VOL. III.  FEBRUARY 1954  NUMBER 2.

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Books as Living Memorials ........................................ 1
Ex Libris Universitatis Columbiae
    Alfred H. Lane .................................................. 4
Melvil Dewey and the 'Wellesley Half-Dozen'
    Ray L. Trautman .............................................. 9
More Reminiscences of the 'Wellesley Half-Dozen' ............ 14
Our Growing Collections
    Roland Baughman ............................................. 20
The Editor Learns How Librarians Are Made ..................... 28
Activities of the Friends .......................................... 31

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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

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

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

On the other hand, the laying of a wreath beside dozens or hundreds of others sometimes seems too easy and too trite a way of conveying a message of sympathy. Furthermore, flowers are not always desired by the family. Troubled by this, a member of the Council of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries—Mrs. Franz Stone—suggested that a much more expressive and enduring tribute might take the form of books presented to a library in memory of the deceased. She further developed the idea in a recent letter: "A very important aspect is the thoughtfulness shown by the selection of a book or books. It is not a cold and impersonal gesture which can be executed by lifting the telephone. A business concern as well as an individual can show appreciation of the quality of an individual by choosing Book Memorials in a field in which that person either excelled or showed particular
interest." She added: "We have given several such Memorials ourselves and I think it will interest you to know that every letter we have received in response—not only from personal friends but from business associates as well—has been very much more than the usual formal expression of thanks."

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

IN MEMORY OF

PRESENTED BY

The memorial bookplate.

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

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

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

We commend this plan to all friends of Columbia who may wish to pay tribute in a way which is enduring and free from the triteness of conventional gestures.
TIME WAS—a couple of hundred years ago—when the total library collection owned by Columbia University (King’s College at that time) was a matter of a very few volumes, which presented a comparatively slight problem in identifying the books as Columbia’s property. Now, with a collection of over two million volumes and with over 300 different bookplates in use by the Libraries, the problem is immensely complicated.

The traditional means of identification of printed books is by a bookplate—so it was then, and so it is now. In 1795 Alexander Anderson, a Columbia Medical College student, was commissioned by Dr. William Samuel Johnson, then president of Columbia College, to design a bookplate. (It is reproduced above.) The story of this commission and its execution is all recorded in detail in Anderson’s diary which now reposes in Special Collections. “February 28, 1795, Dr. Mitchell delivered to me a medal, from the design of which I am to engrave a plate for the College Library.” On the third of March “saw Dr. Johnson on the subject”; on the
The "girl" bookplate of 1887 (left), and the "male" plate (right) used since 1896.
14th “sketched the design for the College Library plate”; on the 16th “began to etch the College plate”; on the 21st “finished the College plate, took it to Towt, and got proof”; on the 23rd “left the College plate with Burgess for impression”; on the 25th “got four impressions of the College Plate, and left it with Dr. Johnson.” May 7th, “after considerable inquiry I found out Brockholst Livingston and presented to him my account for the College Library plate; he paid it, 2.8.”

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

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

In the seal on the bookplate in use up to that time the figures of three little boys were standing at the knees of Alma Mater. Dewey performed a “biological miracle” by changing one of the boys to a little girl. This redesigned plate remained in use for nine years, until the name of Columbia College in the City of New York was officially changed to Columbia University in the City of New York. This, of course, meant that a new bookplate should be designed, and the “girl plate” was discarded. Insofar as can be determined, only Dewey and President Barnard shared the secret of the girl on the seal, and they undoubtedly chuckled often over the trick they had played on the Columbia public.
After 1896 the seal (all male again) continued to form the basic design for many Columbia bookplates. In addition, of course, many specially designed plates were brought into use for various specific groups of materials, until today we use some 300 different plates. They vary in style from pictures and engravings to seals and even to plain—or fancy—text; from small sizes (1” x 1”) to large sizes (about 4” x 5”); some are in black and white, some in sepia, and some in full color; in purpose they vary from special funds and bequests to special departmental libraries. It is our current hope, however, that the number of bookplates can soon be reduced to simplify book preparation operations and thereby also to simplify the instruction which has to be given to new staff members who do the bookplating work.
COLUMBIA COLLEGE had been in operation for more than a hundred years by the time Professor John W. Burgess arrived from Amherst College in 1876 to teach Political Science. He was keenly disappointed in the Columbia Library, which had a total of about 25,000 old books if those owned by the student societies were included. This number of books might have been adequate if it had not contained so many duplicates, broken sets, and incomplete runs of periodicals. The library was under the sole custody of the Reverend Beverly Robinson Betts. He kept it open from one to three hours daily, during which time he grudgingly permitted the withdrawal of books. In one of his annual reports to the Trustees he proudly announced that he had saved them almost half of the $1,500 which they had appropriated for the library that year.

