CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Roland Baughman is Head of the Special Collections Department of the Columbia University Libraries.

Richard H. Logsdon is Director of Libraries at Columbia University.

Kenneth M. Swezey is an author. He was a close friend of Nikola Tesla during the last twenty years of the latter's life.

Carl R. Woodring is Professor of English at Columbia University.

* * *

Articles printed in Columbia Library Columns are selectively indexed in Library Literature.
CONTENTS

Nikola Tesla at Columbia: Tesla-Johnson Correspondence Revives a Famous Association  
KENNETH M. SWEZEY 3

New Light on Byron, Trelawny, and Lady Hester Stanhope  
CARL R. WOODRING 9

Keeping a Research Library Up to Date  
RICHARD H. LOGSDON 19

Our Growing Collections  
ROLAND BAUGHMAN 29

Activities of the Friends  
39

Published by THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES,  
Three issues a year, one dollar each.
NIKOLA TESLA
He holds one of his inventions: a filament-less, gas-filled light bulb, which was coated with phosphorous.
Nikola Tesla at Columbia: Tesla-Johnson Correspondence Revives a Famous Association

KENNETH M. SWEZEEY

IN acquiring, last December, a collection of letters from the famous scientist-inventor Nikola Tesla to Robert Underwood Johnson, poet and editor of *The Century Magazine*, the Special Collections Department revived a unique association of Tesla with Columbia University. It also made available to the researcher a correspondence that reveals the warmth, wit, loyalty in friendship, and wide-ranging interests of this enigmatic genius better than any other known. The collection was obtained from Mrs. Agnes Holden, daughter of Dr. Johnson, with assistance of funds from the Friends of the Columbia Libraries, and part of it formed the nucleus of the exhibition of Tesla memorabilia held recently in Butler Library.

To understand better the strange blend of poetry and science, fervor and intellect, in Tesla’s character, as shown in his work and particularly in these letters, it may help to consider his extraordinarily cosmopolitan background. Born in 1856 in Smiljan,
Croatia (then ruled by Austria-Hungary, but now part of Yugoslavia), of Serbian parents, he received his technical education in Graz, Styria, and Prague, Bohemia. His first jobs were with the new telephone company in Budapest and then with the Continental Edison Company in Paris. Coming to America in 1884, he worked for nearly a year at the Edison Machine Works, in New York City. Soon after, establishing there a laboratory of his own, and becoming an American citizen, he began the meteoric career of discovery and invention that was, within a few decades, to change the life and history of the whole world.

Greatest of these discovery-inventions was his induction motor and its associated polyphase system for the generation, transmission, and utilization of electric current, on which he was granted basic patents in 1888, and which later became the foundation of the vast light and power industry we know today. However, it was Tesla’s lecture-demonstration, “Experiments With Alternate Currents of Very High Frequency and Their Application to Methods of Artificial Illumination,” given at Columbia College on May 20, 1891, that started him on the road to popular fame.

At this lecture—presented before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on the invitation of Professors Michael Pupin and Francis Crocker—Tesla first demonstrated his high-frequency, high-voltage transformer, soon to become world-famous as the “Tesla coil,” and his filamentless tubular gas-filled lights (some bent to form names and others coated with phosphors) that presaged the neon and fluorescent lights of today. In one demonstration he lit lamps, held in his hands “like flaming swords,” by several hundreds of thousands of volts passing through his own body! Provided the frequency were high enough, alternating current of enormous voltage could be completely harmless—a discovery in physiology that led to diathermy and other forms of high-frequency electrotherapeutics.

In attendance were some of the leading electrical men of the country, and others who were subsequently to distinguish them-
Tesla giving the first demonstration of his "coil" at the lecture at Columbia College on May 20, 1891.

selves. Among the latter was Gano Dunn—then a 20-year-old student of electrical engineering—who acted as Tesla's assistant. Later to become president of the J. G. White Engineering Corporation, trustee of Barnard College, and president of Cooper Union, Dunn wrote to Tesla in 1931: "My contact [on that occasion] left an indelible impression and an inspiration which has influenced my life."

The lecture created such a stir in scientific circles that Tesla was urged to repeat and amplify it the next year before the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Royal Institution in London, and then the Société Internationale Française des Electriciens and the Société Française de Physique in Paris. In 1893 he was pressed into giving it again before the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and the National Electric Light Association in St. Louis.
As a result of this acclaim, Tesla was invited once more to Columbia College, in June 1894, to receive an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. In recommending the award, Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn had written to President Seth Low: "...there seems to be little doubt that Mr. Tesla is the leading Electrician. . . .Poulton (Professor of Biology at Oxford) tells me that Tesla was covered with honors while in England and France. We certainly must not allow any other University to anticipate us in honoring a man who lives under our very walls."

The friendship between Tesla and R. U. Johnson had already been sparked by the same acclaim. The men first met when Thomas Commerford Martin, editor of *The Electrical Engineer*, brought Tesla to the Johnson home on Lexington Avenue, late in 1893. Martin had just finished his book, *The Inventions, Researches and Writings of Nikola Tesla*, and was preparing an article about Tesla for the February, 1894, issue of *The Century Magazine*.

