult of the Revolution.

An example of the interesting items on display is the only one not owned by Columbia but on semi-permanent loan from the New-York Historical Society. It is the diploma of Gulian Verplanck of the Class of 1768. He was a younger brother of Samuel Verplanck and the uncle of Gulian Crommelin Verplanck of the Class of 1801 who, at the age of 14, was the youngest person ever to graduate from Columbia. He was a gentleman who acquitted himself with ability in many stations of trust and distinction. He was, for instance, the President of the Bank of New York, and a speaker of the House of Assembly of the State. In addition to this, he was a man of literary taste and a graceful poet. It was in the form of poetry that he made in the year 1775, a prophecy of extraordinary accuracy. It is as follows:

Hail happy Britain! Freedom's blest retreat
Great is thy power, thy wealth, thy glory great

But wealth and power have no immortal day
For all things only ripen to decay;
And when that time arrives, the lot of all,
When Britain's glory, wealth, and power must fall;
Then shall thy sons—for such is heaven's decree—
In other worlds another Britain see,
And what thou art America shall be.

The room was constructed under the supervision of my sister, Mrs. Katharine Prentis Murphy, and the furniture and colors were selected by her with the assistance of Mrs. Kirk. The historical items in the cabinets were selected and arranged by Miss Bonnell who is presently in charge of Columbiana. The portraits and the prints were selected and arranged by Dean Van Derpool and me.

The Architect was the University Architect, Mr. Frederick Woodbridge. The Columbiana Committee was Mrs. Grayson Kirk, Mr. Richmond Williams, Mr. Charles G. Proffitt, Dean James Van Derpool, Mr. Ward Melville, my sister and I. Mrs. Murphy was Chairman.

Any member of the Friends of the Libraries will always be welcome to visit the room, which is open five days a week.

Kingston 23 Aug^r 1777

Kingston 23 Aug. 1777

Dear Sir

Mr. Deane in a Letter of the 28 May last, after recommending an attack on the Greenland fishery & Hudsons Bay Trade, desired me to communicate the following Plan to Congress viz. "To send three Frigates loaded with Tobacco to Nantz or Bordeaux, equipped in the best manner and on their arrival hide the chief of their guns and appear as Cruizers: Intelligence may be had every week what the station of the British Fleet is, and how the Coast is defended, and a sudden Blow may be struck, which will alarm & shake Great Britain to the Center. This Plan will appear bold & extravagant—so much the more likely to succeed as it will be unexpected, & the plundering and burning of Liverpool & Glascow would be a most glorious Revenge. And believe me it is very easily effected—I dare put my Life on the Issue of it, if left to my management, and I can get good Men to execute."

This was a favourite Plan of Mr. Dean before he left Philadelphia, and I confess I wish the Experiment may be tryed. The greatest Difficulty I fear would be to get the Frigates well manned & safe to France.

I am Sir

Very sincerely yours &c.

John Jay

Very sincerely Yours &c.

John Jay

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

Bancroft gift. Professor Margaret Bancroft (A.M., 1913) has presented several items of memorabilia of Rachel Anne Kelly (later Mrs. John Otis Given). The items are well-placed at Columbia, because a substantial collection of Given papers relating to sea commerce in the period 1845-1870 is in Special Collections.

Barzun gift. Dean Jacques Barzun (A.B., 1927; A.M., 1928; Ph.D., 1932) has added significantly to the collection which he has established at Columbia of writings by and about Hector Berlioz. The present gift consists of seventy-eight published works (eighty-five volumes) and a series of six 16-inch acetate discs of recordings of Berlioz music.

As a separate gift, Dean Barzun has begun the establishment of the "H. M. Barzun Collection", in honor of his father. So far received are forty-five volumes of works on modern art and literature, and forty-five issues of five serial publications.

Berol gift. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Berol have presented a group of fifteen letters and documents relating to the American Revolution. The items are of such distinction, of such historical importance, that mere listing cannot do them justice. It must suffice to say that once again we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Berol for a gift that must stand among the finest that we have ever received, as any reader of the following summary will readily agree.

A letter from John Jay to Robert Morris, transmitting a plan suggested by Silas Deane for "plundering and burning Liverpool and Glasgow", effecting "a most glorious revenge" on Great Britain, August 23, 1777.

A pathetic letter from Elisha Boudinot to the physician-general of the Continental Army, Dr. Benjamin Rush, February 27 or 28, 1781, regarding the imminent death of Richard Stockton and the serious illness of the latter's sister.

A letter from Edmund Burke to a relative, Garret Nagle, on the character of Lord Shelburne, who also was a supporter of the American colonies, August 2, 1776.

An enrollment form of the Pennsylvania Militia filled out for one Thomas Shanks, April 2, 1776.

A letter from Benjamin Franklin to his nephew, Jonathan Williams, regarding prize money due to an American privateer, November 30, 1777.

A remarkable letter from General Thomas Gage to Sir William Johnson, the British Superintendent for Indian Affairs, regarding military support for traders, June 30, 1765.

A letter from John Hancock, then President of Congress, to the Assembly of Virginia urging the recruitment of troops for the Continental Army, November 20, 1776.

A letter from Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, to Thomas Johnson, Governor of Maryland, regarding the defense of Chesapeake Bay against the British, March 12, 1777.

An autograph letter from the "father of the United States Navy", Commodore John Barry, to Thomas Barclay, an American agent in France, November 28, 1783, urging the dispatch of prize money due to the officers and crew of the "Alliance".

A letter from the "Swamp Fox", Francis Marion, reporting his preparations for an expected attack by the British, January 28, 1779. The addressee is unnamed; he was formerly thought to have been Washington, but Benjamin Lincoln, who was in command in the South, is a more likely recipient.

A letter to Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth from one of his deputies, George Morgan, regarding the difficulties of providing food and supplies for the Continental Army, March 3, 1779.

A letter from Thomas Penn to Richard Peters, announcing the

appointment of Robert Hunter Morris as proprietary governor of Pennsylvania, May 15, 1754.

A letter from General Philip Schuyler to his successor, General Charles Lee, regarding steps necessary for the support of the invasion of Canada, February 29, 1776.

A letter from Charles Townshend, M.P., to his fellow member, William Dowdeswell, regarding Virginia's resolutions against taxation, August 6, 1764.

A letter from George Whitefield, founder of Methodism in the American colonies, to an old friend, James Habersham, September 26, 1763.

In addition to the American historical papers, Mr. and Mrs. Berol have also presented, for inclusion in their Rackham Collection, the scarce German edition of Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, Frankfurt, 1910-11, 2 volumes.

Brown gift. Mr. Perc S. Brown of Orinda, California, has presented a unique document. It is a printed promissory note, signed in the text by Benjamin Franklin, and dated August 15, 1781. The note was printed by Franklin at his press at Passy, and announces the indebtedness of the United States to France in the amount of 750,000 livres. It represents the indentured half of a double form, the half retained by Franklin.

Burgess gift. Mrs. Elisha Payne Jewett Burgess (A.B., 1918 B) has continued her work of establishing at Columbia the "John W. Burgess Family Collection". Her latest gifts include a prized correspondence between Professor Burgess and various members of his family.

Columbia University Club Foundation gift. Through the good offices of Mr. Edmund A. Prentis (E.M., 1906), the Columbia University Club Foundation, Inc., has presented funds for the purchase of two items of special interest to this University. One

is John Jay's own autographed copy of Samuel Johnson's *Elementa Philosophica . . . Noetica*, 1752; the other is the only recorded separate printing of Rev. Myles Cooper's *Stanzas written on the evening of the 10th of May, 1776, by an exile from America*.

The two pieces are on exhibit in the new "King's College Room" which was recently presented by Mr. Prentis and his sister, Mrs. Katherine Prentis Murphy, and which is described more fully elsewhere in this issue of the *Columns*.

De Lima gift. Miss Agnes De Lima (A.M., 1909) has presented a letter written by John Erskine to Randolph Bourne, 24 February 1915. Miss De Lima has also presented a number of volumes from Bourne's library, some with his ownership mark and his marginal markings.

Donovan gift. Mrs. William J. Donovan has generously presented part of the results of the remarkable study carried on by her husband, the late General Donovan, of the Intelligence Service during the American Revolution. Of primary usefulness to scholars, the material is carefully organized and fully documented. It draws together information gleaned from various archives in England, France, Canada, and the Vatican.

Drury gift. Mr. Newton B. Drury of Berkeley, California, has presented the papers of his brother, the late Aubrey Drury. The materials presented relate to the campaign conducted by Aubrey Drury for official world-wide adoption of the metric system of weights and measures.

Frick gift. Professor Bertha M. Frick has presented a number of volumes from her personal library, including two exceptionally handsome works: *De quatuor evangelistis*, printed at the Anvil Press in Lexington, Kentucky, 1955; and Goethe's *Die Leiden des*

Jungen Werthers, with woodcuts by V. K. Jonynas, Freiburg, [1948?]

Friedman gift. Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) has presented a number of interesting and valuable items, including a letter from Richard Cobden to William Bird, 1 May 1860; a fine series of fourteen indentures and similar legal instruments, all manuscripts on vellum and dating from 1744 to 1883; and a complete run of the *Neuer Bauernkalender*, 1805-1853.

Hammett gift. Mrs. Louis P. Hammett has presented the papers of her distinguished brother, the late James Theodore Marriner, whose diplomatic career was cut short by an assassin in Beirut in 1937. The collection contains Mr. Marriner's official correspondence which reveals interesting sidelights on European diplomatic life. The most significant single item, however, is his diary, maintained throughout his career — i.e., from 1918 until his death.

Hofe gift. Knowing of Columbia's fine collection of the works of Lyman Frank Baum, author of the "Wizard of Oz" books, Mr. George Douglas Hofe (B.S., 1914 TC; A.M., 1915 TC) has presented a series of twelve pen-and-ink drawings by Baum's illustrator, W. W. Denslow. They are of exceptional interest, for they represent Denslow's work *after* he and Baum had come to the parting of the ways.

Japanese Centennial Goodwill Mission gift. The East Asiatic Library has received 500 volumes of Japanese-language books as a gift of the Japanese Centennial Goodwill Mission which, headed by former Prime Minister Shigeru Yoshida (LL.D. Hon. 1954), visited the Columbia campus on its tour commemorating the First Japanese Embassy to the United States in 1860. As in the case of Dr. Yoshida's personal gift of 600 volumes in 1958 (*Columns*, November 1958), the Centennial gift comprises titles specifically re-

quested by the Library. Mr. Mitsuo Tanaka, Japanese Consul General of New York and a member of the Friends of the Libraries who has on numerous other occasions shown his interest in the East Asiatic Library, arranged for the transmittal of both lists of desiderata and was instrumental as well in the collecting and shipping of the books.

