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Two issues a year
This Winter 1995 issue, Library Columns begins a new format and an expanded mission. Columns is still the publication of The Friends of the Columbia Libraries, and we remain committed to keeping our readers informed about research that touches on Columbia University and its library collections. But we have broadened our scope. While continuing to highlight the collections of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the research they facilitate, Library Columns will now appear twice each year—in the winter and summer—and will attempt to shed that same light on Columbia’s other great collections. Toward this end, we have created an editorial board of librarians from throughout the Columbia community to provide news and insight on developments in their respective collections. We have also created an Advisory Board of scholars to help us identify important research taking place at Columbia that may be of interest to our readers.

Perhaps the clearest evidence for our new role can be found in this issue’s “Our Growing Collections,” which describes additions to the Avery, East Asian, Music, and Rare Book and Manuscript Libraries. Taken together, they give ample evidence that the collections of the Columbia Libraries are indeed growing, as we treasure and care for the heritage on our shelves and work to make it available to all those who value it as we do.
As Good as Its Owner? Giovanni Aurispa and His Manuscript of Victorinus’s Commentary

Anders Winroth

Hic liber Aurispae est, Siculae regionis alumni.
Nec melior liber est, nec melior dominus.
Convenit atque libro dominus, dominoque libellus:
Instruit hic dominum, corrigit ille librum.

This book is Aurispa’s, a son of the Sicilian region.
The book is not any better than its owner,
nor is its owner better than the book.
And the owner suits the book, the book suits the owner:
It instructs the owner, he corrects the book.

With these two neat though hardly very elegant couplets, the humanist book collector Giovanni Aurispa (1376–1459) announces his ownership of one of the most interesting medieval manuscripts in the Columbia collections, Plimpton MS 103. This book contains the commentary on Cicero’s *De inventione*, written by the fourth-century Roman rhetorician Marius Victorinus.

Aurispa lived during the great epoch of classical literature’s rediscovery, and he himself played an important part in this process. His major contribution pertains to Greek literature, which before his time was a scarce commodity in the
West. He brought home to Italy hundreds of books from long journeys in the Byzantine East in 1405–1413 and 1421–1423, thus greatly improving the supply of Greek texts available in the West. But Aurispa’s interests were not restricted to Greek literature. He also collected books in Latin, and his most important discovery in this field was the commentary on Terence’s comedies written in the fourth century by Aelius Donatus, which he found at Mainz in Germany in 1433.

In his indefatigable activity as a book hunter, Aurispa showed himself a worthy colleague of his better-known contemporaries, Poggio Bracciolini and Niccolò Niccoli, although his literary and scholarly production does not at all match their wide-ranging activity. While Poggio, for example, “indulged in a variety of literary pursuits, ranging from history and moral essays to polemic and pornography” (Reynolds & Wilson), Aurispa produced only one short original work and a handful of translations from Greek to Latin.

So why did Aurispa collect books? On this question scholarly opinion is divided. It has been suggested that his motives were purely commercial, and that he was more of a book trader than a collector. There is evidence that Aurispa sold many of his books, some of which commanded high prices, and Aurispa’s friend Francesco Filelfo, also a book collector and a humanist, accused him of being more interested in trading books than in studying them.

Filelfo’s remark was taken seriously by the ground-breaking investigator of early Renaissance book-hunting, Remigio Sabbadini: “He [Aurispa] instead was entirely focused on peddling them [his books].” In addition to the evidence already mentioned, Sabbadini based his conclusion on an inventory of Aurispa’s books written after his death and published in 1890 by Sabbadini himself. There are very few Greek books in this list, and Sabbadini concluded that Aurispa had sold all but a few of the many books he had brought home from his Eastern journeys.

More recent scholarship has shown, however, that this inventory lists only a part of Aurispa’s collection. In 1976, Adriano Franceschini published a more complete inventory written in 1459, which portrays an impressive library of no less than 578 books. At least 210 books were in Greek. Except for a few renaissance works in Italian, the bulk of the remainder were in Latin. The content of the library reflects Aurispa’s humanist interests: very few medieval authors are represented, and the focus is on the literature of Greek and Roman antiquity. In this area, Aurispa’s collection is the most complete since the end of antiquity. It does not contain a full run of what can be found in the Loeb classical library, but this modern series is the comparison that springs to mind. But there are also some conspicuous lacunae, such as Julius Caesar’s Gallic Wars and Civil Wars, Quintilian’s rhetorical writings, and the Greek Anthology, a copy of which Aurispa had actually brought home from one of his Greek journeys.

Apart from these specific gaps, the inventory conjures an image of “a highly specialized library, collected with passion and intelligence” (Franceschini). In other words, it is the library of a scholarly bibliophile. It must have taken many years and a determined effort to assemble such a collection, especially since Aurispa does not appear to have been a wealthy man. He complains about his lack of means in a letter dated 1437 to the viceroy of his native Sicily and even claims that he had to sell his clothes to be able to buy books in Constantinople. Though this assert-
tion need not be taken literally, since similar claims often appear in scholars’ epistolary supplications for monetary subvention, Adriano Franceschini’s research shows that Aurispa’s financial plight was real. He had difficulties in obtaining and retaining profitable positions. Furthermore, Franceschini points out that many of the books Aurispa sold were expensive items, and the library described in the inventories contains, on the whole, less expensive copies. One gets the impression that Aurispa sold books in order to build a well-stocked library. By selling an expensive copy, he was able to buy another less-expensive exemplar of the same work and could use the savings to buy other texts. It is thus easy to understand how he was unwilling to part with his laboriously acquired books. This is probably the background of Filelfo’s remark, which might best be interpreted as friendly banter.

Plimpton MS 103 is one of those relatively inexpensive, quotidian manuscripts that seem to have made up the bulk of Aurispa’s collection. It represents, in fact, one of very few entries in the inventory of Aurispa’s library that may be identified with an extant manuscript. Only four volumes that contain Aurispa’s exlibris are known, and in none of them did Aurispa use such an elaborate exlibris as in the Plimpton manuscript. Does this mean that he was particularly fond of his copy of Victorinus? If so, his interest was not prompted by the potential value of the book. Its decoration is minimal. Two initials at the beginnings of the two books of Victorinus’s work have a simple but tasteful decoration in the form of an interlacing pattern. The text was copied during the twelfth century, probably in northern Italy, in a tiny but well-formed Carolingian minuscule bookhand. This was by far the preferred bookhand for renaissance humanists. They (wrongly) believed it to be of ancient origin and used it as the model for their own handwriting, from which today’s handwriting and printed typefaces descend. Plimpton MS 103 is a book for a scholar, a person who is interested in what the text says rather than in making a lucrative investment.

Why was Aurispa drawn to this book? At the end of the twentieth century Marius Victorinus is hardly a familiar name, but he was a popular author during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Contributing to his fame was the fact that Victorinus converted to Christianity and that Augustine wrote about the attention this caused in Rome: “When he stepped forward to make his profession [of Christianity], everyone, when they recognized him, whispered his name. . . . Who did not know him? And a low murmur ran through the mouths of all the rejoicing multitude: ‘Victorinus! Victorinus!’” (Confessions VIII 2.5) Victorinus was the teacher of many important Romans. He was rewarded (deservedly, says Augustine) for his excellence in teaching with a statue in the Roman Forum, “which is considered an extraordinary honor by the citizens of this world.”

If ever so exalted, Victorinus was a school master and his commentary on the De inventione of Cicero is a school book, meant to explain the intricacies of Cicero’s rhetorical teachings to students. This is evident from the school-masterly fashion in which Victorinus expounds at length on almost every word of Cicero. In our times, when technical rhetoric is no longer important, the commentary can appear only tedious. During antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance, however, rhetoric was an important discipline. It was one of the three subjects in the trivium (grammar, rhetoric, and logic), which formed the basic curriculum taught in the schools. During the Renaissance, rhetoric was an especially cherished subject for the humanists. They valued the eloquence
of Cicero and tried to mimic it in their own writings and in orations at festive occasions. Consequently, it is not surprising that Aurispa owned Victorinus’s commentary on one of Cicero’s works on the theory of rhetoric.