Appearing at precisely the right time, this article and this friendship lent a hand in helping Tesla win the degree. Having read the article, Professor Osborn wrote to Dr. Johnson for his personal opinion of Tesla. On May 17, 1894, Johnson wrote a glowing reply (now in Columbia's "Honors" file). He was "deeply impressed" with Tesla's "scientific and scholarly" temperament. Regarding Tesla's general culture: "...he knows the language and is widely read in the best literature of Italy, Germany and France as well as much of the Slavic countries to say nothing of Greek and Latin. He is particularly fond of poetry and is always quoting Leopardi or Dante or Goethe or the Hungarians or the Russians." Tesla's character was one of "distinguished sweetness, sincerity, modesty, refinement, generosity and force, as you yourself have seen enough of him to know."

The letters in the Tesla-Johnson collection (which also includes a few photographs, magazine articles, and newspaper clippings)
give Tesla's side of the story. They number about 165, and date from early 1894 to 1937, the year in which Dr. Johnson died. Some are addressed to Mrs. Johnson, for whom Tesla also had a great affection and admiration, and several, including one in French, to Miss Agnes.

Written on stationery either of "The Gerlach—Strictly Fire Proof Family Hotel," 49 West 27th Street, or of his laboratory, 35 South Fifth Avenue, the earliest letters were respectfully formal, beginning "Dear Johnson," or "My dear Mr. Johnson," and signed always, "N. Tesla"—his customary signature. Most were delivered by messenger, rather than by post.

An interchange of interests between Tesla and Johnson (and often Mrs. Johnson) is suggested from the beginning. On January 8, 1894, he asked his friend to thank Mrs. Johnson for the flowers she had sent him the day before (Orthodox Christmas). In appreciation he sent her an article by Professor Crookes, and a Crookes' "radiometer" (a little heat-powered "windmill" that spins in an evacuated bulb), which he considered "the most beautiful invention made."

By April, Tesla had Johnson, along with such fellow-celebrities as Joseph Jefferson, Mark Twain, and Marion Crawford, visit his laboratory to take high-voltage sparks through their bodies or to pose for the first photographs ever taken by gaseous-tube light. At the same time, he was making literal translations from works of the Serbian poet, Zmai Iovan Iovanovich, which Johnson would paraphrase in English verse.

A year later, Tesla wrote boldly, "My Dear—Mr. Johnson. Luka! friend! brother! Answered them all! All! . . . If it were not for the typewriter I would have never done it . . . It seems sad to make so many friends by having a misfortune and then to lose them all by replying in type!" Two weeks earlier, Tesla's laboratory had been destroyed by fire. Thereafter he broke with formality, called Johnson "Luka", Mrs. Johnson "Mrs. Filipov", and
often even signed his letters “Nikola.” The nicknames came from “Luka Filipov,” Montenegrin hero of a poem Johnson had helped him translate into English.

When Tesla referred in these letters to “millionaires”, he was continuing a private joke between himself and the Johnsons, who tried to keep him supplied with wealthy friends in the hope they might finance his inventions. In March, 1899, because of one who did, he moved from the Gerlach to the old Waldorf-Astoria.

Tesla’s hypersensitivity to the distress of others is evident in a letter concerning an illness of Kipling: “I cannot tell you how anxious I am. . . . I have worked myself into a pitch of excitement and have not slept two nights, being unable to get him off my mind.”

Matters discussed in the correspondence include personal and social affairs, wireless telegraphy, Tesla’s radio-controlled boat of 1898 (forerunner of the guided missile), and transmission of power without wires. One series of letters concerns Tesla’s long article, “The Problem of Increasing Human Energy,” which appeared in the June, 1900, issue of *The Century Magazine*.

Letters came farther apart as the men grew older, but Tesla’s affection never wavered. His last message was a telegram: YOU ARE ALWAYS IN MY THOUGHTS LUKA MY DEAR FRIEND. MAY THE LORD PRESERVE YOU AND IN THE NEW YEAR BESTOW UPON YOU HIS MOST DESIRED BLESSINGS—YOUR NIKOLA.
New Light on Byron, Trelawny, and Lady Hester Stanhope

CARL R. WOODRING

Among the papers of John Howard Payne which are being presented to Columbia University by the heirs of the late Colonel Thatcher Taylor Payne Luquer (C.E. 1889, E.E., 1892) is a manuscript diary of singular fascination. Although it is in Payne’s hand, it is not, as we first assumed, a record of his own experiences. Rather, Payne has copied entries from someone else’s account which had come into his hands, and which contained material of great interest to him. Professor Woodring, who writes the following article, has established the identity of the original diarist, but the manner of Payne’s coming into possession of the account remains a mystery.¹

EDITOR’S NOTE

JOHN HOWARD PAYNE, “America’s first Hamlet,” playwright, producer, poet, and twice consul to Tunis, often transcribed for admirers two or three stanzas from his best-loved poem, “Home, Sweet Home.” Fortunately for us, he was in fact an avid transcriber of both his own writings and the writings of others. In 1825, when the widow of the poet Shelley declined Payne’s proposal of marriage, he transcribed all his cor-