Jay gift. Miss Frances Jay (A.M., 1953) has presented a 39-page manuscript written by her distinguished ancestor, John Jay. This is a dramatic version of the Bible story of Jacob and Esau which was written on May 9, 1814, for the edification of his children.

Lada-Mocarski gift. Mr. and Mrs. Valerien Lada-Mocarski have presented the rare and valuable La Haye, 1736-37, edition of Father Du Halde's *Description géographique, historique, chronologique, politique, et physique de la Chine*. The work comprises four volumes of text and an atlas, all in excellently preserved contemporary bindings.

Lamont gift. Dr. Corliss Lamont (Ph.D., 1932) has performed a signal service in presenting English translations of fifty-six letters in Spanish written to George Santayana by his father, Augustin Santayana.

Leigh gift. Dean Robert D. Leigh (A.M., 1915 TC; Ph.D., 1927) has presented his personal file of the minutes, staff reports, special studies, records of testimony, and other papers gathered for use by the Commission on the Freedom of the Press during its period of activity, 1944-1948. Dr. Leigh died in January, 1961. Access to the collection may be had only with express written permission of Dr. Robert M. Hutchins, who was also a member of the Commission.

Longwell gift. Mr. Daniel Longwell (1922 C) keeps a close watch for new additions to the Churchill Collection which he has estab-

lished at Columbia. Most recently he has presented *The Memoirs of General the Lord Ismay* . . . London, 1960.

Luquer Family gift. Mr. Evelyn P. Luquer (LL.B., 1926), Mr. Lea S. Luquer (A.B., 1921; A.M., 1922), and Mr. Thatcher P. Luquer have joined with their sister, Mrs. T. L. Purdy, in presenting eight volumes of the manuscript diaries of John Howard Payne, 1808-1844, and sixty-three letters written to Payne by Washington Irving, 1809-1830.

These materials are of the utmost importance to scholars concerned with American cultural history of the 19th century. The diaries are the most nearly complete series known, and the letters of Irving to Payne offer valuable documentation of the close friendship of these two literary figures. The materials are from the much larger collection of John Howard Payne's papers that was formed by the late Thatcher T. P. Luquer (C.E., 1889; E.E., 1892), and which is now on deposit in Special Collections.

Macy gift. During the year 1960, Mrs. George Macy has faithfully seen to it that each new Limited Editions Club book takes its place beside its beautiful companions in the "George Macy Memorial Collection." The "Collection" thus contains every volume that has so far appeared under the L.E.C. ægis from 1929 to 1961.

Moses gift. Mr. and Mrs. Henry L. Moses (LL.B., 1903) have presented three scarce Italian works issued at Rome and Florence in 1733 and 1750. The volumes are useful and welcome additions, not alone for their texts, but also because of their handsome typography and fine contemporary bindings. We regret to record Mr. Moses' death on February 18.

Nevins gift. Over the past several months, Dr. Allan Nevins has added significantly to the collection of his papers which he has placed at Columbia. The present gifts comprise chiefly his profes-

sional correspondence of the 1940's and 1950's; but special notice must be taken of the five large packets of Dr. Nevins' notes for his Civil War books. These represent an enormous amount of research in libraries all over the country, and contain unpublished material of the utmost value to all students of the period.

Olcott Family gift. One of the most important gifts made during the year 1960 was that presented by Mr. Douglas W. Olcott; his sisters, Mrs. Louise Olcott McClure and Mrs. Emily Olcott Garrison; his cousins, Mrs. Grace Rathbone Adkins, and Mrs. Anna Rathbone Johnson; and the Directors of the Mechanics and Farmers' Bank of Albany. The gift comprises the personal, financial, and business papers of Thomas W. Olcott (1795-1880), who was connected with the above-mentioned Bank from the day it opened its doors in 1811, and who served as its president from 1836 until his death.

The importance of this collection cannot be exaggerated. It contains much original material relating to political-financial matters, especially during the Jacksonian period. The motives of the Albany Regency in relation to the destruction of the Second National Bank of the United States, the operations of the American Land Company, and the financial involvements of the Regency with the Olcott Bank are but a few of the topics represented in the collection. In addition there is much relating to the opening of the western lands, to early railroad financing, and, in general, to the leading financial activities and developments from 1825 through the Civil War.

The gift was made in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Mechanics and Farmers' Bank of Albany, to be celebrated in the Spring of 1961.

Saffron gift. Dr. Morris H. Saffron (A.B., 1925) has presented a letter written by Nicholas Murray Butler to Miss Suzanne Modemann, 9 October 1923.

Stolper gift. Professor B. J. R. Stolper (A.M., 1930 TC) has presented three letters written to him by E. W. McCready in January, 1934, which tell a most absorbing story of Stephen Crane in his "Commodore" days, and comprise a documentary account of those experiences.

Suhr gift. Dr. Heinrich P. Suhr has presented the books, manuscripts, and notes gathered by the late Dr. Nicholas Koenig (A.B., 1903; A.M., 1904; Ph.D., 1908), relating to the ancient languages of the Near East.

Tannenbaum gift. Professor Frank Tannenbaum (A.B., 1921) has presented a series of letters, documents, and papers comprising his personal file relating to the origin and development of the Farm Security Program, in which he participated during the Roosevelt Administration, 1934-1937.

Westervelt gift. Mrs. Leonidas Westervelt has presented a valuable collection of books, manuscripts, and memorabilia of Brander Matthews and other personalities of the theater. The materials are from the collection founded by her late husband (1903 C).

Activities of the Friends

Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries was held in Wollman Auditorium of Ferris Booth Hall at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 18, 1961. Mr. C. Waller Barrett, the Chairman of our association, presided.

As the first item of the short business session, Mr. Barrett called on Mr. Lester D. Egbert, Chairman of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution and By-laws, for a report. Mr. Egbert said that the proposed new wording of Articles IV and VIII of the Constitution and Articles III and VI of the By-laws had been mailed to all members of the association. The intent of these changes, he explained, is to increase the number of Council memberships from fifteen to eighteen and to simplify certain aspects of our operations. On behalf of the committee, he moved that the changes be adopted. The membership present so voted.

Acting upon nominations presented by the Nominating Committee, of which Mrs. Franz T. Stone is Chairman, the members re-elected to membership on the Council those whose terms were to expire at this meeting (Mr. C. Waller Barrett, Mr. Henry Rogers Benjamin, Mr. Alfred C. Berol, Mrs. Arthur C. Holden, and Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton) and elected to fill two of the three new Council memberships Mr. Hugh J. Kelly, Executive Vice President of the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company, and Dr. John A. Krout, Vice President of the University. Council memberships are for three-year terms.

Mr. Barrett said that the officers of the association are elected by the Council and that he took pleasure in announcing that the following members of the association had been elected to serve two-year terms which would begin at the close of the Annual Meeting: Dr. John Krout as Chairman and Mr. Francis T. P. Plimpton as Vice Chairman.

Mr. Barrett then introduced the speaker of the evening, Dr. Schuyler C. Wallace, who has been Director of the School of International Affairs at Columbia since its inception and who directly administers some of its component units: the Near and Middle East Institute and the Centers of Iranian, Pakistan, and Turkish Studies. Dr. Wallace said that he had returned earlier this month from a trip to the Middle East, which he had made at the invitation of the three American colleges there: Robert College in Turkey, the American University of Cairo, and the American University of Beirut. Although each of these schools started as a missionary institution, they have in succeeding years become secular and have become relatively strong and influential. The changed governments in Turkey, Egypt, and Lebanon have, within the past few years, altered the economic and political milieu in which the schools operate. He concluded the main part of his address by saying that these three American colleges had performed an important function by providing windows from the Middle East to the West and from the West to the Middle East.

He added that while he was there he had the opportunity to carry on two other activities, which would benefit Columbia. He made arrangements for two or three of the faculty members there to come to Columbia to teach, and he gave some assistance to negotiations which are at present underway by which the Columbia Libraries hope to acquire an important Persian collection.

At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Logsdon spoke with warm appreciation of the leadership of Mr. Barrett during his two terms in office and of the accomplishments of the Friends during that period. The audience concurred with a round of applause.

During the social-hour of the evening, the Friends and their guests viewed a special exhibit arranged by Mr. Roland Baughman, Head of Special Collections, which contained selections from the books and manuscripts that had been presented by our members during 1960.

Bancroft Awards Dinner. Members may wish to note on their calendars that the Bancroft Awards Dinner will be held this year on Wednesday, April 19, with Gilbert Highet as speaker. Invitations will be mailed in March.

PICTURE CREDITS

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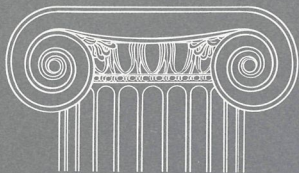
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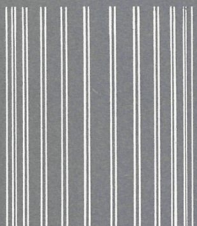
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CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

ROLAND BAUGHMAN is Head of the Special Collections Department of the Columbia University Libraries.

MARY C. HYDE, Columbia Ph.D. '47, and her husband Donald F. Hyde are the owners of an internationally renowned collection of works by and about Samuel Johnson.

LEWIS LEARY is Professor of English at Columbia University.

HELEN E. McALEER is a niece of David Eugene Smith.

* * *

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Columbia Library Columns

VOLUME X

MAY, 1961

NUMBER 3

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Published by THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES,
Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, New York.

Three issues a year, one dollar each.



Samuel Johnson in Travelling Dress



COLUMBIA LIBRARY COLUMNS



Two Distinguished Dr. Johnsons

MARY C. HYDE

ONE of the most delightful letters of Dr. Johnson, the British lexicographer, is owned by the Columbia Library. It was written on March 4, 1773, to the American Dr. Johnson who later became the first President of Columbia College. "Several letters passed between the two men," *The Gentleman's Magazine* noted when it published the text of this particular letter in 1825, adding, "it is feared that this is the only one remaining." Since no other letter is now known, this is the only record by the lexicographer of the pleasant acquaintance of the two remarkable Dr. Johnsons. There was no blood relationship between them, but they had many qualities of resemblance and, as one follows their early careers, they reveal an unusual sympathy of interest.

