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Bookplate of the books in the second known donation to the Library of King's (Columbia) College. Donor: Rev. Duncombe Bristowe, 1759 (see p. 28).
The public tribulations of Myles Cooper, Tory President of King's (later Columbia) College, are described in our leading article. Some of his private trials are exposed in *The Black Book of Misdemeanors in King’s College, 1771–1775*, Cooper’s hand-written record (still preserved in the Columbia Library) of college discipline.

The notations range from a listing of student offenses such as “stealing Stockings belonging to Moncrieffe” or “coming thro’ a Hole in the College-fence” to the last entry made the day before the mob forced Cooper himself to flee through that same college-fence: “Nicoll 2d. to translate 4th Section of the third Chapter of Puffendorf. . . When desired to do it, He told the President to his Face He would not.”

The unprecedented impertinence of Nicoll 2d. was perhaps the first murmur of the morrow’s mob: a melancholy ending to Cooper’s labors to lead the colonial lads to “truth and honour’s sacred shrine.” Thirteen years before, he had come over from Oxford, full of zeal, like the missionary preacher depicted in our frontispiece. But he suffered the fate of many reactionary colonizers since his time, and had to sail sadly back to the mother country.

Side by side on the shelves of the Columbia Libraries lie the records of the misdemeanors and of the triumphs of the human race: a jumble of public uproar and private perplexity. No lover of libraries can be untouched by the fascinating impartiality of these chronicles, which in one breath proclaim the doom of nations, and in the next the fate of Moncrieffe’s stockings.
SEPTEMBER 24, 1772, was a day of academic celebration in King’s College, New York. The Reverend Myles Cooper, M.A., D.C.L., LL.D., was to be welcomed back to his presidential post after nearly a year’s absence on official business in England. At the appointed hour, some fifty students, their professors, and various dignitaries of the community assembled in the College Hall for the carefully rehearsed ceremonies. The scene as the President entered the room must have lingered in the memory of many of the spectators through the troubled changes of later years. Still in his mid-thirties, resplendent in the scarlet robes of an Oxford doctor of canon law, and fresh from the councils of Fulham Palace and Whitehall, Cooper seemed to personify that conception of a clearly ordered temporal and spiritual society that prevailed in the England of the Georges and found willing acceptance among certain influential groups on this side of the Atlantic. A considerable number of those present, it is true, entertained definite reservations on the subject of bishops, but Oxford and the monarchy were in high repute and Cooper himself was well regarded as an administrator and a man of cultivated taste. The welcome was more than a formality, and the returned traveler was obviously among friends as he moved across the Hall and settled his somewhat portly frame in the seat of honor.

A modern observer would soon have wearied of the lengthy exercises which followed. The President, too, was probably bored, but practice had inured him to rituals of all sorts, including the ordeal by youthful elocution. At appropriate points in the succession of congratulatory addresses he managed what the New-York Gazette termed “a polite and affectionate Answer,” but
when the program swung into a forensic debate on "Whether a Spirit of Conquest was salutary to the Romans?" it is possible that his thoughts drifted to more immediate problems. In several important respects his recent mission to England had fallen short of expectations. He had obtained a remission of quitrents on the College land patents in Gloucester County, as well as a handsome promise of books for the library from the Oxford Press, yet the proposal for American bishops (on which he had set his heart) and the scheme for Christianizing the Indians had met with little encouragement. Even more disappointing had been his failure to achieve the principal objective of the trip, namely, the grant of a royal charter which would have raised King’s College to the status of a university and assured it of an increase in faculty and academic privileges. The Lords of Trade had shown interest in the project, but had declined taking further action until a complete charter draft should be laid before them. These setbacks entailed an unfortunate delay for the College and a deferment of the doctor’s own hopes for advancement. The first university presidency in America and a bishop’s mitre were attractive but elusive prizes.

The preparation of the charter draft turned out to be a slow business, for the Governors gave only passing attention to the affairs of the College, and Cooper, though conscientious in his teaching and administrative duties, devoted most of his leisure to other occupations. The President was of a sociable disposition and never begrudged an evening to good company. For entertaining in his own quarters, he kept on hand a large supply of wine, which tempted at least one band of undergraduate raiders to try its excellence. He joined with Dr. Samuel Bard and other professional men of the city in promoting a literary association, dabbled in verse, collected paintings, and wrote a prologue for a play presented by a theatrical company in 1773 for the benefit of the New York Hospital.

Had Cooper confined himself to extracurricular activities of this character, his departure from King’s College, when the time
came, might have been signalized by more ceremony and less haste. But the doctor was more than a clerical bon vivant. He was also a serious and outspoken advocate of the principles of the Established Church and the British political system. The genial temperament which had once prompted him to write to the Bishop of London that "I have an utter aversion to living even upon indifferent terms with any of my Neighbours," turned militant as the Whig press and the dissenting clergy grew increasingly critical of the home authorities. Within a few weeks after his return from England, he joined with three other Anglican ministers—Thomas Bradbury Chandler, Charles Inglis, and Samuel Seabury—for the purpose of "watching all that should be Published, whether in Pamphlets or News-Papers, and for suffering no thing to pass unanswered, that had a tendency to lessen the respect or affection that was due to the Mother Country."