¹ The Payne manuscript comprises forty pages (on twenty-two leaves) of closely written text, and is entitled: “Reminiscencies [sic] of Cursory visits to various places in and round the shores of the Mediterranean.” It is in two approximately equal parts, which may have been brought together at some later time. The first half of the manuscript is a fair copy on sheets with ruled lines and margins; the latter part is on unruled sheets, and though the script is clear and easily read, there is reason to suppose that this portion of the text may comprise a preliminary draft. Between the ruled and unruled sections (and elsewhere in the draft portion) stubs remain of leaves that have been torn out. The inference is that as Payne transcribed the text (and in some measure edited it), he removed the leaves that had been copied. One bit of circumstantial evidence is of great importance. The paper on which the account is written is watermarked 1823; Payne, therefore, must have had the original diary of 1823–1825—or excerpts from it—in his hands almost before the ink on it was dry.
Carl R. Woodring

respondence with her for Washington Irving. His theory on this occasion was that Mary Shelley had revealed in the letters her love—not for Payne, but for his friend Irving.

Payne may have proposed to Mary partly for the same reasons that prompted her to reject his proposal: reverence for great accomplishments and thrill at the romantic story of Shelley's intense life, ended in 1822 when his yacht sank in a storm near Leghorn. Perhaps it was some member of the Shelley circle who gave Payne his chance to copy several dozen entries from a notable diary recording events of 1823-1825 in the Mediterranean. As the background of the diary—but also very much in the foreground of it—the Greek war for independence from Turkey was coming to the end of its worst factional divisions among chieftains and was gathering inspirational force from the arrival of Lord Byron and his early death at Missolonghi, which was a major center of the Greek insurgents. Although unnamed in the transcription, the diarist was clearly James Forrester, surgeon in H.M.S. *Alacrity*, a sloop of war assigned to "the suppression of piracy, and watching the motions of the Turco-Egyptian forces."

The entries begin, prosaically enough, with descriptions of soil, buildings, faces, and costumes in Malta and in the seven Greek islands of the Ionian sea then under British protection. In the fair-copy journal of 1824, the entry for January 2 describes the weather and the new roads in Corfu. In the rough note for this date, however, Forrester tells of his visit with Teresa Macri, Byron's "Maid of Athens," exiled with her mother and sisters from war-disturbed Athens, where Forrester as well as Byron had first met them. In a lengthy digression on moral standards, Forrester concludes that it had taken great strength of character for the Macris in their straitened circumstances to resist the wealthy Byron's blandishments. He holds, nonetheless, that this was not entirely a question of virtue, inasmuch as in these "oriental" regions,
a man is only dangerous in proportion to his piastres or public situation, not from his accomplishments, so that if the bark freighted with female chastity can but keep clear of Scylla, it has no Charybdis to fear. . . . Lord Byron was much more likely, had he tried, to make conquests among his own country-women than over the ladies of Greece. . . .

From an English colonel at Corfu, Captain Yorke of the Alacrity took on an assignment that soon enabled the diarist to deliver news of Teresa to Byron himself. Property in the amount of four hundred dollars (Forrester, expansively, says five hundred) had been confiscated by a Greek of Missolonghi from a commercial vessel out of Zante (Zakynthos) in which the colonel had financial interest. On January 23 the Alacrity anchored at Missolonghi, where Byron was sharing the station and the military authority with “Prince” Mavrocordatos, who, though no Prince, was to become Prime Minister of liberated Greece. Restitution was demanded of Mavrocordatos for the Zantiote property.

Of this meeting, and the meeting with Byron three days later, we have several incomplete and biased accounts. The captain, Charles Philip Yorke, later the fourth Earl of Hardwicke, wrote at once to his father, an admiral, with scarcely any reference to Byron. Yorke was wittier and possibly more observant than Forrester, but he does not tell us what interests us most today. Of one event during the visit, Byron’s quarrel with Colonel Leicester Stanhope over the question of restitution and over the possibilities
ALEXANDER MAVROCORDATOS AT MISSOLONGHI (1822)
for a free press in Greece, we have an aggrieved account in a letter from Stanhope. We have details more favorable to Byron from Count Pietro Gamba, the brother of Byron’s last mistress. But Forrester’s version has the value of comparative disinterest, and it has enjoyed two previously known reincarnations. Of the whole visit, we have a version altered from Forrester in *The Angler in Wales*, 1834, by Thomas Medwin, cousin and notoriously dishonest biographer of Shelley. Part of Medwin’s account, which he attributes to two letters written by Forrester to a friend whom we can identify as Captain Daniel Roberts, closely resembles “an extract from a private letter” published in John Hunt’s *Examiner* about six months after Byron’s death.

From clues in these different accounts, we can see that Forrester must have copied from his journal in writing to friends in 1824. We can also see that both Hunt and Medwin made editorial changes, and that a further description of Byron, with an account of target-shooting by Byron and Yorke, once occupied three leaves now missing from Payne’s transcription. Except for the missing leaves, Payne gives us a more accurate version than we have previously had of one important day near the end of Byron’s life.

In a sentence omitted from Medwin’s account, Payne gives Forrester’s account of the meeting with Byron:

His lordship sprung to his feet on our entrance and advancing some paces towards us, received us with a warm and unequivocal welcome,—his countenance enlivened by smiles, and his whole manner the reverse of any thing like abstraction, not to say misanthropy.