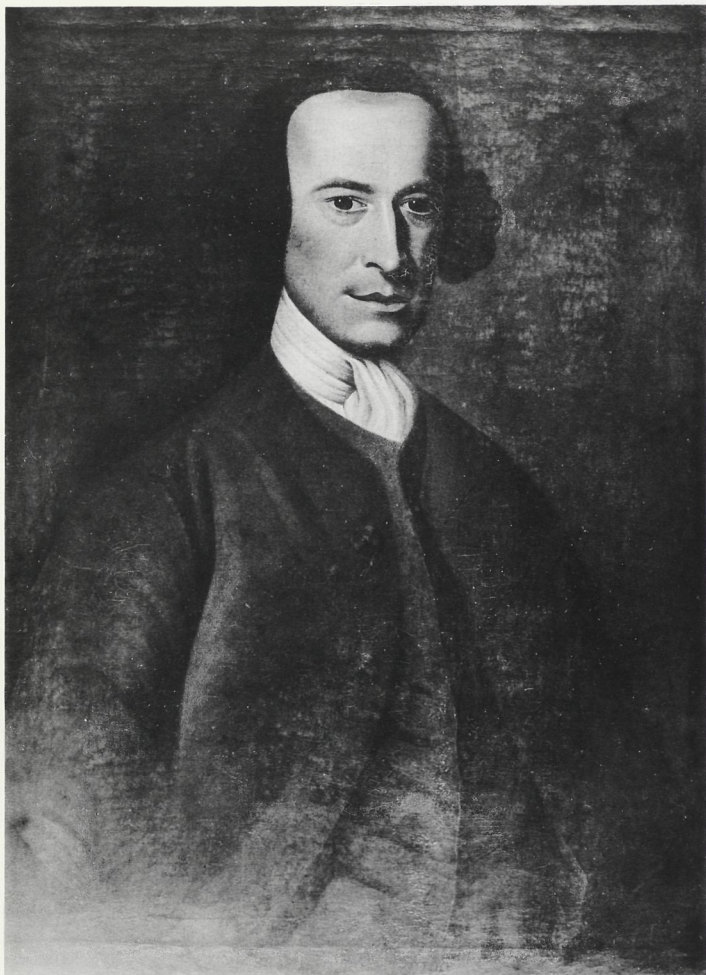
The American, William Samuel (1727-1819) was the son of another Dr. Samuel Johnson, the eminent Anglican clergyman and first President of King's College, the original name for Columbia. Born to position and comparative financial security, he received a more conventional education than the English Samuel Johnson (1709-1784). William Samuel was a graduate of Yale, and obtained his M.A. from Harvard; this in contrast to Samuel who could only afford one year at Oxford, not long enough to

qualify him for a degree. After his graduate studies, William Samuel considered entering the ministry, something Samuel once also considered. Both determined against it. The American turned to the reading of law, was admitted to practice, and in a short time became a recognized leader of the Connecticut bar. Samuel, after some delay, became a teacher, but, miserably unhappy in this profession, also thought at one time of reading for the bar, at which he would almost certainly have done well, but necessity made him abandon any serious idea of a legal career, and ultimately he turned to professional writing as a means of livelihood. The law led William Samuel into public life, a field closed to Samuel by lack of qualifications, but one which always held his interest and one in which he often participated indirectly.

In the mid-seventeen-sixties, circumstances brought the two men into closer proximity. William Samuel was sent to London in 1766 as Agent for the Colony of Connecticut, a position he filled with effectiveness until 1771. In January of the year of his appointment — he sailed for England in December — he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws from Oxford. A likeness can be noted in this distinction and in others, for Samuel had been given an honorary M.A. by Oxford just before the publication of his *Dictionary* in 1755; William was awarded the same degree in 1756. More recently, Samuel held his honorary Doctor of Laws from Trinity College, Dublin, and in 1775 he would also receive the higher Oxford degree.

When William Samuel came to London, he must already have known of Samuel, for *The Rambler*, the *Dictionary*, *Rasselas*, and the edition of Shakespeare had given this author a wide reputation. The newcomer must have had some curiosity about his celebrated namesake and some desire to meet him, but he was reticent and, preoccupied with the business in hand, made no overture.

The English Samuel was undoubtedly the one who had the greater curiosity, for his fascination with all holders of his not unusual name is an amusing matter of record. There was the Dr.



Original owned by the Smith College Museum of Art

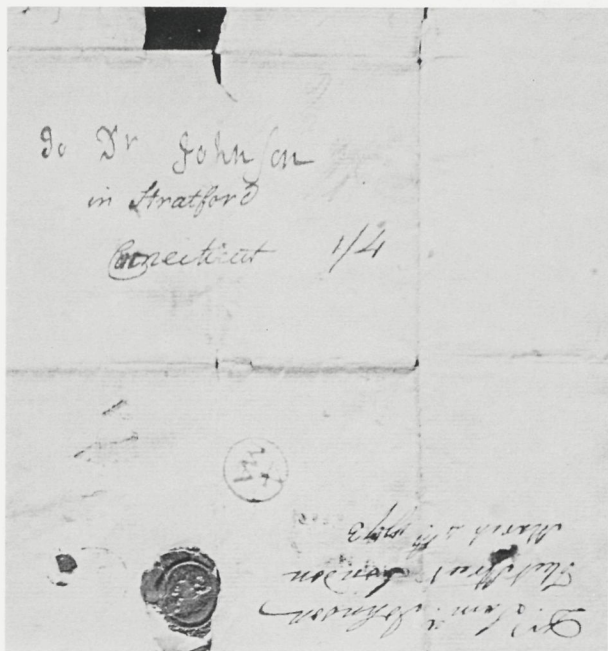
Portrait of William Samuel Johnson, painted by Thomas McIlworth, ca. 1761

Samuel Johnson of Rumford, whom his outraged parishioners accused of having written *The Rambler* and caricatured them therein; the dancing master who published a foolish piece (causing confusion then and since); the Samuel Johnson in the Secretary's office of India House; Samuel Johnson, the fastidious young minister and nephew of Sir Joshua Reynolds; and the two Samuel Johnsons whose deaths came so close together that Mrs. Thrale tried to hide the depressing news.

Of all these namesakes, William Samuel was by far the most important and promised the greatest satisfaction. He was probably known to Samuel before his arrival in England, both through his father's prominence in church and university affairs, and through his own prominence as the representative of a powerful colony. Most likely the American was specifically "brought within [his] notice," as the letter phrased it, through the bestowal of the Oxford degree, for it had become Samuel's custom to pay frequent visits to Oxford, sometimes staying a month or more. He maintained a strong loyalty for his university and was a warm friend of many men associated with it. The announcement of a new Dr. Johnson must certainly have provoked comment.

Samuel, the letter indicates, effected the meeting, bringing it about with considerable eagerness. One can imagine the pleasure of his first impression, as he looked upon a Dr. Johnson whose appearance was all that nature could provide, perfect in face, form, and movement. His pleasure must have been heightened when he found that William Samuel had extensive knowledge and experience, sharp intellect and sound judgment. He must have been further gratified to find that his opinions upon church matters were orthodox, and that, though he was a Whig, his political convictions were moderate, even conservative. The two men had much in common. William Samuel, though an American, was an Anglophile. His admiration for English jurisprudence was as great as Samuel's and his interest in the humanities and science as keen. He was, like Samuel, a classicist and a stylist. He was also an elo-

quent speaker whose conversation was filled with information and instruction. In contrast, his temper was gentle, he was a receptive listener, and his manners were unfailingly courteous. He



The address part of Samuel Johnson's letter to William Samuel Johnson lacked Samuel's robust sense of humor and his personality did not combine the paradox of melancholy and exuberance. His doubts were fewer and the pattern of his life more circumscribed by duty. These differences, however, suggest attraction and respect, and combined with the wide field of agreement, they offered the basis for a deep and mutually rewarding friendship.

It is disappointing, therefore, that no close association was

formed. Surely the fact that William Samuel was seventeen years younger was no barrier, for Samuel found constant stimulation in the company of much younger men and women, in fact his close friends, Mrs. Thrale and Boswell, were over thirty years his junior. They and many others put themselves to great effort to cultivate the author's friendship, but it is clear that William Samuel made no such attempt. Possibly it was because he never had a settled household conducive to entertaining. His wife and family had remained in Connecticut, for he did not know his stay abroad would be so lengthy. What little social life he enjoyed was spent, for the most part, with the higher clergy, the original introductions having come from his father who ardently desired the creation of Anglican bishoprics in the colonies, a cause which he abetted half-heartedly. Apart from these difficulties, a basic hindrance to the forming of any purely social connection was William Samuel's chronic ill health, a handicap which also plagued Samuel. The strongest obstacle for them both, however, was steady and separate preoccupation, "the current of the day always bore (them) away from one another."

They had "no common friends," Samuel wrote, and it is as surprising as it is regrettable, for had their circles overlapped, they would have been enriched. If, among others, Boswell had observed the two in the vigorous exchange of ideas, in wide-ranging conversation, he would have had much of interest to report. It is even possible, to take one instance, that if William Samuel had spoken gently but with authority upon the subject of the American colonies, he could have moderated Samuel's impulsive and violent antipathy.

But no illuminating discussions took place, and after four years William Samuel returned to Connecticut. "I do not forget you," Samuel wrote two years thereafter. Perhaps he followed the American's career by report, taking pride in his re-election to the Connecticut Council and his appointment as a judge of Connecticut's Supreme Court. Perhaps he heard with sympathy that

Sir

Of all those whom the various accidents of life have brought within my notice there is scarce any man whose acquaintance I have more desired to cultivate than yours. I cannot indeed charge you with neglecting one, yet our mutual inclination could never satisfy itself with opportunity; the current of the day always bore us away from one another. And now the blank is to be drawn on. Whether you carried away an impression of me as pleasing as that which you left me of yourself, I know not; if you did you have not forgotten me, and will be glad that I do not forget

The first page of Samuel Johnson's letter

William Samuel's strong conviction for continuing ties with England made him lose much of his popularity. He may have heard the news in 1775 that William Samuel had been dropped from the Council and that in 1779 he had been arrested for alleged intercession with the British command.

Samuel died before he could have known of William Samuel's reinstatement in his countrymen's favor, marked by his election to the Confederation Congress. He did not know of his brilliant work in the Federal Convention, his being one of the signers of the Constitution, and one of Connecticut's first senators, nor of the final high honor he received in 1787 when he was chosen as the first President of Columbia College. Though these achievements came too late for him to know, it is certain they would have pleased Samuel and reinforced the high opinion he held of his namesake's worth.