For some time the literary efforts of this group were sporadic and unspectacular. Then, in May, 1774, New York was aroused by the news of the Intolerable Acts and the closing of the port of Boston. Prominent lawyers and merchants, fearful of being outdistanced by the Sons of Liberty, entered upon an uneasy alliance with the Radical leaders to consider measures of protest. Guided by moderates such as John Jay and James Duane, the propertied groups maneuvered to keep the direction of affairs out of the hands of the unenfranchised and to explore means for reaching a peaceable solution of the controversy with Great Britain. They succeeded in obtaining the election of a "safe" delegation to the First Continental Congress, which met at Philadelphia early in September. It was the action of this body in adopting an embargo on commerce with the mother country, to be enforced by elected local committees, in defiance of British authority, that shattered the initial feeling of reassurance among the Loyalists and precipitated the "pamphlet war" which was to lead to Cooper’s undoing.

The attack was opened (under a pseudonym) by the Reverend Thomas B. Chandler of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, whose Ameri-
can Querist posed a hundred questions on the points at issue, so phrased as to suggest the reasonable answers. This was followed by *A Friendly Address to All Reasonable Americans* and *What Think Ye of Congress Now?*, two pamphlets (from the same source, as we now know) which attracted wide attention and provoked vigorous counterblasts from the supporters of the Congress. The most celebrated series of essays in this struggle for the allegiance of the American people came, however, from the pen of the Reverend Samuel Seabury, of Westchester, New York. The first of these, appearing in the columns of the *New-York Gazette* under the signature of "A.W. Farmer," bore the caption, "Free Thoughts on the Proceedings of the Continental Congress." It elicited a remarkable reply, on December 15, 1774, entitled, *A Full Vindication of the Measures of the Continental Congress from the Calumnies of their Enemies.* The sure grasp of fact and the impressive marshalling of argument that characterized this performance stimulated lively speculation regarding the identity of the author. As the weeks went by, rumor centered increasingly on the youthful Alexander Hamilton, who had come from the West Indies to further his education and was currently enrolled as one of Cooper's students at King's College. The President was at first incredulous at these reports and more inclined to attribute the work to John Jay of the Class of 1764. If Hamilton were truly the responsible party, the situation was embarrassing, for Cooper had himself crossed swords briefly with this pamphleteer in a journalistic exchange which had followed the appearance of the *Full Vindication.*

Late in December, Seabury returned to the wars with *A View of the Controversy between Great Britain and her Colonies*, which was publicly burned by the Sons of Liberty. The Congress faction was delighted when Hamilton replied with another masterpiece, *The Farmer Refuted.* By this time, others had rushed into the fray, using a variety of pen-names which added to the confusion of identities. The stakes of success were high and the
citizenry swarmed to the lists. It was no mere squabble among penny-a-line scriveners. Seldom have American political issues been subjected to a more skilful analysis in the public prints.

What was Cooper's role in this battle of the inkpots? The President of the College was known to be a strong controversial writer; he was an ardent Tory and one of the most prominent Anglican churchmen in America. His name and opinions were familiar to any frequenter of the coffee-houses or the political meetings of the day. Nothing more natural than that he should be credited with responsibility for a large part of the Loyalist output. This supposition long survived the Revolutionary era. Even so careful a scholar as Moses Coit Tyler, writing a century and a quarter later, attributed the authorship of Chandler's *American Querist* and *Friendly Address* to the President of King's College.

The ironic fact appears to be that Cooper wrote very little for publication during this period. He produced a few articles and engaged in a considerable correspondence with his clerical colleagues, but recent investigation strongly indicates that he was not the draftsman of any of the better-known pamphlets which have generally been assigned to his pen. His primary function seems to have been that of strategist and editor. Clarence H. Vance, in his excellent study of Cooper in the *Columbia University Quarterly* for September, 1930, concludes that the doctor appeared to have been "satisfied with being the critic and the reviser of practically all of this literature, produced in and near New York, rather than being the actual author of it." Nevertheless, Cooper acquired a reputation as "the most hated Tory" in the city. In June, 1775, Lieutenant-Governor Colden, in describing to Lord Dartmouth the circumstances of the President's precipitous leave-taking, wrote that "The Odium excited against him is for his warm attachment to Government, & his being a supposed Author of almost every Piece that appeared on that side of the Question."

Cooper must certainly have known that his position was becoming increasingly precarious, but the sequence of events which removed him from the scene developed with unexpected rapidity.
About noon on Sunday, April 23, 1775, Israel Bissel rode into New York with the news of the Battle of Lexington. Wild disorder broke out and for a week the city was in the hands of an undisciplined mob, which broke into the arsenal and raided the public stores. Business came to a standstill and men of property shuttered up their homes. A threatening letter, dated Philadelphia, April 24th, and signed “Three Millions,” was delivered to Cooper and four other staunch New York Tories. The President, who had no aspirations to martyrdom, spent the next week on a warship in the harbor.

By May 10th, order had been restored, and outwardly, at least, the life of the city seemed to have returned to normal. But the thoughts of all men, regardless of party, centered on Philadelphia, where the Second Continental Congress was opening the sessions which were to determine the future relations of the colonies with the mother country. Many of the New York patriots were in a belligerent mood. Cooper, gloomy but stubborn, was back at the College, writing to his friend, Isaac Wilkins, then temporarily in London on business. He promised to do what he could to advance his interests “whilst I stay in this country of confusion, which for the sake of the College, I am minded to do as long as I can with any degree of prudence.” Then he added: “Should this Congress be as hot as the last, we are undone; should cooler measures be adopted, we may yet be preserved; for Britain, though stout, is exorable.”

That night the mob came for him. Led by Joshua Hett Smith, John Smith, and Isaac Sears, a noisy throng moved west from Broadway along what is now Park Place to the College grounds. The rioters broke open the gates and surged across the Green towards the President’s house. The alarm had been raised, however, and Alexander Hamilton and his room-mate, Robert Troup, reached the steps before an entry could be forced. Troup, in recording the incident many years later, described how his companion “proceeded with great animation and eloquence to harangue the mob on the excessive impropriety of their conduct,
and the disgrace it would bring on the cause of liberty; of which they avowed themselves to be the Champions."

