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Our Growing Collections

Activities of the Friends

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RESIDENT KIRK, Mr. Barrett, each and every one of that devoted band of administrators on the staff of the Columbia Libraries from the top down, Friends of the Columbia Libraries, and all others gathered together here this evening to assist in making this Bicentennial Anniversary a memorable one:

It is fitting that Columbia should not permit this significant occasion to pass without appropriate ceremonies to mark the passage of the first two hundred years of the existence of what is now without a doubt the nerve center of the principal activities of this great university—education and research. It is fitting not only because in a country so young as the United States of America the passage of so long a time betokens a certain permanence, giving assurance of solid accomplishment, but also because we are now in a world of turmoil and unrest, intolerance and subversion, where tyranny rules supreme over vast reaches of the earth and institutions such as the Columbia Libraries stand out as beacons to light the way to freedom for generations in the time to come. I would emphasize at the outset that freedom and the Liberal Arts go hand and hand. And so I have chosen as the title of this

* Address given in Butler Library on January 28, 1958, at a meeting celebrating the Bicentennial Anniversary of the founding of the Columbia University Libraries.
address, “In Litteris Libertas.” However I may seem to wander here and there, I hope you may feel the play of this melody throughout—the Libraries as beacons of freedom, leading us on to the pursuit of knowledge through the inviting highways and bypaths of the Liberal Arts. And I would also sound a note to remind us of Columbia as a treasure house of things peculiarly representative of the American scene and of our beloved City of New York.

One of the favorite rhetorical devices of our old friend Marcus Tullius Cicero was the “praeteritio.” He would say, in effect, “I pass by this or that,” but in doing so he brought pleasure to those who heard him, by the interesting matter in his seeming digressions, while at the same time driving his main theme home, on the bias, as it were. So we turn to digression number one.

With fire, floods and hurricanes, to say nothing of the carelessness and destructiveness of mankind in general, it seems almost a miracle that any of the priceless original books of centuries ago should still survive, with their artistic embellishments of illustration, illumination, bindings and exquisite papyrus, vellum, paper and miscellaneous fittings. I need not refer to the effect of the bombing of Cassino and of London and a host of other places in the recent war or of the atom bombs and intercontinental missiles of the future that we hear so much about. I remember once reading in Hazlitt’s History of the Venetian Republic how Petrarch, who had a marvelous collection of medieval books and manuscripts, “was in perpetual dread of losing his treasures by some unlucky fire, by damp, or by dry-out.” So he gave the collection to the Republic. But after a hundred years or so all were gone, except a half dozen items, including a Twelfth Century French missal. Think of the wilful, criminal destruction of the archives of the churches and monasteries and of many civil establishments in Cromwell’s time. I had a taste of this sort of thing myself when my library at Westhampton, Long Island, with all my notes and memoranda, and even a few incunabula, was washed away in the hurricane of September 21, 1938.
On the other hand, there has always been a sturdy and sizeable band of preservers, who quietly hide and protect all sorts of things for posterity: books, diaries, letters, and everything else under the sun. Only the other day Elizabeth Trotter, my wife's cousin, sent several boxes full of letters, genealogical data and newspapers, including contemporary descriptions of the Burr-Hamilton affair, all connected in some way with a certain Standish Forde of Philadelphia. My wife's middle name is Forde, one of our sons is Standish Forde and one of our grandsons bears the same name. A summer or two ago we were invited to dine at Sylvester Manor on Shelter Island by "the Lord of the Manor" Andrew Fiske and his lovely wife. Before I knew it, he had taken me aside, opened a huge wall safe as large as a good-sized room, and we were soon poring over some of the most interesting original letters I have ever read, all written, as I recall, during or shortly after the Revolution. This is the stuff out of which true history is distilled. The quantity still in private hands and subject to all sorts of risks of mutilation or destruction is incalculable, but undoubtedly very large. The point I would make in passing is that each and every such item belongs in some great public institution such as the Columbia Libraries, where the letters or journals or whatnot else can be preserved intact, catalogued and, on appropriate occasions and under proper safeguards, displayed.

Now for digression number two. I often wonder how many ordinarily well-informed and intelligent people have any conception of the current day-to-day problems with which the Columbia Libraries are faced. Let us assume for the moment, as I hinted a moment ago, that our principal duties are, to gather together and make available to faculty and students and perhaps to scholars generally, the books and allied materials indispensable to the processes and procedures of education and research. Forget the Rare Books and Special Collections, to which I shall return. I hope a few statistics will not bore you. Here they are.

The Columbia Libraries serve the needs of some 27,000 students and over 4,000 faculty members. It is anticipated that by
1970 the enrollment will have increased by from 2,700 to 5,400 additional students. At Columbia it is possible to take courses in forty-one different languages; the undergraduate programs, the professional schools and the Graduate Faculties offer opportunities leading to forty-nine different degrees, and almost 5,000 different courses.

By 1870 there were in the Columbia Libraries 14,100 volumes; by 1897, 75,000 volumes; by 1931, 1,250,000 volumes; and by 1957, 2,900,000 volumes, with an insurance value of $20,000,000.

The current annual expense to Columbia University for the acquisition and preservation of library materials, for the staff members to provide circulation and reference services and to perform the operations connected with book orders, cataloguing and binding, has mounted to the incredible figure of $1,500,000.

Here is a partial but fairly complete list of the Columbia Libraries:

Library of Columbia College
Barnard College Library
Teachers College Library
Burgess Library (Social Sciences)
Carpenter Library (English and Modern Languages)
Greek and Latin Classics Library
Paterno Library
Engineering Library
Mathematics Library
Philosophy Library
Psychology Library
Library of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
Library of Physics
Library of Zoology and Botany
Geology Library
Music Library
Ware Collection
Avery Library of Architecture
Library of Fine Arts
Rare Books and Special Collections
East Asiatic Library
Library of Business and Economics
Library of Law and International Law
Medical Library
Library of Plastic Surgery
School of Journalism Library
School of Pharmacy Library
Library of the School of Library Service

How is it possible to keep this huge congeries of libraries up to date, to ascertain and fill gaps in the collections of books in this field or that? The modern output of scientific books and
periodicals all over the world presents a special problem. In the central clearinghouse section which receives, checks in, and distributes to the various university libraries the periodicals received from day to day, it hardly seems possible, but the fact is that during the past year 110,000 items were processed. Government and foundation grants and projects present a very pressing library problem.

Nor does any department of this great university stand still. There are plans for a new Engineering Center, a proposed Fine Arts Center, a new Law Center, perhaps a branch library of the Geology Library to be established at or near the Lamont Geological Observatory at Palisades, New York, and so on. Some of these plans are soon to be put into effect, others are nebulous and in the early stages; and they all have to do in one way or another with books and library facilities.

Now, what is digression number two put in for? Well, I want you to see the problems for one thing. The modern demands for service seem impossible of fulfilment, the complexity of the task is baffling; but Columbia accepts the challenge and I have no fear of the outcome. For the goal toward which we eagerly press is worth all the effort and all the sacrifice. We must maintain free access to ideas, to new creative thought and the unfettered functioning of the mind. Here in these hallowed walls we do not walk the chalk-line of conformity; we do not think what we are told to think and stop there; fostered by the spirit of the Liberal Arts we reach out and probe to solve the secrets of the nature of man and of the cosmos. These Columbia Libraries are meant for the use of a free and independent people.

So much for the "praeteritio." Now we turn directly to the task in hand.

Why are we gathered here in the year of our Lord 1958 to celebrate the founding of the Columbia Libraries? Beginnings are always interesting and significant. The earliest acquisition was a bequest by the Honorable Joseph Murray, Esquire, of the Middle Temple, according to his bookplate; one of the Governors
of the College, a member of his Majesty's Council for the Province of New York and "the most considerable Lawyer here in his time." He died in April, 1757, and left his residuary estate "including a fine library" to "the Governors of the College of the Province of New York, by whatever name they are called." It is not known exactly when the books were handed over, but this gift was supplemented by another bequest from the Reverend Duncombe Bristowe, D.D., a graduate of Brasenose College, Oxford, and Rector of Allhallows, Staining within Aldgate, London, who died in June, 1758. The Reverend Dr. Bristowe made the bequest to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel "to be sent to the College of New York, of which Dr. Johnson is President, or to such Place or Places as the Society should direct." Some of these books "are adorned with the bookplate of the Rev. Dr. Duncombe Bristowe, as also with the ancient emblem of the Venerable Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts." And so the Columbia Libraries were born. These precious volumes were used to good purpose by the little band of educators who then made up the College, but storms were brewing, and in April and May of 1776 the College building was given up to the patriot troops and the books and apparatus removed to the City Hall, where the British and Hessian soldiers played havoc with them soon after General Howe's entry into New York in September, 1776. Some of them were deposited in a closet near the organ loft in St. Paul's and rumor had it that many were protected in a stoned-up doorway where they were found in 1802 by some workmen employed in preparing a place for the organ. An interesting item in the Morning Chronicle on December 18, 1802, branded this as a hoax "invented by some wag," and added: "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."