Forrester several times makes the point that the witty military man he met had little in common with the melancholy outlaw of *Childe Harold* or *The Corsair*. Despite the lack of a tape recorder, he claims to quote directly Byron’s answer when Captain Yorke explained the business on which they had come.

... Lord Byron instantly exclaimed “I am very glad of it. I have been
often at Mavrocordato on that very subject and have told him that some one or other of their meddlings with vessels under the English flag would make the English nation their enemy, at least, if the case was not an evident breach of neutrality. The best way to befriend the cause of Greece would be to enforce restitution in every instance of depredation. I will send for Mavrocordato to come to my house to talk the matter over.” Mavrocordato he sent for accordingly, but the answer was that his highness was rather indisposed, an evasion just as often resorted to in these climates, as “not at home” in the more polished.

Despite Forrester’s generosity with details in his description of Byron and the Missolonghi establishment, the account breaks off without telling us how the negotiations with Mavrocordatos finally turned out.

In July, 1824, after sailing through the Gulf of Corinth to Napoli di Romania, the diarist encountered “a strangely eccentric person, an Englishman in the Greek service,” the adventurer Edward John Trelawny. In later years Trelawny published accounts, even less reliable than Medwin’s, of himself, of Shelley, and of Byron. Forrester illustrates his eccentricities, whether natural or affected: “Trelawny remained on board all night, but declined the accommodation of a cabin or a bed. He wrapt his capote round his head & reposed on the deck of the gunroom until morning.” Trelawny had joined the Greek faction of the chieftain Odysseus, a bitter rival of Mavrocordatos, after sailing from Italy to Greece with Byron. To Forrester’s delight, Trelawny told such anecdotes of that voyage as Byron’s having all the livestock thrown overboard for a swim and then sending the crew over after them.

The diary gives full details of one of the most fantastic episodes in Trelawny’s whole unlikely life. In a cave on Mount Parnassus, where he had earlier lived with Odysseus, Trelawny had been shot in the back and through the neck by companions whom Mavrocordatos had directed to assassinate him. Vague rumors of the attempt had reached Athens, where it was believed that Trelawny had died of his wounds. Almost exactly a year after the
event, however, Forrester gained a first-hand account of the affair when he met Trelawny and his wife at Napoli di Romania on August 29, 1825. In his diary, Forrester was particular on two points often argued about, Trelawny’s wounds and the age of his Greek wife. Of the rifle balls he wrote (in the language of a practicing surgeon):

One passed upwards over the scapula to the clavicle which it fractured in the middle & then lodged. The other passed also over the scapula, but afterwards took a turn round the neck, and knocking out three of the upper grinder teeth of the right side, passed out at the mouth.

Of the wife he was equally circumstantial, if somewhat less clinical:

Mrs Trelawney (Odysseus’ sister) has compleated her 13th year a month ago, and is at present 4 months’ pregnant; she is a slight little girlish creature, but very pretty;—her eyes are full, hazel or rather a dark grey and have exactly what I understand by Byron’s simile of the gazelle, namely an innocently wild expression.

In explanation of the attack on Trelawny, it should be noted that Odysseus and he had left the Greek cause in disgust and joined the Turks. Forrester tells how Odysseus, whom a Greek force had captured, was tricked into dropping to his death from imprisonment on the Acropolis.

Meanwhile, in December, 1824, at the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, the diarist had met still another famous eccentric, Lady Hester Lucy Stanhope.* After the death of her uncle, William

* Webster’s Biographical Dictionary, which we quote with permission, contains the following lively summary of the life of Lady Hester, who was the daughter of Charles, the 3rd Earl of Stanhope:

“Charles’s eldest daughter by his first wife, Lady Hester Lucy (1776–1839); housekeeper and secretary of her uncle William Pitt (1803–06); left England forever (1810); made pilgrimage to Jerusalem; camped with Bedouins, Palmyra (1813); settled among Druses on Mt. Lebanon (1814); adopted eastern manners, practiced astrology, held imperious ascendancy over rude tribes as a prophetess, coming to believe herself possessed of gift of divination; incited Druses against
Pitt, over whose household she had presided, Lady Hester had established and administered a small satrapy at Djoun, in the Lebanon mountains. She asked Captain Yorke to bring his surgeon to see her, because order needed to be restored to her stock of medicines. If Forrester learned anything of Lady Hester’s past or present love affairs, he kept his knowledge from the diary, but he described her large decaying house, her conversation, and her dress:

She is attired as a man, in an Arab turban, and beneech [burnoose?], wide riding trowsers of cloth embroidered in the usual way & red morocco boots.