The Columbia letter makes one feel the same wistful regret which the writer expressed . . . "there is scarce any man whose acquaintance I have more desired to cultivate than yours" . . . This was a valuable friendship which never materialized.

LETTER TO WILLIAM SAMUEL JOHNSON

Sir

Of all those whom the various accidents of life have brought within my notice there is scarce any man whose acquaintance I have more desired to cultivate than yours. I cannot indeed charge you with neglecting me, yet our mutual inclination could never gratify itself with opportunities; the current of the day always bore us away from one another. And now the Atlantick is between us.

Whether you carried away an impression of me as pleasing as that which you left me of yourself, I know not; if you did you have not forgotten me, and will be glad that I do not forget get [sic] you. Merely to be remembered is indeed a barren pleasure, but it is one of the pleasures which is more sensibly felt, as human Nature is more exalted.

To make you wish that I should have you in my mind, I would be glad to tell you something which you do not know, but all publick affairs are printed; and as you and I had not [crossed through] no common friends I can tell you no private history.

The Government I think grows stronger, but I am afraid the next general election will be a time of uncommon turbulence, violence, and outrage.

Of Literature no great product has appeared or is expected; the attention of the people has for some years been otherwise employed.

I was told two days ago of a design which must excite some curiosity. Two ships are [in] preparation, which are under the command of Captain Constantine Phipps to explore the Northern Ocean, not to seek the Northeast or the Northwest passage, but to sail directly North, as near the pole as they can go. They hope to find an open Ocean, but I suspect it is one mass of perpetual congelation. I do not much wish well to discoveries, for I am always afraid they will end in conquest and robbery.

I have been out of order this winter but am grown better. Can I ever hope to see you again or must I be always content to tell you that in another hemisphere I am

Sir

Your most humble servant,

Sam: Johnson

*Johnson's Court, Fleet Street
London. March. 4, 1773*

Mark Twain at Barnard College

LEWIS LEARY

EDITOR'S NOTE: *The following account is expanded from some of the background material prepared by Professor Leary for his recent edition of Mark Twain's Letters to Mary (Columbia University Press), which includes correspondence from 1900 to 1910 between the humorist and young Mary Benjamin Rogers, the wife of Henry Huddleston Rogers, Jr. Mrs. Rogers presented these letters to the Columbia Libraries in 1953 so that others might remember also "how amusing and stimulating and inspiring" Mark Twain had been in "that far flown day." The volume now containing this collection of letters written to a friend of the Columbia Libraries is dedicated to the Friends of the Columbia Libraries.*

DURING the spring of 1906, Mark Twain was pleased to have newspapers refer to him as "the Belle of New York." He was incessantly busy replying to honors showered on him and attending fetes arranged in his honor. In the preceding November, Harpers had given him a tremendous seventieth birthday dinner, a "sky-scraping banquet," his friend William Dean Howells called it, at which "172 immortals sat down to the best Delmonico's could do, and remained glutting and guzzling food for reflection for five hours after the dinner was ended." Mark Twain's speech on that occasion, thought Howells, "was divinely droll, sweet, touching and wise."

In spite of his activity and the adulation showered on him, the humorist was a lonely man. His wife had died not two years before. His youngest daughter was dead and his next daughter an invalid, and Clara, his oldest daughter, was busily occupied in her musical career. Mark Twain spent what time he could with old

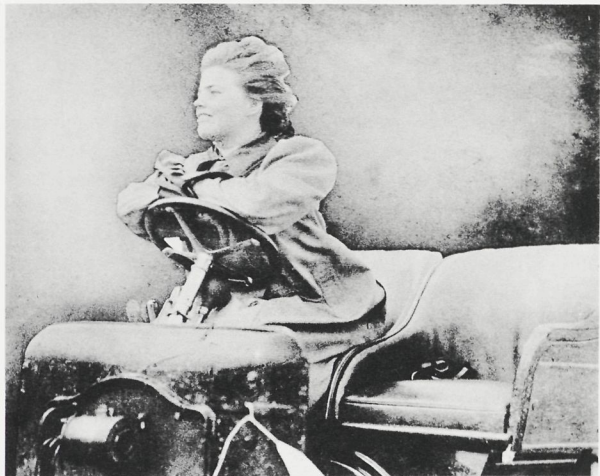
friends like Howells and Andrew Carnegie and Henry Rogers, but they were busy men, not often free for companionship. He puttered over his writing, adding touches to his "wicked" books, *The Mysterious Stranger* and *What Is Man?* He completed *Eve's Diary*, written in memory of his wife, and *The Horse's Tale*, the young heroine of which made him think sadly of his dead daughter, Susy. But he was restless and bitter, and needed to be out among people, to keep his mind off himself.

Through the early months of 1906 Mark Twain was called on to speak at several impressive occasions. The Society of American Illustrators, with Dan Beard at its head, had given him another birthday dinner, and he appeared with Sarah Bernhardt at a mass meeting to appeal for support of freedom-loving revolutionaries in Russia. In January, he joined Booker T. Washington in an appeal for support of the Tuskegee Institute. In February, he spoke at a Dickens dinner and before the Ends of the Earth Club. In March, the doors of the Majestic Theater, where he was to address the West Side Young Men's Christian Association, were so jammed with people that newspapers the next day ran headlines to report "10,000 Stampeded at the Mark Twain Meeting." "His sound, breezy Mississippi Valley Americanism," said the *New York Mail*, "is a corrective to all sorts of snobbery."

But he liked best his talks before young audiences, especially young female audiences. "Girls are charming creatures," he said. "I shall have to be twice seventy years old before I change my mind as to that." He liked to stroll from his home on lower Fifth Avenue with one eye cocked for someone among his young friends who might pass in her automobile (her "mobile," he would call it) and stop and give him a lift so that he could take his exercise as he liked it best, sitting down, the wind whipping his eye-catching white hair and blowing the smoke from his cigar like a streamer behind him.

On the afternoon of March 7 he rode uptown to speak informally to the students of Barnard College, which he called "the

sex's annex to Columbia University." He looked forward, he said, to a "pleasant time with those lassies." He was guest of the Barnard Union, a new organization which had been having trouble in enlisting new members because its meetings had been



"Mary" in her automobile. Mark Twain would have found the empty seat beside her especially inviting.

open to all students, so that girls who were asked to join and pay dues to the Union declined the honor because, they said, they already and without payment enjoyed "all the privileges of the Union."

Mark Twain's popular presence made it possible for the girls at Barnard to demonstrate that "the Union, not being an all inclusive body, has the right to keep certain privileges for its members alone." Therefore it announced in the *Barnard Bulletin* that attendance would be limited: "two tickets for the Mark Twain lecture to be given to each member who has paid her dues and one ticket to each Freshman."

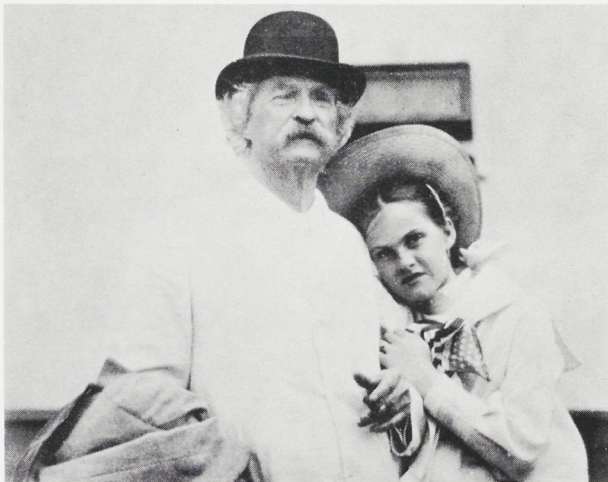
Drawling and slouching as usual, Mark Twain began his rambling remarks by saying that "he had nothing to talk about, but he did have some fine illustrations he was going to get in somehow. 'The Caprice of Memory,' he thought would be a good subject, though he might just as well," he said, "talk about morals. For it is better to teach than to practice them; better to confer morals on others than to experiment too much with them one's self."

"As to his first illustration, Mr. Clemens told how he had once had in his possession a watermelon — a Missouri watermelon, and therefore large and luscious. Most people would have said he had stolen it. But the word 'steal' was too much for him, a good boy; in fact the best boy in town. He said he had *extracted* it from a grocer's cart, for 'extract' refers to dentistry, and more accurately expresses how he got that melon; since as the dentist never extracts his own teeth, so it wasn't his own melon. But the melon was green, and because it was so, Mark Twain began to reflect, and reflection is the beginning of morality. It was his duty to take it back and admonish that grocer of the evil of selling green melons. The moral, Mr. Clemens said, was that the grocer repented of his sins and soon was perched on the highest pinnacle of virtue."

He closed what he later called his "moral sermon to the Barnard girls" with another illustration: "Mark Twain said that in his family there had been a prejudice against going fishing unless you asked permission, and it was bad judgment to ask permission." The girls were entranced and breathless as he drawled on, a twinkle in his eye, but his face serious and eyebrows raised, as if startled and surprised by their laughter. "After his address," said the *Barnard Bulletin*, "Mr. Clemens received members of the Union and their friends in the alcove near the Trustees' room, where lemonade and small cakes added to the interest of the discussion."

Mark Twain did not limit his attention to the girls of Barnard. Not many weeks later, he spoke to the Vassar alumnae — "all Vassar, ancient and modern," he said, "packed itself into the Hudson Theater, and I was there." After the talk, "I held a recep-

tion on the stage for an hour or two,” and “I was hoping,” he confessed, “somebody would want to kiss me for my mother, but didn’t dare suggest it myself.” But then when one of the younger and more attractive girls did it, “I did then what I could to make it



Mark Twain and a young friend, Dorothy Quick, photographed as he returned from a brief visit to Bermuda in 1907. Of his companionship with young people in this time, Twain said, “During these years after my wife’s death I was washing about on a forlorn sea of banquets and speech-making in high and holy causes, and these things furnished me intellectual cheer and entertainment; but they got at my heart for an evening only, then left it dry and dusty. I had reached the grandfather stage of life without grandchildren, so I began to adopt some.”

The photograph and the caption are from Milton Meltzer’s *Mark Twain Himself* (New York: Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1960. Copyright by the author), p. 276.

contagious and succeeded.” It required no small art on his part, he explained, particularly in seeming to enjoy the attention of the older girls as much as the younger, “without discrimination, but I averaged the percentage to my advantage, and without anybody’s suspecting it.”

