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Dante being guided to Paradise by Beatrice, as portrayed in the edition of his *La Commedia* printed in Brescia by Boninus de Boninis in 1487.
The Love Song of Dante Alighieri

[Editor's note: At the beginning of 1965, the year which marks the 700th anniversary of Dante's birth, the Friends are recognizing the event primarily by centering the program of the February membership meeting around the subject of the illustrious Italian poet, with Professor Maurice Valency, Columbia authority on Dante, as speaker. We are also noting the event by reproducing as the frontispiece in this issue of Library Columns an illustration from the 1487 edition of Dante's masterpiece.

Because of their relevance to the topic selected for his remarks at the Friends' meeting, "The Love Song of Dante Alighieri," and because they are appropriate to the illustration, we quote here some passages from Professor Valency's book on the love-poetry of the Renaissance.]

The Comedy of Dante Alighieri is obviously rooted in the lyric tradition. Without the lady of the troubadour song, there could have been no Beatrice. Through the love of her beauty, the poet was able to achieve the supreme vision of the world which follows in all its various aspects from the comprehension of the universal Beatrice. This revelation was the guerdon which the lady bestowed upon her lover in the fullness of time. So love "restored in one day all the wrongs he had done elsewhere"— and here, at last, Love and the lady transcended the third heaven.

In this manner, the successive transformations of the lady of the song reached their apogee and came to an end. There was to be no more. The most gentle lady had, in all conscience, gone as far as she could. Since the troubadours themselves had begun at the top of the scale of perfection, the succeeding degrees could be but few. But these steps were the most difficult and, to encompass them, the art of pleasing ladies had to be transformed into a branch of theology. Out of the perfect lady of the troubadours was born the angelic lady, Cavalcanti's star, an angel in the flesh. Beatrice, however, held greater promise. In the Vita Nuova, Dante's lady shed her fleshly aspect and became pure spirit. It was then no longer possible to love the beauty of Beatrice in the flesh; it had to be loved in its spiritual aspect exclusively, the beauty of a blessed soul in heaven, a pure ideal. The ultimate step in the idealization of the lady of the song was, accordingly, her effacement from the earth.

The love of the earthly Beatrice led Dante, as he tells us, to a life of virtue, humility, and charity, and this simply in anticipation of this guerdon, the salutation in which was all his beatitude. Love had done as much, or almost as much, for the troubadour lover. But the love of the heavenly Beatrice, the true Beatrice, led Dante to God. The process which begins with the premonition of the death of Beatrice in the Vita Nuova ends only when in Paradise Beatrice steps aside, and the lover whom she has led to the Empyrean sees standing in her place the glorious elder who points the way to the seat of the All-Highest. From this moment on, Beatrice recedes further and further still from her lover's eyes until she takes her appointed place in the heavenly rose of which she forms a part; and her splendor, hitherto dazzling, is seen to be but a ray of the supreme and eternal light.

MAURICE VALENCY
Spoon River and After
KENNETH A. LOHF

SPOON River, Winesburg, and Gopher Prairie are literary place names of the Middle West which—though imagined and created by their respective authors, Edgar Lee Masters, Sherwood Anderson, and Sinclair Lewis—have become a part of the geography of twentieth-century America. Because similar small towns were such a familiar part of the landscape, towns outwardly proper and respectable with their Main Streets of churches, drugstores, and post offices, they were immediately recognizable to readers in the decade surrounding the first World War. However, their re-creations in fiction and poetry were not meant to praise the well-ordered façades and humble, hard-working families but to expose the meanness and hypocrisy that sometimes lay hidden behind the white doorways and starched curtains. The muckracking journalists had exposed Megalopolis, but it was the poets and novelists who penetrated the heart of what is now called "a vanishing America."

Edgar Lee Masters' Spoon River Anthology, published in 1915, was the first of such works to appear on the literary scene, and its immediate impact and success were due, in part, to its timeliness. Not since Leaves of Grass appeared sixty years earlier had there been published such an influential book of American verse. Poetry was recovering from the stultifying forms and subject matter of the genteel tradition. Innovation, vitality, and freer methods of expression were the trademarks of this new verse, and the Anthology bore all of these characteristics.

It has been asserted, and not without some justification, that it was William Marion Reedy, editor of Reedy's Mirror in St. Louis, who changed the course of Masters' poetry and influenced
him to give a unique expression to his feelings for America and its history, rhythms, and visions. Up to this time Masters had written hundreds of poems derivative of Keats, Shelley, Milton, Swinburne, and Whitman, but when Reedy gave the middle-aged Masters a copy of *Epigrams From the Greek Anthology* in 1913, his poetic sensibilities were excited by the realism, objectivity, irony, and brevity of the Greek epigrams. In the May 29, 1914, issue of *Reedy's Mirror* appeared the first published monologue, "The Unknown"—the genesis of what was to become one of the most original works of American literature.

Masters conceived his work as a series of monologues by 244 former inhabitants of the Spoon and Sangamon river valleys in central Illinois, an area near Lewistown and Petersburg where the poet spent the first twenty years of his life. All in this drama, both real and imagined individuals, are dead—"All, all are sleeping on the hill" he writes in the prologue—and each speaks his own epitaph from the grave. They are housewives, bankers, doctors, lawyers, soldiers, farmers, by profession or calling; and weaklings, frauds, victims, martyrs, rebels, neurotics, by nature. Masters describes the scene in the epitaph of "Petit, the Poet":

> Life all around me here in the village:  
> Tragedy, comedy, valor and truth,  
> Courage, constancy, heroism, failure—  
> All in the loom, and oh what patterns!

Every occupation or profession then known to the Middle West is included in this collective portrait of Spoon River. As a lawyer, he looked sharply into the lives of his villagers and had his characters likewise speak epigrammatically and pointedly, and not without a cynical sense of humor. "Sexsmith the Dentist," aptly suiting the metaphor to the profession, concludes his epitaph:

> Why, a moral truth is a hollow tooth  
> Which must be propped with gold.
EDGAR LEE MASTERS

Photograph taken in 1915 when his *Spoon River Anthology* was published.
This is the dentist's axiomatic conclusion to his terse list of some of the ironies of local Spoon River history. Despite the seeming note of satire in the epitaphs, Masters satisfies his readers with an underlying sympathy and compassion for the human soul. The poet was forty-six years old at the time the *Anthology* was published. In the years following, the work was translated into many languages, including Arabic, Korean, Czech, and Chinese. It was the subject for an opera by the Italian composer Mario Pergallo, entitled "La Colina" ("The Hill") and performed at La Scala in Milan. In September 1963 the *Anthology* was dramatized by Charles Aidman and produced on Broadway at the Booth Theatre where it ran for 111 performances.

Prior to 1915 Masters had published eleven volumes of verse, plays, and essays, and after 1915 an additional forty volumes, including seven novels, lives of Whitman, Mark Twain, Vachel Lindsay, and Lincoln, histories of Chicago and the Sangamon River, and an autobiography, *Across Spoon River*. However, despite this prodigious output, no other work of his caused such a stir as the *Anthology* nor did any of his other writing enhance his reputation as a poet.