This eccentric costume she adopted many years ago, when shipwrecked on a rock near Rhodes, she lost the whole of her clothes & jewels, it occurred to her that a suit or two of male apparel would correspond better with her active mode of life than the multifarious & perishable items of a fashionable lady’s wardrobe & toilette & in case of accident, a less serious loss.—

Ibrahim Pasha; intrigued against British consuls; visited by Lamartine, Kinglake, and others; recklessly liberal, deserted by followers and robbed, finished life in wretchedness.” (Copyright 1961 by G. & C. Merriam Company, publishers of the Merriam-Webster Dictionaries.)
Although Yorke became Lady Hester's truest friend, and tried to convince the British ministers that she deserved their aid, she died in something like destitution at Djoun. Even so, she outlived Forrester, who would have recorded with fascination the irony of his final bad luck. After both he and Yorke returned from the Alacrity (which had further adventures without them), Forrester was assigned to the Amphitrite, which encountered a storm in the English Channel, in late August, 1833, on the way to Australia with 108 female convicts. When the ship struck on the sands near Boulogne, the captain retained all the officers on board to keep the convicts from landing. Forrester, with most of the crew, perished with the ship. He might have been totally unremembered, had he not written the notes on Byron, Trelawny, and Lady Hester that Payne copied.
Keeping a Research Library
Up to Date

RICHARD H. LOGSDON

The university research library as we know it today is the product of 20th century developments in research and education. When Low Memorial Library was first opened just before the beginning of the century, Columbia's collections numbered 300,000 volumes. With the present collections at 3,000,000 volumes, this means that nine of every ten books currently owned were acquired since 1900. Half of the collection has been acquired since the opening of Butler Library in 1934, while one out of every four books has come to us in the last dozen years. This growth is but a reflection of the continued expansion of the University's fields of interest and of the enormous increase in publication of books, journals, and documents of scholarly interest. The explosion of knowledge, characteristic of our time, coupled with the necessity to be better informed about other countries of the world, has brought new challenges to Columbia as to every university library that is determined to meet the literature needs of students and faculty.

Reference has been made to the library as the "Heart of the University." There is no record in the literature as to the origin of this reference, but regardless of the metaphor used, "books" in the broad sense continue to constitute the principal medium for the storage and communication of ideas. The faculty, of course, is the key influence, but a faculty is not likely to maintain its standing unless communication with colleagues is possible both directly and through books, journals and documents. While the student learns much in the classroom and the laboratory, he spends perhaps much less than a third of his normal working week in direct association with his teachers. He must go to his textbooks, and par-
particularly to the library for the reservoir of information needed to master his field of specialization. It is no wonder, then, that the library moves more and more to the front as a principal educational force in the life of both student and teacher. This is reflected in the very intensive use made of Columbia collections. As many as 10,000 readers may use the thirty different libraries in a single day. Some 12,000 make direct use of the central stacks in Butler Library monthly. In a typical year, recorded use of books in the libraries exceeds 2,500,000 volumes. Thousands of additional instances of use of books in the libraries and consultation with library staff go unrecorded. We have mentioned our holdings of three million volumes, but the count in volumes is only a rough measure of size, because there is as yet no full agreement as to what constitutes "a volume." How shall we count manuscripts, for example, or individual newspapers, college catalogs, microfilms, microcards or microprint? Holdings in microform alone have reached the point that a special unit of the libraries is needed to handle them. To cite only two examples of dozens of categories of material, we are receiving microfilm copies of all of the books in the English language before 1640, and microprint copies of all of the books published in America before 1800.

Actually, we take in close to 500,000 separate pieces of material each year in order to maintain our strength in the many subject fields of interest on the Columbia campus. These materials come to us by purchase, gift and exchange from every country of the world and in virtually every language of significance. Piece by piece they must be identified, recorded, labeled, and sent to their proper locations within the more than thirty separate units which make up our library system. Many of these items are books in the typical sense, or will be made into volumes by binding separate issues of journals. These are carefully analyzed and recorded by author, title and subject in the central card catalog and in the catalogs of the separate departmental libraries. In recent years, additions to the cataloged collections have been exceeding 80,000 volumes annually.
If the Libraries served merely as a storage warehouse for this mass of material, handling of the yearly input would be a fairly manageable activity by modern concepts of size. But quite the contrary situation prevails. Each new item is in essence discrete from all others and must be placed in a definite relationship with every other item. The cumulation of the “bits” of information and individual bibliographical units thus “stored” in our more than 75 miles of shelves approaches infinity, yet each item must be easily findable by student or staff. Last week, for example, I needed a document which had been published by the American Library Association several years ago. It was designed for mass distribution to high schools and college guidance officers, giving general information about librarianship as a career. It was exactly the kind of document which would be treated by most recipients as ephemeral, to be kept for a few days or weeks and then discarded. The content, for my purposes, was not particularly important in that it contained nothing not known already by practicing librarians, but I wanted to see it for the clever wording of the title which could serve as the text for my part in a 1962 National Library Week symposium on librarianship. Did Columbia have the publication and if so, how could it be found quickly from among literally millions of items of more importance? No trouble at all! A librarian, who was knowledgeable as to our current and probable future needs, had seen to it that, even though a broadside, it was stapled into a pamphlet binding, given a proper classification number, and listed separately in the card catalog.

This kind of diverse and very specific need is generated in quantity by the faculty members, by the staff of research projects, and by Columbia’s high proportion of graduate students. Careful and continuing work on the part of the entire library staff is required if we are to meet this need. It is these steps, through which materials finally reach the research collections of the University, that are portrayed in part in the picture section which concludes this article. The pictures show the process from initial selection through searching, ordering, receiving, cataloging, and processing.
Richard H. Logsdon

The final picture shows the portrayed volume in use. It is through these activities over many years, applied to millions of items, that a university community is able to maintain contact with the past and the present and, by this means, continually extends the frontiers of knowledge for the future.
Travelogue of a Book:  
from Dealer's Catalogue to  
Library Reading Room

If a student in the stacks happened to be at a section in which a library page was shelving a brand new book, he might, if he gave the matter thought, wonder how the volume had come from the publisher to this precise spot on the stack shelf.