Aurispa’s treatment of the volume shows that he was interested in Victorinus’s text and read it with something more than a passing interest. He scrutinized the text so carefully that he was able to discover that a leaf was missing from the manuscript, and he took care to have the missing text copied from another manuscript onto an inserted leaf. Afterwards, he had the book rebound in the nicely blind-tooled leather binding that still covers it. Even better evidence for Aurispa’s interest in this book are the numerous notes he wrote in the margins. Most of them mark the places where Victorinus begins a new topic, and they help to orient the reader within the volume. It seems that Aurispa wanted to be able easily to find the places where Victorinus discusses different rhetorical matters.

Some of Aurispa’s notes concern Greek words in the manuscript. In ancient Rome, the art of rhetoric was, like so much else, imported from Greece. Rhetorical theory consequently uses many technical terms in Greek, and Victorinus sprinkled a fair number of them throughout his commentary. Aurispa was one of the few people in Western Europe in the early fifteenth century who had mastered Greek. He might even have acquired the basics of the language in his youth in Sicily, which to some extent was a bilingual society. Aurispa also taught Greek to no less a luminary than Lorenzo Valla. But Valla never acquired a deep understanding of the language, so this does not throw favorable light on Aurispa’s teaching skills. Since Greek was practically unknown in Western Europe before Aurispa’s time, Greek words in Latin manuscripts often caused considerable problems for the scribes. Many scribes simply left an empty space, with or without the familiar phrase “Graeca sunt, non leguntur” (It is Greek and cannot be read). Others attempted to imitate as well as they could the unfamiliar characters, often with nonsensical results. A few scribes achieved some proficiency in at least writing Greek letters without necessarily understanding what they were writing. The scribe who wrote Plimpton MS 103 belonged to this last category. His Greek characters are well-formed majuscules that usually reproduce quite well Victorinus’ original words. When the scribe’s rendering is inexact, Aurispa attempts in several cases to emend the Greek readings. His corrections are good and usually close to the text as it is rendered in Karl Halm’s standard edition. Aurispa’s manuscript is, in general, a text of high quality, at least about as high as the two more recent of the three manuscripts Halm used for his edition. But any definitive assessment of the textual value of Plimpton MS 103 must await a new critical edition.

Plimpton MS 103 reveals an owner who cared a great deal about his book. He took pains to make the text as complete and as correct as possible. He also made it easy to access by means of marginal finding notes and protected it in a new binding. He was more interested in studying than in selling this particular book, and it thus appears that Aurispa’s exlibris is to the point: the book teaches its owner, and the owner corrects his book. The book is free from superficial embellishment, but its content is sound. The same could be said about Aurispa. “The book suits the owner.”
Aurispa’s illustrious library was scattered by his heirs soon after his death, and we do not know of the immediate fate of the Victorinus manuscript. It seems to have remained in Italy for several centuries. The book collector and legal historian Federico Patetta (1867–1945) of Rome is the next known owner. George A. Plimpton acquired the manuscript from the book dealer Joseph (Giuseppe) Martini of Lugano, and it was bequeathed to Columbia University together with the rest of the Plimpton collection in 1936.

**Bibliographical Note**

Lafayette Place, where Columbia Law School was located in the time of Frank Dupignac, looking north from Great Jones Street, circa 1866.

Photo, E. & H.T. Anthony & Co (Lightfoot Collection; Dover Publications.)
In all societies, history and myth are interwoven. No less so in the United States, where historical stereotypes are often accepted as historical truths. This pattern is reflected in family history as well as in national history. There are aristocratic lords of the manor, like the Van Rensselaers; dynastic families of great wealth and influence, like the Rockefellers; and families in which a Horatio Alger figure, like Ragged Dick, the match boy, figures prominently—he starts out with every disadvantage, and with hard work and a little pluck and luck, he overcomes all obstacles. There are images of hardy colonists with their log cabins in the woods; of equally hardy pioneers heading west in their prairie schooners; and of the penniless immigrant from overseas, who arrives alone and friendless on the shores of America and builds a brilliant new life in the land of opportunity, while the immigrant’s descendants are destined to enjoy unlimited “upward mobility.”

But these stereotypical images give no hint of the existence of families like mine, who, as far back as I can trace them in America—through more than a dozen generations in some lines—show (with few exceptions) no powerful aristocrats, no rags-to-riches stories, no riches-to-rags stories, no heroic tales of the hardships of immigration or settlement. Generation after generation, they are
solidly, stolidly, anonymously in the middle ranks of society: lawyers, merchants, bankers, stockbrokers, who for the most part took pride in being out of the spotlight. What they wanted, rather than fame or adventure or great wealth, was a peaceful and fruitful family and professional life. They chose to stay in their comfortable Manhattan (or Brooklyn) town houses, rather than to brave the dangers of the West—although one of them “pioneered” by moving from his house on Fifth Avenue near 66th Street to the West Side, where he was an early resident of the apartment building known as the Dakota, at 72nd Street and Central Park West.

My family preferred the bulls and bears of Wall Street to the ranches of Texas or the wilderness of California. To be sure, their fortunes fluctuated; yet after financial and familial disasters, they always made a comeback. But even when they did well, their fortunes generally amounted to no more than perhaps a million dollars or so at most. That was a more substantial level of wealth in, say, 1880 than it is now; but it is a mere fraction compared to the hundreds of millions accumulated by Rockefeller, or Carnegie, and others, at the same time. And yet, I would suggest, these middle-class people are more influential than the stereotypes seem to indicate. In their family life and through their business and professional activities, they have helped to sustain the day-to-day framework of society.

The City of New York has, from its founding as New Amsterdam in the early seventeenth century, been a center for shipping and for related activities, such as insurance, banking, and the law. And the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825 made New York a national center for trade and finance. It is, therefore, not surprising that Columbia was offering courses in law as early as the late eighteenth century. Nor is it surprising that in my New York family, many have attended Columbia College and Columbia Law School. In this essay, I sketch four generations of family association with Columbia, from a great-uncle of mine, Frank Jay Dupignac (LL.B., 1869), to myself (A.B., 1963; A.M., 1964; Ph.D., 1968).

Frank J. Dupignac was born in New York on January 10, 1848, the eldest of three children of great-great-grandparents of mine, Eliza Boyle (1828–1870) and James Betts Dupignac (1818–1890), who were married in New York on May 15, 1845. At the time of James B. Dupignac’s birth, his parents were living on East Broadway, then known for the fine federal and Greek Revival houses built there by sea captains and shipping merchants. But his father had been born in New London, Connecticut, where, in the 1790s, the family had arrived in the aftermath of the French Revolution, apparently from the French West Indies. They were of Huguenot origin; in New York they were members of the Episcopal Church.

The Columbia Law Library possesses a manuscript book of names and addresses of students enrolled in the Columbia Law School in the 1860s, and in the book appears the signature Frank John Dupignac, 665 Broadway—near Bond Street—with the date October 4, 1865, when he enrolled for his first year of study. The location was the Tremont House (the hotel was owned by his father from 1860 to 1870—the year of his wife’s death at the age of forty-one, when he permanently retired from business; next door was the National
Academy of Design, at 663 Broadway). His first name echoes that of his Irish-born maternal grandfather, Francis Boyle (1797-1864), to whom I also can trace my name. The middle name is the same as the first name of his paternal grandfather, but he became known as Frank Jay Dupignac, probably adopting a nickname—I am not aware of any connection with the family of the jurist John Jay (A.B., 1764; A.M., 1767).

At the time of Frank J. Dupignac’s enrollment at Columbia, the School had a two-year program, as it is described in the *Eighth Annual Catalogue of the Officers and Students of the Law School of Columbia College, for 1865–1866* (where his name is printed in the list of members of the junior class). The catalogue announces an unequivocal open admissions policy: no college degree was required; there was no entrance examination; and no particular course of preparatory study was stipulated. The fee for tuition was one hundred dollars a year, payable in advance. It is noted that board in the city may range in cost from five to seven dollars a week, and rooms may be rented for one to two dollars a week. The catalogue prudently advises that if two students room together, they may lessen their expenses. If the dollar amounts of these figures seem ludicrously low by today’s standards, it should be recalled that five dollars a week (six twelve-hour work days) was at the time a typical wage for a working person in a clerical job, the modern counterpart of which would now pay approximately one hundred times as much (for a five-day, forty-hour schedule). Similarly, one could at that time go to a modest restaurant and enjoy an adequate dinner for twenty-five cents. If the fees for tuition, room, and board are multiplied by

*Signature of Frank Jay Dupignac, October 6, 1868, from the enrollment book of the Columbia Law School. Columbia Law Library*
a factor of about one hundred, the amounts translate into terms comparable to modern-day costs, although today the cost of room rent would perhaps be higher in comparison to other living expenses.