President Butler once reported that the minutes of the Trustees disclosed the following library expenditures: for 1825,
On September 6, 1950, Enos M. Johnston of Brooklyn returned to Dr. Richard H. Logsdon, then Associate Director of Libraries, a copy of A System of Natural Philosophy which Robert Harpur, the King’s College Librarian, took home in 1772 possibly for preservation during the troubled years shortly before the outbreak of the American Revolution. Mr. Johnston had found the book in the attic at the home of a 90-year-old aunt in Binghamton, New York. If the present student fine rate of five cents a day had been charged for this book, overdue for 178 years, the descendants of the borrower would have owed $3,280!

$177.44; 1827, $44.57; 1832, $51.75; 1843, $100; 1851, $400; 1862, $500.

From this brief historical recital I turn to a subject that will bring us back to our original theme. Most of us here tonight have probably been bitten by the book-bug from early childhood. Even today it is only with a supreme effort that I pass one of the old-book stalls; they simply fascinate me. What pure delight it must be to spend one’s days as Mr. Baughman does, examining the special gifts as they come in, plotting and scheming to get them and then arranging them for study by historical or other
scholars or for exhibition. He has the best job in the Libraries, I think.

Some of the recent acquisitions by the Columbia Libraries fit in exactly with what I am trying to say this evening. And, really, part of the celebration centers around the famous John Jay Collection, which a group of generous members of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries and their collaborators brought in last year. I am saving that for the end.

Also last year the Columbia Libraries received the Dr. Benjamin Salzer Collection of Mayor’s Court Papers, about 2000 pieces in all, extending in date from 1681 to 1819. [The history of this court goes back to 1650, when the States General ordered the establishment in New Amsterdam of a court similar to that in existence in the mother city. When the English conquered New Netherland in 1664, the name of this court of Burgomasters and Schepens was changed to the Mayor’s Court and its development followed that of the English Mayor’s Courts, notably that of the Lord Mayor of London.] The Salzer Collection also contains a large amount of material of the Court of General Sessions, relating to criminal matters.

Then, in browsing around, I came across two of George Washington’s Manuscript Diaries for the year 1795, his last year but one as the first President of the United States, and 1798, the year before he died. These were presented to the University in 1951 by Charles Moran, Jr., a Columbia alumnus, by whose family they had been preserved and passed on from generation to generation since 1827.

One of the entries is on February 12, 1798, when he went “with the family” to a Ball in Alexandria “given by the Citizens of it & its vicinity in commemoration of the anniversary of my birthday.” This came as quite a surprise, as most of us think of Washington’s birthday as February 22. But it turned out that Alexandria was still using the old Style Calendar in 1798, which accounts for the difference of ten days. And, incidentally, those of us who love Alexandria and the people who live there, rec-
Judge Harold R. Medina

ognize in this lack of the customary zeal to keep with the times, this unwillingness to be hurried into new-fangled notions under the guise of progress, one of the reasons Alexandria is so attractive and alluring.

But by far the most important acquisition by the Columbia Libraries for many a year is the John Jay Collection, which includes nearly 2000 pieces to and from more than 250 individuals, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Jefferson, John Paul Jones, Rufus King, the Marquis de Lafayette, Gouverneur Morris, General Schuyler and George Washington. It is a veritable treasure house. Many of the most interesting items are on display here in Butler Library this evening, as you have doubtless already noticed.

How strange it is that so many of us here at Columbia know so little of the true stature and the outstanding accomplishments of this great American patriot, one of Columbia’s most illustrious sons. We pass by John Jay Hall, some of us almost every day of our lives, and probably even those familiar with the works of his early biographers think of him as cold and austere, more mind than man. And he was reserved, one of New York’s aristocrats. But there were few who rendered such conspicuous, continuous, and unselfish services to America during the period of the Revolution, and before and after. Frank Monahan’s John Jay, Defender of Liberty gives us a true measure of his greatness, and the title page displays this interesting summary: “Defender of Liberty against Kings & Peoples; Author of the Constitution & Governor of New York; President of the Continental Congress; Co-author of the Federalist; Negotiator of the Peace of 1783 & the Jay Treaty of 1794; First Chief Justice of the United States.”

He loved Columbia too, taking his B.A. degree in the then King’s College in 1764 and his M.A. degree in 1767. His son Peter Augustus Jay also received a B.A. degree in 1794, a M.A. in 1797 in what by that time had become Columbia College, and an honorary LL.D. in 1835.

But the man who smiles out to us from this fine collection is
no austere and forbidding intellectual machine, but rather a hearty human being, full of the zest of life, who was not only trusted and consulted on matters of the highest consequence in the affairs of government but was truly loved by such men as Washington, John Adams and Hamilton, and a host of others. He had courage and he had that most rare of qualities, a serene outlook on men and events which made it possible for him to weather in silence and peace of mind many an unfounded personal attack upon his integrity, and many an unexpected and disappointing turn of events. In all this his absolute and unwavering faith in Christ as our Redeemer and our Saviour was a supreme resource. History has done him something less than justice.

It is not always easy to prove a point by reference to two or three out of 2000 pieces of a Collection such as the John Jay papers, but I shall try.

What first caught my eye was a letter from John Adams, dated at Amsterdam, November 28, 1781. He is gloating over the capture of Cornwallis at Yorktown and is riding high, having been visited by a number of persons of consequence to offer congratulations. But he adds:

* * * but there are invisible fairies who disconcert in the night all the operations of the patriot in the Day.

Who of us has not been visited by these same fairies!

There is a precious holographic letter written to Jay also by John Adams. John Adams is bowing out as the Second President of the United States, to be succeeded, as it turned out, by Thomas Jefferson. Jay is serving his second term as Governor of New York.

Washington November 24, 1800

Dear Sir

I received last week your friendly private Letter of the tenth. The assurance of the continuance of your friendship was unnecessary for me, because I have never had a doubt of it. But others invent and report as they please.
They have presumed hitherto however more delicacy towards the friendship between you and me than any other. The last Mission to France, and the consequent dismission of the twelve Regiments, although an essential branch of my System of Policy, has been to those who have been intriguing and laboring for an Army of fifty thousand Men, an unpardonable fault. If by their folly they have thrown themselves on their backs and Jacobins should walk over their bellies, as military Gentlemen express promotions over their heads, who should they blame but themselves?

Among the very few Truths in a late Pamphlet there is one that I shall ever acknowledge with pleasure, viz. that the principal Merit of the negotiations for Peace was Mr. Jays. I wish you would permit our Historical Society to print the Papers you drew up on that Occasion. I often say that when my Confidence in Mr. Jay shall cease, I must give up the cause of Confidence and renounce it with all Men.

With great Truth and regard I am now and ever shall be your friend and humble servant.

John Adams

I have saved for the last the piece that I like best. Jay and his wife Sally Livingston Jay sailed from the neighborhood of Philadelphia for Spain on October 20, 1779. This turned out to be one of his most unhappy and frustrating experiences. Mrs. Jay had requested General St. Clair to ask Washington for a lock of his hair so that she might take it with her as a keepsake. The lock of hair arrived with the following, entirely in Washington's own hand:

General Washington presents his most respectful compliments to Mrs. Jay—Honoured in her request by General St. Clair, he takes pleasure in presenting the inclosed, with
thanks for so polite a testimony of her approbation & esteem—I He wishes most fervently, that prosperous gales—an unruffled sea—& everything pleasing & desirable, may smooth the path she is about to walk in—

West-point October 7th 1779

Yes, the Columbia Libraries and those of her sister universities and colleges are beacons of freedom beckoning to all who toil in the quest for truth and knowledge. Every branch of learning is solidly represented, and all, including those who seek some special proficiency, as in medicine or the law or journalism or music, are enriched by the culture of the Liberal Arts, so indispensable to the development of creative thought, and what we call, for lack of a better word, imagination. All who enter here may seek solace and refreshment in the delights of literature and the manifold allurements of the humanities. Here the sciences and the humanities walk together pari passu. Here no tyrant tells us what to learn or what to teach. And we pay a proper tribute to our forbears and to those who fought for freedom and made all these things possible. These are the thoughts I would have you associate with the celebration, on this 28th day of January in the year of our Lord 1958, of the Bicentennial Anniversary of the Founding of the Columbia Libraries. As John Jay would have said: for all these blessings we thank Almighty God, the creator and preserver of all mankind.
The Salzer Collection of Mayor's Court Papers

RICHARD B. MORRIS

OF PRIME importance to students of American legal and social history is the recent acquisition by Special Collections of the papers of the old Mayor's Court of New York City and of other state courts. Acquired as a gift from the estate of the late Dr. Benjamin Salzer, a neurologist of New York City, and through the good offices of the attorney of that estate, Mr. Donald Newborg, this collection comprises some two-thousand items ranging in date from 1681 to 1819.

This collection, not available to students and researchers hitherto, is, first of all, of special interest to lawyers. The papers supplement the minutes of the Mayor's Court on file in the office of the Commissioner of Records of New York County, which were selected and printed in part in Select Cases of the Mayor's Court of New York City, 1674-1784, published by the American Historical Association in 1935 and edited by the present writer. That volume demonstrated the relationship, first, between the Mayor's Court as it was organized following the English conquest of New Netherland and the previous Dutch court of Burgomasters and Schepens of New Amsterdam. The former continued the jurisdiction of the Dutch court and then, when English influences became paramount, adapted much from the practice and procedure of the Mayor's Court of London. While for a time the Mayor's Court exercised some criminal jurisdiction, it soon became largely a court of civil matters and as such the chief tribunal in New York City for handling business litigation.