The next night he was guest of honor at a reception given by the Women's University Club, at which, reported the *New York Times*, "five hundred women shook hands with him and showered him with pretty speeches." He found almost all of them "young and lovely, untouched by care, unfaded by age." Barnard girls were there, old friends whom he had met before, and girls from Vassar, Smith, Wellesley, and Radcliffe, with "a sprinkling of girls from the South, from the Middle West and the Pacific Coast," even two girls who were granddaughters of "fellow passengers who sailed with me," he said, "on the *Quaker City* in the *Innocents Abroad* excursion thirty-nine years before." They made Mark Twain feel old and benign and avuncular, and they charmed him completely. "One sweet creature wanted to whisper in my ear and I was nothing loath. She raised her dainty form on tip-toe, lifting herself with a grip of her velvet hands on my shoulders, and put her lips to my ear and said, 'How do you like being the belle of New York?'" Mark Twain pretended, he said, to be crimsoned with blushes, but — "It was so . . . satisfying."

Three days later he attended the annual luncheon of the Smith Club of New York. "I should like to be elected the belle of New York," he confessed then, "so that I could come to these luncheons all the time." The girls presented him with a permanent invitation and informally made him an honorary member of their alumnae group. A month later he gave his farewell lecture at Carnegie Hall. The audience was filled with familiar faces: "They are all my friends," said Mark Twain, "and I feel that those I don't know are my friends too." They were, and they cheered loudly. No election was necessary — Mark Twain was by acclamation the belle of New York, and the "lassies" at Barnard had started it.



David Eugene Smith in a photograph taken on May 1, 1936

A Family Portrait of "U.D."

HELEN E. McALEER

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Professor David Eugene Smith was a beloved member of the faculty of Teachers College from 1901 until his retirement in 1926. As shown in the following article by his niece, Mrs. Helen Jewett McAleer, he was an ardent and learned collector of early works on mathematics, and he spent much of his free time both at home and abroad in pursuit of this activity, which to him was far more than a hobby. He was, in fact, one of the first in America to teach the history of mathematics, and he related his course directly to his own collection.*

In 1931, five years after his retirement, he presented to Columbia University his entire library of mathematical works, Orientalia, medieval and renaissance documents and manuscripts, and letters and portraits of prominent mathematicians. The collection totaled some 20,000 pieces. To this he added, in 1935, his famous trove of some 275 rare astronomical and calculating instruments, ranging in time and form from an Alexandrian terra cotta zodiacal table through telescopes, abaci, spheres, tally sticks, and the like, which he gathered in the various countries he visited.

Finally, upon his death in 1944, he bequeathed a substantial fund, the earnings of which have been and continue to be used to further the development of one of the greatest and best-known collections ever to come to Columbia.

WHEN my uncle David Eugene Smith, after twenty-five years as Professor of Mathematics at Teachers College of Columbia University, retired in 1926, his friend George A. Plimpton had this to say at the dinner in honor of the occasion: "Professor Smith is now Emeritus Professor at Columbia University, but I want to assure him, and you, that he

is not 'emeritus' as far as the Plimpton Library is concerned, but he is the Librarian for all time."

In this way Mr. Plimpton paid tribute to his friend and fellow book-collector, who was "Uncle David" to many young people, and "U.D." to close older friends. Soon after "U.D."s arrival at Columbia, he had been entertained by Mr. Plimpton and introduced to his growing library of rare textbooks. The collection of mathematic books brought forth the remark: "My place is in New York City, where I can be near these books!" Later Mr. Plimpton gave "U.D." carte blanche to buy books whenever he found them on any of his trips to the Old World bookshops. More than once when a rare textbook was found he would say, "That would fit into Plimpton's library or mine"; however, it was the Plimpton Library that always received the book in question.

After his retirement, he was able to make book-collecting trips abroad, visiting places that were new to him, as well as old haunts. In 1929 he made one of these trips to Europe. In Paris the old book stalls along the Left Bank seemed to beckon him along to the other old book shops in the narrow winding streets of the Latin Quarter. He knew them all and they all welcomed him, Dr. Smith of Columbia. The heart-warming hospitality shown in their welcome was wonderful. In these shops, where he seemed to have a sixth sense, he would point with his cane to some old book, which invariably would be of interest for himself or for Plimpton, Lodge, or for some other friend. Many times he would see large baskets piled full of what were apparently only scraps of paper. "What is in that junk pile? Send it to the hotel." In this manner he discovered many interesting items, including a letter from the English chemist and mineralogist, James Smithson, in which the latter wrote of his desire to found what is now the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. Dr. Smith presented the letter to the Institution.

There were many diplomas and documents, some from the old universities, which fitted into what became the so-called largest collection of its kind in the world.

Another collection, which he built up through these French visits, was of Masonic documents. Since he was a Mason, these papers aroused another line of interest. He later presented the collection to the Masonic Lodge of New York City.

He found also many original documents relating to French hospitals of the 17th and 18th centuries; these he gathered together and presented to the Adelaide Nutting historical nursing collection as a gift from "David Eugene Smith and Mrs. Smith."

There was always great satisfaction in discovering a rare tidbit for any of these collections. It was really fun to search through those baskets of paper—where perhaps the find would be an autograph, sometimes a portrait, maybe a choice letter, various documents, and even, once in a while, a Papal Bull with its seal intact. These were his hours of pleasure and relaxation.

This trip of 1929 went on through Italy, rich in history, where he visited the cathedrals, museums, universities, and the book shops in the various villages, towns and cities. Often when he would inquire for a certain book by title, author, date and publisher, the response was: "No, that hasn't been on the market for many years. The only ones I know about are in the collection of Dr. Smith of Columbia. That Dr. Smith, you know, owns about all of the editions."

In Munich, where the first visit was to an old established book shop, a young man came forward to inquire if he could be of any assistance. He was told that the quest was for a certain volume. The young man said, "That is a very rare book. I don't think you will ever find one of them. According to Dr. Smith's *Rara Arithmetica*, there are only a few in existence. Do you know of this publication? We always use it for reference for the rare mathematical works."

A little hesitatingly "U.D." said, "Young man, you are a very good, scholarly salesman. I appreciate the confidence you have in my *Rara Arithmetica*." There was an audible gasp from the clerk who hastily turned and left the room. In a minute the proprietor of the shop appeared. "Ah! Dr Smith, such a pleasure to have you re-

turn." "U.D." inquired if the young man had stopped running, for he had not intended to frighten him!

David Eugene Smith was a born collector, in the sense that he was born into a family where collecting, scholarship, and an intimate knowledge of the classics were the rule rather than the exception. He was the grandson of a hardy pioneer grandfather, who was born in Catskill, New York, on July 8, 1796, and came to Virgil, New York, in 1820. A scholarly country doctor, Dr. Bronson was a book collector, the subjects of his choice being medicine, botany, and the old Greek and Roman classics.

When Dr. Bronson's daughter Mary Elizabeth, who was born on March 27, 1837, was old enough, she became his companion on these medical calls. Often the conversation would be in Latin and, in later years, in Greek. He encouraged her to study the flora and fauna of the countryside, botany, and geology, and he taught her much about medicine.

On July 30, 1854, Mary married a promising young attorney, Abram P. Smith. The young couple moved to Cortland where David Eugene was born January 21, 1860, in a quaint small house, which is still in use, on Clinton Avenue. Abram and Mary built a large house in 1867 "on the hill" (a term used by Cortlandites for the highest elevation in the center of the valley where Cortland is situated). One room of this new house was equipped with specially-built wall and floor cases for Mary's geological collection and for the Indian relics which she had gathered in her younger days. Thus it was that David Eugene grew up amid collections both in his grandparents' and in his own home.

At an early age David Eugene spoke Latin and Greek, which his mother had taught him, and, along with English literature, read the Greek and Roman classics under her encouragement.

This love of reading was very detrimental to the family garden. His father would suggest that the young son should weed the garden—but the weeds won out, because the supposed young gardener would stretch out on the low, stone garden-wall, with his

feet up in the sunshine, and his face cupped in his hands that were elevated on his elbows. With his nose literally buried in a book, he was oblivious to any calls or bells ringing from the house.

These studious habits developed into a love of learning which shaped both his vocation and his avocation. It guided him, after a few uncongenial years as a lawyer, into the academic world, as a teacher, as a professor of mathematics, and ultimately as a faculty member at Teachers College. He early began to write in his chosen field and this in turn led to a mathematical study. Because the best places for this were the universities of Europe, he spent many summers in research and study in various universities there. Unable to acquire in this way all of the information he wanted, he turned to book collecting for the winter perusal of the works of certain mathematicians. Much may be gleaned of a man's character by his writing, but a fuller picture is possible from his penmanship and from expressions he may use in his letters or memoranda on mathematical problems. This brought forth a hunt for autographs and similar material. What were a given mathematician's facial features? A collection of portraits would aid in rounding out a mental picture of such a great man; so too would items related to recognition he had received, such as certificates, diplomas, and medals. All of these items gave to David Eugene Smith (just as they would give to other kindred souls) a feeling of acquaintanceship with the choicest minds in the field of mathematics. His feeling of deep, appreciative friendship with those old masters was manifest in his little book *Among My Autographs*.

Thus the collections of "U.D." grew throughout the years. Astronomy, astrology, algebra, had stemmed from the Eastern world; so in order to go to the sources of these sciences, a trip around the world was planned for his sabbatical year in 1906. The eighteen months he spent on this allowed him time in Japan, China, Burma, and India to visit the universities and meet many of the mathematicians. In 1914 his co-author was Yoshio Mikami for the book *A History of Japanese Mathematics*; he also wrote

articles which had these titles: "How the Native Japanese Mathematics is considered in the West"; "Chinese Mathematics", and "The Geometry of the Hindus."

On the trip he wrote a daily log on one thousand post cards, of which only one is missing (because my pet dog chewed it to pieces) and these, of course, added appreciably to the number of cards he had sent on his many foreign travels. He had started this custom as early as 1898. He wrote this dedication in the first album of cards:

To Helen

*The only book I ever keep
When knocking 'round across the deep
Is penned on cards at 2 cents each
(Or cheaper, when within my reach!)
On which some 2 cent stamps I glue
And bundle all of them to you.
And so you have within this book
A record of my deals with Cook,
The story of my tramps abroad
(Although the "tramp" part is a fraud),
The tales of coaching over passes,
Of beer served up by buxom lasses,
Of churches grand and mountains grander,
Of inns that raised your Aunt's dander,
Of castles grim and hotels grimy
And dinners slim off fishes slimy,
Of London, Paris, Rome, Gibraltar,
Cathedral chants, lights and psalter,
And all the odds and ends of travel
Dumped here much like a load of gravel.
I only hope these cards may be
The cause of thoughts of*

Uncle D.