Professor Burgess and other members of the faculty protested and complained to President Frederick A. P. Barnard about the library. He agreed that something should be done but he felt that little could be accomplished short of a complete reorganization. This the College was not ready to undertake immediately. One of the reasons for delay was the lack of space for the library. A new library building was contemplated but construction was postponed until 1880. It was 1883 before it was finally completed. In the meantime Burgess was allowed to open a laboratory or working collection of books in history and political science. This pattern was followed by several of the other schools and departments of the College. However, it was not a complete solution to the problem of having usable collections of books close at hand.
President Barnard began to look for a new chief librarian who could carry out some of the long needed improvements in library service and help in the development of the book collections. His first letter to Melvil Dewey on the subject, in March 1883, described the position to be filled and invited recommendations and comment. Dewey promised his full cooperation and indicated that he would investigate the matter and submit the names of those librarians he considered fully qualified for such an important post. Barnard decided that Dewey should have the position and it was arranged for him to meet with the Trustee’s Committee on the Library. Dewey made such a profound impression on them that he was urged to consider accepting the appointment himself. A dozen letters of recommendation for Dewey from his friends in the library world made it appear that he was the outstanding person in America for the job. He was promised a free hand and the full support of the President if he would permit his name to be submitted to the Trustees as a candidate.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

President Barnard developed the habit of dropping in at the library almost every afternoon where he sometimes visited with Dewey or observed the various library staff members at their assigned tasks. There were many administrative matters pertaining to the library in which Barnard was interested and he devoted a great deal of time to them. He sometimes had to use his influence and authority to back up Dewey who was a stickler for following library rules and who was not always tactful in carrying out the reorganization plans of the library. On the whole, however, the new library and its administration were well received. It was open for reading, reference and the withdrawal of books for fourteen hours every day except Sunday. It was staffed by courteous and attractive girls which, to say the least, was an innovation in
a men's college. The educated segment of the general public was
invited and welcomed to the library. Gifts were solicited, grate-
fully received, and duly publicized, all of which helped to focus
attention on the new library—which was being developed into a
centralized university library.

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

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

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

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

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

"The girls worked together in the library,—a 'large well-floored
room with pictures about.' Most of them were engaged in actual cataloguing according to the new system, which Mr. Dewey was always talking about.

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

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

26 April, 1884.

"My dear Mr. Dewey:

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

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

Sincerely,

Mary M. De Veny."
"My dear Mr. Dewey:

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

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

Hurry back!"

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

"My dear Miss Mary:

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

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

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

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

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

"It is a long, long time since I have heard of you and your library doings and I am so interested that I felt compelled to write & ask you how your Library School is progressing & what new depa-
tures are being made. I see that the Library graduates obtained their degree this year. That is capital. . . . We recall very frequently those halcyon days at Columbia, when you allowed us two young heathen to revel in Room 6 and lunch off that old Greek tombstone and loll away our morning in the august chairs that De Witt Clinton and Benj. Franklin deigned to die in.

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

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

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

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

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

"What good times and what profitable times we had in New York. It was an unusually congenial group of girls and the presence of Mrs. Langford added much to our happiness at the house,—and then you made conditions so pleasant at the Library that our first year in 'business' was a delightful one . . . . Do you remember the time when I was in the accession dept. at Columbia Lib. and the Norwegian author came to my desk and asked for a book—I didn't know that it was his—and I refused to let him take it because it had not been entered on my book? How he went to your office and you came with him and introduced him to me and you laughed in your good natured way? How small I felt . . . . It is certainly a long time since we were all there in Columbia . . . ."
Reading room of the Columbia Library of the 1880's, 49th St. campus.

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

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

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

Gift Collections

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

Architectural Drawings: Mr. Henry Killam Murphy has presented
to the Avery Architectural Library a series of twenty original architectural drawings of his own work, done mainly in China.

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

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

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

This year Mr. Coykendall has continued his benefactions, presenting a total of 103 items. Among them are some truly extraordinary volumes, including first editions of Coleridge’s _Christabel_, 1816, and _Biographia Literaria_, 1817; Edward Fitzgerald’s _Euphranor_, 1851, and a corrected presentation copy of the 1882 edition; an immaculate copy of the first edition of Bryant’s _Poems_, 1821; the scarce second issue of Longfellow’s _Voices of the Night_, 1839; a presentation copy of George Moore’s _Martin Luther_, 1879; a set of the early editions of Carlyle’s _Sartor Resartus_, including the privately printed first edition of 1834, with a letter from Carlyle to Leigh Hunt laid in, a set of the sheets as published by _Fraser’s Magazine_, 1833–34, the first American edition, 1836, and the regular London edition, 1838; and, finally, a complete run of the famous “Keystone” series of thirty-five novels of British authors, published by John Lane, 1894–97.
But this itemization, remarkable as it is, does not do justice to Mr. Coykendall's generosity, which in the course of only a few years has made Columbia a leading repository for the scarce and costly "limited editions" so commonly chosen by recent American and British poets for their works.