The abundance of these file papers reveals how active the Mayor's Court really was. Yet only a limited number of attorneys are represented in the litigation covered by the papers. The rea-
The Salzer Collection of Mayor's Court Papers

The son is that the privilege of practicing in that court was so highly prized that it was closely restricted. Under the Montgomerie Charter of 1731 seven attorneys, all of whose papers are available in considerable quantities in the Columbia collection, were given a monopoly of practice in the court during good behavior. Even though later legislation liberalized admission to practice, a select coterie of attorneys kept the lion's share of the practice down to the Revolution. The Salzer Papers tell us something about the manner in which the very earliest attorneys conducted their lawsuits. They tell us about the legal pioneers, like Samuel Winder who practiced between 1685 and 1688, and John Tudor, Barne Cosens, James Emott, and Edward Antill, making court appearances at the end of the 17th century. They reveal that in the first decade of the 18th century the practice was fairly evenly split between Jacob Regnier and that salty character, David Janison, who had previously been condemned to be hanged in Scotland as a blasphemous Bible-burner. The papers further reveal that on the eve of the Revolution the practice was chiefly in the hands of James Duane, Benjamin Kissam, and Thomas Smith. But those famous pre-Revolutionary leaders of the bar, John Morin Scott and William Smith, are also represented in this collection. With the reopening of the court in February, 1784, all vestiges of legal monopoly vanished. The names of the leading federal lawyers appear among the Salzer papers for the years 1784 to 1819, including Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, Egbert Benson, and Robert Troup.

In theory the Mayor's Court was restricted in jurisdiction to actions which arose within the city of New York, but actually in certain transitory suits it was the common practice, just as in the Mayor's Court of London, to allege an act having taken place outside the realm and then to assert that the foreign place was located "in the outward of the City of New York." The Salzer Papers contain suits brought for money received "att Port Royall in Jamaica (to Witt) at the Dock Ward of the City of New York," for freight received "in the River Thames (to Witt) att
the Dock Ward of the City of New York," and an assault and battery was alleged to have taken place "at Brookland . . . att the Citty of New York."

Like the borough courts in England, the mayor's court exercised maritime and admiralty jurisdiction in the colonial period. Suits involving mariner's wages, customs collections, and many other marine matters were more frequently brought before the Mayor's Court than before the court of vice-admiralty which also sat in New York. In the former, of course, jury trials were permitted, whereas they were barred from admiralty procedure. Early marine insurance claims occasionally appear among these papers, forming a valuable supplement to the scattered items for the 18th century to be found at the Insurance Society of New York, the library of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and at the New York Public Library and the New-York Historical Society. One interesting case arose in 1798 on a policy of insurance which made a concession to the strong sentiment among New York merchants in favor of arbitration. The policy had provided that any dispute over loss be referred to two persons, one to be chosen by the assured out of three to be named by the assurer, the other by the assurer from three to be named by the assured. Perhaps the most important maritime case found in this collection is the prosecution brought in 1762 against Waddell Cunningham, a prominent New York businessman, for illegal correspondence with the French during the French and Indian War, shipping provisions out of the colony to the enemy without posting bond. Cunningham's difficulties did not deter other New York merchants from holding on to their share of the valuable enemy markets and from using other devices to carry on this profitable though illicit trade. In one odd maritime case before the court a pilot of the port of New York, who was unable to get off a vessel at Sandy Hook owing to tempestuous weather, was forced to make the long voyage to London. The court reimbursed him at the rate of £6 per month for his absence from New York.
Over the long run everybody came into the Mayor's Court. Apprentices sued masters for breach of articles of indenture, employers sued other masters for detaining or enticing their workmen, teachers sued for board and tuition, lawyers frequently had to go to law to collect their fees, and surgeons tried to have their bills paid for operations performed. Such operations might very well delay the business of the court. One Patrick Walsh deposed in 1770 that one of his material witnesses would be unable to attend the trial on the next day as he "hath lately been cut for a fistula or the piles and is confined to his bed, so that he is utterly unable to go abroad, and cannot attend the trial of the above cause tomorrow."

No historian can leaf through these papers without picking up exciting pieces of historical information. The first papers written in their cramped Gothic script depict the affairs of litigants living at a time when Wall Street was close to the northernmost limits of the town, which in the 1680's boasted 350 houses and some 1,500 inhabitants. The last papers depict a period when New York had become a metropolis and the first city of the land. Some of the documents starkly describe the ravages of the British occupation of New York during the Revolution. When Cornelius Bogert took over Elizabeth Waldron's estate in Harlem, he cleared away standing timber in what must have been a picturesque virgin woodland. According to these papers, he and his associates felled 2,500 chestnut trees, 3,000 hickory trees, 2,200 white oak, 2,100 black oak, 1,500 red cedar, 1,800 maple, 1,900 ash, 2,000 birch, and 5,000 apple trees. They are charged with carrying away 400 cartloads of timber to a total damage of over £6,000. Truly the face of New York was drastically altered as a result of the Revolution.

Fire, plunder, and the ravages of fighting in and around the city left their scars upon the city's face, but the severest scars of all were emotional, the result of the civil war waged between Whigs and Tories, even between members of the same families. Tories, backed by the British army, were quick to take over
Patriot properties when the Whigs quit the city after the British troop landings in '76. In turn, through the machinery of the upstate Revolutionary legislature, the Patriots passed laws providing for the confiscation of Tory property. The evacuation of the British army at the end of the war, accompanied by a vast civilian army of Tories, gave rise to a flood of litigation brought by injured Patriots, and abundantly documented in this collection.

It all started in 1784, when the widow Rutgers, who had abandoned her brewery and fled the city on the eve of the British occupation, brought suit under the Trespass Act of 1783 against one Benjamin Waddington, a Tory, who had occupied the premises during the war under an order of the British authorities. The Trespass Act enabled those who had fled from the enemy to sue for trespass to their real or personal property during their absence, deprived the defendants of the right to plead in justification any military order or command of the enemy for the occupation or destruction of the property, and held that, if suits were brought in any inferior court, they were to be therein finally determined. This was a test case. For Mrs. Rutgers appeared John Lawrence and Colonel Robert Troup. For the unpopular defendant the courageous Alexander Hamilton risked his political neck by opposing further reprisals against the Tories. The court handed down a political decision, allowing damages for the period 1778–80, when the defendant occupied the property by license of a person who had acted beyond his powers, but denying recovery for the period 1780–83, when the defendant had acted under license of the British commander-in-chief. The opinion, handed down by Mayor James Duane, declared in effect that a state law contrary to the treaty of 1783 with Great Britain was illegal. Thus Rutgers v. Waddington has often been cited as an early precedent for the doctrine of judicial review. A flood of protests from the more violent anti-Tory faction, aimed at Duane and more especially at Hamilton, came in the wake of this decision, along with a torrent of lawsuits brought by aggrieved Patriots. Many of these suits were compromised. The
Mayor James Duane of New York who sat as magistrate in the Mayor's Court during the trial of *Rutgers v. Waddington* in 1784, one of the most famous cases to come before that court.

Duane was a governor of King's College from 1762-1781, one of the *ex officio* regents of the new University of the State of New York from 1784-1787, a Trustee of Columbia College from 1787-1797, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1787-1795.

The original portrait, which now hangs in the lounge of Hartley Hall at Columbia, is a copy by James Francis Brown of a portrait painted by John Trumbull in 1805.
Salzer Collection has probably the largest number of such suits to be found anywhere. It should be added that as a result of Hamilton's indefatigable efforts the legislature at long last repealed the Trespass Act.

The whole range of the city's crafts and craftsmen is exposed to the researcher among the Salzer Papers. Carpenters, coopers, and turners sued in the Mayor's Court to recover for their services. For example, as early as 1710 New York appears to have had an armourer named William Brown, involved here as a litigant. Everardus Bogardus, the silversmith, manages to get in and out of court as a litigant on several occasions. Silks and spices, beer, rum and London porter, wines and Cheshire cheese, Holland duck and canvas, oil paints, window glass, and sealing wax, castor hats, leather and skins and "fat oxen and fat lambs," and countless other items, lean as well as fat, are the subject of litigation in these papers. Of special interest and utility to students of the household arts and crafts are the inventories and lists of household furnishings included among these papers. In 1711 Roger Brett placed in the safekeeping of Gyles Shelley an interesting collection of gold, silver, and pewter items. When in 1785 Mason Wattles found difficulty meeting his rent, Edward Agar attached all his house furnishings to the value of £100 current money of New York and including a chest of drawers, eight mahogany chairs, and two mahogany bedsteads. It goes without saying that these articles would bring a lot fancier prices in today's market—if the Winterthur Museum has not already acquired them!
Mozart's Librettist—First Professor of Italian at Columbia University

ALDO CASELLI

LORENZO DA PONTE, the “libertine librettist,” arrived in the United States in the port of Philadelphia on the 4th of June, 1805. As librettist of Mozart's Don Giovanni, Le Nozze di Figaro, and Cosi Fan Tutte, he had already staked his claim to immortality. I am not sure whether the title of libertine is appropriate to this lively Venetian, who was born on March 10, 1749, in the ghetto of Ceneda, “a small, but not unknown city of the Venetian state,” as Da Ponte describes it in his memoirs. Gallantry is found in letters and diaries of this time in Venice, as the true Venetian temperament was cool, ebullient and sensuous. For a short but very efficient study of the Venetian character the reader can see Mary McCarthy’s recent Venice Observed.* Miss McCarthy’s book leads us to believe that Da Ponte was rather a good Venetian, representative of the time and the society in which he was born.