The principal collections, which were in the allied fields of

mathematics, included instruments used for calculations by the ancient astrologers and astronomers, books, and manuscripts. These added greatly to the student's interest in the teaching of the history of mathematics. Quantities of historical material, some fine textiles, and other objets d'art were sent home. On the trip up the Irrawaddy River to the Golden Temple, he found an interesting gilded wooden carving which had been blown off from the temple roof. "U.D." purchased it and always referred to it as "My fallen angel of Burma."

His letters contain "sketches" of incidents in shopping, of endeavoring to obtain hot water in Japan, of a trip to Kamakura, of an elephant ride from Jaipur to Amber, of book dealers in India, and of the trip to the Taj Mahal in Agra. One letter has this notable description of an experience in Bombay: "A humble stranger, in black, but holding his white topee and his stick in hand follows a Parsi clad in white with shiny, brimless hat upon his hand, and enters the low doorway and ascends the stairs, and passes through iron gates, and enters the room wherein the books are kept. Ah, that is why this day, in 1907 of our Lord, is one to be recalled. The largest collection of Persian manuscripts this in all of India, and all opened as I wished, with every help from the turbaned guardian of the books. Here were the treatises of ancient Persia, centuries old, and here I sat and drank in the privilege of holding in my hands the works I love."

A sketch, "Scene from 'The Pandit'", in another letter tells of a bookshop in Bombay. The last two paragraphs are as follows: "The Pandit Mukundjee wishes me to say that he is satisfied to sell you his manuscripts now. He is old, he wishes them to go where they will be useful for all time; his early hopes are unfulfilled; when he dies they will be scattered if left here; you may have what you wish; he would give them to you if he could afford it, but as it is, you shall have them at the lowest possible price.

"And so it came about that Uncle David visited him again, and again, met some other Pandits, and when he left he took with him about 150 manuscripts, large and small, probably the best collec-

tion of that special line that has left India at one time, and possibly at all times, for two generations.”

The year 1930 found “U.D.” on a round-the-world quest for something he might have missed on his previous trip. A widower since 1928, he was accompanied by his sister — my mother — and me. One motive was to be sure to go eastward to regain that valuable day he had lost when he went westward in 1906, a day he declared he could not spare from his life. There was a short stay in Algiers, where he went back to some of the shops he had found last year and purchased more Korans. Also he revisited some of the Mosques, and especially the Mosque of the Black Madonna which reminds one of the Taj Mahal at night.

From Algiers it was a long voyage to Sumatra. As he had seen much of India, that country was omitted on this trip, so the next stop was Medan where we drove up to Brastagi in the mountains. Many Batak villages were visited — and there was always the quest for manuscripts.

Batavia was the only place in Java that had bookshops. The latter had a good business day when “U.D.” discovered some manuscripts and palm leaf books.

On we went to Bangkok, Siam. In the museum, which contained an outstanding collection of beautifully illuminated manuscripts, he found several on mathematics of which he desired to have photostatic copies. The librarian said he could not grant such a request, but that he would telephone Prince Damrong, who was the ranking official of the archives, and would make due apologies for the fact that a traveling suit was the only apparel that Dr. Smith had with him. “U.D.” told mother and me to be very inconspicuous since we were not properly attired for such a call. Prince Damrong replied: “Please send Dr. Smith immediately to the palace.” Upon arrival, a delightfully charming, dapper, little elderly gentleman, attired in a golfing outfit, lightly skipped down the steps and opened the door of the car. “Ah, Dr. Smith, this is your sister and niece? Welcome to my home.” The outcome of

this informal visit was the permission to have photographed any manuscript in the library that he wanted to have copied. Also, some manuscripts were purchased, all to be sent to the Columbia University Library.

Here, in this far off country, there was a tea for us the next afternoon. The refreshments included a chocolate cake made from a recipe in a Fanny Farmer Cookbook which the Royal Prince had had sent from Boston, Massachusetts, to his sister in Bangkok.

At three o'clock one morning in the Japanese mountain resort of Miyanoshita, there was an earthquake which, although "slight", was strong enough to awaken mother and me with the shaking. After "U.D." had knocked on our door, we heard his voice saying: "Don't be alarmed, there is no danger. I have just calculated what our chances are — [something in a million] — go back to sleep. Good night."

In mid-Pacific, at last, the lost day of 1906 was recovered. Uncle David made a notation: "June 11: This is where tomorrow does arrive, and we again live yesterday."

One day in Geneva, Switzerland, he found a charming little French edition of the *Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám, an old familiar name in mathematics. Since he had not found any manuscripts of interest in the shops, he began for his own amusement to translate the verses to see how the ideas differed from Edward Fitzgerald's edition. It reminded him that he had an Arabic manuscript of the *Rubáiyát* in his library, leather bound with gold tooling, which he must hunt up when he returned to New York.

The next year this delightful little book was translated from Arabic into literal English and "U.D." began to put it into metered verse. A Persian exchange-student suggested that, as there was no English version which had illustrations by a Persian artist, why not have two or three art students at the Teheran Art College illustrate some quatrains? One artist was finally selected to draw the twelve illustrations which were used in the David Eugene Smith edition.



An illustration from Dr. Smith's metrical version of *The Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám. The original picture, by Rassam-i Arjangi, is in color.

In the early spring of 1933, the printing was completed of *The Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám — "set forth in meter by David Eugene Smith, based upon a verbatim translation by Hashim Hussein, illustrations by Rassam-i Arjangi." The first book off the press was bound in Persian blue velvet with the coat of arms of Persia stamped in gold. This was sent to His Imperial Majesty the Shah of Persia.

"U.D." subsequently made a trip to the homeland of Omar, on which my mother and I were once again his travelling companions. En route, Damascus was visited and in the Souks was found manuscript after manuscript on Arabic mathematics, icons, and many lovely Korans. This was a new hunting ground.

From Baghdad on the Euphrates, we went down the river to the old city of Ur of the Chaldees, where in the ruins one may see examples of the primitive pointed arch and the first known curved arch. When we had continued on down the river to the Marsh Arab country, "U.D.'s" first inquiries concerned education. The "Head Man" responded with information which included the following: one out of a thousand attend school, with only about 7,000 in the schools; the nearest higher education facilities were in Baghdad; and the death rate of children was 60% of those born. Upon our return to Baghdad, "U.D." was informed that His Excellence the Minister of Education was to introduce "U.D." to His Majesty King Feisal I. A side light of the day: Mother and I went to a beauty parlor to have the sands of the desert removed from our hair, but no sooner had we been put under the dryers than "U.D." and Professor Kasir rushed in and announced, "Hurry, get out from under those things! You must go to the hotel and dress properly. We are due in ten minutes at the Palace."

King Feisal I was a very democratic, kindly, sincere man of strength and purpose with military poise, and yet with a graciousness and with a determination to improve the conditions of his country and of his people. He wished to discuss with Dr. Smith the problem of education and the great need in the field of health and medicine. At that time, the Shah had a mobile medical unit

out in the country, with X-ray equipment, for tuberculosis was taking a high death toll. (The natives were difficult to convince that medical trained men were better than the witch doctors, but the children helped. "If they can see through you, can't they find the cause of sickness?") Among other needs were agriculturists for the development of tillable land into productive farms, lawyers for drawing up papers of land ownership, and engineers for building dams to keep irrigation at the best level. And there was discussion of exchange students from Iraq to the United States and vice versa.

The next two mornings "U.D." lectured at two of the schools and was busy for the eight days in Baghdad.

Then we continued our trip over the mountains, through the mountain passes and across the plateau of Persia to Teheran: Dr. Sadiq, who had been a former student of "U.D.'s" was the host for the visit. The University of Teheran was a rapidly growing institution, but not sufficient for the demand of the students. The library was a delight to "U.D.", because of its many mathematical works and books on the allied sciences. Word had spread via the grapevine that a gentleman interested in old books was there. Consequently, a little after six in the morning, the book vendors would begin to gather at the door steps. Each morning eight to eleven o'clock was set aside for the quiet study of these vendors' wares. A faint smile would hover in his eyes when a manuscript pleased him; among these many books, he found two hitherto unknown works of Omar Khayyám. The books were so numerous that I had the rare privilege of examining many assortments. One morning I found a book, the contents of which I remembered having seen in a similar one in his library. "Maybe this one might be of interest," I said as I handed the book to "U.D." A surprised expression came over his face. After the vendor had departed, I inquired, "Poker face, did I find the tables of Ulugh Beg?" "How did you know enough to recognize those tables?" "All due to your good teaching." One just *had* to learn constantly when associated

with him, in the home, in the classroom, or at his dinner table.

It was on this trip that "U.D." was decorated by the Persian Government in recognition for his research in Arabic mathema-



A photograph taken in Teheran in 1933, showing in the second row (left to right) Mrs. Helen McAleer, Issa Khan Sadiq (TC Ph.D '31), David Eugene Smith, and his sister, Mrs. Clara Jewett. Dr. Smith is wearing the Gold Star of Elmi with which he had just been decorated. The names of the three young men in the foreground are unknown.

tics, especially the works of Omar Khayyám. "U.D." was given the highest scientific decoration that could be bestowed upon a foreigner, the "Gold Star of the First Rank, the Order of Elmi." An interesting part of the presentation came at the point when the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Monsieur Foroughi, introduced Dr. Smith: "It is the first time that a man of Omar Khayyám's calibre, a philosopher and mathematician has given serious thought to and an understanding of the quatrains. This we consider a translation of our great mathematician's thoughts in the lighter vein of a philosopher. Dr. Smith's work we consider to be a translation of Omar Khayyám's quatrains, not a version. There are many versions, of all the versions we consider Edward Fitzgerald's is the

most beautiful poetry." "U.D." frequently referred to this book as the "Swan Song" of his writing.

It was a three-day trek by motor car across the Persian Desert to Meshed. Upon the advice of friends, which was to carry nothing you do not want stolen by the marauding brigands who may attack any desert travelers, "U.D." on this portion of our travels carried a meager amount of currency, planning to replenish the amount in Meshed for the purchase of any manuscripts that might be available. The nights en route were spent in the regular caravanserais along with the camel trains of this great waste. The food for the entire trip was carried in the car and each night's meal was prepared over the charcoal stoves at the common cooking space in the caravanserais.