While Hamilton temporized with the crowd, Nicholas Ogden roused the President and acquainted him with his danger. In his anniversary “Stanzas Written on the Evening of the 10th of May, 1776,” Cooper recalled that he had been deep in slumber

When straight, an heaven-directed youth,
Whom oft my lessons led to truth,
And honour’s sacred shrine,
Advancing quick before the rest,
With trembling tongue my ear addrest,
Yet sure in voice divine.

There is a delightful legend to the effect that the President jumped from bed, poked his night-capped head out of the window, and, seeing the Whig Hamilton addressing the mob, shouted with all his strength: “Pay no attention to him!” However fanciful this tale may be, there is no question that the gathering was responsive to such advice. An entrance was speedily effected and, as the crowd poured in at the front door, Cooper, clad in his nightgown, shot out the back way and clambered over the garden fence.

Guided by young Ogden, the forlorn doctor made his way along the Hudson to the present Greenwich Village, where he found shelter at the home of his friend, Nicholas Stuyvesant. The following night he rowed out to the sloop-of-war Kingfisher, and subsequently transferred to the Exeter, which sailed for England on May 25th.

Cooper never returned to America. The Governors appointed the Reverend Benjamin Moore to be President pro tempore and made an effort to keep the College functioning. Seven students received their degrees and eight were admitted in 1775, but in April, 1776, the building was expropriated by the local Committee of Safety for use as a hospital. The corporate existence of King’s College continued, through intermittent meetings of the
Board of Governors, even after the British evacuation of New York in 1783, but its educational activities practically ceased. The last entry in the College Matricula for 1776 reads: “No public Commencement this year. The turbulence and confusion which prevail in every part of the Country effectually suppress every literary pursuit.”

Meanwhile, Cooper was seeking to establish himself in England. He assumed the Fellowship at Queen’s College, Oxford, to which he had been elected nine years before, and plunged actively into ecclesiastical affairs. Late in 1777, he was called to the position of senior minister of an Episcopal chapel in Edinburgh. His financial circumstances appear to have been comfortable, for in addition to his salary at Edinburgh and a modest government pension, he enjoyed the income from church livings located in several English counties. Having briefly suffered much, he lived well at the last and died at luncheon on May 20, 1785.

Until the British government finally recognized the independence of its former colonies, Cooper had continued to hope that he might one day return to New York as a bishop of the Established Church or as the president of the long-postponed American University. His troubles had begun with the adjournment of the First Continental Congress and his departure had coincided with the convening of the Second. While dining with some acquaintances in Edinburgh one evening in 1778, the discussion turned to political subjects, and presently tempers flared. Cooper arose, glass in hand. “We met, gentlemen,” he declared, “for convivial purposes, not to disgrace ourselves by indulging in inveterate animosity. In political creed, we are much at point and not likely to convert each other. So fill every man a bumper, and I will offer a toast, which each individual may drink, in the sense that best suits his inclination. Here’s a full swing to Congress!”
THE MIGHTY PYRAMID of Cheops, near Giza, required 2,300,000 blocks of diorite in its building. The Columbia Libraries contain approximately this same number of books—and have need for more.

It may seem a far cry from the tremendous monument of Pharaoh Cheops to the endowment of a university library, and yet they are both memorial expressions. We marvel at the pyramid, yet decry the human sacrifice required in its building. Its grandeur is in part a dead thing, symbolizing the tyrannical power and overweening ego of its founder. Awesome, yet oppressive, it is a monument to ruthlessness, a product of the scourge.

The more creative memorial is one that carries within it a breath of life, one that encourages a continuity of interest and affection between the founder and those that follow.

The privately endowed university library satisfies this latter dictum. Its treasures are not sealed off from later generations. It is certainly not a grim fortress of the dead. I must insist upon this in spite of certain mausoleum-like structures that have been conceived to house library collections. For on the library’s easily accessible shelves men of all ages parade their aspirations and achievements, victories and defeats, and even the follies that identify them as charter members of the human race.

A fine university library, such as Columbia’s, is the product of many willing hands. No scourge was needed in its founding, or its growth. It is a living memorial to a large and liberal fraternity. Its benefactors have been many. Friendly donors have contributed single volumes to its shelves. It has been the recipient of magni-
cent private collections. Its financial support, vital to its continued good health, has come in individual donations ranging from several dollars to a truly princely gift of $1,500,000 from the late Frederic Bancroft.

Frederic Bancroft, historian and friend of learning, was uncertain what he should do with the fortune left him by his brother, Edgar A. Bancroft, lawyer-statesman. He did believe that his considerable estate should be used for educational purposes. He had three logical choices, Knox, Amherst, and Columbia. He and his brother, between them, had been closely connected with these institutions. The decision to leave his estate to Columbia was a sudden choice. He had enjoyed delightful associations there as student and teacher and was a friend of Professors Allan Nevins and Henry S. Commager. His brother had also spent rewarding years at Columbia. Several months after making his decision, Mr. Bancroft died—on the 22nd of February, 1945, in the eighty-fifth year of his life.