Da Ponte’s crossing from London to Philadelphia lasted 86 days, and his first contact with somebody from the United States was far from auspicious. The ship’s captain was a Nantucketer named Hayden, whose primary business was the hunting of whales. His dealings with the passengers were not very different from the way he dealt with those mammals. The food was impossible and conditions on board were not any better. The crossing was, as Da Ponte says, “a double Lent.” This crossing was probably a portent of the librettist’s American experience, as he was more in contact with the sheriff than with anybody else. This is unfortunate because, as J. Russo says: “Seldom if ever, indeed, had a man of a more interesting personality come to these shores from Eu-

rope. In the course of his long life, the term of which embraced the birth and death of Byron, Scott, Foscolo, Monti, Leopardi, Mozart, Beethoven and Napoleon, he had been by turns priest, poet and professor of rhetoric in Italy; poet to the Imperial Theatre and gallant abbé in Austria; librettist and bookseller in England; in America, tradesman, distiller, poet, man of letters, teacher, bookseller and impresario. He it was who, dreaming of founding a permanent seat for Italian opera in America, and to this dream devoting all his enthusiasm and unbounded energy as well as the feeble resources of his purse, opened the first Italian Opera House in the United States."

Da Ponte's Memoirs have left us a very accurate picture of his experiences. Upon his landing he proceeded to New York and started his new life. His business ventures soon terminating in bankruptcy, he sold everything he owned in order to pay his debts and tried to start again. This time he looked at teaching as a living. He was fortunate in getting the help of a bookseller named Riley who owned a store on Broadway, as he intended to start in New York a school of the Italian language which, to quote from his memoirs, was not better known in America than Turkish or Chinese. Through this bookseller Da Ponte met Professor Clement Clarke Moore¹ who, fascinated by the personality of the poet, decided to help him in establishing a class of Italian and to present him to his father, Bishop Moore,² in whose house the first school was established. The students were Clement Moore, his

¹ Clement Clarke Moore (1779–1863), son of Bishop Benjamin Moore who was President of Columbia College from 1801 to 1811, was born and educated in New York City. He graduated from Columbia in 1798 and was trained for the ministry, but devoted himself mainly to oriental and classical literature. He was a professor of biblical literature and later of Oriental and Greek literatures in the General Theological Seminary.

² Bishop Benjamin Moore (1748–1816) was born in Newtown, Long Island. After completing his studies in King's College (now Columbia University) he started to teach Greek and Latin, while preparing to enter the ministry. After spending a few years in England, he was ordained in London and, on his return to New York (1806), was made rector of Trinity parish. He was later appointed President of Columbia College, in which capacity he remained up to 1811 when, attacked by paralysis, he retired from further active service.
(Above) Portrait of Lorenzo Da Ponte (1749-1838) by N. Monachesi (From original in the Ellery O. Anderson Collection).

(Below) A portion of the original score for the final scene of the first act of Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte for which Da Ponte wrote the libretto. (From original in the State Library in Berlin).
cousin Nathaniel Moore,\(^3\) Professor of Latin at Columbia, John McVickar, and E. Pendleton. But as soon as Da Ponte earned some money at teaching, he could not resist the attraction of business speculations (this time in Sunbury, Pa.). With them came new disappointments. These contributed to his return to Philadelphia, in 1818, where he hoped for a fresh start.

He wanted to teach Italian language and literature as he had previously done in New York, but the project failed. A letter which, in translation, describes some of the events of this period, has recently been discovered in the office of an autograph dealer in New York. It is addressed to Nathaniel Moore. The salutation is a diminutive form which indicates the close friendship between the two men.

Philadelphia  
March 27, 1819

My dear Nathaniel,

These blessed Italian classics have put me in a very difficult position. Thanks to you, to Mr. Derham and other friends of mine in New York, I have good hope of pulling out of it. But I want to tell you the full story in order to make you laugh. As I had heard people say so many beautiful things about Philadelphia and being displeased at Sunbury where I only experienced losses and troubles, I finally decided to establish myself there. I immediately began to look for students of Italian language and literature and from the nice manner I was received by several people and from their words, I got hope of succeeding. The only thing which was scaring me was the very high price which a local bookseller (or it would be better to call him tyrant) was asking for

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\(^3\) Nathaniel F. Moore (1782–1872) was a nephew of Bishop B. Moore. He graduated from Columbia in 1802, studied law, was admitted to the bar in 1805 and practiced for a few years. In 1817 he was appointed adjunct professor of Greek and Latin in his Alma Mater, and three years later promoted to a full professorship. From 1835 to 1837 he was in Europe, on his return assumed the duties of librarian in Columbia, continuing in this position till 1842 when he became President of the college, an office which he held up to 1849.
Italian books, of which he did not have either a large quantity. By accident I discovered that an Italian traveler had in his hands the collections of all our classics in the Milano edition, a real treasure of literature as you certainly have seen; I went to him and without difficulties I convinced him to sell them. I tried right away to see the directors of the public library, and, convinced that I was rendering a real service to the city, I used all my ability in persuading them to purchase them. They granted me the honor of accepting four volumes, which I donated to their library, i.e.: Le Stanze e l'Orfeo of Angelo Poliziano, as a sample of the ancient literature; In Morti di Ugo Bassville of our contemporary Monti, as a sample of contemporary literature; another volume by another poet (I believe Rosini), as a sample of the Bodoni books, and the volume by J. Mathias⁴ which you have seen several times and in which the author so often speaks of the Italian writers and a little about myself. These gentlemen for over two-and-a-half months gave me encouraging words and they assured me they would buy, if not all, at least a great part of the collection. So I myself bought it from this Italian traveler who was on the eve of leaving the city and who wanted to take the books with him to Havana; and as I had not enough cash for making the purchase, I gave him a promissory note due within three months, guaranteed by two Frenchmen I had in those days met, and one of whom was a poet. A few days before this promissory note was due, the directors of the Library let me know, through somebody else, in a very rude way “We do not buy the books.” I don’t make any comment, Intelligenti pausa. I will tell you the end when I will have the pleasure of seeing you and, as I hope this to

⁴ He refers here to the book by Thomas J. Mathias: Canzoni e Prose Toscane, London, 1808. Thomas James Mathias (1754–1835) belonged to a distinguished English family. He studied at Eton and Cambridge where he became a close friend of Spencer and Perceval. He became sub-treasurer of the Queen and later, in 1812, Librarian at Buckingham Palace. Five years later, on account of ill health, he settled in Naples “in love with the climate and the language” and there he entertained his friend Sir Walter Scott. Mathias is still remembered as the best known English scholar in Italian since Milton.
be soon, I beg you, my very esteemed friend, to help as much as you can Clement's very generous project about my return to New York. O, if this would only happen I would say happily, quoting from Virgil, mutatis mutandis:

Post varios casus, post discrimina rerum
Tendimus in Latium, sedes ubi fata quietas
Ostendunt.'

Of this quiet I have a great need. With seventy years of my bent shoulders you shouldn't be surprised if, having a thousand troubles in my body and in my spirit and after a sea of miseries and troubles, I go seeking peace, peace, peace. So please take an interest in my return to New York with your usual good will. I fully realize that I have some nerve in asking new favors from you, but of whom is it the fault? Of the one who is making me the object of his attentions and encouraged me and almost gave me the right of asking and hope for everything. And what shall I give you in return for all this?—I will tell you some strange stories, some curious facts, some unusual happenings—I will make you laugh but not that kind of laugh which is in ore stultorum but that kind which our Horace presented in the vague verse:

Lacrimoso non sine risu

And I go back, for a moment, to the matter of the books. I am very pleased by the choice you and Mr. Derman have made. Please give him best regards (without forgetting his beautiful wife and the remaining part of the lovely family). I only would that either you or Clement won't lose the opportunity of buying the books by Caro, Casa, Fiorenzuola and the very witty life of Benvenuto Cellini, as these works can be found but no more in the Milano edition which I think is all sold out.

Please honor me with your answer, and believe me your obliged servant and friend,

L. Da Ponte
So goes the letter, which is very alive and full of dignified humor. The library to which he referred is the Library Company of Philadelphia, and the four books, I have been advised by the Librarian, are still on the shelves of the library and they all have inscriptions by Da Ponte on the fly leaves. In quoting the four titles by heart, Da Ponte did not exactly remember the name of the Bodoni item he gave to the library and he thinks this to be a book of Rosini. Actually it is not a work of Rosini but is a copy of the Odi of Amacreonte translated in Italian verses by Eritisco Pilenejo, published in Parma, 1793.

His lack of success in Philadelphia and the expensive fiasco of the rejected books must have decided him to return to New York. There the books would be useful, since his protector, Clement Moore, had found students from the best New York families anxious to learn Italian. Lorenzo Da Ponte worked hard in New York in the teaching of the language.

In 1825 Harvard and Columbia established the first two chairs of Italian in American institutions of learning. Harvard's choice fell on an obscure teacher. Columbia instead, by choosing Da Ponte, made room in its faculty, at the foot of Park Place where the institution was then located, for an enthusiast of the Italian culture. The following are extracts from the minutes of the Trustees of Columbia College.