Although courses in law had long been offered at Columbia, the Law School, as a separate division, had been established relatively recently, in 1858, by Theodore William Dwight (LL.D., 1860, Hon.), who was initially the sole teacher. He taught six hours of classes every day, and on Friday evenings he, together with two seniors, held moot courts. The program was expanded with optional evening lectures by such professors as Francis Lieber (on political science), Charles Murray Nairne (on moral philosophy), and John Ordronaux (on medical jurisprudence), but until 1875, Dwight was the sole regular teacher. It should be remembered that at this period one customarily prepared for the bar by working in a law office as an apprentice. The idea of a systematic course of formal legal study was an innovation, in which Dwight was a conspicuous leader. Whitney Bagnall, in her article in this issue of Library Columns, explains how Dwight sharply distinguished between legal practice and legal principles, believing that the latter should form the basis of study for the law.

Frank J. Dupignac, after completing his first year of study in 1866, took two years off and then reentered the Law School and once again signed the enrollment book, on October 6, 1868, when he was living at 25 Second Street, then a neighborhood of attractive town houses, and graced by the elegant New York City Marble Cemetery, east of Second Avenue, where President James Monroe was once buried, and where the remains of many prominent New Yorkers lie. (One notes the absence of an East or West designation in the student's address—that is because Second Street runs only east, from the Bowery; to the west its course coincides with Bond Street for two blocks, and west of Broadway there is a different pattern of streets.)

At the time of its founding, the Law School was located at 11th Street and Second Avenue, near St. Mark's in-the-Bowery, but it was moved in 1859 to the former residence of William Backhouse Astor (x1811, College) at 27 Lafayette Place (the street was later lengthened and renamed Lafayette Street)—then still a choice residential area, lined with fine houses and gardens and lovely trees. The Astor Library was conveniently nearby, since merged with the Lenox and Tilden Foundations into the New York Public Library. The handsome building that housed the Astor Library is now the headquarters of the New York Shakespeare Festival. The main campus of Columbia was then far uptown at 49th Street and Madison Avenue, where it had moved in 1857 from the original campus at Park Place, one block west of City Hall Park. After 1873, the Law School was located at Lafayette Place and Great Jones Street, and in 1883, it moved to the 49th Street campus. In the printed catalogue of the Law School for 1868–69, Frank J. Dupignac is listed as a member of the senior class, living at 11 Van Ness Place (now Charles Street), in the West Village.

In the course of his legal career, Frank J. Dupignac "obtained considerable prominence" (as a newspaper article of 1890 comments) as a corporation lawyer in New York. He died at his home on Orienta Avenue in Mamaroneck, New York, on May 10, 1922, and his funeral was held at St. Thomas Church, at 53rd Street and Fifth Avenue. A brother of his, Walton Clarke Dupignac
(1854–1893), also attended Columbia Law School (LL.B., 1876). Frank J. Dupignac's son, Dudley Dupignac, entered Columbia College but did not graduate (x1898).

The Columbian in the next generation of my family was related to the Dupignacs by marriage. Clarence William Dupignac (1860–1896), the younger of Frank J. Dupignac's two brothers, married Clara Marshall Tefft (1858–1918); she was one of four children of Ione Marshall (1838–1899) and Charles Griswold Tefft (1832–1877), son of Alma Griswold (1815–1889) and Erastus Tucker Tefft (1810–1888), founder of the wholesale dry goods firm that eventually became known as Tefft, Weller and Co. (E. T. Tefft was the "pioneer," mentioned earlier, who became an early resident of the Dakota, built in 1884.) One of Clara Tefft's three sisters, Anna Griswold Tefft (1856–1945), married Morton David Bogue (1848–1906), who was a member of Tefft, Weller and Co. Their eldest son (one of five children), Morton Griswold Bogue, was born in Brooklyn on November 6, 1880. He grew up in the Park Slope area, although the family spent summers at Lake George. At home, the children enjoyed such entertainments as—on Thanksgiving Day, 1891, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music—a matinee performance of *The Tar and the Tartar* (by Adam Itzel and Harry B. Smith; the musical comedy had been performed more than a hundred times that year). Meanwhile, their father and a friend went to the Polo Grounds at 155th Street, beside the Harlem River, to watch the Yale football team defeat Princeton 19–0, in the rain. The crowd was estimated at forty thousand. After battling a crush that one imagines to have been almost comparable to what they had just seen on the field, the two boarded a streetcar and rode down to 23rd Street, where they stopped for some oysters before returning home.

In the fall of 1896, Mort Bogue, at the age of fifteen, entered Columbia College. The College academic session of 1896–97 was the last to be held at the campus that filled the block between 49th and 50th Streets, between Madison Avenue and Park Avenue (as Fourth Avenue had been renamed in 1888). The buildings were imposing, but the site had become too crowded for new construction, and there was no room for expansion outside the campus, in the now built-up midtown area. In 1897, Columbia moved its headquarters to the 116th Street site that had been purchased in 1894 from the Bloomingdale Insane Asylum, which relocated to White Plains, and at that location continues its psychiatric services today as The New York Hospital–Cornell Medical Center Westchester Division, at 21 Bloomingdale Road. There was an important Columbia connection with the asylum—it had been opened on "Bloomingdale Heights" in 1821 for mental patients of the New York Hospital, whose pioneering psychiatric service had earlier been established by Samuel Bard (x1763, College; M.D., 1768, Hon.), a founder of the New York Hospital (1769) and of the College of Physicians and Surgeons (1767). His name is commemorated in Bard Hall at the Health Sciences campus in Washington Heights. (The Netherlandish term Bloemendaal—anglicized and translated as Bloomingdale—designated the whole area now known by the more prosaic name of the Upper West Side.)

The spacious grounds of the Bloomingdale asylum had been attractively landscaped and occupied by graceful buildings, two of which were
taken over by Columbia for academic use. Meanwhile, work had begun on Low Memorial Library, which was occupied even before it was completed in 1901. One of the earlier structures, called Macy Villa when it was part of the asylum, still stands, although it lacks the porticoes and wraparound porches that originally gave it the aspect of a charming summer residence. It has been popularly known as “the little red house,” but its formal name is Buell Hall. As one looks at the Morningside neighborhood today—a century later—one needs to exercise a good deal of imagination to realize that during Mort Bogue’s years at Columbia, much of the surrounding area was open land, formerly famed for its rural, scenic, inspiring beauty. Today the site is a podium for an architectural construct that echoes the urban grandeur of imperial Rome.

The president of Columbia under whom the campus moved to 116th Street was Seth Low (A.B., 1870; x1871, Law; LL.D., 1914, Hon.; president from 1889 to 1901, when he left to become mayor of New York). He built up the University’s finances, reorganized its administrative system, and generally prepared the way for the institution to become a great university under his successor, Nicholas Murray Butler (A.B., 1882; M.A., 1883; Ph.D., 1884), who took office in 1902. But, as a matter of course the curriculum, especially in the growing field of the sciences, the undergraduate program still required substantial work in the traditional fields of history, mathematics, languages, and classical studies. Some of the prominent teachers of the period were, to name only a very few: Michael I. Pupin (A.B., 1883; Sc.D., 1904, Hon.);—physics; A. V. W. Jackson (A.B., 1883; A.M., 1884; L.H.D., 1885; Ph.D., 1886; LL.D., 1904, Hon.)—languages; Brander Matthews (A.B., 1871; LL.B., 1873; A.M., 1874; LL.D., 1904, Hon.)—literature; and Franz Boas (Sc.D., 1929, Hon.)—anthropology. According to the Columbia yearbook for 1900, Morton G. Bogue served as coxswain of the varsity crews of 1897 and 1898 and participated in many crew events. He was on the editorial board of Spectator and was active in other extracurricular organizations, including Delta Psi fraternity (St. Anthony Hall).

After graduating from Columbia College in the century class of 1900, Mort Bogue entered Columbia Law School, where he studied from 1900 to 1903 without taking a degree. In the early years of the Law School, it was common for students to leave without taking the degree, since the degree was not required in order to practice law, and if a student had an opportunity to begin working, that was often a more attractive prospect than continuing one’s studies. To cite two prominent Columbia examples, neither Theodore Roosevelt (x1882, Law) nor Franklin Delano Roosevelt (x1907, Law) took their degrees; each attained the office of governor of the State of New York and of president of the United States.