The pictures in the ensuing section follow one book, out of the approximately 80,000 which will be added this year, through the typical processing steps which each will undergo before it is ready for use.
The two principal sources for the selection of books are library staff and faculty. Shown above, Professor John H. Mundy (right) and Harry W. Hart, Jr., the Libraries' specialist in humanities and social sciences, decide to purchase a copy of Liber Monasterii Carae Insulae, advertised in the dealer's catalog at which they are looking.

A staff member types the order for the book on perforated, continuous strip order forms on a specially equipped typewriter.

To avoid accidental purchase of duplicates, a staff member checks against entries in the Outstanding Order file and in the main card catalog.
The shipping clerk unpacks the book from the package received from the dealer.

The book has been cataloged, subject entries indicated, and classification number assigned. The cataloger proofreads the data.

A set of the cards is placed in the appropriate one of the 30 trays for departmental catalogs.
Shown above is the complete set of catalog cards for this book.
In the Binding Department, the classification number is written on the spine of the book.

The library bookplate is pasted inside the front cover. The classification number indicates the book's assigned place among others on the same subject.
Professor Mundy uses the book in one of the reading rooms.

The photographs in this section were taken by Hubbard W. Ballou, Head of Photographic Services in the Libraries.
Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

A. I. G. A. gift. In 1953 the American Institute of Graphic Arts selected the Columbia University Libraries as the repository of the official file of the “Fifty Books of the Year” award winners. At that time we received the winners of the first thirty competitions, 1923 through 1952. Since then each year’s winners have been added, and recently we were sent the books comprising “The Fifty Books of the Year 1960”.

Bancroft gift. Professor Margaret Bancroft (A.M., 1913) has presented a beautiful copy of Manuel des Amphitryons, a culinary handbook published in 1808 by Alexandre Balthazar Laurent Grimod de la Reynière.

Barzun gift. Dean Jacques Barzun (A.B., 1927, Ph.D., 1932) has added generously to his earlier gifts. To be reported at this time are a number of desirable items for inclusion in his “Berlioz Collection”, several volumes to be added to the collection on “Modern Art and Literature” which Dean Barzun has established in honor of his father, H. M. Barzun, and books and manuscripts of his own writing to be included in the “Jacques Barzun Papers”.

Belmont gift. It has been our recent privilege to meet a great lady, Mrs. August Belmont, née Eleanor Robson (Hon. Litt.D., 1950). Those who have read her autobiography, The Fabric of Memory (Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, 1957), will have some inkling of the full and fruitful life she has led. It was a fortunate day for Columbia when she decided to present her correspondence and association books to Special Collections. Not everything has yet been received, and what has come we have barely been able to glimpse. But already the collection of
ELEANOR ROBSON (MRS. AUGUST BELMONT) IN THE TITLE ROLE IN Merely Mary Ann
MRS. AUGUST BELMONT AND FRIENDS AFTER THE OPERA
(left to right) Margaret Truman, George Sloan, Mrs. Harry Truman, Edward Johnson, Mrs. Belmont, Cornelius N. Bliss, and Lucrezia Bori

correspondence numbers more than 2,000 pieces and the books some 250. Everything we glance at is a treasure—ten letters from Theodore Roosevelt, including six in his autograph; ten letters and notes from George Bernard Shaw, plus a typed manuscript of his "Democracy and The Apple Cart"; a fine letter from Anatole France concerning the rehabilitation of French villages after World War I, and an article by him "La Petite Ville de France", signed and titled in his autograph, but written in long-hand by someone else; a score of letters from the playwright, Israel Zangwill, in whose Merely Mary Ann Miss Robson had one of her greatest triumphs in the title role; and so on, and on. Among the Roosevelt letters is one introducing Mrs. Belmont to General Pershing as a Red Cross worker "assigned to the European area" in September, 1917. Roosevelt's words are ringing ones—"Mrs Belmont is one of the few really able people who are also gifted with the power of expression. She wishes to help in every way, and then, on her return home, to put before our people, as vividly
as only she can do, what the real needs of our troops are."

_Bonnell gift._ Miss Alice H. Bonnell (B.S., 1940), Curator of Columbiana and member of the Special Collections staff, has presented a fine collection of letters written by various personages in theatrical and literary circles to Mr. and Mrs. Ira A. Hards. Among the letters are seventeen from George W. Cable and nine from Mary Austin, both of whom collaborated with the Hards in certain dramatic compositions.

_Cruikshank gift._ Mrs. Russell V. Cruikshank has presented a number of items from her family papers. One of these is of special interest to Columbiana. It is a printed statement of the financial status of Columbia College as of March 28, 1814, prepared by a committee of the Senate to assist the State Legislature in reaching a decision in the matter of Columbia's petition for public assistance. It closes with the comment that Columbia's case "appears to be well founded. And when to these facts are added the damage sustained by the College, during the war of Independence, in her edifice—in the dilapidation of her library . . . your committee cannot resist the impression that her case is peculiarly hard, and her petition reasonable. . .".