May 2, 1825. A letter from Mr. Da Ponte was received, asking permission to instruct the alumni of the College in the Italian language and to make use of some part of the building for that purpose. The above letter was referred to the Standing Committee.

September 5, 1825. Resolved, That a Professorship of Italian Literature be established in this College, but that the Professor be not considered one of the Board of the College, nor subject to the provisions of the second chapter of the statutes.

Resolved, That the attendance of the students upon said Professor be voluntary, and that the hours of attendance be appointed by the Professor, under the direction of the President.

Resolved, That Signore Da Ponte be and is hereby appointed to the said professorship, and that he be allowed to receive from the stu-
dents who shall attend his lectures a reasonable compensation; but
that no salary be allowed him from the College.

December 5, 1825. Da Ponte offers to sell two hundred and sixty-
three volumes of Italian works to the college for $364.05. Referred
to a committee, C. C. Moore, chairman.

January 2, 1826. Favorable report; the books are bought for the
library.

January 5, 1829. Ordered that $50 be paid to Signore Da Ponte in
addition to what he has already been paid for making the catalogue
of the College.

November 3, 1829. Da Ponte offers more books.

November 12, 1829. Thirty-three volumes bought of Da Ponte for
$140.

November 30, 1829. A proposition was received through the Presi-
dent from Signore Da Ponte, offering to add a number of Italian books
to the College Library upon condition of his having a certain number
of pupils provided him to instruct in the Italian language. Where-
upon—

Resolved, That it is inexpedient to accept the proposition of Signore
Da Ponte.

This proposition is related in the Memoirs. As Da Ponte was
unable to enroll students, few taking languages and French and
Spanish being the preference of the few, he proposed to Clement
Moore that the Trustees compel one hundred students to take
Italian at a tuition fee of $15—and Da Ponte would have con-
tributed books to the Columbia Library to the value of the total
tuition collected.

Professor Moore wrote him a polite letter advising him to re-
lease his pressure on Columbia's Trustees which would have called
for a major change in the College rules, and ends by saying: "For
what you have done for Italy and the cause of letters, so long as
there remains a spark of taste among us for the belles-lettres, the
name of Da Ponte, clarum et venerabile nomen, will be held in
veneration; and his scholars of our, as well as of the gentler sex,
will remember in the decline of life, the hours passed by them in
pleasing conversation with their elegant and cultivated tutor, as
among the sweetest moments of their existence; and it is there-
fore, my dear sir, that I pray you to let this suffice, and not aspire to acquire for yourself alone, like Bonaparte, the whole glory of the universe."

His efforts having failed once more, he makes in his Memoirs some sad observations about the diffusion of Italian in America. It is true that Da Ponte's narrative may have been pessimistic and that he enjoyed posing as a victim of human perfidy. But, he cannot accept the fact that although there were several progressive merchants in Italy willing to ship wine and olive oil and silk and marble and Venetian jewelry and Parma cheese, there was not a single bookseller who ventured to send books to America. At the time of Da Ponte there was no bookstore owned or managed by an Italian. All the books to be found in New York were either brought in accidentally by travelers or were in somebody's library and were sold at auction upon his death. Americans were fascinated by the oracles of Germany, England and France, but very little they knew of Italian culture.

After Da Ponte's death in 1838, the instruction of Italian lapsed at Columbia for nearly half a century. It was revived in 1882 with the appointment of Carlo Leonardo Speranza as instructor in Italian and Spanish. Since then, the development of the Italian Department under such men as Arthur Livingston, Giuseppe Prezzolini and Dino Bigongiari, and the founding in 1927 of the Casa Italiana, with its Paterno Library, have at last made Da Ponte's dream come true.
A Sad Farewell to my Books
Anacreontic

LORENZO DA PONTE

Editor’s Note: Mr. Luciano Rebay, Instructor in Italian at Columbia, has made the following prose translation of an original poem by Da Ponte which was recently purchased by the Libraries. At the end of the poem Da Ponte wrote a note which alluded to the personal financial crisis which necessitated the sale of the books. (See bottom of page 32.)

Farewell, faithful friends, companions of both my happy and sorrowful days, farewell.

The ominous wrath of an adverse fate takes you from me, a misfortune much bitterer than death.

The nightingale, mourning his lost mate, does not fill the countryside with more desperate grief,

Nor does a father suffer more when from the shore he sees his sons take to the sea,

Than I, my heart rent, feel in giving you away; for in one moment I lose with you all I cherish.

It was only through you that in the changing course of life I was able to give respite to my sorrows and to turn them to joys;

And only you could have given birth to my fame, had your light remained whole and united.
Antico manoscritto, in latino.

Adorato, fedeli amici,
Felice del cor mio,
De' giorni miei felici
Siete compagni, adorco.
Vi toglie a me funesta
Pra' traversa sorte,
Una sventura el quasta
Più amara assai che morte.
Il verbo un riso insignoso
Cui tulta la compagnia
E' un disperato duolo.
Non empi la compagnia,
Se 'l lucro mai si duole.
Quando dal patri sìdo
Vede in suo mar, sua prole
Mentre e rimane sul sìdo
Com' io straziar mi sento
Il cor nel davventrui,
Ch'io orrido in un momento
Ogni mio bene in vii.
Che per voi, voi poter
No' v'ansi umani eventi
Dar tregua a' malimi
Cangiandoli in contente
E solo a voi' dot' era
Al nome mio dar vita,
Se rimanevi intera
La vostra luce unita.

The manuscript of Da Ponte's poem "A Sad Farewell to My Books" is reproduced here and continued on page 33. A translation is given on the facing pages. (Original manuscript in the Columbia University Libraries)
Having you, I did not expect greater gifts from heaven; having you, I did not envy kings their riches and their thrones.

When the sun scorched the fields I would find in you, in a cool meadow, sweet comfort and charm.

When the evil wrath of winter had killed the grass and the flowers, through you Favonius would smile in my cell.

From you my soul learnt Piety and Charity, through you how to forget the insults of ingratitude.

Reading through the night I drank the nectar of the gods; often dreaming of you my dreams were joys.

Alas, fate takes from me my only treasure! Death would have been less bitter than this last farewell.

"In the year 1831 I had on the shelves of my private library 3000 selected volumes [−] which contained the most beautiful pages of our literature. I sold 2000 of them [at] auction to procure the funds necess[ary] to settle the drama, of which the [pains] and expenses were left to me with volumes of nebulous pr[omises] and merchant-like generosity."

¹ The west wind.
Indi maggiori doni
Dal cielo non verrà
Indi vicende e trame
A' noni invotai:
Se il sole i campi ardea
So sulla riva fresca
In voi trovare so lev
Dolce ristoro d'ogni
Se fiori e erbe erba
{ era del Bernoria,
Per voi favonio rise
Nella celletta mia.
Riconfrondi beneficenza
La voce quest' alma appoggi
Per voi di conoscenza
Seppa obtian le offese.
Ravvi per voi vegliando
Il nettar degl' Dei
Spesso, voi sognando
Per gioie i sogni miei.
Mi togliere abitò la sorte
Il dol tesoro mio.
Aen agora fra la morte
Di questo e il tramontare.

(1) Anno 1831 lo aveva nelle scanze della
prima biblioteca 3000 volumi di scritti gli
che, contenevano quanto ha di più bello la n
stra letteratura. Ne vendette 2000 volumi.
L'incanto per procurare i fondi di successo
allo stabilimento del drama di cui la paz
e la se ne furono con volumi di sfumanti per
e con generosità mercantile, lasciavano a meh.
Concerning the Italian Collection

LOUIS PAOLUCCI

LAST YEAR, the Thirtieth Anniversary of Casa Italiana was celebrated and an Endowment Fund drive was inaugurated to secure support for the Casa's cultural activities. One of the after-effects of this anniversary was the suggestion that an article about the Italian Collection might be timely.

If we are to believe the words of Lorenzo Da Ponte in his Memoirs, the Italian Collection in 1825 consisted of "an old, worm-eaten Boccaccio with a broken binding." Further, we learn that this "collection" was expanded within a few years, mainly by his efforts, to more than seven hundred selected volumes. Yet Da Ponte, Columbia's first noteworthy Professor of Italian, though he had a library, had no pupils!

Now why, in Da Ponte's time, was student interest in Italian studies practically non-existent, whereas today it is thriving fairly well in numerous high schools and colleges throughout the nation? One answer is that Italian-Americans were few, if any, at that time, whereas today they are numerous. This answer is not enough, however, for it might imply that Italian culture offers fruits of provincial rather than of universal interest; actually the reverse is true. Recent experience indicates that interest in Italian studies is spreading steadily beyond the ranks of Italian-Americans.

In his day, Da Ponte expressed the opinion that students preferred to study French and Spanish because these languages were useful in business while Italian was not. However, records of the time indicate that interest in the study of those languages was also weak. Actually, the main interest in language study was centered on Latin and Greek, which could scarcely be said to have had much value in commerce. No doubt, their accepted value,
Concerning the Italian Collection

aesthetic and practical, lay in their time-tested greatness. Who could deny in the time of Da Ponte, or today,

"the glory that was Greece, and the grandeur that was Rome"?

This lack of interest in Italian studies continued throughout the 19th Century. America was still too young physically and mentally to take more than a casual, dilettante interest in any outside culture. An Italian literature in the all-pervading shadow of the Roman Catholic Church could hardly be expected to attract serious attention in a country whose youthful, basically Protestant spirit was struggling for maturity in a jungle of Calvinism, Arminianism, Antinomianism, Unitarianism, and personal transcendentalism; whose prophets were Channing, Emerson, Thoreau, Longfellow, Hawthorne, Melville, Whitman, and Mark Twain.