After his success, Masters gave up his law practice in Chicago and moved to New York in 1920 to devote himself entirely to literature. He and his second wife, Ellen F. Coyne, moved into a suite at the Hotel Chelsea, a hostelry famed as the home of writers during the twenties and thirties. They remained there for nearly twenty years, during which time the poet wrote earnestly and prolifically. Masters died in 1950 at the age of eighty-one in a convalescent home in Melrose Park, Pennsylvania. Much of the poetry he wrote during the decades following the publication of the *Anthology*, which tends to the narrative and lyrical, celebrates the Illinois landscape with a nostalgia not uncommon to an aging sensibility. Though uneven, there is much in this later work that is rewarding.
A recent purchase by the Columbia University Libraries of a collection of twenty-nine manuscripts of Masters' later poems will allow a closer consideration of this neglected period of the poet's life and writings. The material came from the files of the poet Kimball Flaccus, a close friend of Masters who worked for some time on a biography and critical study.

Of the thirty typescript and holograph manuscripts of poems in the collection, eight were published in Masters' last two volumes of poetry, *Illinois Poems* (Prairie City, 1941) and *Along the Illinois* (Prairie City, 1942), and the remaining twenty-two are apparently unpublished or uncollected. The most striking item in the collection is the two-page holograph manuscript in pencil of the thirty-two line poem, "Starved Rock in Winter," inscribed by Masters and dated January 21, 1941. The mood is elegiac, and the passages describing the winter landscape in Illinois are characteristic of the achievement for which Masters was striving in his later work—the relaxed and peaceful diction, the almost timeless phrasing, and the sincerity of its mood. The opening and final two stanzas reveal the poem's lyrical beauty:

The vastness of the valley seems more vast
When snow prevails with quiet majesty,
Making time seem as if it ceased to be
About this Rock that takes the winter blast.

\* \* \*

The earth is like a ship with no behoof
Of winds or tides, becalmed upon its poles;
The earth no more revolves, no longer rolls,
The earth is mesmerized, and the Rock is proof:

For the full moon has arisen, the sorceress
That deepens quiet, with neither gesture, speech.
The crow is now asleep, the owlet's screech
Wakes not the Rock, the river, the wilderness.
Masters is no longer the iconoclast or idealist he was during his Chicago days, but the quiet and thoughtful poet in his seventies that he had hoped he would be. The earliest manuscript in the collection, a five-line holograph poem in ink, "An Etching," signed by Masters and dated October 24, 1910, bears an affinity with the best of his later work as he writes of "this gray sphinx called life."

In this year of the World's Fair, another manuscript appears particularly interesting. Masters had visited the Belgian Restaurant at the World's Fair in 1940, perhaps ordered an aperitif, carried away the wine list in his hand, sat down alongside one of the fountains, and scribbled his free-verse reflections on the passing scene on the back of it, as follows:

Sitting out at night by a fountain
I looked at falling water, and circling birds
Until I was half-paralyzed for words
With which to lift the load large as a mountain
From off my heart; . . .

Throughout his life Masters reminded one of a typical mid-Western farmer with his ruddy cheeks, gold-rimmed spectacles, broad shoulders, frank and independent expression, and vigorous demeanor, but he was always known by his friends as being mild-mannered and essentially friendly. Although his fame will certainly rest on Spoon River Anthology, nearly all of his work was born out of his faith in the American vision of liberty. The collection also contains a short holograph manuscript, dated August 10, 1942, concerning a play by Kimball Flaccus which had undoubtedly been sent to Masters for a reading. His comments on the work might well apply to his own lifetime of writing: "For he has America in his heart as a theme, and that will feed his inspiration for life; for America is the great fact of these centuries. Now listen to the fiddlers, and to the mountains as they thunder over this great land."
Voltaire Jottings

DIANA GUIRAGOSSIAN

THERE are many who, viewing the French Enlightenment in retrospect, would concur that Voltaire was the age itself. Certainly his name—along with that of Rousseau—is the most familiar to those looking back on eighteenth-century France today. For instance, it is doubtful whether any work of that century is as well known nowadays as the little masterpiece, Candide, which is required reading for freshmen in so many American institutions of higher learning, and which has been translated into well over a hundred languages under the auspices of the United Nations.

Voltaire's was a restless, ever-alert, quick and penetrating mind; its interests were multiple and varied. On the one hand, the philosophe was chiefly concerned with destroying prejudices, traditions, and standards that were outmoded, and, on the other, with introducing new ideas that would, perhaps, improve the human condition. The physical and intellectual activity of this seemingly frail man was prodigious, and it was lifelong. Commenting on Voltaire's frequent complaints of ill-health, Columbia's late Professor Horatio Smith often repeated: "He was born, so to say, with one foot in the grave and maintained that asymmetrical position for eighty-four years." Voltaire, the most versatile man of letters of his day, cultivated all accepted literary genres and added others of his own, especially the modern philosophical tale. His production was enormous. The Moland edition of his works comprises no less than fifty-two impressive volumes. And now, the Institut et Musée Voltaire (Geneva) has completed the publication of his letters in 102 volumes.
Since he had one of the clearest and most lucid minds of all time, he possessed in no small degree the gift of presenting ideas with ease and simplicity. Still, these rare qualities have led many to question his profundity and the seriousness of his documentation. We now know, however, that he collected information with the utmost care and patience. Nothing escaped his attention. Throughout his life, he kept notebooks in which he recorded such facts and ideas as struck him and might be utilized in the future. Thus we possess a wealth of notes on literature, history, philosophy, religion, customs, and institutions, together with liberal samplings of obscene anecdotes and verses more bawdy than not. These notes constituted important storehouses from which he would draw the materials for a philosophical tale, a dictionary article, or a chapter in some history on which he had been working for months.

Several such notebooks as well as scattered pages of manuscript jottings have been published from time to time. The most complete and scholarly edition was offered by Theodore Besterman some ten years ago (Voltaire's Notebooks, ed. by Theodore Besterman, Institut et Musée Voltaire, Geneva, 1952. 2 volumes). There are many notebooks and fragments, however, which have yet to come to light.

Precisely one such fragment can be found, along with other Voltaire manuscripts, in the Special Collections Department of the Columbia University Libraries. The piece was presented to the library in 1931 by the late David Eugene Smith, professor of mathematics at Teachers College, together with an important collection of mathematical works, medieval and renaissance documents and manuscripts, as well as letters and portraits of prominent mathematicians.

This manuscript consists of one sheet of paper, measuring 21 cm. by 32 cm. All the jottings are in Voltaire's hand, except for five lines on the back which are in that of Wagnière, his secretary. The majority of the notes have reference to religion. There
Voltaire begins his dictating while dressing.