Meshed was reached safely. Although the first duty of a stranger is to call upon the governor, "U.D." went first to the bank for funds. Our chauffeur rushed back to mother and me at the hotel with this announcement, "Madam. Dr. Smith he no money in America. My brother and I have small money, do not worry, we give all to Dr. Smith. He is a good man, all Persia loves him." We then learned that the banks were closed, for this was the second Bank Holiday in 1933. (The first one was at Tel Aviv, where offers had been made to give "U.D." financial assistance for the trip, but were not needed.)

The original plan was for us to spend three days in Meshed. The day after our arrival, we made a short trip out to see the very impressive old ruins of the palace at Tus, where only the center dome over the huge hall remains in place. There are three small unroofed chambers on the right hand side, through the ruined arches of which one can see in the background the magnificent range of mountains. As we stood in the hall, we heard the echo of the voices of the chauffeur and "boy" quoting in almost a chant, in the soft Persian language, quatrains from Omar Khayyám's *Rubáiyát*. The old palace came to life and you could sense the old days. Then we heard spoken in English:

*I saw a vulture on the palace roof at Tus,
And in his claws he held the skull of Kai Kawus;
And looking at the skull he cried, Alas! alas!
Where now the pealing bells and where the sounding drums?*

And this was the first quatrain of "U.D.'s" own translation!

The Governor invited us for five o'clock tea the next afternoon to see his many rare manuscripts. He also had, as a guest, the Librarian of the Mosque of Meshed. Probably we were the first foreigners ever to have the opportunity to see the famous Mosque Koran with its six hundred illuminated pages, which is considered one of the most beautiful books in the world. Each page appeared to be more beautiful than the preceding one, each truly a gem of Persian art. There were other rare and exquisite manuscripts on botany and on arithmetic; poems of Firdausi, Hafiz and Saadi; and six more of the rare Korans from the Mosque Library. It was a memorable day for "U.D." when again, as in Bombay, he sat delightedly holding in his hands the works he loved.

Here in the land of Omar, there was the college to visit and maybe the great Mosque, which is forbidden to infidels. This did not deter "U.D.", because the Governor had suggested that the distinguished scholar and admirer of Omar should see the Mosque of Meshed. So, in company with the Governor, Director of Education, Chief of Police and several special guards, "U.D.", garbed in a Pahlevi frock and hat, made the visit which was made even more risky because it was during the time of a special pilgrimage of the Moslems to the sacred shrine.

Immediately after this momentous occasion, "U.D." returned to the hotel, escorted by special guards for protection from the fanatical mobs of pilgrims, and announced, "Pack quickly, we are leaving at once. It is feared that some one suspects that an infidel has been in the Mosque."

By sundown we had reached the city of Nishapur. There at the city gates a messenger was waiting with a request that Dr. Smith

and party were to go directly to the Governor's Palace. Had the news of the visit to the Great Mosque of Meshed traveled ahead of us? The Governor's warm greetings and expression of regret that he had not known of Dr. Smith's trip through to Meshed allayed our misgivings. He wished Dr. Smith to remain as his guest, and he would consider it an honor to escort Dr. Smith, sister and niece, to the Tomb of Omar Khayyám.

The tomb of Imam Mahamad Mahrugh, the brother of the eighth Imam, is in a small garden. There too, in a niche, is the sarcophagus of Omar Khayyám. On the back white wall some person had scribbled:

*"Oh, thou who hast come from distant roads,
See how they make me sleep in this tight tomb,
This mausoleum in the state that you see tells you
Sufficiently — do not write on it any more line."*

Another pilgrimage had been accomplished: to pay respect to the great algebraist, philosopher, and mathematician, who was not a poet except for his quatrains.

Following his trip to Persia there were many more expeditions: to South Africa, South America, Greece, and even to Russia.

Eighty years old; eighty trips across the Atlantic and he did so want to make the number one hundred! But, his traveling days now over, his questing mind could say with Robert Louis Stevenson:

*"Home is the sailor, home from sea,
And the hunter home from the hill."*

He passed away from this world of sights and scenes he had loved on Saturday, July 29, 1944, at the age of eighty-four.

He had lived a full life. Through various languages he could enter into the life of the peoples of many countries; he knew their history in general and their contributions to mathematics in particular. His knowledge of law had been of assistance in many

instances, too. Entertainment of friends in his home had been through his life one of the greatest pleasures. To teach was the ideal way to be of assistance to young people, to arouse an interest and a curiosity, in some, as to why and how the wheels of life revolve.

From the age of five to eighty, travel had lured him to many countries of the world. Experiences became happy memories, from monkey meat in Costa Rica to Rijsttafel in Java. He was a connoisseur of fine food and it delighted him to try any native dish from bouillabaisse to Macadamia nuts. To him arithmetic was evident in the culinary arts.

His early training from his wonderful mother influenced his entire life and study; in turn, his ability to present mathematics in such a stimulating manner will be remembered by his many students and friends.

He said he would like to be remembered in these words:

*"Always to learn, or to teach, or to write —
These things have been my delight."*

Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

Barrett gift. Mr. C. Waller Barrett has brought our file of first editions of Stephen Crane's works one important step closer to completion by presenting a fine copy of the scarce first edition (1902) of *Last Words*. Mr. Barrett has also presented two autographed copies of works by Lizette Woodworth Reese (*Spicewood*, 1920, and *A Victorian Village*, 1929), as well as a copy of the letters of Henry Adams to Henry Vignaud and Charles Scribner, which Mr. Barrett recently published under the title *The Making of History* (1959).

Barzun gift. Dean Jacques Barzun (A.B., 1927; A.M., 1928; Ph.D., 1932) has presented 129 records (78 RPM) comprising the entire output of the works of Hector Berlioz that were recorded before the advent of long-playing discs, with the exception of certain popular short pieces such as the *Rákóczy March* and the *Dance of Sylphs*. The collection includes two orchestral arrangements by Berlioz of works by other composers, namely, Rouget de Lisle's *Marseillaise* and Weber's *Invitation to the Dance*. This collection represents the only parts of Berlioz' works that were available to the record listener anywhere in the world before LPs.

Dean Barzun has also presented 59 discs of certain important classical performances, eight of semi-popular music, and six of popular recordings — all from the 78-RPM era.

Bickerman gift. Professor Elias J. Bickerman has presented the Amsterdam, 1764, edition of Montesquieu's *Oeuvres* in six volumes.

Burnham gift. Mr. Alan Burnham (B.S., 1940, Arch.) of Greenwich, Connecticut, has presented to Avery Library eleven original

drawings and forty prints of works by Frederick C. Withers, New York architect who designed the Jefferson Market Court House.

Cardozo gift. Professor Michael H. Cardozo of the Cornell Law School has presented for inclusion in *Columbiana* three letters written by Justice Benjamin N. Cardozo (A.B., 1889; A.M., 1890; LL.D., 1915 Hon.) to Colonel and Mrs. Arthur M. Wolff (C.E., 1903).

Coleman-Norton gift. Professor Paul R. Coleman-Norton of Princeton University has presented to *Columbiana* a remarkable collection of 79 letters and postcards written to him by Percival Wilde (B.S., 1906 C). Wilde was important as a playwright, scenarist, and novelist, and is perhaps best known for his many one-act plays. The letters are personal in nature.

Cox gift. Mr. and Mrs. Allyn Cox have presented to Avery Library a collection of letters to and by Mr. Cox's parents, the painter Kenyon Cox and Louise Howland King Cox, also a painter; and letters by J. D. Cox, the Civil War General and Governor of Ohio and the father of Kenyon Cox. The collection contains letters from many of the most eminent people of the day.

Eisner gift. Mr. Jerome Eisner (A.B., 1929; LL.B., 1931) has presented a collection of 22 fine letters from important personages, including fifteen from Theodore Roosevelt, two from John Hay, and one letter each from Jusserand, William Howard Taft, Grover Cleveland, Woodrow Wilson, and Robert Lansing. All the letters are addressed to Richard Harding Davis. The generous gift was made through Mr. David Kirschenbaum of the Carnegie Book Shop.

Fackenthal gift. Mr. Joseph D. Fackenthal (A.B., 1900; A.M., 1902; LL.B., 1903) has presented the eight issues of *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, January-August, 1894, in which appeared the

serialization of Du Maurier's *Trilby*. The issues had been carefully saved in pristine condition by Mr. Fackenthal's mother, the late Mary Diehl Fackenthal, in whose memory the gift was made.

Fellows gift. In the November, 1960, issue of *Columbia Library Columns* we noticed the gift by Miss Harriet L. Fellows of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, of certain Civil War letters and memorabilia. Miss Fellows has recently added to this gift certain further items of memorabilia, including three contemporary newspaper issues relative to the deaths of Presidents Lincoln, Garfield, and McKinley; Civil War mementoes of Capt. George Barnes; fractional currency and mementoes of President McKinley; and items related to the current celebration of the Dakota Centennial (1861-1961).

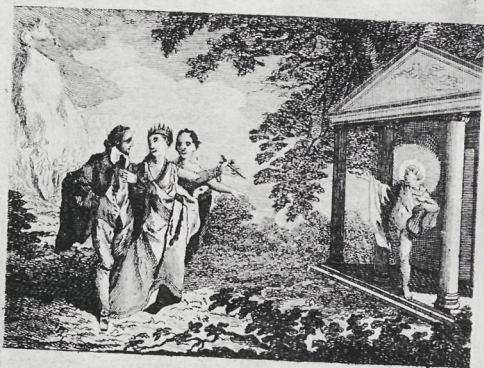
Frayne gift. Mr. John Frayne, of the Egleston Library staff and a Master's candidate at Columbia, has done the Libraries a signal service. Recently Mr. Frayne purchased from the library's duplicate shelf a much-worn and unsightly copy of T. Wilkes' *A General View of the Stage*, London, 1759. When he had leisure to examine his purchase, Mr. Frayne noticed that the copy bears the autograph of Washington Irving on the title-page and contains numerous marginal annotations by him throughout the text. Mr. Frayne thereupon returned the copy, with the wry comment that he doubted very seriously that we really meant to dispose of it. He was so right! We consider it simple justice (and scant reward) to record his return of the book as the equivalent of making a free gift of an item of great value.