Mr. Bancroft’s will instructed that his bequest, appraised at slightly more than $1,500,000, should be known as the Edgar A. and Frederic Bancroft Foundation. The purpose of the Foundation was (1) to enrich the resources of the Columbia University Libraries in the subjects of American history in its broadest sense, American diplomacy, and American international relations, (2) to create a literary prize to be awarded annually (unless a suitable work failed to appear) to the author of some book or books of distinguished merit and distinction upon these subjects, and (3) to set up an annual prize (for a period of five years) to be awarded for articles and book reviews contributed to the Journal of Negro History. Mr. Bancroft wisely avoided attaching inflexible conditions to his gift and entrusted to the University details of administration.

It is difficult, in brief compass, to bring to life the author of this truly generous bequest. And yet a word concerning the man to whom the Columbia Libraries owe so much seems in order.

Edgar and Frederic Bancroft were the most devoted of
brothers, and Frederic, particularly, looked upon his brother with the warmest affection and respect. Edgar’s death in 1925, while serving as Ambassador to Japan, left his brother with a sense of deep personal loss. In a letter addressed to one of his good friends, Andre Bedon, dated February 1, 1933, Frederic wrote: “After my brother’s death, I thought for a long time that life could have no interest for me in the future, and so it was for a considerable period until by experimenting I found physical and mental occupations that finally engaged my attention. Soon the acute pain lessened and I could see him as he was, rather than grieve because I had lost him.”

Edgar, who married Margaret Healy of Brooklyn in 1896, had gently chided his brother for his bachelor ways. It is true that in his later years Frederic assumed the prerogatives of the perennial bachelor. He was an extremely generous host, a lover of and contributor to good conversation, and yet not above the very human irritability when confronted by an idea or action he considered unintelligent. He found the 1920’s not altogether to his taste. He disagreed strongly with the country’s return to isolationism, and looked upon prohibition as a foolish restriction. The materialism of this period preceding the Great Depression annoyed him. He regarded ostentation in any of its forms with an extremely critical eye. Automobiles he viewed as an unnecessary luxury. Coolidge pleased him but he was less than satisfied with any president that followed.

Frederic Bancroft spent the greater part of his life in the preparation of historical studies. He worked slowly and criticized himself for what he considered a tendency toward procrastination. It is true that his published output was not large considering his long life. One of his better known books, Slave Trading in the Old South, was fifty years in the making.

An interested spectator of the passing scene, he thoroughly enjoyed his opportunity and ability to record the past. He would be delighted, I feel sure, if he could return to the scene of life and contemplate the aid and comfort his gift has brought to the pres-
ent generation of American historians. A scholar at Columbia, engaged in research on any of a vast number of topics relating to American civilization, can expect to have any reasonable request for additional materials granted him, thanks to the income provided under the Bancroft endowment. This largesse represents a form of earthly paradise to the scholar, and the student of American history at Columbia is the envy of his friends in other academic subject fields whose research needs are less well provided for.

The materials purchased from the Bancroft fund reveal a fascinating diversity. They may be in the form of manuscripts such as the John Brown Collection, purchased in 1947 and originally collected by Oswald Garrison Villard for his biography of the fiery anti-slavery leader. This collection numbers 5,435 items and fills twenty manuscript boxes. There are the Lincoln Steffens Papers, acquired in 1950, containing approximately 1650 items of correspondence, newspaper articles, clippings, and other materials relating to this famous political reformer.

Daily the Bancroft endowment makes possible the purchase of large numbers of books relating to American civilization. These are necessities if the Libraries are to support the University’s research and instructional programs. These books may range from a 17th century imprint devoted to the witch trials in Salem to the most recent discussion concerning the morals and manners of the 20th century American. A few titles will suggest the diversity of these acquisitions: Robert Rogers, *Journal of Major Robert Rogers Containing An Account of Several Excursions* . . . 1765; Christopher Colles, *Survey of the Roads of the United States of America* 1789; *American Advertising Directory for Manufacturers and Dealers in American Goods for the Year* 1831; Josiah Gregg, *Commerce of the Prairies, or the Journal of a Santa Fe Trader* 1844; J. Benwell, *An Englishman’s Travels in America, His Observations of Life and Manners in the Free and Slave States* 1853; J. B. Jones, *Wild Southern Scenes, a Tale of Disunion and Border War* 1859; J. De Barthe, *Life and Adventures of Frank*
Grouard, Chief of Scouts, U.S. Army; Thomas Nelson Page, Novels, Stories, Sketches and Poems 1912.

This varied hoard is the stuff of history, the source materials from which our leading social historians like Allan Nevins and Henry S. Commager fashion their instructive and entertaining books. Convenient provision for their research and that of thousands of other scholars, students, and interested dilettantes, is assured by an endowment such as the Bancroft.

The introductory paragraph of this article contrasted the pyramid and the endowed library as forms of memorial expression. Naturally a librarian would be expected to look with more favor upon a library than a pyramid as a fitting memorial. And yet the librarian realizes, only too well, that a library's collection can wither and ultimately die, lacking the necessary endowment. A librarian's deepest frustration occurs when it is not in his power to provide the books and manuscripts sorely needed by his institution's scholars.

In conclusion I am reminded of a prefatory note entitled "Extracts" that is frequently included in editions of Melville's Moby Dick, wherein the librarian is taken to task in a completely charming manner: "So fare thee well, poor devil of a Sub-Sub, whose commentator I am. Thou belongeth to that hopeless sallow tribe which no wine of this world will ever warm; and for whom even Pale Sherry would be too rosy-strong; but with whom one sometimes loves to sit, and feel poor-devilish, too; and grow convivial upon tears; and say to them bluntly, with full eyes and empty glasses, and in not altogether unpleasant sadness—Give it up, Sub-Subs! For by how much the more pains ye take to please the world, by so much the more shall ye for ever go thankless!"