Engraving from the painting
by Jean-Baptiste Boyer de Fonscolombe.
Diana Guiragossian

are also a few general remarks in the form of maxims or bearing on literature. So far as the dating is concerned, a quotation which he makes from the *Journal Chrétien* of 1758 permits us to assume that these entries were made in the late fifties or the early sixties. It was at this time in his career that Voltaire launched his fiercest campaign against religious fanaticism, superstition, and intolerance, and, as we have already remarked, most of the entries reflect this spirit.

The interest of the fragment at hand lies, perhaps, considerably less in its contents, than in the fact that it offers an excellent example of Voltaire's work procedures. The ideas here expressed appear, in various forms, again and again—in the *Philosophical Dictionary*, in numerous pamphlets, in his plays, in his philosophical tales and, of course, in his personal letters—because Voltaire, the master propagandist, believed in reiteration. Two examples should suffice. We read in the manuscript: "Hume has said that fortune is on a steep rock, eagles reach it by flying, and snakes by crawling." In a letter written in 1765 to his friend and protégé La Harpe, who had just scored a success with a recent play, he stated: "Someone has said that glory resides at the top of a mountain, eagles fly there, while reptiles reach it by crawling." The reference to "limbo" reappears twice in final form in the *Philosophical Dictionary* (in articles "Baptism" and "Original Sin") and in a later version of his burlesque poem, *La Pucelle*. The manuscript in Special Collections reminds us also of Voltaire's total irreverence towards, or perhaps, ignorance in matters of spelling and punctuation. This is one way his handwriting may be distinguished from that of his secretary, Wagnière, who was so much more exacting in such details.

These jottings doubtless illustrate the most expeditious means Voltaire had at his disposal for setting down his thoughts, his recollections, his broad reading, his flashes of insight, as they occurred to him. Sometimes his trusted secretary, or another, was conveniently at hand; sometimes he felt compelled to seize the
quill pen himself. But we do not have to conjure up in our minds Voltaire taking this initial step, jotting down scattered notes for some future development. There is the famous picture (here reproduced) of the “Patriarch of Ferney,” his nightcap askew, his sleeping garment awry, his bed in disorder, trying to pull on his breeches, all the while dictating his latest observation or witticism to the secretary with pen poised in anticipation.

The late Ferdinand Baldensperger, co-founder with Paul Hazard of the distinguished Revue de Littérature Comparée, and in his last years, Professor at the Collège de France, often used to regale students with one of his most important but least fruitful discoveries. A great ducal house, not far from London, it appears, had had in its possession since the eighteenth century—chiefly in the form of letters—a considerable number of Voltaire manuscripts. Professor Baldensperger’s repeated efforts to obtain copies of these letters were in vain. This particular branch of British nobility, not in the least interested in scholarship of any sort, and enjoying with relish sole possession of such an envied commodity as generally unknown products of Voltaire’s pen, did not have the slightest intention of handing them over to M. Baldensperger or to anyone else. Professor Baldensperger took to his grave the name of the ducal family still in possession of these particular letters. One thing is certain, however, in spite of the recently published 102 volumes of Voltaire’s Correspondence, and despite the vast number of the Sage of Ferney’s manuscript pages that have come to light since his death, the pages in the David Eugene Smith Collection at Columbia are but two of many more that are bound to intrigue specialists of the Age of Enlightenment in general, and Voltaire scholars in particular, for many years to come.
Notes by Voltaire

Reply of a king of Denmark to a pope
We have our being from God, our domains from our ancestors, our power from the consent of the people, our religion from Rome. If you are not satisfied we renounce them by the present writings.

He has reached the age of reason but not the age of discretion.
The caterpillar and the butterfly do not have hearts. That can provide more than one allegory.
Hume has said that fortune is to be found on a steep rock, eagles reach it by flying, and snakes by crawling.
Everyone cries love religion, flee superstition, but what is one or the other?
The councillor Haman condemned to beg pardon on his knees and to make honorable amends a torch in his hand for having said that he would give him his sight for Margolaine.
May or January 1758 the Christian Journal said that God allows women to give birth to still-born children in order that limbo may be filled.
A priest having forgotten his sermon on the day of the Passion said Gentlemen I am so grieved that I cannot speak, my vicar will preach in my place. Damn it said the vicar, do you think I am less grieved than you?
At the Council of Pisa vice forbidden.

notes! But these horrors do not take place every year. No; they have not always committed a parricide a year. But let them show
me in history since Constantine a single month when theological disputes have not been disastrous for the world.

Criticism is the tenth muse which lights the other nine.

Why have magic, charms, love potions, etc. been banished from the world? It is because no one was paid to support them. It is the contrary with superstition.

The translation above is of the notations in the Columbia manuscript.  
(David Eugene Smith Collection)
The Special Collections Reading Room on a busy day.
Columbia’s “Special Collections”: Its History and a Glance Ahead

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

Columbia University’s department of rare books was officially established on July 1, 1930, with Trustee approval, “long before the fashion came”—though since then many college and university libraries have established such departments, often providing them with elaborately appointed physical housing. The formalized departmental status at Columbia was the direct answer to an existing need, for the interest here in rare books and manuscripts, to support advanced studies in the humanities and social sciences, was apparent almost from the beginning of the Libraries themselves—an interest that had resulted in the acquisition not only of individual rarities such as the Audubon elephant folio (1835), the second Shakespeare folio (1923), the John Stuart Mill manuscript autobiography (1923), and the Serlio manuscript (1924)—to specify an absurdly scant representation among literally thousands of examples—but also of whole collections such as the Stephen Whitney Phoenix library (1881), the Avery Architectural Library (1890), the Temple Emanu-el collection (1892), the Holland Society deposit (1901), the Brander Matthews collection (1912), the Samuel and William Samuel Johnson libraries (1914), and the Montgomery Accountancy Library (1924)—again, a very scant representation of the wealth of specialized materials that have poured into the Columbia Libraries over the years.

In those early days exceptional rarities were distinguished from the general in two principal ways. Single items were catalogued with prefixes to their call numbers—“Manuscript Room,” which
Roland Baughman

was eventually replaced by the symbol "X," and "Bibliographical Museum," later shortened to "B." Those symbols, X and B, are still retained for all books in Special Collections that are not part of individual "name" collections. They may have begun to be used about the time Low Library was first occupied in the mid-1890’s, but the precise date cannot now be fixed. In addition to the individual rarities that were so identified, certain restricted en-bloc collections such as those mentioned above were identified as "name" collections, sometimes also being given specially devised classification numbers to take account of the unusual nature of the materials involved. Reader access was gained, presumably, by individual application to the chief librarian or the reference librarian; and the materials were used—again presumably—either in the librarian’s private office or at some assigned desk where surveillance could be provided. We may suppose that the professional lives of those principal officers were somewhat less complex than is now the case, so that such requests could be honored without undue hardship to either side.