The event which was to prepare the way for the eventual revival of Italian studies in America was the arrival from Italy between 1880 and 1910 of some three million unskilled and semiskilled laborers. In spite of difficulties rising out of language and cultural barriers which made their settling into ethnological neighborhoods inevitable, the children and grandchildren of these immigrants began gradually to absorb American customs and ideas. However, they had to face, and to a certain extent still are facing, the problem of racial prejudice. One of the commendable reactions to this prejudice has been an examination by many second and third generation Italians of their ancestral heritage. They were amazed to find it quite fit to stand beside the glory of Greece and the grandeur of Rome. For some time now they have been trying to focus American attention on this great culture, pointing to Petrarch for an unsurpassed poetic encyclopedia of passion, to Boccaccio for a Shakespearean comedy of life, to St. Francis for a beguiling, child-like Christian way of life, to Leopardi for an exquisitely bitter-sweet, pessimistic view
of life, to Machiavelli for a startlingly realistic view of power politics, to Manzoni for a comic, tragic, providential view of life, to Goldoni for light comedy, to Alfieri for poetic tragedy, to Verga for a realistic glimpse of Sicily, to Pirandello for a statement of modern intellectual confusion, and, above all, to Dante, whose *Divine Comedy* is the supreme philosophical poem of all time, the Odyssey of Christian salvation, second only to the Bible in terms of ethical significance to the Western world.

One of the outstanding results of the efforts of the Italian-Americans, and of other lovers of Italian culture, is embodied in the Italian Collection in the Columbia Libraries, with its more than 32,000 books, pamphlets and periodicals. Of these, approximately 12,000 are in the General Library as direct descendants of the "worm-eaten Boccaccio," while the other 20,000, with an entirely separate history, are in Paterno Library which is located on the fourth floor of Casa Italiana. Several hundred other Italian books are in the collections of various departmental libraries.

The growth of the General Library collection has been gradual and more or less uneventful. It is scholarly, covering all periods of Italian history, though special emphasis is laid on the Renaissance period, Italy's Golden Age.

On the other hand, the Paterno Collection, although reasonably well-stocked with Renaissance material, lays special emphasis on modern times—that is, the era of the Risorgimento up to the present. Into Paterno every year flows a steady stream of carefully selected current works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, along with a wide selection of well-known periodicals plus the two most important daily newspapers, *Corriere Della Sera* and *L'Unitá*. These resources make Paterno a high-ranking center of information about contemporary Italian culture.

And the value of keeping up such a collection? . . . Surely if we desire to maintain peaceful relations with our neighbors it is imperative that we know as much as possible about their ideas, beliefs and deeds.
A late afternoon view of Casa Italiana in which Italian studies at Columbia are centered and where the Paterno Library is located.
The name, Paterno, honors the memory of Dr. Charles V. Paterno, whose generous donations were mainly responsible both for the birth of the library in 1927 and for much of its subsequent growth. As a crowning gift, in 1938, he (with Carlo M. Paterno) endowed it with a $30,000 fund, the income from which has been serving for the yearly purchase of books.

Credit for much of the first few years of the library's development goes to the first librarians, Professor Rinetti and his successor Mr. Henry Furst. The later librarians—Miss Bernero, Miss Pescé, and Mrs. Picone as well as Miss Savini, long-time secretary of the Casa—have continued this development.

Through the years, aside from purchased books, the collection has been increased by many valuable gift books whose donors are too numerous to mention. Particularly notable, however, are Mrs. Fiorello La Guardia, Mr. Herbert L. Matthews, N.Y. Times correspondent to Italy during the Mussolini era, and Professor Giuseppe Prezzolini. Professor Prezzolini, an internationally known author, journalist, and literary critic, was Director of the Casa from 1930 to 1940 and is now Emeritus—though still extraordinarily active in the Italian literary scene as well as in his concern for the continued development of the library. He ranks unquestionably as the greatest single donor of books. During the past twenty-seven years he has given hundreds of review-copy books sent to him by Italian and American publishers, as well as a steady stream of periodicals and pamphlets. Also, his frequent recommendations for the purchase of new books have proved invaluable to recent librarians.

Other faculty members whose efforts, recommendations, and

1 Dr. Charles V. Paterno, who was a graduate of the Cornell Medical School in 1899, lived in the famous Paterno Castle at 182nd Street and Riverside Drive. When his father, who was a builder, died with a construction job underway, Charles completed the project and then continued in the construction business himself, building the Castle Village and Hudson View apartment developments on Washington Heights. These were noted for their modernity. A spectacular cooperative apartment colony centering around a ninety-story tower, which he planned to build atop the Palisades, was never undertaken because of the Depression. He died in 1946.
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gifts have given strong impetus to the growth of the Paterno Collection are Professors Riccio, Marraro, Livingston, Gerig, Ragusa, and Dino Bigongiari. Professor Riccio's efforts deserve special mention because he ranks high among those who were mainly responsible for the founding of the Casa and, therefore, Paterno Library—but that is another story.

In brief, then, the history of the Italian Collection runs from one book (we assume) in 1825 to more than 32,000 in 1958. And in regard to students, while there were none in 1825, the enrollment in Italian studies today is more than 350, a figure which shows promise of steady increase as Italo-American relations (which suffered a great setback during the last war) improve and stimulate interest in Italian culture.
The Francis Henry Lenygon
Memorial Room

JAMES GROTE VAN DERPOOL

On October 28, 1955, President Kirk formally accepted the Francis Henry Lenygon Memorial Room to serve as a reserve study in Avery Library where scholars could work with rare books, original drawings, and manuscript materials from that library’s collections. Subsequent to that acceptance ceremony, the donor has generously transferred to University ownership virtually all of the furnishings. I am happy to have this opportunity therefore to refer to them, to describe briefly the room itself, and to tell you something of the man whom the Room so suitably memorializes.

Francis Henry Lenygon (1877–1943) occupies a special niche in the annals of the profession of interior architecture in this country. If he had a choice in the matter, I believe he would have elected to have been born at the end of the 17th century in his native England and to have practiced his profession well into the eighteenth century. Spiritually that was his milieu. Instead, he added grace and lustre to the first third of the present century, working with the skill and taste of his professional forebearers, but never as an antiquario. Rather he worked as Inigo Jones or the third Earl of Burlington would have worked if living in the 20th century.

The history of art is replete with architects, painters and sculptors, whose genius failed of full expression for want of great commissions. Happily that is not the case of Francis Lenygon. His first client was Edward VII, King of England, who honored him not only with commissions but with his friendship as well. He was subsequently appointed as consultant for alterations at both Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Many of England’s
great houses likewise bear his mark as he removed Victorian embellishments and restored them to their original stately quality. Early in this century he opened the New York offices as a branch of his premises at 31 Old Burlington Street, London, and in the process furthered what we sometimes think of as our "age of elegance in the Georgian tradition." Americans of cultivated taste promptly recognized his special gifts, and more than 1000 of the greatest rooms in America bore testimony to his skill, as do, in another direction, the splendid public rooms of the fleet of Cunard transatlantic liners that many of us remember with a certain nostalgia. But he could also turn his mind to designing a special body for a Rolls Royce so that it might conveniently and beautifully accommodate its owner in a wheelchair, and in other instances—it now seems much longer ago than the actual numbers of years involved—he could design a private railroad car so that its owner while travelling might not be totally deprived of the beauty of his own home. The original drawings for many of these projects are a part of the Lenygon collection in Avery Library.

It adds greatly to Mr. Lenygon's stature that while great commissions came to him he did not think solely of individual success. He was deeply concerned with the quality of the profession as a whole and with its future. Accordingly, he lent the weight of his influence to both the British Institute of Decorators and the American Institute of Decorators to encourage tenable professional standards and to promote and guide the training of future members of the profession. He served the American Institute three terms as president, and subsequently as Honorary Member of the Board of Governors.

Throughout his life he consistently sought to heighten esthetic standards in both practitioner and client. He authored several magnificent volumes on English furnishings, including Decoration and Furniture of English Mansions, 1910; Furniture in England, 1914; Decoration in England, 1914;—they are required holdings in present day libraries. He encouraged young writers such
West view of the Francis Henry Lenygon Memorial Room showing the desk, Mr. Lenygon's personal desk chair, and the notable basalt portrait bust of Palladio.
The mantel wall of the Lenygon Memorial Room showing the recently donated armorial plaque, the oil portrait of Lord Burlington by Van der Banck, and one of Mrs. Lenygon's pair of important English Chippen-dale console tables.
as Margaret Jourdain, Christopher Hussey and Percy Macquoid, who have faithfully carried forward the standards of his own connoisseurship.

In this country, in spite of the pressing demands on him, he found time to serve as lecturer at the Metropolitan Museum and also at New York University. The range of his interests may be gauged by his association with the Beaux Arts Institute of Design, the Royal Society of Arts, of which he was a Fellow, the Metropolitan Club in New York, where he served as Chairman of the House Committee, and the Devonshire and the Constitutional Clubs in London.