To which the Columbia Librarian might be permitted to reply, "Look ye to our Bancrofts (present and future) and dare repeat your charge. Believe me, orator, their wine will warm."
In an article about Columbia University which appeared in a popular magazine a few years ago, attention was called to the great number of books written annually by its faculty. The article contended, however, that Columbia had "never produced a truly great author." The inference given—that quantity rather than quality is what distinguishes the writing of Columbia authors—was anything but fair. For the fact is that not only is the contribution of Columbia to all fields of writing extraordinarily imposing in output, but much of it is also far-reaching in influence, and some of it will remain as monuments for many years to come.

To do full justice to the Columbia influence in the world of books would take a much longer article than space in this organ permits. Even if the story is limited to the period in which the present Friends of the Columbia Libraries have been active, and to the output of faculty authors only, the record of achievement is remarkable.

The American Library Association issues annually a list of the most notable books of the year, the basis of selection being the authors' influence on the enrichment of personal life. It is not surprising to find these lists studded with the names of Columbia scholars. Those compiled for 1950 and 1951 contain the names of three of the ablest writers among living American historians—Henry Steele Commager, Allan Nevins, and Dumas Malone. Professor Commager, who alone gets out a five-foot shelf of books a year, was honored in 1950 for the rich and brilliant The American Mind, and in 1951 for editing Living Ideas in America, an anthology interpreting the American idea. The year 1950 also saw the publication of Professor Nevins' monumental, two-volume The
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_Emergence of Lincoln_, part of the _Ordeal of the Union_—the most important recent history of the Civil War. The two works alone would be achievements enough for anyone else, but not for the prodigious team of Nevins and Commager. In the same period Commager edited _The Blue and the Gray_, a vast two-volume miscellany, skillfully woven into the story of the Civil War as told by those who fought it. In addition, he edited and revised various texts, brought out the _Second St. Nicholas Anthology_, and wrote two books for children!

At the same time, Professor Nevins was contributing volumes to the _Chronicles of America_ series,—of which he is general editor,—editing diaries of Polk and Adams, and revising basic texts in American history.

With the publication in 1951 of Professor Malone's _Jefferson and the Rights of Man_, it became evident that, as a reviewer said, here is in the making one of the “great triumphs in our annals of biography.” This second installment of what will probably be five volumes shows the same impeccable scholarship and lucid style characteristic of Professor Malone's first volume.

No less prolific, nor less prodigious in energy than these three authors, are their colleagues in the history department, one of whom is the versatile Jacques Barzun. Although Professor Barzun's forte is the history of ideas, his books cover an amazingly wide range, and are written with grace and learning. It came as no surprise to his followers that his _Berlioz and the Romantic Century_ was cited by the American Library Association as one of the notable books of 1950, or that his recent _Pleasures of Music_ was received by music lovers with so much enthusiasm.

A book that undoubtedly will quickly find its place at the top level of standard texts, to be read by the college student as well as the casual reader of history, is the two-volume _A History of the American People_, written by Harry J. Carman and Harold C. Syrett and published this month. These experienced teachers spell out the growth of this country by exploring the social, intellectual, and religious forces that have influenced our history.
Taking the world’s great civilizations, from ancient Egypt to the modern United States, as his field, another historian, Shepard B. Clough, has contributed to historical scholarship a challenge to the theories of Toynbee and Spengler. Professor Clough’s *Rise and Fall of Civilization*, published last fall, advances proof that economic well-being is a necessary condition for a high stage of civilization.

There are, as De Quincey once pointed out, the literature of knowledge and the literature of power, and there is also a literature of delight. Mention of the latter immediately calls to mind names like Joseph Wood Krutch and Irwin Edman, both of whom have the rare faculty of painting moods and thoughts in imaginative and delightful ways. *The Desert Year*, published in 1952, with its fresh descriptions and philosophical insights, makes it easy to understand why Professor Krutch has come to be recognized as one of America’s finest nature writers. Professor Edman’s *Under Whichever Sky* must also be placed in the classification of the literature of delight. This is a collection of miniature essays which first appeared in *The American Scholar* where, for the past seven years, the philosopher-professor has allowed his mind to play on all sorts of subjects.

Another great teacher of philosophy, one known to generations of Barnard students, was heard from in 1951 when William Pepperell Montague, “one of the elder statesmen of American philosophy,” wrote an important work on *Great Visions of Philosophy*. Two world-known theologian-philosophers contributed outstanding books during this period. Last spring, Paul Tillich brought out his *Systematic Theology, Volume I*, the first of a two-volume *magnum opus* projected to sum up the theological philosophy of this advanced Protestant thinker. Last month Reinhold Niebuhr in his highly significant *The Irony of American History* pointed the way to a proper understanding of the world struggle in which America is now engaged.

One of the outstanding examples of creative publishing of recent years is “The American Men of Letters Series,” the aim of
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which is to present fresh biographical appraisals of the men and women who have most influenced and contributed to the development of American literature. Three Columbia men are on the four-man editorial board: Lionel Trilling, Mark Van Doren, and Joseph Wood Krutch. Professor Van Doren’s Nathaniel Hawthorne, F. W. Dupee’s Henry James, Emery Neff’s Edwin Arlington Robinson, Professor Krutch’s Henry David Thoreau, and Richard Chase’s Emily Dickinson have already appeared, and Professor Barzun’s William James and Professor Trilling’s Mark Twain are also due for publication.