But towards the close of the 1920’s rare materials had increased to such an extent that readers’ demands could no longer be met on so personal and individual a basis. Moreover there were acquisitions in prospect that would immeasurably complicate the issue—the Seligman library on the history of economics (first part, 1929), the Dale library on weights and measures (1931), the Smith library on the history of mathematics (1931), and the Plimpton library on the history of education (on deposit, 1932; presented, 1936). Together these collections comprised some forty or fifty thousand volumes, and their adequate administration called for an abrupt and far-reaching change in policy.

And so, to meet the expected need for specialized administrative standards, the "Rare Book Department" was formally established in 1930 under the curatorship of Dr. Hellmut Lehmann-Haupt, quarters being assigned to the fledgling department on the fifth floor of Schermerhorn Hall. This was accepted as only a tem-
Temporary measure, of course, for in 1930 plans were already well under way for Columbia's new library, South Hall (later renamed Butler Library), and it was planned that Low would eventually serve as the University's rare-book library. Accordingly, in September, 1934, rooms in Low became available, and in due course (1938) the Plimpton, Smith, and Dale collections were installed in Room 210 Low, where Columbiana is now housed. Special Collections—as the department had come to be styled—occupied nearby rooms on the first and second floors, with its stack area on the fourth floor. Dr. Lehmann-Haupt decided to give his full time to teaching in the Library School, and Mr. Charles Adams was appointed to the chief librarianship of the department.

It was now officially supposed that Special Collections had acquired its permanent location, Low Memorial Library, in which, with the removal of the general collections to Butler, there seemed to be virtually limitless space for growth. Plans were formulated for refurbishing the interior in keeping with this new function, including full air-conditioning. But all this was based on pre-war conceptions—conceptions that were perforce abandoned as the inexorable expansion of the University's educational, research, and administrative structure began to develop during the early postwar period. A reassignment of Low Library space became a necessity, and although Butler Library had been constructed on the specific understanding that the housing and service of rare books and manuscripts were not to be among its functions, the feeling began to grow that Special Collections must ultimately be located there.

There were many reasons for that feeling, quite apart from the need for the reassignment of Low space. Chief among them was the fact that, as the passing years brought deeper experience, it had become apparent that the full usefulness of the rich resources in Special Collections could not be realized at so great a distance from the main collections and records in Butler. There
had occurred, indeed, a considerable duplication of administration in connection with the various rare-book units, fostered by the distance between Butler and Low—there was a curator of rare books proper, a curator of Plimpton, Smith, and Dale, a curator of Columbiana, a curator of the Typographic Library, a curator of Near East materials. Some of these administrative units were located in Butler, some in Low. In addition, certain large blocs of material still remained in the general collections (notably the Phoenix and Brander Matthews libraries), although they contained substantial proportions of rarities that required non-routine handling. Moreover, two new collections that might need special curatorial administration were in the offing—the Gonzalez Lodge collection of early classical editions and the Spinoza collection. And it was foreseen that the establishment of the Edgar A. and Frederic Bancroft Foundation would bring a steady stream of American rarities into the Columbia Libraries.

A sharp break with the past seemed called for, and accordingly the decision was reached to unite physically all of Columbia's rarities (except those in certain divisional libraries, Law, Medicine, and Avery) under a single “Head of Special Collections.” The administrative change was effected in 1946, and during the succeeding three years, 1947-1949, the department (not including Columbiana) was moved bodily to Butler. Thereupon the modern phase of Special Collections expansion in contents and usefulness began, keeping pace with the increasingly important role of the Libraries in the University—which itself was expanding. At the close of World War II we spoke proudly of a rare-book collection of about 125,000 volumes “and many manuscripts.” Today our counts reveal nearly 250,000 printed books and well over 2,000,000 pieces of manuscript. We still have no adequate census of our non-monographic, non-manuscript materials (prints, photographs, clippings, albums, and the like), most of which have come in recent years. We do know that the increase in resources has brought a greatly in-
creased usefulness to our scholarly clientele, for this is adequately documented by the comparative figures for reader use over nearly two decades.

The development of our holdings in both quantity and quality has come by purchase as well as by gift, in the former instance primarily through the use of gift and endowment funds. The 1940's and 1950's saw impressive growth in such funds, and we have tried to use them wisely, adding materials that enhance the research strength of collections and divisions of collections that are already notable. The Bancroft endowment, mentioned above, has made it possible to build towering strength in the broad area of American cultural, sociological, and political history. Manuscript collections ranging from John Jay to Lincoln Steffens have been acquired, and knowledge of their acquisition has brought to our doors not only our own graduate students and faculty members, but also scholars from far afield. Other more modest funds, such as the Smith and Lodge endowments, have enabled us to develop unusual depth in more precise fields—fields of specialized nature that could not have received emphasis without such aid.

Moreover, the fact that we could, by the use of existing funds, purchase materials of high value has helped to encourage donor activity, which has increased markedly during the postwar period. It would be pointless to attempt to give a catalogue here of even the most spectacular of the benefactions that have come since the re-activation of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries in 1951. "Our Growing Collections," a regular department of Library Columns, contains a full accounting. It glitters with imposing names—Aesop, Shakespeare, Washington, Jay, Irving, Poe, Whitman, Twain, Curie, Freud, Rackham, Santayana, Erskine, Van Doren, Wouk. Some of these names are represented by single manuscripts or printed editions of the greatest rarity, others are the focal points of major archives. Nor must it be thought that all of our gifts come from members of the Friends;
non-members far outnumber members in the presentation of gifts. And some of our largest and most comprehensive units have come from corporate organizations—the Citizens Union, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Institute of Pacific Relations. The arrival of such major collections has caused a pronounced change in the nature of Special Collections; to a substantial part of our clientele we are important as a “Manuscripts Department,” rather than as a “Rare-Book Department.” During a single month recently (December, 1964), more than 20,000 pieces of manuscript were consulted by readers in the Special Collections Reading Room.

That metamorphosis, a phenomenon of the past decade, has brought us sharply against a new dilemma, a new crisis stemming from the inadequacies of our physical quarters. We were, as a matter of fact, more than a dozen years late in reaching Butler—the building that was never intended to house rare books and manuscripts in the first place—and we were, quite frankly, in the position of being interlopers if not claim jumpers. As such, we took what could be spared. For a time we tried experimentally to give service in a reading room at the campus level, with our books and manuscripts stored on the top decks of the stacks, from which they were brought to readers by elevator and stairway according to strictly continental service standards. As soon as possible that arrangement was abandoned in favor of the present quarters, which comprise two narrow sixth-floor rooms that have been joined together by the removal of a separating end partition—and this has served as our reading room ever since. Office space was found still higher up in the building, on the eighth floor, beyond the reach of elevators. Even so, constricted and inconvenient as they are, our present public quarters have the solid advantage of being adjacent to the collection, to the great benefit of our service to readers. If we are now seeking new and better quarters, it is only because we have outgrown the ones we have—physically and qualitatively.
And it must be stressed that there can be no quarrel with the past, which has seen Columbia stride forward to take her rightful place among American universities as the possessor of truly great holdings in "unexpendable materials" (to adopt John Cooke Wyllie's phrase), and Special Collections become a busy headquarters for scholarly research. Instead, we concern ourselves solely with the future. The audience for which this article is intended will not need to be told how enormously library resources have expanded in the postwar decades—nor how tirelessly librarians have toiled, and continue to toil, to adapt their services to the expanded resources. But it may be meaningful to remind you that rare-book librarians have an additional deep concern—the compulsion to make certain that nothing will be permitted to jeopardize the fulfilling of our obligation to the future. And in that thought lies the profoundest justification for the great university rare-book libraries, with their imposing and carefully appointed structures, that have come into existence in the past generation—the Houghton, the Lilly, the Barrett, the Beinecke, and the many others. For these monuments are dedicated to a two-way proposition; availability to the present under conditions best suited to protect the vested interests of the future.