Since 1890, the Law School course had been a three-year program, and under the leadership of William A. Keener, the “case method,” which had been introduced at Harvard, was adopted at Columbia. Keener brought in many prominent teachers, of whom one of the most vividly remembered was Charles Thaddeus Terry (LL.B., 1893). It has been said that he was “the only man ever to frighten Harold Medina” (on whom see below). The School moved from the 49th Street campus to Low Memorial Library in 1898. Perhaps the most famous law professor of the period was Harlan Fiske Stone (LL.B., 1898; LL.D. 1925,
Hon.), who taught in the School from 1899 to 1905, and in 1925 was appointed to the United States Supreme Court, where he became chief justice in 1941, succeeding Charles Evans Hughes (LL.B., 1884; LL.D., 1907, Hon.), who had earlier served as governor of New York (1907-1910). An impressive number of Columbia graduates have served on the Supreme Court.

Morton G. Bogue was admitted to the New York Bar in 1903 and practiced law in New York for the rest of his life, eventually becoming a senior partner in the firm of Beekman and Bogue. Charles Keller Beekman had also studied at Columbia (A.B., 1889; LL.B., 1892). As an alumnus, Mort Bogue continued to be active on behalf of Columbia athletics and received the Alumni Athletic Award in 1950. Most relevant to the present discussion is that from 1938 to 1946 he served as a trustee of Bard College (affiliated with Columbia, 1928-1944); and he was an alumni trustee of Columbia from 1937 to 1945. One of the major projects at Columbia during the wartime years, starting in 1939, was the development of the atomic bomb under the leadership of Enrico Fermi, Isidore I. Rabi, Harold Urey (three Nobel Prize winners), and others. At the time of Morton G. Bogue’s death in 1955, he was living at the Sulgrave (an apartment hotel—torn down around 1963), 60 East 67th Street, and at Bridgehampton, Long Island; his law office was at 15 Broad Street in New York. His younger brothers both attended Columbia College but did not take degrees: Frank Tefft Bogue (x1903), and Perry David Bogue (x1906). However, a sister of theirs, Anna Tefft Bogue, received her bachelor’s degree from Smith College in 1903, at a time when relatively few women attended college.

In my family, the next Columbian was my father, Francis Jacques Sypher (1905-1960), son of Robert Martin Sypher (1881-1956) and Anna Elizabeth Dupignac (1884-1972)—daughter of Clara Tefft and Clarence Dupignac. My father was born in the shadow of Morningside Heights, at 307 West 115th Street, near the eastern edge of Morningside Park, which was a beautiful place for small children to play. But in 1908, the family moved to the suburbs—part of the huge migration out of the city at the time, made possible by improved public transit and the automobile. As a consequence of such moves, formerly rural areas of New Jersey, Connecticut, and Westchester became built-up in subsequent decades, and the demographic composition of neighborhoods such as Harlem, the Upper West Side, and Washington
Heights changed dramatically. In the fall of 1921, my father entered Columbia at the age of sixteen (he had skipped two grades). At that time he was living in Leonia, New Jersey, and he commuted to Morningside via the 125th Street ferry. After joining Alpha Sigma Phi fraternity, he moved to their house at 524 West 114th Street and eventually became president of the organization. He told of wild pranks and parties in those somewhat lawless Prohibition days. In one episode, he and some friends bought a beat-up Model T Ford for ten dollars and drove it down to Philadelphia to attend a Columbia-Penn football game. The old wagon held out until they finally arrived back in New York, but it broke down on 116th Street, and they got out and left it there in the middle of the street.

My father’s studies included the recently founded (1919) Contemporary Civilization course, which attempted to explain—as one classmate of my father’s, a veteran of World War II, commented—“why there would never be another war.” My father also studied astronomy with Harold Jacoby (A.B., 1885; Ph.D., 1895), who had designed the horological markings for the Columbia sundial on College Walk. (On December 19, 1946, the huge, fifteen-ton, lathe-turned, dark green granite ball that served as its gnomon—or shadow marker—was removed because it had become cracked and in danger of falling; the dial has not told time since.) Jacoby was known for giving high grades, and his astronomy course acquired the reputation of being a “gut”—to such an extent that he was told by the administration that he had to vary his grading, so he began to award grades according to a percentage system in which the top third of the class received A’s, the second third B’s, and the last third C’s. My father took English with Mark Van Doren (Ph.D., 1921), whom he remembered as a “hard marker”; clearly, English was not my father’s best field. And he made a cursory study of Spanish—his father had advised him that Latin America was “the key to the future.” I once asked him what the phrase “todos los jueves” meant, displayed on a movie theater marquee on upper Broadway, and he sagely explained that it meant “all the eggs.” I remember the trivial episode because I was mightily puzzled over why such a message would be on a movie theater, but was too young and too timid to ask any further questions, and I had no idea that he had confused jueves (“Thursdays,” referring to weekly live performances) with huevos (“eggs”).

My father did better with his favorite subject, the key to the past, Latin, in which he had excelled in his previous school years. In college, he took virtually every Latin course that he could fit into his schedule, at such an advanced level that there were few other students in the classes. Having long since read works of Caesar, Cicero, Vergil, and Horace, he went on to study such authors as Terence, Plautus, Tacitus, and Lucretius, whose De verum natura made a deep impression on him. He did well enough to be regularly on the dean’s list; Herbert E. Hawkes (L.L.D., 1929, Hon.) was dean of the College. One of my father’s classmates in his Latin studies was his friend William York Tindall (A.B., 1925, A.M., 1926, Ph.D., 1934), who became a professor of English at Columbia and a world-renowned authority on James Joyce. Because my father was so young and slight of stature, he was almost literally seized upon to be the coxswain of the fresh-
man crew. In his sophomore and junior years, he steered the 150 lb. crew through many races and countless practice sessions on the Harlem River.

Columbia had introduced a program called “professional option” by which a Columbia student could, instead of taking a regular fourth-year college course, take the first year of a professional program. My father opted to begin studying law. He received the degree of A.B. with his college class in 1925, but completed the three-year program of the Law School in 1927, in effect skipping yet another grade. At that time, the Law School was located in Kent Hall. He studied with, among others, Judge Harold R. Medina (L.L.B., 1912), whom my father, like everyone else, intensely admired. My father then passed the New York State Bar examination in 1927, at the age of twenty-two, which must be a record or near record for early admission. (Mort Bogue had been admitted at about the same age.) He began work in the Wall Street area and became an associate and partner in law firms where he practiced corporate law; he later founded his own practice—based in mid-town—mainly in trusts, estates, and real-estate matters.

During these years, my father maintained ties with Columbia. He attended alumni events, and on homecoming weekends he would go to Baker Field to give much-needed encouragement to the Columbia football team. He was also active as a member and officer of the Columbia University Club, at 4 West 43rd Street, across from the Century Association. During my school vacations, I used to clerk for him in his law office at the Bar Building (36 West 44th Street), and every day he would, at a certain hour of the afternoon, step out of the 43rd Street door and cross the street to the club for a few games of backgammon or gin rummy, before arriving home at seven o’clock sharp. At the club he would occasionally encounter Thomas E. Dewey (L.L.B., 1925), governor of the State of New York from 1943 to 1955 and Republican candidate for president in 1944 and 1948. The last time I visited the Columbia University Club was in 1965, when I had dinner there as the guest of Deacon Murphy (A.B., 1908; A.M., 1910; L.L.B., 1912), who had worked with Dewey’s “racket-busters,” fighting organized crime in the City of New York in the 1930s. Deacon Murphy sponsored my membership in the Saint Nicholas Society, founded by Washington Irving (A.M., 1821, Hon.; L.L.D., 1829, Hon.) and others in 1835; many Columbia alumni have belonged to the society, including my father. The handsome clubhouse of the Columbia University Club was sold in 1975 to the Reverend Sun Myung Moon’s Unification Church.

In the late 1940s and early 1950s, my father was active at International House. From time to time, resident students were dinner guests at our apartment at 1049 Park Avenue. Not long after the death in 1947 of Nicholas Murray Butler, my father attended a reception at International House, during which Frank D. Fackenthal (A.B., 1906; Litt.D., 1929, Hon.), then acting president of Columbia, upon arriving at the door, was refused admission because he did not have the required card of invitation. Fackenthal, known for his modesty, hesitated, as if not quite knowing what to do next. My father, who happened to be nearby, informed the usher that the gentleman was president of the University.