There can be no doubt that when the most noteworthy publishing accomplishments of 1952 are cited two tremendous works, both products of the Columbia University Press, will receive considerable attention—the Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World and Forms and Functions of Twentieth-Century Architecture. The first work, the product of five years of the most exacting scholarship by 150 experts, is the most complete and up-to-date record now available of the places of the world. The four-volume set on architecture, edited by Talbot Hamlin, and prepared under the auspices of the School of Architecture, is the most comprehensive work thus far produced of today’s architecture. Add to these Constance Mabel Winchell’s Guide to Reference Books, the completely revised and enlarged edition of the well-known “guide” by Isadore Gilbert Mudge, which no reference librarian will want to be without.

All diligent readers of the best of current literature at some time or other are exposed to the stream of words coming from Columbia faculty members, and in the process their eyes must be opened to some of the most difficult and delicate problems of the day by economists, sociologists, lawyers, and philosophers of the University. Among the important tracts for the times are books such as Loyalty and Legislative Action by Dean Lawrence Henry Chamberlain, Civil Liberties under Attack by Professor Commager and others, Conflict of Loyalties edited by Robert M. MacIver, and Security, Loyalty and Science by Walter Gellhorn, all
of which deal with more or less controversial topics. The role of government in economics and other related questions are given various interpretations in books like *Democracy and the Economic Challenge* by Professor Maclver, *How to Keep Our Liberty* by Raymond Moley, and *The Next America* by Lyman Bryson.

And finally, the role of the teacher and the place of education in contemporary life are treated in such well-known works as *The Art of Teaching* by Gilbert Hight, *They Went to College* by Ernest Havemann and Patricia Salter West under the guidance of the Columbia University Bureau of Applied Social Research, and *Education and American Civilization* by George S. Counts.

These are only a few of the books published by faculty members during the past two years. Others could have been included, solid books of scholarship of interest to a limited number of readers as well as those which have had a wider "pulling power."

The cumulative effect of this output is to give one a feeling of contact with a veritable powerhouse of the intellect.
BOOK EXHIBITIONS are a fundamental function of libraries, serving as a dynamic means of advertising special areas of strength and attracting students and visitors to rewarding fields of investigation which might otherwise be passed by. Characteristically they are built around the holdings which a particular library already has on a particular subject—but that they may also contribute to the growth of the collections is one of the less obvious but nevertheless important considerations. Valuable gifts are often made by visitors to exhibitions who are thus reminded of the varied interests of the research library. And sometimes what is not shown in an exhibition indicates deficiencies which the visitor is able and willing to supply. There have been some significant illustrations of this at Columbia in recent weeks.

Some time ago one of Columbia’s graduate students, Mr. Paul F. Saagpakk, of Estonian birth, suggested that a fitting subject for a special library exhibition would be the cultural contributions of the three Baltic states, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. The suggestion was welcomed, but it was pointed out that a great deal of guidance would be needed in selecting, evaluating, and describing the exhibits. Mr. Saagpakk eagerly offered to help in the project and to obtain the assistance of his fellow-students, Mr. Janis A. Kreslins for the Latvian books and Mr. J. Juska for the Lithuanian items.

It soon developed, as the work of preparation proceeded, that Columbia—though surprisingly strong in the literature of the three Iron-Curtain nations—lacked many key works which are now unobtainable through the ordinary channels. At this point the interest of the concerned governments-in-exile was enlisted. Mr. J. Kaiv, Consul General of Estonia, sent eighteen books and
pamphlets on Estonia; Mr. Vilis Massens, Chairman of the Latvian Consultative Panel of Free Europe, provided ten Latvian books; and Mr. J. Budrys, Consul General of Lithuania, contributed seventeen items on his native country. These volumes will remain at Columbia when the display is taken down. Thus a substantial number of scarce titles, many of which we had had little expectation of obtaining, will soon be on our shelves for the benefit of students.

The special exhibition of Avery architectural material that was arranged for the occasion of the fall meeting of the Friends focused attention on that great collection. As a result Mrs. W. Murray Crane has presented Frederick Catherwood’s *Views of Ancient Monuments in Central America, Chiapas and Yucatan*, London, 1844, and George Oakley Totten’s *Mayan Architecture*, Washington, D.C. (c1926), both of which are welcome additions to the Avery collections. And even more recently Mr. Harry M. Bland presented the April, 1775, issue of the *Pennsylvania Magazine*, which contains one of the early articles on architectural subjects published in America.

As a direct result of visiting the most recent Friends’ exhibition, “Quality in Book-Production,” Mr. G. Leonard Gold has presented a significant group of items relating to the graphic arts. Mr. Gold had participated in the arrangements for the famous “Time Capsule” which was featured at the New York World’s Fair, and has included in his gift his scrapbook which documents that project completely.

For several years Mrs. Frank J. Sprague, whose collection of Walt Whitman is perhaps the finest and most complete in private hands, has generously presented to Columbia duplicates from her library. Her gifts number well over a hundred items, many of them (like the complete run of *The Conservator*, the scarce periodical devoted to Whitman research and appreciation) being of the first importance. Mrs. Sprague is currently assisting in the preparation of a Butler Library exhibition memorializing Mr.
Roland Baughman

Henry S. Saunders, devoted Whitman enthusiast and writer, whose death occurred last fall. Mr. Saunders compiled, wrote, extracted, and reissued a large amount of Whitman memorabilia, much of which he typed or printed and personally bound for distribution among other Whitman collectors. Among his productions are some—such as his famous arrangement, listing, and reproduction in volume form of all known portraits of Whitman—which are highly useful in the definitive study of the poet. And Columbia, through the generosity of Mrs. Sprague, will be able to exhibit a substantial representation of his work.