And this is the job that still remains to be done at Columbia. It is not enough to acquire treasures and place them at the disposal of those who would use them. That we have done and continue to do at the top of our ability. We must provide the means to ensure the survival of the artifacts into the whole future. Columbia, among the first of American universities to take the important step of providing special administration for rare books and manuscripts, must now make physical provision for their permanent survival in the face of steady use.
The cover of the first edition of a song by Stephen Foster. (Berol gift)
Our Growing Collections

ROLAND BAUGHMAN

Gifts

A I.G.A. gift. The American Institute of Graphic Arts has presented the volumes comprising “The Fifty Books, 1962.” These have been added to the complete series, beginning with those from the first exhibition of books in 1923, which the Institute has placed at Columbia.

Bancroft gift. Professor Margaret Bancroft (A.M., 1913) has presented further materials relating to her grandfather, Captain John Otis Given. To be noted at this time are three letters, 1852-1873; a large number of accounts for various vessels (Captain Given was engaged in shipping) extending from the 1840’s into the 1870’s; and three postcards showing views of the Given home in Bowdoinham, Maine, 1906 and 1945, and of a dam and factory there.

Barnouw gift. Professor Adriaan J. Barnouw presented a number of books and manuscripts, among which are several that have been selected for Special Collections. Of particular interest is a packet of letters and documents relating to the Frisian freedom movement during the later years of World War II.

Berol gift. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Berol have added two Arthur Rackham drawings (“Box-Making” and “Cooperage”) to the magnificent collection of Rackham originals which they have established at Columbia (the collection now numbers nearly 300 pieces, in addition to some 30 sketch books). As part of their gift, Mr. and Mrs. Berol included five letters from Rackham to various correspondents, all relating to his paintings.
The gift also contains a letter from Lord Cornwallis to an unidentified correspondent, dated August 25, 1782, mentioning Henry Laurens (for whom Cornwallis had been exchanged several months before); and two important documents in the hand of John Paul Jones, Sept. 24, 1776, relating to the safe-conduct granted to certain captured British seamen.

Of great interest is a collection of more than 50 first editions of Stephen Foster’s sheet music, including “Oh Susanna,” “Camping Town Races,” “The Old Folks at Home,” “Massa’s in de Cold Ground,” “Jeanie With the Light Brown Hair,” and many others that Americans have sung and loved for more than a century.

But of unmatched importance and value is a group of Ephrata imprints and manuscripts representing the transplanting to America of European folkways by the Ephrata Cloister in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. The founder of the Cloister was Johann Conrad Beissel, who died in 1768. He it was who caused the setting apart of a room in the Cloister, where members of the sisterhood devoted their time to the making of Fraktur manuscript copies of Beissel’s Turtel Taube (“Turtle Dove”) and the many other hymns he composed and set to his own distinctive music. The Berol gift includes five of the eight known volumes composed by Beissel. The collection actually contains twelve volumes—five that are either wholly or partly manuscript, and seven printed versions. This gift by Mr. and Mrs. Berol places Columbia among the few institutions with significant holdings in this esoteric field of Americana.

Beyer gift. Mr. Preston Beyer of Bronxville has acquired and presented to us a fine letter from Brander Matthews to R.U.J. (probably Robert Underwood Johnson), dated January 11, 1904.

Bonnell gift. Miss Alice H. Bonnell (B.S., 1940) of the Special Collections Department has presented another group of manuscripts (see Library Columns, May 1962) by or related to the
A page from one of the remarkable manuscript hymnals made in the Ephrata Cloister, Pennsylvania. (Berol gift)
late Ina Hammer (Mrs. Ira A. Hards). The present gift comprises fourteen play scripts, chiefly of one-act plays, in which Miss Hammer was either the chief actress or the author or co-author—sometimes both.

LOYALTY OATH OF 1865

Oath of allegiance which Green B. Samuels, sometime Colonel in the Confederate Army, was required to sign at Ft. Delaware on June 13, 1865.

(Bridgwater gift.)

Bridgwater gift. Mr. William Bridgwater has presented a Civil War document of singular interest, which had been given to him by Dr. Bernard Samuels. Dr. Samuels’ father, Green B. Samuels, had been a colonel in the Confederate Army, and after the surrender was required to sign an oath of allegiance to the United States. This document has special significance as a forerunner of the oath that is so much in the news today.

Clifton gift. Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers D. Clifton have presented a most remarkable manuscript. It is Edward A. MacDowell’s holograph of his Sonata Tragica together with the proofs from the engraved plates used in the published version (1893).
This sonata was the first of MacDowell's major works to be published; it was followed in 1895 by his Eroica. In the next year, 1896, a chair of music was established at Columbia University, which MacDowell held from then until 1904. In 1910 Mrs. MacDowell presented this memento of her husband (who had died two years earlier) to Mr. Clifton, and it has remained in his safekeeping for more than half a century.

Conried gift. One of the most exciting gifts ever to come to Columbia University is that recently made by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Genee Conried (A.B., 1908). It is a 2½-page holograph letter in Latin from the astronomer, Johannes Kepler, to the mathematician, Philipp Muller, dated 17/27 October, 1629. This was near the end of Kepler's life (he died the following year), when he was living in Sagan, Germany.

Besides containing a short discussion of certain astronomical observations, about which Muller had apparently inquired, the letter concerns financial and practical problems which Kepler was having in connection with the printing of his forthcoming work dealing with planetary transits predicted for the next several years. He had sent two young assistants to purchase printing materials and to arrange for the casting of special types. He expressed great worry over the financial arrangements; since he did not have sufficient ready funds, he wanted to make immediate use of funds that had been placed to his credit by a patron, but which were in danger of being withdrawn.

The text of this letter has been published (1959) in volume 18 of Johannes Kepler Gesammelte Werke, but the version used there is from a transcript (Abschrift) supplied by the Bibliothèque de l'Observatoire in Paris. There are minor differences in the original presented by Mr. and Mrs. Conried.

Delacorte gift. Mr. George T. Delacorte (A.B., 1913) has presented a most distinguished collection comprising 26 letters and
postcards from 20 prominent authors. Represented are such well-known personages as Gertrude Atherton, Irwin S. Cobb, Theodore Dreiser, Ellen Glasgow, Fannie Hurst, Edgar Lee Masters, and Maxfield Parrish.