_Downing gift._ Mr. Edgar J. Downing has presented a document of great interest that has been in his family for many generations. It is a grant for certain lands in Columbia County purchased by Mr. Downing's ancestor, Daniel Downing, from Philip Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton, dated May 23, 1804, and signed by all principals. The date, it will be noticed, is only a few weeks before Hamilton's fatal duel with Burr.

_Draper gift._ Mr. Theodore Draper has presented a collection of some sixty works and pamphlets mainly relating to the invasion of France by the Germans in World War II.
Our Growing Collections

Fitzgibbon gift. Mr. Thomas O. Fitzgibbon (A.B., 1922, LL.B., 1924) has presented a number of items of Columbia memorabilia, among which are the class notes taken by Willard Bartlett (A.B., 1869, LL.D., 1904 Hon.) from the chemistry lectures of Professor Charles Joy.

Friedman gift. Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) continues his generous gifts without diminution. On this occasion we can report the receipt of more than a hundred items, including a collection of engraved portraits of literary and historical figures. Of unusual interest is a group of nine scarce pamphlets, among which are: The First Annual Report of the Female Society of the City of New-York for the Support of Schools in Africa, January, 1835; and Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting of the New Jersey Colonization Society held at Princeton, July 11, 1825..., dealing, among other business, with problems relating to “colonizing the free people of colour on the coast of Africa”. Mr. Friedman’s gifts also include three Babylonian cuneiform tablets.

Gardiner gift. Mr. Robert D. L. Gardiner (A.B., 1934) has presented a document of remarkable interest to Columbiana. It is a manuscript, “Petition and Representation of the Trustees of Columbia College in the City of New York”, addressed to the Senate and Assembly of the State, and “Stating the disadvantages of the Institution from the want of more opulent Finances.” The manuscript is dated February 22, 1792, and was signed by James Duane.

Gottscho gift. Mr. Samuel H. Gottscho has added significantly to his earlier gifts to Avery Library (Library Columns, February and May, 1957) by presenting two volumes of photographs taken by him of American architecture of the 1920’s, principally as represented in eastern seaboard residences.

Grauer gift. Mr. Ben Grauer has presented a substantial gift of

*Herrick gift.* Mrs. Harold E. Herrick has presented the Columbia diploma which was awarded in 1840 to her grandfather, Jotham Post (A.B., 1840; M.D., 1845).

*Hitzig gift.* Dr. William M. Hitzig (A.B., 1926) has presented a rare edition of Plutarch’s works in Greek, with commentary in Latin, published in three volumes by Henri Estienne, Paris, 1572.

*Hoffman gift.* Professor Daniel G. Hoffman (A.B., 1947; A.M., 1949; Ph.D., 1956) of Swarthmore College has presented a copy of Irwin Edman’s *Richard Kane Looks at Life*, inscribed by Edman to Odillon Platon.

*Holmes gift.* Professor Henry Alfred Holmes (Ph.D., 1923) has presented his copy of “Knight’s Shakespeare”—*The Works of Shakspere with notes by Charles Knight.* This is the “Imperial Edition,” issued in New York by Virtue and Yorston in 1875–76. Professor Holmes included with his gift a collection of nearly 200 prints of English personages, published in London during the 1820’s and early 1830’s, of the sort so often used to extra-illustrate Knight’s Shakespeare.

*Hughes gift.* Mrs. Arthur M. B. Hughes of Rochester has added some important Jay Family Papers to her earlier gifts (*Library
Our Growing Collections

Columns, November 1959). The present lot comprises nine items, including two letters of John Jay to George Clinton, four letters from William Jay (three to Peter A. Jay and one to John Clarkson Jay), and one letter from Mary Rutherfurd Jay to Elizabeth Jay. Also a part of the gift are a deed for certain lands to the children of Matthew Clarkson, August 1, 1703 (on vellum), and John Clarkson Jay’s certificate of membership in the Medical Society of the City and County of New-York, October 2, 1871 (on vellum).

Hunt gift. Dr. Arthur Billings Hunt has presented three volumes: Raley H. Bell’s Songs of the Shawangunks (1891), inscribed by Bell; Jacques H. B. de Saint-Pierre’s Paul and Virginia, printed at Philadelphia in 1808; and Tarrytown and the Tarrytown National Bank... , 1932.

Lee gift. Miss Mary V. Lee has presented a fine collection of 136 pieces of newly published piano music for inclusion in the Music Library.

Millar gift. Mrs. Hudson C. Millar, of East Orange, N. J., has presented to Columbiana a treasured family heirloom, a traveling medicine chest which had belonged to her great-uncle, Dr. John Torrey (M.D., 1818). Dr. Torrey, who was Professor of Chemistry at P. & S. from 1827 to 1855, served as Trustee of Columbia College from 1856 to 1873. The chest stands eleven inches high and has two leaves which fold away to disclose an efficient arrangement of phials, scales, mortar and pestle, and other medical equipment.