Still his greatest satisfaction lay, as an artist, in creating a distinguished piece of interior architecture replete with beautiful objects in it—sometimes more beautiful than the budget would permit. I recall situations where a client would explain to him that he wished to do over his drawing-room but the year had proven a very poor one and the cost must not exceed a certain figure. As the project developed, it might happen that the budget was used up, and still an important piece, the perfect piece, was lacking for its completion. Then that piece without explanation would quietly be added to the room but not to the bill. I surmise he did this more for himself than for the client. In his mind, without that piece the room as a creative work of art would be unfinished. He could no more allow it that way than a musician would leave a composition hanging in mid-air—or a painter exhibit a picture obviously unfinished.

As one goes through life, it is recurrently brought home how often pleasant and right things do happen. Among these must certainly be included the donation of the Lenygon Room. What could be pleasanter than to have the donor elect to memorialize her distinguished husband by erecting in Avery Library a notable original Georgian interior that had been a treasured possession of his and a part of their daily life—and then to furnish it with certain objects that had long been in their own home?

In this room, with its early 18th Century paneling from the
The Francis Henry Lenygon Memorial Room

town house of the Earls of Warwick, are several objects which have worthy associations. There is the great standing architectural book case whose design, according to tradition, was controlled by Samuel Pepys at the request of a close friend, and the superbly simple Queen Anne chair from the Dining Hall at “Chatsworth,” the main seat of the Dukes of Devonshire. Of special interest to us is the fine basalt bust of the sixteenth century Italian architect Andrea Palladio, and the Van Der Banck portrait of Richard Boyle, third Earl of Burlington, who was both architect and patron and indeed the prime force in English architecture in the first half of the 18th century. The pair of carved pine Chippen-dale console tables with their sea-green marble tops superbly illustrate the canons of taste upheld by Francis Lenygon. In the center of the overmantel is a carved lime wood memorial plaque bearing the arms of Bristol executed circa the year 1700. The quality of the sculpture and the character of the design place it at the level of excellence reflected by the work of Grinling Gibbons. The window is hung with antique olive green brocade draperies. Eighteenth century crystal sconces and a fine Feraghan rug lend further warmth and beauty to this stately interior.

It is the fond hope of the donor that the whole room will, in a quiet way, promote a sympathetic awareness of quality in interior architecture.

As I watched this noble room slowly take form and then develop into completeness, the words of that remarkably sensitive English critic, Lawrence Binyon, at the time he gave the Charles Eliot Norton Lectures at Harvard, in 1933, seemed to apply in principle to the results achieved in our Francis Henry Lenygon Memorial Room. “Some years ago I chanced to visit the house of a collector in London, and without preparation, after admiring the pictures, stepped from the modern house into a room designed and built by Inigo Jones, which the owner had bought entire and set up afresh as an adjunct to his house. It was not a large room, but it seemed spacious, partly because of its loftiness ... [and its being] ... handsomely panelled in wood throughout.
It is strange how suddenly one can change one's mental climate. I seemed to have stepped straight into the seventeenth century; into England as it was when a plain majesty of style, the style of the Authorized Version of the Bible, came naturally to speech and pen, when also the glories of the Italian Renaissance were beginning to impress their forms upon art and architecture, as they had already colored with flame the poetry and drama of England. It was like, I thought, inhabiting the mind of Milton . . . those simple yet stately proportions, that austerity of ornament, that disdain of the trivial which yet communicates no sense of emptiness but rather of latent richness—these belonged to Milton's native air, to the time in which he lived . . .”

Like “that stately room of Inigo Jones” we hope that our Burlingtonian room will likewise prove “a fit place for the mind at home in the spacious circuits of her musing,” and that here may function the historian's mind, “within its esthetic fortress.”
Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

Corey gift. Mrs. Lewis Corey has presented the published and unpublished papers and correspondence of her late husband, who had been connected with political and economic movements in this country since the first World War. Under his original name, Louis C. Fraina, Lewis Corey (1892–1953) had been instrumental in the development of the American communist party during the period from 1919 to 1922. In the latter year he broke with the party, and in 1939, as the shadows of World War II began to gather, he became openly and articulately anti-Communist. His ingrained hatred of war had caused him to identify himself with the movement which had seemed to share his hatred; his disillusionment and outspoken criticisms now brought him under fire from extremists in both left and right wing groups. Corey was a fluent and prolific writer, and the collection of his papers which is now at Columbia will prove a mine of information for those whose researches take them into the area of political movements in this country during the period between the two world wars; but above and beyond this there is graphic data for the study of the evolution of the thinking and character of one who was concerned with social problems not only intellectually but as an active participant as well.

One of the more valuable parts of the collection is the unfinished biography of Fanny Wright, reformer and feminist of the early 19th century. Corey had completed the first nine chapters of his study at the time of his death, and the collection contains his notes, documentation, and the finished research for the remaining chapters.

In addition to her generous gift of this valuable collection, Mrs. Corey has worked tirelessly for several months to organize the papers into usable form. This work is nearly completed, and in
the early future the papers of Lewis Corey can be made available to interested scholars.

*Drake gift.* Colonel Marston E. Drake and Mr. James H. Drake have presented a three-page letter from Edmund Gosse to “My dear Uncle William,” dated at Cambrian House, Tenby, September 18, 1856. The interesting circumstance connected with this letter is that it bears a later annotation by Gosse on the last page, “Dictated by me to my Mother aetat 7. E. G.”

*Eastern Colortype Corporation gift.* Through the good offices of Mrs. Irene De Voogd, Secretary to the Production Manager of the Eastern Colortype Corporation of Clifton, New Jersey, we have received an unusual gift of 71 patent sheets representing patents obtained during the period 1904–1921 for stone lithographic designs for cigar box labels. Each patent sheet is accompanied by a specimen printing of the label concerned. Anyone familiar with this vanished phase of Americana will appreciate the interest that this collection has; those who have never given the matter much thought, but would like to be more knowledgeable in it, are referred to the illustrated article in *Fortune*, March, 1933, pages 66–70.

*Eberstadt gift.* Mr. Lindley Eberstadt (A.B., 1932) has presented a remarkable collection comprising 113 original folio printings of government proclamations containing the texts of treaties between the United States and various American Indian tribes. The treaties range in date from 1833 to 1870.

In the field of Americana few aspects of the subject exceed in interest and importance the relationship between the whites and the Indians, and the treaties are the written manifestation of that relationship. These original folio proclamations were printed in a few copies only, for official purposes, and they are not commonly available today.

The scope of Mr. Eberstadt's gift is country-wide, and in-
cludes the treaties made with the principal tribes. Many famous Indians and Americans were parties to the agreements.

Friedman gifts. Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) has presented nine rare and useful printed books, and a collection of 123 early French manuscript documents and volumes. The latter group comprises records, accounts, transactions, and the like, all being of a business or legal nature, and they range in date from 1504 to 1826. The printed works include three early editions of classical writings (Cicero, De Philosophia, 1523; Cicero, Epitolarum ad T. Pomponium, 1589; and Plato, Opera, 1590); three works by 15th and 16th century writers (Hieronymus Cagnolus, Commentarium De Regulis Juris, 1562; Pius II, Epistole et Varii, 1518; and Erasmus, Adagiorum Chiliades, 1559); and the useful Lexicon Pentaglotton, 1653. Most of the above works are in their original bindings, with decorative blind tooling of the period.

Mr. Friedman's gift includes two later works. One of these is Egede's Reisebeskrivelse til Oster-Gronlands Opdagelse, 1789, with a number of interesting folded plates. The other is Sir Walter Scott's rare pamphlet, Religious Discourses, 1828.

Gerig bequest. The late Professor John L. Gerig collected widely to form a personal library in the fields of his interest—romance literature, philology, languages, and general literature. By the terms of his will these materials, numbering more than 3700 books and serials, have come to the Columbia Libraries.

Frumson gift. Miss Ruth G. Frumson has generously presented a collection of books, periodicals, and manuscripts from the library of the late Louis Alexander Freedman. The manuscripts include prose and poetry by Mr. Freedman, as well as his correspondence with various well-known personages, including George Santayana and Bernard Berenson.

Haverlin gift. Original manuscripts, correspondence and related
documents in “The American Story,” the prize-winning, continuing script series prepared and distributed to radio stations as a public service by Broadcast Music, Incorporated, in association with the Society of American Historians, were presented to the Columbia University Libraries by Carl Haverlin, president of BMI, at a ceremony held on Friday, April 18, at Butler Library. Designed to bring authoritative American history before wide audiences, and inaugurated in July, 1954, “The American Story” has won the enthusiastic approval and support of broadcasters, and of local schools, libraries, civic and educational organizations. The first sixty programs in the series, edited by Earl Schenck Miers, were published in book form by Channel Press in 1956.

Pulitzer Prize winners George Dangerfield, Marquis James, Oliver W. Larkin, Frank Luther Mott, Allan Nevins, Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr., and Odell Shepard are a few of the many noted historians who have participated in “The American Story.” Other contributors have been such eminent authorities as Bruce Catton, Howard Mumford Jones, Carl Bridenbaugh, Thomas J. Wertenbaker, Robert Selph Henry, Benjamin P. Thomas, Richard B. Morris and Carl Carmer. To date, 115 historians, among them faculty members of 48 universities and colleges as well as a number of distinguished private individuals, have contributed a total of 212 papers to the series.