Dewey gift. From Dr. Godfrey Dewey, we have received the gift of seven file boxes of pamphlets, lecture notes, and library forms which his illustrious father, the late Melvil Dewey, used at the Albany Library School. These materials reached us through Dr. Edward G. Holley, Director of Libraries at the University of Houston.

Melvil Dewey, it will be remembered, headed the first library school of a formal nature—the "School of Library Economy," established at Columbia in the mid-1880's. The gift adds significantly to Columbia's large file of "Melvil Dewey Papers," documenting his important work in behalf of special training for librarians.

Donovan gift. In the February 1961 issue of Library Columns, and in each February issue since then, we have recorded the generous gifts by Mrs. William J. Donovan of sections of the papers compiled and collected by her husband, the late General Donovan. The papers comprise General Donovan's researches into the development of the Intelligence Service during the American Revolution.

This year Mrs. Donovan has presented the final part of the collection. The files are carefully organized and documented, and may now be made completely available to scholars.

Drury gifts. In the February 1961 issue of Library Columns we noted the gift by Mr. Newton B. Drury of Berkeley, California, of the papers of his brother, the late Aubrey Drury, relevant to the latter's campaign for world-wide adoption of the
Our Growing Collections

metric system of weights and measures. Since then Mr. Drury has added further papers as they have come to light, and most recently his sister, Miss Muriel Drury, has joined in helping make the "Aubrey Drury Metric Campaign Papers" as complete as possible.

Durgin gift. Mrs. James H. Durgin has presented a number of very useful items. Included are: an exceptionally scarce edition of Helen Maria Williams' work on the French Revolution, *Letters containing a sketch of the politics of France*, London, 1795 (three volumes, in the original boards); the first edition of Hawthorne's *Life of Franklin Pierce*, 1852; Nathan Hale's *Argument of Hon. Daniel Webster on behalf of the Boston & Lowell R.R. Company*, 1845; and a run of the New York *Sun Weekly* covering the early part of the Mexican War, 6 June 1846-8 May, 1847.

East Asian Library gifts. The Consulate General of Japan in New York has presented over 2,100 pieces of Japanese- and English-language materials published in Tokyo. The gift includes a number of statistical periodicals; journals in the fields of economics, foreign affairs, and commerce; and pictorial magazines with beautifully reproduced colored illustrations.

Professor Donald L. Keene (A.B., 1942; Ph.D., 1950), during his visit to Japan in the summer of 1964, devoted considerable time and effort to gathering Japanese materials in the fields of literature and drama. Because of his wide knowledge of books and bookstores, he was able to obtain for us over 300 volumes of material not readily available through ordinary channels. In addition, the high esteem in which he is held in Japan for his literary and scholastic achievements have made it possible to obtain as gifts to the East Asian Library runs of several poetry journals, as well as to initiate an arrangement whereby several
publishers have agreed to present to the Library sets of the collected works of prominent literary figures. These sets will be detailed in a subsequent issue.

Mrs. George Sokolsky, of New York City, has presented an interesting 19th-century scroll, with calligraphy both in Chinese and in Manchu, by which the Manchu Emperor Kuang-hsu conferred military honors upon one of his officers.

*Feinberg gift.* The last two decades of Walt Whitman’s life were burdened by serious illness, made bearable by the poet’s friendship with George and Susan Stafford of Laurel Springs, near Camden, New Jersey. Whitman spent many pleasant times with the Staffords, times which he remembered fondly for the rest of his life; and it was here that he composed much of his great prose work, *Specimen Days.*

Mr. Charles E. Feinberg of Detroit has chosen to commemorate that happy relationship by presenting to the Columbia University Libraries two rare items of Whitmaniana, “in memory of the friendship of Walt Whitman with the Stafford Family.” The gift includes a magnificent copy of a poster, printed on linen, ca. 1872, advertising Whitman’s books, and a proofsheet of William Sloane Kennedy’s condensed translation of Gabriel Sarrazin’s article on Whitman from *La Nouvelle Revue* for May 1, 1888, and later included in Sarrazin’s *La Renaissance de la poésie Anglaise*, Paris, 1889.

*Frick gift.* Professor Bertha M. Frick (B.S., 1929; M.S., 1933) has presented a number of fine items. The gift includes several early printed items, a number of specimens of early and recent Japanese paper, and some modern works of interest.

*Friedman gifts.* Mr. Harry G. Friedman (Ph.D., 1908) has presented three fine vellum legal documents (English, late 18th and 19th centuries), and a number of printed works. Among the latter is a two-volume set of Bacon’s *Essays* (1893), specially
bound with the armorial device of the City of London School, and inscribed to show that it was presented as first prize in mathematics to one H. G. Savidge in 1896.

Mr. Friedman’s most recent gift is a very scarce printing, Sommola di pacifica coscienza, written by Pacificus Novariensis and published in Milan by Philippus de Lavagnia, 1479.

**Grauer gift.** Mr. Ben Grauer has presented a group of 75 items selected from his library. Of particular note is a small leather-bound pocket notebook (French ca. 1825) containing a perpetual calendar and manuscript notations, many of which pertain to medical symptoms and remedies.

**Hamilton gift.** Mr. Sinclair Hamilton (LL.B., 1909) has presented two charming books with illustrations by Daumier: Louis Huart’s Physiologie du Flaneur, 1841, and James Rousseau’s Physiologie de la Portière, 1841.

**Hathaway gift.** Two years ago (February 1963) we noted the gift by Mr. Calvin S. Hathaway of a fine collection of books and documents concerning the official measures taken to protect and salvage artistic and historic monuments, documents, and art objects during and after the two World Wars. Mr. Hathaway continues his deep interest in the subject, and has recently added two scarce works that are of great relevance: Dr. Max Domarus’ Der Untergang des alten
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Würzburg, 1955; and Dr. Otto Grautoff’s editing of Kunstverwaltung in Frankreich und Deutschland, Bern, 1915.

Hibbitt gift. Professor George W. Hibbitt (Ph.D., 1949) has presented materials from his library with considerable regularity. This year his gift included 206 items, among which were a number of scarce works that have been placed in Special Collections.

Hill gift. Mr. Frank E. Hill has presented two highly useful collections of World War II letters, which were written to him and Mrs. Hill. One collection comprises letters written by two paratroopers; the other consists of letters by three women who served in North Africa, Italy, and elsewhere in the various theaters. Mr. Hill has written a précis for each collection, telling something of the personalities of the correspondents, and of how the correspondence was engendered.

Keene gift. Professor Donald L. Keene (A.B., 1942; Ph.D., 1950) has presented the typescript (with numerous manuscript alterations) of his recently-published Major Plays of Chikamatsu (Columbia University Press, 1964).

Kent gift. Miss Louisa Kent, a direct descendant of Chancellor James Kent, has presented a most pertinent document—namely, the diploma representing the honorary master’s degree which Columbia College awarded to Washington Irving in 1821.