At the recent meeting of the Friends, Columbia's new graphic arts project was announced. As a result of his interest in the project, Mr. Frank Altschul has presented a group of fifty-three items produced at his distinguished "Overbrook Press."

The Overbrook Press, situated on Overbrook Farm, Mr. Altschul's estate in Stamford, Connecticut, is one of the few truly private presses in operation in America today. The press is run for the personal satisfaction which Mr. and Mrs. Altschul and their friends derive from high quality of craftsmanship. Such notable book-artists as Rudolph Ruzicka, W. A. Dwiggins, and Valenti Angelo have contributed to the beauty of the Overbrook imprints.

The latest bibliography of the Overbrook Press is that compiled by Will Ransom, whose list stops at 1946. Mr. Altschul's gift includes eighteen items issued since that date, as well as twelve earlier pieces that were omitted by Mr. Ransom.
Other Recent Gifts

**Illuminated Manuscript.** Treatises out of the works of St. Thomas Aquinas, written in Dutch (fifteenth century), illuminated, and in its original stamped calf binding. Also: Excerpts from the Gospels, fifteenth-century manuscript in Latin, on vellum with illuminated initials; and *Mani-pulus Impetuum* . . . , manuscript on paper, late sixteenth or early seventeenth century. *From Harry G. Friedman.*


**Architectural Moldings.** Two panels approximately 2×5 feet, containing 62 original specimens of hand-carved architectural moldings from noted Georgian buildings in England. *From Heirs of Ogden Codman.*

**Early American Valentine.** Manuscript valentine to Miss (Rachel) Anne Kelley (later Mrs. John Otis Given), ca.1850. Also: Five American plays of the period 1844–1861, complementing Columbia’s strong holdings in the field of the drama. *From Margaret and Richard Bancroft.*

**Schoppe, C. Arcana Societatis Jesu,** Geneva, 1635. *From Margaret and Richard Bancroft.*


**China.** Fourteen volumes of fourteen titles on the Chinese Bandit government and on Russian encroachments in China. *From Li-Wu Han.*

**Americana.** Five volumes of the *Anti-Slavery Standard* ; two abolitionist medals; a piece of the flagstaff of Fort Moultrie. Also: a volume on the Mifflin family. *From Mrs. Elizabeth Kidwell.*


**Periodicals.** Two hundred and twenty issues of various periodicals and other publications. *From Henry Rogers Benjamin.*
The Editor Visits Columbiana

QUERY to the reader: have you ever fallen backwards or forwards in time? Have you ever stepped through a magic looking-glass? Or fallen asleep in the mountains, and awakened twenty years later with a long white beard?

Writers are all the time taking their readers on these trips. The other day we went on one ourself. We simply walked into Room 110 in Low Memorial Library, intent on writing a description of the Columbiana Collection, and suddenly we were falling out of the humdrum present very much as Alice did at the beginning of her Adventures when she tumbled into the rabbit-hole.

Alice’s rabbit-hole, if you remember, was fitted with cupboards and bookshelves, and there were maps and pictures on the wall. Room 110 looked like that. But filling the shelves, instead of jam pots, were all sorts of interesting memorabilia. Luckily, the Curator of Columbiana, Halsey Thomas, was falling down this particular rabbit-hole too, so we had someone who could explain about things which caught our interest.

Here is a report on what we saw.

We were falling backwards in time, so memorabilia of recent years came first. We noticed Nicholas Murray Butler’s Oxford cap and gown, and an ancient mahogany secretary with several shelves of books which used to be in his bedroom. We picked out one of the books, Rollo’s Tour in Europe, and read on the flyleaf the inscription: “N. Murray Butler from his uncle Chalmers, for his sixth birthday, 1868.” A basket from his office desk was there too, marked “Attention at Leisure.” However, Dr. Butler “at leisure” must have been a rare phenomenon, judging by the yards of filing cabinets containing his personal correspondence.

Next we spotted an extraordinary-looking object: a flexible tube about six feet long terminating in a flaring brass trumpet. It looked like a cross between a hookah and a Tibetan prayer horn,
but proved to be President Barnard's ear-trumpet! We were back in the Eighteen Eighties, when Columbia College occupied the block on Madison Avenue between 49th and 50th Streets. A few photographs extracted from a file brought the old campus to life. In one, a group of students, complete with derbies and canes, posed in front of the classroom building known as the "Maison de Punk" (quaintly dubbed so when the stucco on its walls started to crumble). Across Madison Avenue one caught a glimpse of brownstones. How indignant the owner of one of them—peppery Mr. Clarence Day, Sr.—would have been, could he have imagined the eyes of a later generation boring right through the walls and observing the whimsical ups and downs of "life with father"!

Another photograph showed the interior of the old Library. The vast room was "baronial," with a high, beamed ceiling. Around the walls were the books—all the books. There were no stacks. Small groups of students sat reading at square tables, the inevitable derbies and canes piled in front of them.

It would have been pleasant to linger in this halcyon period of Columbia, but our flight down the rabbit-hole suddenly accelerated, and we found ourself in the year 1802. Here we met, by the strangest of coincidences, a gentleman who was flying through time in the opposite direction! His time-journey had started in 1776, so when we met he had covered only twenty-six years against our century and a half. But no doubt even flights of the imagination were slower then than they are today.