My first visit to Columbia was with my father in the late 1940s on a cloudy, breezy, chilly fall day.
There was football practice in front of Butler Library, on South Field, then a playing field. We went for lunch to the Lions Den in John Jay Hall, where I was somewhat overwhelmed, since I was just a little kid and everyone towered over me, and the rack for sliding the cafeteria tray was on a level with my nose. I thought I could never go to school in such a place, since everything at Columbia was so big.

My first official contact with Columbia as an institution occurred in the fall of 1958 when, as a student at Trinity School, I applied for admission, with the recommendation of Mr. C. Bruner-Smith (A.B., 1925—a friend and classmate of my father’s). Bruner (as he is known to his many friends) was the senior English teacher and head of the upper school at Trinity, where he is presently active and greatly admired, as he has been since 1927. During most of my attendance there, the headmaster was Matthew E. Dann (A.B., 1926; A.M. 1927); he was a popular leader who was irreverently referred to by the boys as “Fat Matt” on account of his generous embonpoint. (Trinity, now co-ed, was then a school for boys only.) I had started at Trinity in 1947, after attending nursery school and kindergarten at the Day School, which was founded by a Columbia graduate, Henry Darlington (A.B., 1910), the eloquent and energetic rector of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, at 90th Street and Fifth Avenue. At Trinity I studied with many graduates of Columbia, including Rolston Coles (A.B., 1930)—Latin; and John Langford (B.S., 1912, Teachers College)—English; they were superb teachers.

For my interview for admission to first grade at Trinity, my mother took me to meet with Mr. Langford, who was head of the lower school. He was a tall, handsome, imposing man—a lifelong bachelor who lived to the age of ninety-two in the same house in which he had grown up, in New Rochelle, New York. He always wore stiff, white collars and immaculate three-piece suits, with a gold watch chain across the vest. With fountain pen (blue-black ink) or with chalk, he wrote in a perfect Spencerian hand. His speech was a model of English grammar and pronunciation, and he was a masterful teacher of composition and literature. He was both loved and feared: his approval was eagerly sought after; his ire was terrifying—when he snapped his fingers for attention, a whole hall full of noisy boys would instantly fall silent. But all knew that he was a benevolent, dedicated teacher who had everyone’s best interests at heart.

He told of how, in his early days at the school, the headmaster at that time, who was somewhat of a Prussian disciplinarian, wore an academic gown—and slippers, so that he could silently prowl the halls and spy on the school’s activities. For my interview, Mr. Langford sat me on his knee and asked me to recite the alphabet, which I did, and then he pulled out his desk drawer and gave me a white peppermint Lifesaver, which he called an “educational pill.” I had passed.

Trinity School had been founded in 1709 as the parish school of Trinity Church, and the first classes of King’s College—as Columbia was originally called—were held in Trinity’s classrooms, since the Park Place buildings had not yet been constructed (the campus was partially opened in 1760). In 1894, the school, after twelve previous moves, occupied its present quarters at 139-141 West 91st Street. Many graduates of Trinity School have gone to Columbia. And many Columbia people have been associated with the school, includ-
ing John Howard Van Amringe (A.B., 1860; A.M., 1863; L.H.D., 1890, Hon.; L.L.D., 1910, Hon.), the revered dean of the College from 1894 to 1910, who was on the board of trustees of Trinity. By coincidence, in the 1890s, my great-grandparents, Clara and Clarence Dupignac, and their three children were living across the street from Trinity School in a brownstone at 141 West 92nd Street, facing St. Agnes Chapel, where the family attended church. The beautiful romanesque edifice, surrounded by gardens, was a chapel of Trinity parish. The interior had been designed by Tiffany, including fine stained-glass windows and mosaic floors. St. Agnes was a high-church parish, and when my grandparents wanted to get married there, Father Kelly declined to perform the ceremony because it was the penitential period of Lent, so they went up Amsterdam Avenue to St. Michael’s, on 99th Street, where the priest was more lenient, and they were married there on March 16, 1904. St. Michael’s is still standing, but St. Agnes Chapel was demolished in 1943 because the demographics of the neighborhood had changed and there were few parishioners to support the institution. During my time as a student at Trinity, the space was used as a playing field for football and other games, and was known as the “dust bowl.”

Late in December 1958, I received a letter of acceptance of admission to Columbia, and after graduating from Trinity in June of 1959, I entered Columbia the following September. During the next four years I was privileged to study with many gifted teachers, such as Andrew Chiappe (A.B., 1933; A.M., 1939; Ph.D., 1943)—Shakespeare; Herbert A. Deane (A.B., 1942; Ph.D., 1953)—Contemporary Civilization; Edward S. Le Comte (A.B., 1939; A.M., 1940; Ph.D., 1943)—seventeenth- and eighteenth-century English literature; William York Tindall—James Joyce; and others. Like many commuters, I participated little in extracurricular activities, since I lived relatively far from Morningside Heights—at home with my mother, at 1335 Madison Avenue; my father had died when I was nineteen. (The number four bus was my lifeline to Columbia.) I did, however, attend some splendid theatrical productions staged by students: Yerma, by Federico García Lorca (who was at Columbia from 1929 to 1930), at the Minor Latham Playhouse at Barnard; T. S. Eliot’s Murder in the Cathedral at St. Paul’s Chapel; and, most impressive, a brilliant nighttime production of the Agamemnon of Aeschylus on the steps and plaza before the columns of Low Memorial Library. The surrounding buildings rang with echoes of Clytemnestra’s passion. (Why, I wonder, have spectacular performances like this not been done more often?)

Upon the recommendation of Mr. Deane and others, and with sympathetic advice from Marjorie Hope Nicholson (then head of the Graduate English Department), I was admitted to the Columbia Graduate Faculties to study in the Department of English and Comparative Literature. In the fall of 1963 I late-registered after sailing back on the Holland-America Line’s Maasdam from Galway Bay after four months of glorious wandering on the European Continent and in England and Ireland. In 1963, one could travel comfortably anywhere in Europe for about five dollars a day total living expenses: hotel, meals, everything. And since I spoke fluent French (I had started to study French in first grade at Trinity) and passable Italian (which I had taken courses in
during my previous two years at Columbia), I was able to get around in interesting off-the-beaten-path areas, such as Calabria and Sicily, where I visited many places familiar from my classical studies. Among the most memorable were Scilla (classical Scylla), Reggio Calabria (from which one could occasionally see, so I was told, the phenomenon of the fata morgana), Taormina (near Mt. Etna), the Aeolian Islands, Agrigento, and Syracuse, where I stayed in a crumbling old villa next to the beautiful Fountain Arethuse (with its lush growth of papyrus plants), rich in classical associations and familiar from Ovid and from Milton’s “Lycidas.” To my amazement, I ran into Columbia acquaintances almost everywhere that summer, especially in Florence, Venice, Paris, and London.

In Ireland, I explored the Yeats and “Joyce Country,” with a copy of a marvelous picture-book of that title by Tindall, and, of course, a copy of *Ulysses*. Tindall had told me how he had gone to Paris right after graduation in June 1925 and had headed straight for Sylvia Beach’s famous bookshop, Shakespeare and Company, at 12, rue de l’Odéon, to buy a copy of *Ulysses*, which had been published in Paris in 1922 but was banned in the United States. He said it had the reputation of being a “dirty book,” and he wanted to find out what all the controversy was about. With his freshly bought copy (in his office in Philosophy Hall, he showed me the very volume, which had a white paper cover, unlike most copies, which were bound in dark blue paper), he went to the nearby Jardin du Luxembourg, sat down on a park bench, and began reading. By incredible coincidence—or perhaps by fate—the day was Bloomsday, June 16th.