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

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

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

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

The incentive behind this gift is the belief—which many share—that Mr. Knopf's publishing firm has maintained the highest possible standards not only in the selection of texts for publication but
also in the physical form which those texts have been given. For several decades Knopf’s Borzoi imprint has been the hallmark of quality and importance in literary and typographical achievement.

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

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

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

And so it is that one of the most exciting gifts that has ever been made to the Columbia Libraries is the result of Mrs. Rogers’
recent decision to place in our care the treasured little packet of thirty-six letters which Mark Twain wrote to her more than forty years ago, when she was a young matron and he was in his seventies.

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

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

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

Individual Gifts


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


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

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

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


Mr. and Mrs. Solton Engel gave this book, together with the Gibbon discussed above, as a “birthday present” to Columbia. The entire edition of *Al Aaraaf*, published by Hatch and Dunning of Baltimore in 1829, probably did not exceed a hundred copies,
and of these scarcely a dozen are known to exist today. It was the second of Poe's works to be published in book form, being preceded only by the separate edition of *Tamerlane*, 1827.

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

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

Washington Hand-Press.

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

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

Columbia University now owns four varieties of old style upright hand-presses. Two of these are wooden screw-presses—a large 18th-century specimen of the kind Franklin might have used, and a table model Ramage press of about 1825 vintage. These
came with the purchase of the library of the American Type Founders Company. The third, an iron press invented and constructed by the London firm of J. Cope and Sherwin, bears the manufacture date of 1830 and involves an especially intricate multiple-lever and cam mechanism for exerting pressure. This press has no known provenance—it has "just always been here," my colleagues tell me. The addition of the Washington press does not exactly complete the picture (we lack a Blaeu, a Stanhope, a Columbian, and an Albion—for example), but for an institution without pretenses as a museum this University can furnish a surprisingly full documentation of the various stages in the development of the hand-press before inventors realized that no real improvement could come without a basic change in principle.

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

Apologia

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

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

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

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

This treatment may have challenged some into a life-long affection for reading and books, but many were discouraged. The
modern Library School aims to produce librarians who neither drive people away nor sit lumpishly waiting to be consulted—but who work to bring the library and its many services to people.

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

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

After our tour with Miss Wilcox, we wandered around alone. We learned something about the curriculum of the School by glancing at the titles of books on the reserve shelves. Then we came upon a shelf of books for recreational reading, and we give the titles here as an indication of how broad are the interests of to-day’s library student: Have You Read 100 Great Books?; An Introduction to Research in English Literary History; Scholar’s Workshop; The Alphabet; The Writing Trade; This Was Publishing; Some Billion Dollar Questions About TV; Dickens’ Christmas Stories; Hollywood Looks at its Audience; The Reader Over Your Shoulder; The 26 Letters; The University of Wisconsin.
William W. Bishop, Librarian of the University of Michigan, used to say that until the number of books in his Library passed the 100,000 mark, he had some personal knowledge of every one of them. Perhaps the typical graduate of Columbia's School of Library Service, Class of 1954, will not aspire to such a vast acquaintance with books. Nor is he likely to have the kind of training in the specialty of rare books and manuscripts which is the hallmark of the European graduate librarian. But he does specialize in putting books to work. To do this he has to know something about modern library thought, and about the history of books and the use of libraries in the diffusion of knowledge. He has to familiarize himself with the bibliographic keys to the kingdom of learning as well as with the “landmark” ideas and books which dominate each of the major divisions of academic study. He has to understand the best methods of building, organizing, conserving and housing library collections. These are the things he learns in the courses and reading-rooms of the School of Library Service.

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

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

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

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

* * *

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

* * *

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

PRIVILEGES

*Invitations* to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

*Use of books* in the reading rooms of the libraries.

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

*Free subscription to Columbia Library Columns.*

* * *

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

* * *

*Please make checks payable to Columbia University.*

OFFICERS

Valerien Lada-Mocarski, Chairman
Charles W. Mixer, Secretary-Treasurer
Room 317, Butler Library, Columbia University, New York 27, N.Y.

THE COUNCIL

Seymour M. Adelman
Frank Altschul
Mrs. Albert M. Baer
Henry Rogers Benjamin
Norman Cousins
Walter D. Fletcher

Virginia C. Gildersleeve
August Heckscher
Mrs. Donald Hyde
Valerien Lada-Mocarski
Mrs. Francis H. Lenyon
Dallas Pratt

Mrs. Franz Stone

Richard H. Logsdon
Director of Libraries, *ex officio*

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Dallas Pratt, Editor

Norman Cousins

August Heckscher