Moffat gift. Mr. Abbot Low Moffat (LL.B., 1926) of Washington, D. C., has added to his earlier gifts of Jay Family Papers (Library Columns, November 1961) three very useful items: a diary kept by Peter A. Jay during his stay in London in March,
1795; a notebook containing family records kept by William Augustus Pierrepont; and "Family Records" by John Jay Pierrepont, containing a brief account of the Jay family.

*Neitz gift.* Mrs. Cordelia Neitz of the Cataloging Department presented two pictures of the Columbia Libraries when the campus was at 49th Street. They have been added to the Columbiana archives.

*Newman gift.* Through the good offices of Mrs. Harold G. Henderson (Mary A. Benjamin, A.B., 1925, B.), we have received a gift of a letter written by Park Benjamin. The letter, which is undated and to an unknown correspondent, comes from Mrs. Julia Sweet Newman of Battle Creek, Michigan, and it is a welcome addition to our collection of the correspondence of Park Benjamin.

*Prentis gift.* Mr. Edmund A. Prentis (E.M., 1906) has presented a fine collection of the medals he has received from the University and from various Columbia organizations.

*Samuels gift.* Mr. Jack H. Samuels (A.M., 1940) has added significantly to his earlier gifts (Library Columns, February, 1962) by presenting a large collection of current literary works. Of special note are works by Howard Fast and Frederic Prokosch (including certain manuscripts and letters of the latter).

*Schiller gift.* Mr. Justin G. Schiller has presented a fine copy of Pierre Blanchet's *La Farce de Maistre Pierre Pathelin*, Paris, 1762.

*Solomon gift.* The family of the late Murray J. Solomon has presented to the School of Library Service Library, in his memory, a copy of the facsimile edition of the "Kelmscott Chaucer", published in 1958 by the World Publishing Company.

*Thomas gift.* Mr. Ralph Thomas has presented, for inclusion
among the books in the King's College Room, a fine copy of the sermon preached by Robert, Lord Bishop of Sarum, at the coronation of King George III and Queen Charlotte, on September 22, 1761. The copy presented is of the edition printed in Boston in 1762.

Waddell gift. Mr. John Waddell (B.S., 1947), Associate Reference Librarian of the Columbia University Libraries, has presented a fine letter from John W. Davis to Mr. Waddell’s aunt, the late Janetta L. Waddell of Lexington, Virginia. Apparently Miss Waddell, who had known Mr. Davis during his college years at Washington and Lee, had sent her congratulations on his failure to win the Presidency in 1924, and this letter was his buoyant reply.

Waller gift. Through the good offices of Mr. Thomas O. Fitzgibbon we have received, for inclusion in Columbiana, a number of items among which are memorabilia relating to Mr. Gustavus Kirby (E.E., 1895, LL.B. 1898). The gift was made by Mr. Kirby’s daughter, Mrs. Thomas M. Waller of Bedford Hills, New York.
Activities of the Friends

MEETINGS

Bancroft Awards Dinner

On Wednesday, April 18, approximately 300 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. Ambassador Francis T. P. Plimpton, Vice Chairman of our association, presided.

During the program, Vice President Lawrence H. Chamberlain announced the winners of the prizes for the three books judged by the Bancroft Prize Jury to be the best published in 1961 in the fields of American History, American Diplomacy, and International Relations of the United States: The Transformation of the School by Lawrence A. Cremin, Charles Francis Adams by Martin Duberman, and To the Farewell Address by Felix Gilbert. He presented a $4,000 check to each of the authors, who responded with short addresses. Ambassador Plimpton presented certificates to Mr. Harding LeMay of Alfred A. Knopf, Incorporated, to Mr. Craig Wylie of Houghton Mifflin Company, and to Mr. Herbert S. Bailey, Jr., Director of Princeton University Press, the publishers, respectively, of the three award-winning books. The principal speaker for the occasion was Dr. Richard B. Morris, Gouverneur Morris Professor of History at Columbia University and Director of the John Jay Papers project, who took as his subject “John Jay Abroad”.

The Bancroft Awards Dinner Committee was made up of Mrs. Francis Henry Lenygon, Chairman, and Mrs. Arthur C. Holden.

The prizes, which are provided by funds from the Bancroft Foundation, are among the richest available to historians. The Friends take pleasure in helping to enlarge public knowledge of their importance.
CREDITS


The drawing which portrays Tesla giving the lecture-demonstration is from the July 11, 1891, issue of *Electrical World.*
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 member’s 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.

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.

OFFICERS

Frank D. Fackenthal, Chairman
Francis T. P. Plimpton, Vice-Chairman
Charles W. Mixer, Secretary-Treasurer

Room 315, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, N. Y.

THE COUNCIL

Mrs. Albert M. Baer
C. Waller Barrett
Henry Rogers Benjamin
Alfred C. Berol
Frank D. Fackenthal
August Heckscher
Mrs. Arthur C. Holden
Mrs. Donald Hyde
Hugh J. Kelly
John A. Krout
Valerien Lada-Mocarski
Lewis Leary
Mrs. Francis H. Lenygon
Francis T. P. Plimpton
Dallas Pratt
Mrs. Franz T. Stone

Richard H. Logsdon, Director of Libraries, ex officio

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dallas Pratt, Editor

August Heckscher
Charles W. Mixer
Roland Baughman