I had set sail for Rotterdam on June 7th, just after graduation, aboard the Holland-America’s *Waterman*, a former troop ship turned into a student ship. We were packed in twelve to a cabin. The passage was a ten-day-long round-the-clock party, with six meals a day—a huge Dutch breakfast including cold meat and cheese, bouillon at midmorning, a huge lunch, afternoon tea, a huge dinner, and midnight sandwiches of blood sausage on heavily buttered rolls; the total fare for the crossing, including all meals, was $180. On board ship, one could buy a bottle of Heineken beer for twelve cents and a pack of Lucky Strikes for thirteen cents. Aside from eating and drinking, and loafing on deck, our principal occupation was playing cards—at one time or another we played every game we could think of, from war, concentration, go fish, old maid, I doubt it, and hearts, to canasta, casino, and bridge. We used Dutch cards, bought on the ship, with the king marked H (for *heer*), the queen marked V (for *vrouw*), and the jack marked B (for *boer*), which led to no end of confusion. A Mount Holyoke graduate gave me ample instruction in bridge. She was traveling with her sister, also from Mount Holyoke. With another guy, we made a foursome for cards nearly every morning and afternoon. The Mount Holyoke graduate wore neatly pressed khaki Bermuda shorts, a crisp madras blouse with a Peter Pan collar, and a gold circle pin; and there was always a cigarette in or near her carefully manicured right hand, and on the table next to her drink, a pack of Winstons, with a Zippo lighter lying on top. From long practice, she had a cool, smooth shuffle, riffle, and deal, and total mastery of the fine points of the game. I was awed. There were some things I had not learnt at Columbia.
Francis J. Sypher as coxswain of the crew, circa 1923, from his college photo album. Columbiana Library.
After receiving the master's degree from Columbia in June of 1964, I entered the doctoral program and completed the Ph.D. in June 1968. I also encountered wonderful teachers in graduate school—too many to name, but I recall with special admiration Elliott Van Kirk Dobbie (A.B., 1927; A.M., 1928; Ph.D., 1937), a great white-headed gentle bear of a man, with whom I studied the history of the English language and read *Beowulf.* Professor Paul Oskar Kristeller (L.H.D., 1974, Hon.), whose recent lectures and works of brilliant scholarship continue to be an inspiration; and Gilbert Highet (Litt.D., 1977, Hon.), whose impressively well-organized course on Vergil's *Aeneid* conveyed a wealth of learning and had far-reaching influence for me.

The social life of a graduate student is generally considered to be nonexistent, but in the mid-1960s we had daily access to sociable afternoon tea at Philosophy Hall, served with ginger snaps and Lorna Doone shortbread cookies (the name recalls Blackmore's novel, published in 1869). The strong, fragrant tea was drawn from steaming, shining Russian samovars by volunteers from the Columbia community. Faculty as well as students were in attendance, as they were at evenings sponsored by the English Graduate Union, which would invite visiting scholars to the Faculty House. I especially remember a fine lecture by Eugène Vinaver on the works of Sir Thomas Malory. Afterward there would be a cheerful reception, with generous quantities of food and drink—always welcome to graduate students. During this period, I taught in the English Department of Columbia College as a "preceptor," with responsibility each semester for two sections of English composition (fall 1965 to spring 1968). I had also been scheduled to be an assistant and reader of student papers in Professor Chiappe's Shakespeare course. He had initially invited me to teach in the department, but he suddenly died just before my appointment with him was to begin.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, the central campus looked much as it does now, although there has since been extensive building to the north and east and at the Barnard campus. However, the general mood seems to me to have been different then. Doors were wide open, and there seemed to be no need for the security measures that are accepted as normal today—not only at Columbia, but at many institutions and office buildings. Also, the campus was decorated with carefully tended beds of beautiful flowers, whose colors and shapes contrasted delightfully and gave a garden aspect to the well-maintained grounds and buildings. All of that changed in April of 1968, when groups of students seized and occupied campus buildings and barred others from entering them to use offices or to conduct or attend classes. The episode was terminated by a police raid on April 30th. In the course of those events, the flower beds were trampled out of existence; with them went the atmosphere that had seemed to prevail before. But Columbia is still a place where a long history of continuity makes itself felt.

In conclusion, I cannot help commenting on the number of influential Columbia people who are mentioned in passing in this discussion. It was not my intention originally to compose a "star-studded" account, but the brilliant names kept on appearing, almost of their own accord, as I wrote. I do not refer to the modest achievements of
members of my own family, but rather to the emi-
ment lawyers, judges, physicians, scientists, teach-
ers, scholars, authors, political leaders, et al. who
have touched the lives of millions of people, and
who have helped guide the paths of countless
organizations. I am also struck by the extraordi-
nary network of relationships that emerges here—
among contemporaries and from generation to
generation among teachers, judges, founders of
institutions, and others whose influence flows on
and on. This small sketch offers, I think, an unex-
pected yet striking indication of how deep and far-
reaching Columbia's impact upon society has
been, and continues to be: not only upon one
family, or in the City of New York, but in the
nation and throughout the world.
Professor Theodore Dwight (1822-1892), circa 1870. Photo, Knickerbocker Portrait Gallery, Columbia Law Library.
When George Augustus Baker enrolled in Columbia College School of Law in 1869, he was making a decided break with the artistic traditions of his Brooklyn family. There were no lawyers in Baker's family; both his father and grandfather (both also named George Augustus Baker) were artists, his father a portrait painter in oils and his grandfather a miniaturist on ivory. George Augustus Baker, Jr., earned a successful living as a painter, with his portraits of women and children much sought after, collected by the Vanderbilts, and exhibited in Paris. What was it at Columbia Law School, then only eleven years in operation, that drew young George Baker away from his family inclination and led him to enroll with 134 other men to read for the bar? The thought of greater wealth or political preferment? The suggestion of a young lady? Perhaps. More likely a stronger motivation can be traced to the reputation of the Law School's founder and principal lecturer, Theodore William Dwight.

Theodore W. Dwight. His name seems to place him more at Yale than at Columbia. As the grandson of Timothy Dwight, Yale's eighth president, Dwight could easily have found a teaching career in New Haven. But his parents, Dr.
Benjamin Woolsey Dwight and Sophia Woodbridge Strong, moved to Clinton, New York, in 1831, when Theodore was nine years old. At that point, Theodore Dwight became firmly rooted in New York, both upstate and in the city, while his family's background in education instilled in him a deep commitment to changing the character of legal education. Dwight was called to Columbia in 1858 from Hamilton College in Clinton, where he had been head of the very successful law department he had created as a logical extension of his regular classes in history, civil polity, and political economy. He himself was a graduate of Hamilton who followed his undergraduate days with a brief stint studying physics in New York City and then one year of law at Yale. He returned to Clinton to teach at his alma mater after being admitted to the New York bar in 1845. Following twelve years of directing an expanding and well-regarded law program, Dwight was persuaded by Columbia's trustees to move his stage of operations to New York City, which lacked a law school despite an abundance of commercial, legal, and political opportunities in the area. At that time, the trustees were experimenting with the concept of post-graduate education in several fields: philology, political science, ethics, and law. Of these four subjects, law was the only one to produce a large enough enrollment to establish a law department or law school within the College. According to Dwight's registration book, filled with signatures, the entering class that enrolled after Dwight's inaugural lecture on November 1, 1858, contained 35 students. In 1869, when George Baker enrolled, the entering class consisted of 135 students.

Dwight held distinctive views on the teaching of law, advocating a method of teaching that later came to bear his name. Recalling that law schools of the nineteenth century required no undergraduate degree for admission and that admission to the bar did not require a law degree, a twentieth-century lawyer can only wonder at the lack of standardized procedures in the early bar. That was one of the shortcomings Dwight hoped to remedy. Although Dwight's two-year curriculum plan at Columbia covered civil law, constitutional history, equity jurisprudence, medical jurisprudence, and law of the sea, Dwight's students were under no professional obligation to remain in school for the full two years. After one year, some chose to complete their legal education by clerking in a law office. The experience varied greatly and was completely unmonitored. Such casual instruction was what Dwight hoped to banish throughout the profession. At Columbia, Dwight intended to establish the study of law as a science, to restore law to the academy in its rightful place as a learned profession.

In his inaugural lecture to prospective students and lawyers sympathetic to his purpose, Dwight faulted training in law offices for its haphazard and exploitative approach:

> In the haste of office business, the varied labors imposed upon a lawyer in full practice, in one of our large commercial cities, little leisure will be found for the instruction of students. The care-fully drawn paper which they are left to copy is not understood. The work is done mechanically.