*Healy gift.* Mrs. Charles Pratt Healy has presented a large and valuable gift comprising nearly 900 volumes from the library of her father, the late Ambassador John W. Davis. The books are mainly in the fields of history, political science, and literature, of which several were selected for inclusion among the rare books housed in Special Collections.

*Hoblitzelle gift.* Mr. Karl Hoblitzelle has presented a copy of the superbly printed catalogue of *The Esther Thomas Hoblitzelle Collection of English Silver*, written by Mary L. Kennedy. This
monumental publication has found a prominent place in the Avery Library collections on antique silver.

*Kramer gift.* Mrs. Ellen W. Kramer has presented for inclusion in Avery Library the three-volume manuscript of her recent study of the *Domestic Architecture of Detlef Lienau*, who was among the more notable architects who practiced in America around the middle of the 19th century.

*Lada-Mocarski gift.* Mr. and Mrs. Valerien Lada-Mocarski have generously given to Avery Library a handsome oil painting of the Port of Amsterdam, executed by a member of the Dutch School of painters, circa 1700. They have also presented a 16th-century example of verdure tapestry, which is to be hung in the Rare Book Room now being installed on the mezzanine level of Avery Library.

*Lenygon gift.* Additional donations to the Francis Henry Lenygon Memorial Room, from Mrs. Lenygon, are noted in the article beginning on page 40.

*Melville gift.* Mr. Ward Melville (A.B., 1909) has presented five beautiful oriental rugs for use in the Columbiana rooms. These are a most welcome gift, as they contribute gracefully to the decor of the quarters where visitors and alumni frequently convene.

*Pratt gift.* Dr. Dallas Pratt (M.D., 1941) has made a thoughtful gift by adding a little known work of Dr. Otto Rank, *Don Juan*. It will be recalled that the Otto Rank Papers were recently presented to Columbia by Dr. J. Jessie Taft (*Columbia Library Columns*, May, 1957, p. 50).

The present work was published in Paris in 1932 and is a translation from the original German into French of Rank's psychoanalytic study of literature. "One of the most astonishing
results of the study” says the introduction, “is the conviction that the creative artist is, from the psychological point of view, the continuation of the hero concept that has been a part of humanity since prehistoric times.” The work consists of two separate studies here brought together: “The Double” had been written in 1914, and “The Don Juan Character” first appeared in 1922.

Ros gift. Mr. Jerzy Ros, Cultural Attaché at the Embassy of the Polish People’s Republic in Washington, D. C., has presented to Avery Library several volumes dealing with museums and collections in Poland, and with the measures taken to protect such collections and historic monuments during wartime conditions.

Stillman gift. For some years Columbia has encouraged the acquisition by gift of collections that will contribute to the study of the history of American finance, particularly the New York centered aspects of that subject. The first papers to come as a result of this project were “The Frank A. Vanderlip Papers,” presented by his widow, Narcissa Cox Vanderlip, on June 16, 1956. More recently we announced the gift of “The George Leslie Harrison Papers on the Federal Reserve System” (see Columbia Library Columns, November, 1957).

A third important addition to this sequence may now be reported. Mr. Calvin W. Stillman has presented the business correspondence and papers of his grandfather, the late James Stillman (1850–1918), American financier and president of the National City Bank during a critical stage in its development. The collection numbers some 500 pieces, documenting Stillman’s activities in banking, railroad financing, and other of his business and industrial interests. Included in the correspondence are letters from many prominent financiers and industrialists, notably William Rockefeller with whom he had close business and personal relations. There are also twelve letters from Grover Cleveland. In addition, the collection contains letter books, journals, and bank books, as well as more than 100 items concerned with the business
President Grayson Kirk, Mr. Ryusaku Tsunoda (former Curator of the Japanese Collection at Columbia), and Mr. Mitsuo Tanaka (the Consul General of Japan in New York) at the presentation of the Shigeru Yoshida gift on April 2, 1958.

to  enterprisest of James Stillman’s father, Charles Stillman of Brownsville, Texas, who was engaged in shipping and trade, real estate, and railroad investment.

Yoshida gift. On April 2, 1958, Mitsuo Tanaka, Japanese Consul General of New York, presented a letter to President Kirk from Shigeru Yoshida, former Prime Minister of Japan, in which the latter offered a gift of 1,000 volumes of Japanese-language materials to the Libraries. Mr. Yoshida, who received an honorary LL.D. degree from Columbia University in 1954, thoughtfully suggested that the titles be selected by Columbia so that books specifically needed would become available and that duplication of materials already in the Libraries could be avoided. A selection of titles has already been forwarded by the East Asiatic Library, where the volumes will be housed.
Activities of the Friends

MEETINGS

*Happy aftermath of the January 28 meeting.* As a direct consequence of the Annual Meeting during which the Bicentennial anniversary of the founding of the Columbia Libraries was celebrated, the Libraries were the recipient of two spontaneous gifts. The first of these originated on the night of the meeting when six members of the Council decided to give funds for the purchase of books in honor of Judge Harold R. Medina whose stirring address had made the program such a success. The gifts totalled $150.00. (Each volume purchased will contain one of the attractive bookplates which was designed for such testimonial purposes a few years ago by an artist commissioned by the Council.) The second gift came a few days later when one of the daughters of Harmon Hendricks wrote to the Director of Libraries that she and her two sisters had read in the newspaper about the Libraries’ Bicentennial celebration and that they would like to present funds to the Libraries for the purchase of books in memory of their father, who had graduated from Columbia College in June, 1858. Their gift totalled $1,200.00.

*Bancroft Award dinner.* The Friends’ events for the present academic year came to a conclusion on Tuesday, April 22, when approximately 240 members of our organization and their guests attended the Bancroft Award dinner which was held in the Men’s Faculty Club. During the program President Kirk announced the winners of the prizes for the two books judged by the Bancroft Prize Jury to be the best in the field of American history published during 1957: *A History of American Magazines*, Volume IV, by Frank Luther Mott, and *The Crisis of the Old Order*, by Arthur M. Schlesinger, Jr. He presented a $3,000 check to each of the authors, who responded with much enjoyed short addresses. Mr. C. Waller Barrett, Chairman of the Friends, presented certifi-
Activities of the Friends

cates to Mr. Thomas J. Wilson, Director of Belknap Press of Harvard University and to Mr. Henry A. Laughlin, Chairman of the Board of the Riverside Press of Houghton Mifflin Company, the publishers, respectively, of the two award-winning books. Mr. Frederick B. Adams, Jr., Director of the Pierpont Morgan Library, was the principal speaker.

Prior to making the announcement about the Bancroft Awards, President Kirk lauded the Friends for the constructive and successful activity which they have carried on to broaden interest in the Libraries and to make possible the enrichment of the collections with book and manuscript resources which do not come within the purview of the Libraries' regular budget. He said that all at Columbia are aware that this activity is a labor of love performed by the members of our association because of their interest in books and in the University.

FINANCES

In accordance with regular practice, we are publishing below a brief statement with regard to the amount which has been contributed by the Friends during the twelve-month period ending on March 31. During that year $5,463.50 in unrestricted funds and $15,477.12 for specified purposes were received, making a total of $20,940.62. Five donors gave $1,000 or more each. The total cash gifts from the Friends over the past seven years now amount to $133,825.56.

In addition to the monetary gifts, the Friends have during the year augmented the Libraries’ resources for research by presenting rare books, manuscript, and other items which have an estimated value of $67,791.09. This brings the seven-year total of such gifts to $223,170.74. (The principal items have been described in “Our Growing Collections.”)

The comparative figures for contributions by our members during the past years is indicated in the following table:
### Activities of the Friends

**Cash Gifts**

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<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>For special purposes</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Book and manuscript gifts</th>
<th>Total value of gifts</th>
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<td>$6,904.00</td>
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<td>1952-53</td>
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<tr>
<td>1957-58</td>
<td>5,463.50</td>
<td>15,477.12</td>
<td>20,940.62</td>
<td>67,791.09</td>
<td>88,731.71</td>
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**Total**

|           | $28,039.00  | $105,756.56 | $133,825.56 | $223,170.74 | $356,996.30 |

*December 1950–March 31, 1952. Subsequent years begin April 1 and end March 31.

As of March 31, our association had 339 members.

### ERRATA

We regret the following typographical errors: In the caption under the map on page 29 of the November, 1957, issue, the name of Père Du Halde was misspelled. In the February, 1958, issue, “Col. William J. Wilgers” on page 28 should have read “Col. William J. Wilgus.” In the May, 1957, issue (p. 47) Mr. Friedman’s gift copy of Langland’s The Vision of... Piers the Plowman was published in 1901.

### PICTURE CREDITS

The portrait of Lorenzo Da Ponte and the portion of the score of Mozart’s Cosi Fan Tutte on page 23 are reproduced from Robert Bory’s La Vie et l’Oeuvre de Wolfgang-Amadeus Mozart par l’Image (Paris, Horizons de France [1947])
THE FRIENDS OF THE COLUMBIA LIBRARIES

PRIVILEGES

Invitations to exhibitions, lectures and other special events.

Use of books in the reading rooms of the libraries.

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

Opportunity to purchase most Columbia University Press books at 20 per cent discount (through the Secretary-Treasurer of the Friends).

Free subscriptions to Columbia library columns.

* * *

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP

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

Contributing. Any person contributing not less than $25.00 a year.

Sustaining. Any person contributing not less than $50.00 a year.

Benefactor. Any person contributing not less than $100.00 and up a year.

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

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