Readers of Library Columns will recall that in the issue for February, 1960, appeared an article by Professor Andrew B. Myers, in which he discussed the events that led up to the granting of this degree to Irving. Said Professor Myers: “Unfortunately the M.A. diploma is missing, and no record of the citation on it has been found, but” he continued prophetically, “these may be recovered.” They have indeed, thanks to the kindness and thoughtfulness of Miss Kent.
Knickerbocker gift. Professor William S. Knickerbocker (A.B., 1917; M.A., 1918; Ph.D., 1925), whose name has appeared in these notes with great regularity, has presented two fine letters which were written to him by Morrie Ryskind (A.B., 1917) on 31 May 1947 and 4 May 1955.

Law Library gifts.

1. The Library of Congress sent a number of copies of East European law books, including many Hungarian and Yugoslavian works.

2. From the library of the late Judge Archie O. Dawson (A.B., 1921; LL.B., 1923):
   - *Federal Reporter*, v. 214-327
   - *Federal Rules Decisions*, v. 15-34
   - *U. S. Congressional and Administrative News*, 1956-1963
   - *U. S. Code Annotated* (completed with current parts)

3. Numerous useful collections of foreign law materials were presented by Professor Wolfgang Friedmann, Professor Alfred Hill, and Professor A. Arthur Schiller (J.S.D., 1932). Also a valuable collection of securities materials was presented by Professor William L. Cary.

Longwell gifts. Mr. Daniel Longwell (Class of 1922) of Neosho, Missouri, continues his deep interest in collecting the works of Sir Winston Churchill for Special Collections. In recent weeks he has presented a number of desirable editions (including the 1928 edition of Alan P. Herbert’s *The Secret Battle*, for which Sir Winston wrote an introduction, and which Mr. Herbert autographed in remembrance of Churchill’s 90th birthday). Also recently presented is an album of 12 long-playing recordings of Churchill’s most famous speeches, and a collection of more than 50 informal photographs.
Macy gift. Mrs. George Macy has added the 1964 productions of the Limited Editions Club to the complete collection which she has established here as a memorial to her husband (Class of 1921). Of special attractiveness among this year’s series is a two-volume set containing H. G. Wells’ early science-fiction, *The Time Machine* and *The War of the Worlds*, with sixteen full-color lithographs by the Altadena, California, artist, Joe Mugnaini. Another impressive volume is Oliver Goldsmith’s *She Stoops to Conquer*, designed and decorated by the late master of all phases of the graphic arts, Thomas Maitland Cleland.

Maltby gift. Mrs. Monroe Maltby (née Marian Drake-Smith) has presented the manuscript of the translation made by her grandfather, Daniel Drake-Smith, of Spinoza’s *Ethics*. This, the first translation of Spinoza to appear in America, was published in New York by Van Nostrand in 1876. The manuscript, which is complete, bears the translator’s extensive changes, made as he polished the work for the printer.

Maltz gift. Mr. Albert Maltz has added to his earlier gifts the manuscript, drafts, etc., of his *The Underground Stream*.

Martin gift. Dr. Eleanor Martin (M.A., 1928; M.D., 1932) of New Rochelle has presented eight very desirable items, including DeBry’s *Americae Pars VII*, 1599, and two splendidly bound French fête books, dated 1740 and 1756 respectively. Also included is a Pakistani manuscript Koran of the 18th century.

Meloney gift. Mr. William Brown Meloney (A.B., 1927) has presented a large collection of the correspondence and other papers of his mother, the late Marie Mattingly Meloney. The collection numbers nearly 4,000 pieces and includes letters from leading authors and political figures of the time. Also included in the gift are numerous volumes from Mrs. Meloney’s personal
library, among which are many bearing affectionate inscriptions to her from the authors. There is, for example, a large folding map of the lower Mississippi River basin, augmented by hand to show the extent of the disastrous flood of 1927. Herbert Hoover was at that time Secretary of Commerce and a close friend of Mrs. Meloney's. He went with her and others to survey the damage that had been done, and to work out details of rehabilitation—out of which grew the great federal projects for flood control. This copy of the map is autographed by the future President. "To Mrs. Marie Meloney from Herbert Hoover in recollection of her great aid in solution of its human problems."

*Merton gift.* The Reverend Thomas Merton of the Abbey of Gethsemani, Trappist, Kentucky, has added substantially to his earlier gifts of his published and unpublished writings. The present gift comprises printed items, mimeographed pieces, and typescripts (including some with manuscript alterations).

*Rabinowitz gifts.* Mr. Aaron Rabinowitz has presented two very useful printed books: Brunel's *A Journey into Spain*, 1670; and De Lolme's *The Constitution of England*, 1784. Neither edition was in the Columbia collections, and we are glad to be able to add them.

*Raditsa gift.* Mrs. Nina Ferrero Raditsa has added another exciting installment of the papers and correspondence of her distinguished father, the late Guglielmo Ferrero. The present gift comprises the incoming correspondence of the period of World War I, and includes letters from Loria, Sforza, Orlando, Victor Margueritte, and Salvemini, as well as a wealth of background material for the whole liberal movement of the period. More than 5,000 pieces have been added to the already voluminous collection.
VEUE GÉNÉRALE DES DÉCORATIONS, ILLUMINATIONS ET FEUX
sur la Riviere de Seine en présence de leurs Majestés le Vingt Sept Août Mil de France, et de Dom
D'ARTIFICE, DE LA FÊTE DONNÉE PAR LA VILLE DE PARIS
Sept Cent Trente Neuf à l'occasion du Mariage de Madame Louise-Elizabeth Philippe Infante d'Espagne.

(Martin gift)
Salisbury gift. Mrs. Leah Salisbury has added a most notable selection of correspondence, documents, and typed manuscripts to the collection which she has established here at Columbia. The gift includes materials relating to Countee Cullen, Paul Rosner, Christopher Morley, William Gibson, Stark Young, Christopher Fry, and others.

Scratchley gift. Mr. George Scratchley (A.B., 1912) has presented to Columbiana the diploma received by Henry F. Rogers, Columbia Class of 1803.

Strouse gift. Thomas Bird Mosher of Portland, Maine, published nearly 450 editions from 1891 until his death in 1923. Every collector of fine printing is familiar with the neat, tidy "Moshers," yet no complete bibliography of them was ever published until Mr. Norman H. Strouse issued his The Passionate Pirate during the past fall. The author has presented a copy of the work to Special Collections. It is a handsome production by Henry Morris at his "Bird & Bull Press" in North Hills, Pennsylvania, on paper specially made for this book by Mr. Morris and water-marked with the Mosher device, and hand-bound in half Niger morocco.

Tindall gift. Professor William York Tindall (A.B., 1925; M.A., 1926) has presented a valuable collection of 70 books by British and Irish writers, selected from his personal library.