The volume was originally purchased with a number of other pieces from Bangs in 1890: its very special nature was not then recorded and had never until now been recognized. It has stayed for seventy years in the general collection, where it has been read by successive generations of students and faculty and it has suffered accordingly. When a fine copy of the same edition came into our hands recently, the old, worn copy was withdrawn, its unique features still unnoticed. Now that it has been restored to

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the Libraries through the kindness of Mr. Frayne, the book will be renovated, fittingly bound, and given its rightful place in Special Collections.

Friedman gift. Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) has presented a fine copy of the scarce *Notitia Dignitatum, utriusque Imperii Orientis Scilicet et Occidentis ultra Arcadii Honoriiue tempora* (Geneva, 1623), by G. Panciroli.

Greenleaf gift. Mr. Donald Greenleaf (C.E., 1915) has presented for inclusion in Columbiana the notebook kept by his father, the late James L. Greenleaf (C.E., 1880), containing notes taken from the lectures of William G. Peck, one of the first professors in the Columbia School of Mines.

Gropius gift. Through the good offices of Dean Charles Colbert, Mr. Walter Gropius (L.H.D., 1961 Hon.) has presented reproductions of the preliminary design report and preliminary drawings and specifications for the University of Baghdad which his firm, The Architects Collaborative International, Ltd., is presently building. This important material is handsomely bound in two volumes.

Gumby bequest. In the November, 1952, issue of *Columbia Library Columns* Mr. L. S. Alexander Gumby wrote of his adventures in compiling the scrapbooks on the American Negro which he had then recently presented to Columbia University. He had indicated that he intended to add to his collection during the years that remained to him.

Mr. Gumby died on March 16, 1961. His cousin, Mrs. Dorothy G. Walker, and his very close friend, Mr. Charles Cheatham, knew that he had completed certain additional volumes, and they have taken great care to make certain that the new material should be given a place with the great collection which will stand as Mr. Gumby's personal memorial and a boon to future scholars.

Jacobs gift. Mr. Robert C. Jacobs, a member of the staff of Special Collections and a Master's candidate at Columbia, has presented in memory of his father, the late Max Jacobs, a fine copy of William Morris' *A Dream of John Ball*, printed by Elbert Hubbard in 1898.

Japanese Consulate General gift. The Consulate General of Japan in New York has given the East Asiatic Library 205 volumes of Japanese works in the fields of history, culture, and science. The former Consul General, Mitsuo Tanaka, is a member of the Friends and has recently been appointed Ambassador to Chile.

Kyoto University gift. The Research Institute for Humanistic Studies of Kyoto University has presented to the East Asiatic Library the scholarly "Catalogue of the Oracle Bones in the Kyoto University Research Institute for Humanistic Studies." The work, in one volume of texts and two of folio size plates, is by Shigeki Kaizuka. It deciphers and illustrates inscriptions of 3,246 oracle bones, which provide some of the most important historical source materials for the study of the Yin Dynasty in China (ca. 1523 B.C. — ca. 1028). Professor Kaizuka spent the academic year 1958-1959 at Columbia University and, while here, deciphered the texts on the Special Collections' oracle bones described in an earlier issue of *Columbia Library Columns* (May, 1959; November, 1959, Bassett-Monroe gift).

Levi gift. Mr. and Mrs. Julian Clarence Levi (A.B., 1896) have presented to Avery Library two fine additions: Vanvitelli's *Dichiarazione dei disegni del Reale Palazzo di Caserta*, 1756, in its original binding; and *L'Oeuvre de Henri Prost*, a recent biography.

Mr. and Mrs. Levi have also enriched Columbiana by presenting fourteen of Mr. Levi's own sketches and cartoons relating to club and other activities on campus.

Magriel gift. In the May, 1957, issue of *Columbia Library Columns* we noticed Mr. Paul Magriel's presentation of his notable

collection of material relating to pugilism. Recently Mr. Magriel has made other gifts: two booklets relating to the Rome Olympics, including *Roma per le Olimpiadi*, published in 1954, and *Roma Olimpica*, 1955, a luxurious leather-bound book which is further enhanced by an inscription to Mr. Magriel from Romolo Passamonti, director of the Italian delegation to the Roman Olympic Games.

Mr. Magriel has also presented first editions of T. S. Eliot's *The Use of Poetry and the Use of Criticism*, 1933, and Franz Kafka's *The Castle*, 1930.

Masters gift. Mr. Harris K. Masters (E.M., 1894) has presented for inclusion in Columbiana a wealth of material relating to his class, including photographs, pamphlets, programs, etc.

Melville gift. Some months ago Mr. Ward Melville (A.B., 1909) established a substantial fund to be expended for library materials in commemoration of the late Frederick Coykendall, whose collection of contemporary English poetry is a prized adjunct of Special Collections. By use of a part of Mr. Melville's gift, we have purchased a valuable aggregation of original annotated typescripts and corrected proofs of three works by the English poet, Humbert Wolfe — namely, *The Silver Cat*, *The Craft of Verse*, and *The Unknown Goddess*.

Moses gift. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Moses (LL.B., 1903) have presented a superb copy of *L'Apocalypse de Saint-Sever*, reproduced in full color from the original 11th-century illuminated manuscript in Paris, 1942-3. This gift was made late in January, and it was with great regret that we learned of the death of Mr. Moses only a few days later, on February 18th.

Nack gift. Through the good offices of Mr. Rob Kelly of Minneapolis and of Mr. Howard Nack of Two Rivers, Wisconsin,

The Hamilton Manufacturing Company of the latter city has presented an amazing collection of 25 specimen books and sheets illustrating the wooden display types produced by that company and its predecessors. Indeed, it may be said that, because of this gift, Columbia now possesses one of the best collections of American wood-type specimens in existence.

Pacific Relations Institutes gift. The American Institute of Pacific Relations and the International Institute of Pacific Relations have joined in presenting to Columbia University their back files. The collection consists of about eighty file drawers of correspondence relating to international conferences, research programs, publications programs, etc., of both Institutes, and covers the period 1927 to 1957. Much of the correspondence has a substantive value to research, in that it deals with political, economic, and social problems in eastern and southern Asia and the South Pacific, as well as with problems of American foreign policy. There are many travel letters and on-the-spot reports relating to conditions in China, Japan, Russia, Australia, the Philippines, India, and Pakistan during the period 1933 to 1954. On the whole, the collection is of considerable importance for students of modern Asia, American foreign policy, American understanding of and education in Asian problems, and in international relations generally.

The gift was arranged through Mr. William L. Holland, former Executive Secretary of the American Institute, and Miss Mary F. Healy, Acting Secretary and Assistant Treasurer.

Price gift. Mr. Lucien Price of Boston, whose earlier gift of his manuscripts was noticed in the February, 1960, issue of *Columbia Library Columns*, has made a significant addition in the bound typescript of his novel *The Great Companions*, which is Volume II of the sequence entitled *All Souls*. Mr. Price calls this his "second version of three, written during intervals of the past forty years. The final version is still in process of composition."

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Sinz gift. Professor William Sinz has presented a fine copy in its original binding of the works of Tacitus, printed by Froben in Basle, 1533.

Tankersley gift. Through the good offices of his brother, Mr. Robert T. Tankersley of the Paterno Library, Mr. Normand Tankersley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has presented a complete run of the very important literary magazine, *The American Spectator*, 1932-1935. During the period of its existence this magazine became enormously popular. It was edited by George Jean Nathan, Ernest Boyd, Theodore Dreiser, James Branch Cabell, and Eugene O'Neill, and numbered most of the important American writers of the time among its contributors. It ceased publication only because the editors grew tired of the work involved and "simply because we wanted to do other and newer things."

Wells gift. Professor Henry Wells has presented a most exceptional series of 54 letters, mostly from American poets, written between 1930 and 1942 to either Professor William Cabell Greet or to Professor Wells. The letters relate to the arrangements for recording recitations of poems in the voices of the poets themselves, the first non-commercial venture of the sort. The records were sponsored and distributed by the National Council of Teachers of English.

Of special note is a letter from Vachel Lindsay, enclosing a carbon typescript of his poem "The Ezekiel Chant," and two newspaper clippings about the poet and extensively annotated by him. As it happened, the record of Lindsay's recitation was cut very shortly before his death, and was played posthumously a few days later before the Poetry Society of America. It has the distinction of being the first record of a writer's voice to be played after his death.

Wouk gift. Mr. Herman Wouk (A.B., 1934) presented his manu-

scripts to Columbia University at the annual meeting of the Friends on January 24, 1956 (see *Columbia Library Columns*, February and May, 1956). Recently an addition to these manuscripts has been made by The Abe Wouk Foundation, Inc., comprising the original manuscripts, typescripts, galley proofs, and working papers for Mr. Wouk's recent book, *This is My God*.

Activities of the Friends

Meetings

Bancroft Awards Dinner. On Wednesday, April 19, approximately 400 members of our organization and their guests met for the culminating event of the academic year — the Bancroft Awards Dinner which was held in the Rotunda of Low Memorial Library. Mr. August Heckscher, past Chairman of our association, was toastmaster.

During the program, President Kirk announced the winners of the prizes for the two books judged by the Bancroft Prize Jury to be the best published in the field of American history during 1960: *Wilson: A Struggle for Neutrality, 1914-1915*, by Arthur Stanley Link*, and *The Jefferson Image in the American Mind*, by Merrill Daniel Peterson. He presented a \$3,000 check to each of the authors, who responded with short addresses. Mr. Heckscher presented certificates to Mr. Herbert S. Bailey, Jr., Director of the Princeton University Press, and to Mr. Walter Oakley, Vice President of the Oxford University Press, the publishers, respectively, of the two award-winning books. The principal speaker for the occasion was Dr. Gilbert Highet, Anthon Professor of the Latin Language and Literature at Columbia University, who spoke on "The Survival of Records."

The Bancroft Awards Dinner Committee was made up of Mrs. Francis Henry Lenygon, Chairman, Mrs. Arthur C. Holden, and Mrs. Albert M. Baer. Dr. John A. Krout, Chairman of the Friends, participated in welcoming the members and their guests as they arrived.

*He won a Bancroft Prize in 1957, too, for his *Wilson: The New Freedom*.

PICTURE CREDITS

The sources of illustrations reproduced from other publications were as follows: "Samuel Johnson in Travelling Dress" from Mary Alden Hopkins' *Dr. Johnson's Litchfield* (London, Peter Owen, Ltd., 1956); "Mary in Her Automobile" from *Mark Twain's Letters to Mary*, edited by Lewis Leary (N.Y., Columbia University Press, 1961); and the picture from *The Rubáiyát* of Omar Khayyám was from David Eugene Smith's version in meter (N.Y., B. Westermann, 1933).

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