And if one were not ground down by the tedium of rote work, Dwight feared for the health of apprentices toiling in unhospitable conditions in small offices. Readers of “Bartleby the Scrivener” will recognize similarities between the situation described by Dwight and the impoverished life of a law copyist drawn by Herman Melville, a contemporary of Dwight's.
Dwight's response to these conditions, his life-long mission toward a system of legal education, was to teach law not as an unmanageable collection of legal points culled from decisions of the court and published in innumerable law reports, but as a learned discipline endowed with a long history, understood through legal principles, and rationally explained by judicious reference to pertinent cases. Under Dwight's tutelage, students attained their competence in legal rules and doctrines by reading authoritative treatises that presented comprehensive knowledge of legal topics. His presentation differed from the "case method," so-called because students were taught by reading actual case decisions of the courts, published voluminously in law reports. Professors who taught by the case method relied on "casebooks," collections of cases on a single topic, such as contracts. In contrast, Dwight advocated examination of those legal principles that guided the courts in their interpretation and construction of statutes. Dwight took the long view: principles evolve slowly and are durable; cases become dated quickly. At one point near the end of his teaching career, Dwight drew up a list of the fifty leading law books he considered most valuable for the young practitioner. Including such authors as Joseph Story on jurisprudence, Joseph Arnauld on marine insurance, and Francis Wharton on conflict of laws, this list embodied fundamental texts of nineteenth-century American jurisprudence.

Once installed as warden of Columbia College Law School, a position comparable to dean, Dwight assumed responsibility for establishing a law library for the use of his students. Although the College had, since the time of its founding, seen a number of its alumni train for the bar, the College library owned few current legal treatises or collections of state laws. As an immediate remedy, Dwight persuaded the trustees to acquire the entire library of Joshua A. Spencer, a state senator, mayor of Utica, and long-time friend of Dwight's. As U.S. district attorney for the northern district of New York and leader of the Utica bar, Spencer had amassed a useful practitioner's library, which Dwight bought from Spencer's widow for two thousand dollars in 1859. Added to these law books shortly after the School's establishment were collections from two Columbia families who had made distinguished contributions as members of the New York bar and as public servants. First came the law library of William Samuel Johnson, president of Columbia College after the Revolution and one of the drafters of the U.S. Constitution. Another major collection came from John Jay, grandson of the first chief justice of the Supreme Court, who gave the new Law School 650 volumes, embracing a few from his great-grandfather William Livingston, a number from his grandfather, from his uncle Peter Augustus Jay, and from his own father, William Jay. Because of these immediate acquisitions, the School's 1861 announcement could describe the Law Library as containing "a complete series of the Reports and Statutes of the United States and of the Reports of the State of New York, with the most valuable of those of the other States; a full series of the English Reports from the Year Books to the present time, with several editions of the English Statutes, and the principal Treatises on American and English law." Consulting law books bearing signatures of these jurists, Columbia law students felt an immediate connection with serious legal minds who had already made their mark in international, political, and legislative affairs.
Confronted by this meaty curriculum coupled with Dwight’s insistence on regular attendance and competition in moot courts, George Augustus Baker entered Columbia Law School equipped to record the words of his teacher. In Baker’s class, a little more than half the students held undergraduate degrees. Baker himself had graduated from the College of the City of New York, as had eleven others; many classmates came from Columbia College or Yale, others from as far as Kenyon College, the University of Louisiana, and the University of Heidelberg. F. J. Sypher’s article in this issue provides an accurate picture of Law School life during Dwight’s era. In one regard, Baker managed to distinguish himself from his classmates, but it was not for his academic record. Although Baker completed the two-year course and three days of examinations creditably to graduate in May 1871 with a class that then numbered 99 members, Baker is the only student in his class whose notebooks reside in the Columbia Law Library. For anyone interested in the history of legal education, the Dwight method of legal instruction, or the history of Columbia Law School, Baker’s four surviving notebooks provide solid documentation on the teaching of American law during the nineteenth century.

For recording Dwight’s lectures, Baker purchased bound notebooks with lined, pre-numbered pages and ruled margins. This style of notebook, measuring roughly 8” x 10”, was a fairly typical choice of law students. It remained popular for a long time, perhaps for its durability. Baker’s notebooks are excellent examples of style and penmanship. In addition to underscoring chapter titles and subdivisions in red ink, Baker used red ink to embellish each title page. Handsomely drawn in red and blue, the title page of volume I reads: “Columbia College Law Lectures, Delivered to the Junior Class of Columbia College Law School, by Prof. Theo. W. Dwight, LL.D. During the Junior year of 1869–70. Vol. I. The Property of George Baker.” The artistic talent in his background came through after all.

Baker has not dated individual lectures, choosing instead to number them consecutively. The first volume, devoted to municipal law and the rights of persons, contains seventy-nine lectures. Lectures continue in volume II, the law of personal property, volume III, the law of real property, and volume IV, equity jurisprudence. Baker created a table of contents in each volume for ease of reference. For anyone studying Dwight’s selection and organization of material, these four notebooks are of fundamental importance.

Upon graduation from the Law School, Baker set up practice in New York. It was not long, however, before his reputation as a lawyer was eclipsed by his fame as an artist of another sort. Baker began to write poetry and stories about fashionable New York society, perhaps drawing inspiration from the lives of those whose portraits his father was painting. His first volume of poetry, *Point Lace and Diamonds*, appeared in 1875. This was quickly followed in 1876 by *Bad Habits of Good Society*. Baker also contributed poems and articles to *Scribner’s* and *The Galaxy*, two popular monthly magazines. One reviewer of Baker’s collection of short stories, *Mrs. Hephaestus and Other Stories*, wrote that “Mr. Baker exhibits some of the best qualities of the light and amusing story teller.” The narrator in *Mrs. Hephaestus* styles himself “an attorney and counsellor-at-law, a solicitor in bankruptcy and a proctor in admiralty.” There is no evidence that Baker ever donated his literary publications to enliven reading material in the Law Library!
The Dwight method in the hands of its dedicated teacher proved a great magnet for students of law, attracting men like Charles Evans Hughes, class of 1884, who went on to the Supreme Court, and those like Baker, who combined the practice of law with other pursuits. By 1871, only a dozen years after its founding, the Law School had graduated 690 men and was drawing entering classes of more than 100 students. But how did students regard their teacher, who placed heavy emphasis on the historical development of law? They loved him. Poulney Bigelow, a graduate of the law class of 1882, wrote in his memoirs, *Seventy Summers* (London: Longmans, 1925):

We had a notable teacher—the revered and beloved Theodore Dwight. He was then about sixty years of age—the very embodiment of a venerable sage come from heaven to illumine for use the medieval obscurities of Blackstone. His pupils crowded about him. The late-comers occupied window-sills or perched about his feet on the edge of his professional platform. Every space of standing-room was occupied, and every word that fell from his golden lips was noted. Here at last was genuine thirst for knowledge; our thirst was keen, and we recognized in Theodore Dwight the master who could satisfy our desires. . . . Every law student knew that he could here get his money's worth.

Other students recalled Dwight's amazing ability to know and distinguish his many pupils by name, sometimes many years after graduation.

Like George Baker, some students preserved their notebooks long after they ceased to serve any useful function to a lawyer. Baker and his notebooks are only a beginning. In addition to these, the Law Library holds notebooks of nineteen students from the time of Theodore Dwight, each with a story of its own. Among them are the notes of Samuel Greenbaum, class of 1875, a New York State Supreme Court judge; Henry Morgenthau, class of 1877, ambassador to Turkey; and Theodore Roosevelt, class of 1882, who took careful dictation in pencil, decorated his notes with doodles, but did not remain to complete his second year in the Law School.

Dwight remained warden of the Law School for thirty-three years, although at least two institutions of higher learning earnestly desired him to become their president. When he retired from the School in 1891 at the age of sixty-nine, nearly six thousand men had benefited from his lectures. His retirement had its painful side, because his successor was William Keener of Harvard Law School, a firm believer in the case method instilled in him at Harvard. Dwight's goal of removing legal education from practical training in law offices was not yet realized. But in the company of the School's many graduates, Dwight was a powerful intellect who challenged the bar to reconsider the definition and goals of legal education.

**Suggestions for Further Reading**


- Works by George Augustus Baker:
  - *Point Lace and Diamonds*
  - *The Bad Habits of Good Society*
  - *West Point: A Comedy in Three Acts*
  - *Mrs. Hephaestus and Other Stories*
  - *Molly's Prenuptial Flirtation*

These are gems of social commentary and are best found in a secondhand or antiquarian bookstore.
Upon the recent death of his widow, the family of Mr. Gordon Bunshaft has added to Avery’s Gordon Bunshaft collection several photo albums, Bunshaft’s travel diaries, and other memorabilia that complement the collection donated by this distinguished architect during the last year of his life.