Trilling gift. Professor Lionel Trilling (A.B., 1925; M.A., 1926) has presented several highly desirable recent publications. Most noteworthy, perhaps, is the privately printed Nathaniel Hawthorne, containing a poem, "Hawthorne," by Robert Lowell, and embellished by a fine portrait plate by Sidney Chefetz. The publication was issued as a keepsake in 150 copies by The Graduate School and the Development Fund of the Ohio State University, 1964, on the centennial of Hawthorne's death.
Our Growing Collections

Turner gift. Mrs. John Turner of Norwich, New York, has presented seven manuscript volumes containing notes and diaries by her distinguished ancestor, Chancellor James Kent. These begin with Kent's account "of a Journey I made from New York to the Eastern States with Mrs. Kent and Mr. and Mrs. Boyd" from August 23 to September 9, 1797, and include his "Journal of the Campaigns" of the European belligerent powers, 1807-1809 (2 volumes) as well as his diaries (3) from June 12, 1839, to December 4, 1847. Of great importance is his manuscript catalogue of his library, begun November, 1842, completed on January 7, 1843, revised successively in October, 1844, and November, 1845.

Also included in the gift is an account of a visit to London, August 24-October 1, 1826, by an unidentified diarist.

Van Doren gift. Professor Mark Van Doren (Ph.D., 1921) has made some extremely important additions to the "Mark Van Doren Papers," including his correspondence from other authors and three manuscripts and work sheets of his own poetry.

Wallace gift. Mrs. Don Wallace has presented, in memory of her late husband, his fine collection of recordings of classical music. The collection numbers 213 discs, 78 rpm, mainly vocal, and includes performances by such artists as Caruso, Melba, Tetrazzini, Tito Schipa, and Ezio Pinza.

Wood gift. Mr. Roy U. Wood (Met. E., 1914) of Scottsdale, Arizona, has presented three scarce first editions of the collected plays of J. M. Barrie, John Galsworthy, and Bernard Shaw.
Roland Baughman

Notable Purchases

A Bygone Era in American Typography. An extraordinary publication has been acquired by means of the Ulmann Fund. It is *American Wood Types, 1828-1900*, collected, catalogued and printed by Rob Roy Kelly of Kansas City, Missouri. Comprising 95 large folio display sheets showing 130 complete alphabets, the work includes a historical index and notes.

Wooden types were much used throughout the second half of the 19th century and into the opening decades of the 20th for displays which required letters of large size. Means of manufacturing them in quantity were perfected by companies that specialized in them—notably the Hamilton Company in Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and the Page Company in Connecticut, among many others. As printing technology changed, bringing in other methods of handling large lettering, the need for wooden types abated. Now, of course, they are only to be found in museums.

Mr. Kelly's work, then, has rescued from oblivion an important bit of Americana.

The Shōtoku Charm. In the May issue of *Library Columns* we reprinted "The Empress Shōtoku of Japan and Her Million Printed Charms," by Thomas Francis Carter and L. Carrington Goodrich. That article described in detail the events leading up to the production of the earliest bit of printing from a relief, inked surface that is known to be extant.

Recently an opportunity arose for Columbia to acquire a splendid exemplar of this unusual document from the collection of Professor Bertha M. Frick (B.S., 1929; M.S., 1933), and by use of the Friends' Book Account the purchase has been made.

The Frick exemplar is as nearly perfect as could be expected of an artifact that is 1,200 years old. As will be recalled from the *Columns* article, the Empress Shōtoku, in order to ensure her long life, caused a million copies of a Buddhist charm to be
printed from woodblocks in or about 770 A.D. Each copy was to be housed in a reliquary in the form of a small wooden pagoda.

Two Manuscript Collections. Mr. Kenneth Lohf has written elsewhere in the pages of this issue of Library Columns of our recent purchase of a collection of some thirty typescripts and holograph poems by Edgar Lee Masters. A substantial part of them remain unpublished.

James Harvey Robinson, in the pre-World War I period, was one of Columbia's most renowned teachers. As Crane Brinton has said of him, "He was one, and by no means the least influential, of a group of teachers who made of Columbia University a center for the renewal and reformulation . . . of the ideas and ideals of the eighteenth-century Enlightenment." When, therefore, an opportunity came recently to purchase a collection of manuscript materials relating to his years at the German University of Freiburg, where he took his doctorate, and to his subsequent European travels before his return to America, that opportunity was eagerly seized. Included in the collection are diaries and journals covering the years 1888-1893, and several typed manuscripts.
Activities of the Friends

MEETINGS

Meeting on February 4. The Mid-Winter meeting of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries was held at the Men’s Faculty of Columbia University at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 1965.

Mr. Hugh J. Kelly, Chairman of the Friends, presided. He said that subsequent to the revisions in the Constitution and Bylaws, which were approved by the membership at the February meeting last year, an additional change or two had become necessary. These were chiefly related to the fact that the appointment-years for Councillors had to be on a July 1 – June 30 basis rather than a calendar year, to accord with the other Advisory Councils in the University. Since the proposed revisions had been approved by the Council and had been mailed to the members, the Chairman proceeded directly to put the matter to a vote. The members adopted the revisions.

Program. Mr. Kelly said that on this occasion the Friends were honoring Dante, who was born 700 years ago. He introduced the principal speaker, Dr. Maurice Valency, Professor of Comparative Literature at Columbia, who is an authority on Dante. Among his Broadway plays and his books is In Praise of Love (1958), a history of the lyric. He chose as his subject for this program “The Love Song of Dante Alighieri.”

Bancroft Awards Dinner. Our members may wish to record on their calendars that this dinner will be held on Thursday, May 20. The invitations will be mailed in mid-April.
PICTURE CREDITS

Credit for some of the illustrations in this issue is acknowledged as follows: (1) Article by Kenneth Lohf: The photograph of Edgar Lee Masters is from his *Across Spoon River; an Autobiography* (N.Y., Farrar & Rinehart, Inc., c. 1936 by the poet). (2) Article by Diana Guiragossian: The engraving of Voltaire is from *Europe: Revue Mensuelle*, Mai-Juin, 1959; the silhouette of Voltaire is from *Voltaire: documents iconographiques* (Geneva, Pierre Cailler, 1948). (3) Article by Roland Baughman: The photograph of the Special Collections Reading Room was taken by Hubbard W. Ballou, Head of Photographic Services at the Columbia Libraries. (4) Our Growing Collections: The dove-illustration at the end is from Rob Roy Kelly’s *American Wood Types, 1828-1900* (Kansas City, Mo., The author, c. 1964); the portrayal of the royal fête is from *Description des Festes Données par la Ville de Paris, a l’Occasion du Mariage de Madame Louise-Elisabeth de France, & de Dom Philippe, Infant & Grand Amiral d’Espagne* . . . (Paris, P. G. Mercier, 1740).
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.

* * *

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Annual. Any person contributing not less than $15.00 per year.
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Sustaining. Any person contributing not less than $50.00 a year.
Benefactor. Any person contributing not less than $100.00 a year.
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