Our encounter really took place in the pages of the New York Morning Chronicle for Dec. 13, 1802. This paper had a story about some books which had just been discovered walled-up in the tower of St. Paul's Chapel. They were found to have "belonged to Columbia College, and to have been locked up and forgotten ever since the Revolution." And here comes our fellow-traveller through time: "The report had gained so much by travelling that it was said a librarian was discovered with the library, who, on coming out into the city, was quite surprised with the changes that had taken place!!"
It seems that during the Revolution the library of Columbia—then King's College—had been removed for safe-keeping, partly to City Hall and partly to St. Paul's Chapel. British soldiers broke into City Hall and carried off some of the books, which they used as payment for drinks in the local dram-shops. The papers of the day carried proclamations by British generals demanding the return of these looted volumes. The other books seem to have remained intact but forgotten for a quarter of a century in St. Paul's Chapel.

Mr. Halsey Thomas offered to show us some of these original books, not on the imaginary shelves of the King's College Library, but newly bound and restored in the Columbiana Room at Low Memorial. As the illusion of the rabbit-hole dissolved, we found in our hands a real book, entitled *A Preservative against Quakerism*. In it was the signature of the Rev. Duncombe Bristowe, who in 1759 had willed his fine library to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, to be sent to the "College of New York." The book also contained the naively delightful bookplate of the Society. Some of the Bristowe books, along with a few from the even earlier donation (1757) of Joseph Murray, a prominent lawyer of his day, can now be seen in Columbiana. We wondered whether they had enlivened the quarter-century hibernation of Columbia's Rip van Winkle (the account of whose adventure, incidentally, antedates that of Irving's Rip by eighteen years), or whether they were among those which had helped to ease the thirst of the redcoats.

Alcoholic refreshment played another and more fortunate role in the history of the Columbia Library when the Society of the Early Eighties was organized in a saloon called the Lion Palace, at 110th Street and Broadway, in the year 1907. This group of graduates of the Classes of '80 to '84 felt lost on the unfamiliar Morningside Campus, to which the College moved in 1897, and they organized for the purpose of providing a new focus for some of the alumni of 49th Street. It was this group which especially nurtured the Columbiana Collection, raising among themselves
The Editor Visits Columbiana

its $35,000 endowment. In later years other alumni have interested themselves, most notably Edmund Astley Prentis, '06E.

Our trip through the rabbit-hole may have given the reader the impression that Columbiana is chiefly a museum of nostalgic oddities. In fact, there is a serious and more important side to it. Here are the manuscript and printed archives of the University’s early history. Its 12,000 volumes include a complete collection of Columbia theses and University journals and official publications, also books and pamphlets by early Columbia alumni, and many students’ albums. There is a much-used information file on prominent Columbia graduates, and another on Columbia history. There is a remarkable collection of photographs.

Friends of the Libraries who enjoy “adventures underground” are invited to visit Halsey Thomas. Behind the demure glass panels of Room 110 they will find a veritable warren of magic passages into the past.

Joseph Murray Esq.
of the Middle Temple

Bookplate in the first books known to have been presented to the Library (1757).
SINCE this issue of the COLUMNS is the final one for the academic year 1951-1952, we present a summary of how the Friends of the Columbia Libraries have been financed.

Although the organization was not formally inaugurated until May, 1951, three generous Friends contributed $1,500.00 in December, 1950, and the same sum again at the end of 1951. Contributions from our other 160 members up to April 22, 1952, amounted to $1,450.19, bringing our total contributions for 1950-1952 to $4,450.19.

Our present, limited program of exhibitions, dinners and publications is based on this sum. Divide it by 160, the number of our members, and the result is $27.00—the approximate cost of the program per Friend during the past year. Two-thirds of this cost has been borne by three Friends, a beneficence on which we obviously cannot continue to rely.

The Council hopes that members will do what they can to keep the program under way. Donations of books and manuscripts to the Libraries have been made by Friends during the past year, and these also are most welcome.

Meetings

On Thursday, March 27th, under the sponsorship of the Friends, an exhibition of Columbia’s holdings in the typographic, printing, and graphic arts fields provided the background for a discussion of the possibility of establishing a Graphic Arts Center at the University. The speakers were Walter Dorwin Teague, President of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, Carl M. White, Director
of the Libraries, and August Heckscher of the New York Herald Tribune. Mr. Heckscher presided.

On the evening of Thursday, May 15th, the Friends sponsored a dinner at which the annual award of the Bancroft prizes was made. These prizes are given for the best two books published each year on the subject of American History in its broadest sense, American Diplomacy, or American International Relations, and amount to $2,000 each. The awards this year went to Merlo J. Pusey for his Charles Evans Hughes, published by the Macmillan Company; and to C. Vann Woodward for his The Origins of the New South, 1877–1913, published by the Louisiana State University Press. The publishers, represented by George Brett of the Macmillan Company and Marcus Wilkerson of the Louisiana State University Press, received a special certificate award presented by Valerien Lada-Mocarski, Chairman of the Friends. Dwight C. Miner, Professor of History at Columbia, made the presentation to the winning authors, who then discussed their books briefly. The Master of Ceremonies was Norman Cousins, Editor of the Saturday Review, who spoke on the subject, “On Behalf of the Humanities.”

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Dwight C. Miner is Professor of History at Columbia University and will write the history of Columbia for the University’s Bicentennial in 1954. . . John Berthel has been successively a teacher of Contemporary Civilization in Columbia College and Columbia College Librarian, and is now Nicholas Murray Butler Librarian. . . Arnold H. Swenson, manager of the Book Department in the Columbia University Bookstore, was a teacher of American History for seven years, and is Secretary of the Booksellers’ League of New York. . . Roland Baughman became Head of Special Collections at Columbia University in 1946 after having served at the Huntington Library in California for twenty-two years.
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. The smallest contributions are not the least welcome, and all donations are deductible for income tax purposes.

* Please make checks payable to Columbia University.

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