When Bunshaft was awarded the Pritzker Prize in 1988, the *New York Times* said:

Unlike the Oscars or the Pulitzers, [the Pritzker] is not an indication of the latest new works of importance. It is more of a capstone to a career. . . . Bunshaft, the 79 year old architect who for many years was the most powerful design partner in the New York office of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, is a confirmed modernist. His masterworks include Lever House, 140 Broadway and the Manufacturers Hanover Bank. All in New York, they are glass buildings which are justly considered triumphs of postwar American modernism. . . . In the 1970s . . . his style evolved into a somewhat aggressively heavy sculptural approach that was less well received than his earlier work. His buildings during this period included the round Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, the travertine-clad Lyndon Baines Johnson Library in Austin, Texas, and the sloping facade skyscraper at 9 West 57th Street in New York.

Bunshaft was also the architect of Yale’s Beinecke Library and is considered responsible for instigating corporate investment in and public display of significant art works. He had an important art collection himself, which was willed to the Museum of Modern Art. The extensive documentation of all his personal art purchases, however, has come to Avery as part of this latest gift.
Cair gift: Mrs. Elizabeth (Betty) Cair, former chair of The Friends of the Columbia Libraries, has donated to Avery Library the personal books and papers of her late husband, Mr. Walker O. Cair. Cair was a loyal friend of the Avery Library and donated during his lifetime many books and documents from the McKim, Mead and White architectural offices, to whose practice he was successor. Betty has now donated Cair’s papers and drawings, documenting his career and extraordinary drawing abilities.

Goodman bequest: The Avery Library has received the Percival Goodman bequest from his widow, Mrs. Naomi Goodman, who paid for the creation of a comprehensive finding aid. Percival Goodman (1904–1989) was an architect, urban planner, professor, author, and artist.

A professor of Architecture and City Planning at Columbia from 1946 to 1971 and an emeritus professor thereafter, Goodman is perhaps best remembered as an architect who believed that the power of design could improve social conditions. In 1947, he co-authored, with his brother, the philosopher Paul Goodman, Communitas, a blueprint for ideal communities. He later wrote The Double E, a treatise on the relationship of ecology to city planning, which was published in 1977.

Goodman willed his architectural library and all other architectural records remaining in his possession after he closed his office in 1979 to the Avery Library. He had previously donated a large portion of his professional work to the American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming. Mrs. Goodman has since arranged for the return of this material to the Avery Library so that the complete records of Goodman’s 60-year career can be consolidated and preserved at Avery.

Goodman, who left school to work in his uncle’s architectural office in New York when he was 14 years old, was later awarded the Paris Prize, a scholarship to study at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts. In France, he was exposed to the work of Le Corbusier and others who greatly influenced his thinking. He created many plans for sections of New York, including “Riverview” in 1945, a modernist development that would have provided housing for thirteen thousand families in Long Island City. The concept prefigured by more than forty years the more gradual industrial-to-residential transformation occurring there today. Goodman’s archive is invaluable to scholars of twentieth-century architecture in that it includes drawings, plans, models, photographs, slides, correspondence, teaching and lecture notes, published articles, and unpublished manuscripts, as well as planning studies undertaken by Goodman and those supervised by him as a professor at Columbia.

The atrocities of the Holocaust had a profound effect on Goodman, and after World War II he designed synagogues for new communities in need of temples. His use of modernist architecture combined with commissioned work by contemporary artists set the style for his synagogue designs. A major component of the collection is the documentation for these more than fifty synagogues.

In a salute to Goodman on the occasion of his eightieth birthday in 1984, Paul Goldberger in the New York Times wrote, “Percival Goodman retains, more earnestly, surely, than most of his colleagues, a commitment to the possibilities of rational planning. That is, in many ways, the ultimate legacy of modernism—not the esthetic of sleekness and
Revisions in the hand of the Kobo added to the published text of his play, Tomodachi (Friends), as it appeared in the literary journal, Bungei (March, 1967), p. 85.
technology, which can be shifted and redirected into all sorts of different contexts, but the belief that a new way of thinking will bring about a better life for everyone.” Goodman was more than just a leading architect of his time; he was a leading thinker. The Avery Library is honored to house this archive of his materials and looks forward, with the help of the J. M. Kaplan Fund, to mounting an exhibition of the highlights from these works.

**Our Growing Collections**

**The C. V. Starr East Asian Library**

*Abe Kōbo gift*: The C. V. Starr East Asian Library is developing a collection around the works of Japanese writer Abe Kōbō (1924–1993), beginning with unique materials donated in Abe’s honor by his long-term friend, University and Shinchō Professor of Japanese Emeritus Donald Keene. Abe Kōbō was internationally acclaimed as a novelist, playwright, and essayist. His long connection with Columbia University included an honorary doctorate awarded in 1975 as well as his long friendship with Professor Keene. Since Abe’s death in January 1993, Professor Keene has been donating additional valuable materials.

Abe’s plays were produced by the Abe Kōbō studio, which experimented with increased emphasis on movement and light rather than on dialogue. A number of his works have been produced in the United States. Starr’s collection includes a number of playbills, published plays, information on his studio, and translations of plays. Abe did not consider any text final and continuously revised texts for each production of a play. One of the most valuable items is a set of revisions Abe wrote in the published version of *Tomodachi* (Friends) in *Bungei*. The play has been translated by Donald Keene.

Among Abe’s best-known novels are *Sunaa no Onna* (Woman in the Dunes), on which the celebrated film by Hiroshi Teshigahara was based; *Hako-otoko* (Box Man); and *Moetsukita chizu* (The Ruined Map). First editions of these and other novels, inscribed to Professor Keene, are included in the collection, as well as a number of limited editions of lesser-known works.

Many letters exchanged between Abe Kōbō and Donald Keene are in the collection, including some concerning the translation and an American performance of *Friends*, and a letter written in Abe’s voice by Keene to provoke a response, and later edited, in red, by Abe.

Abe considered himself a visual as well as a literary artist; one work in the collection, which also includes some audiocassette material, is a photographic self-portrait. The collection is currently being processed to facilitate access.

**The Music Library**

*Miller gift*: The Music Library has received the Robert Miller collection of piano music containing pieces for the piano written during a thirty-year period beginning in the 1950s. The collection includes a holograph score, “Form IV: Broken Sequences,” by Stefan Wolpe, inscribed to Miller. In addition, it contains approximately 250 holograph facsimiles, including variant editions, most of which are annotated with Miller’s performance notes, or with directives by the composer.

Pianist and lawyer Miller had an active, if brief, career as a recitalist, excelling particularly in modern music. He studied piano before entering
Princeton, where he received the B.A. in 1952. After his discharge from the U.S. Army, he received the law degree from Columbia University Law School in 1957. During this time he also continued his career as a pianist. He was closely identified with the Group for Contemporary Music and the Composers' Conference and was the first pianist to hold the Fromm Foundation fellowship at the Berkshire Music Center. Numerous composers created works for him, including Milton Babbitt, George Crumb, Mario Davidovsky, Wolpe, Charles Wuorinen, and others. He died of cancer in November 1981.

The Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Blake gift: Mrs. Edith G. Blake has added materials to the papers of Henry Beetle Hough, author of that classic of American nature writing, The Outermost House.

Coover gift: Mr. Christopher Coover (M.L.S., 1983) has donated to the Library seven significant books, among them a first edition, in the rare original binding, of Ruskin's The Stones of Venice (three volumes) and first editions of Byron's Sardanapalus and Marino Faliero.

Elman gift: The contemporary novelist Richard Elman, who recently spoke to The Friends of the Columbia Libraries about the poet William Bronk, has donated a copy of his hard-to-find pseudonymous title, John Howland Spyker's Little Lives, which includes a descriptive sketch of Bronk.

Griffin purchase: A twenty-year diary, the manuscripts of at least three novels (two unpublished) and short stories, and correspondence with, among others, Thomas Merton, Robert Casadesus, and Jacques Maritain are among the papers of Mr. John Howard Griffin, which were purchased in 1994 with the proceeds of several Rare Book and Manuscript Library endowments. Griffin, a musicologist and professional photographer as well as a writer, is primarily remembered for his ground-breaking and controversial report on segregation, published in 1958 under the title Black Like Me. But his experiences, which include a ten-year unexplained period of blindness and a stint with the French Resistance in World War II, form a remarkable story of a spiritual odyssey through the modern world.

Lasker bequest: The philanthropist Mary E. Lasker (L.L.D., 1976), whose contributions to the world of science and to the beautification and social welfare of New York lasted for nearly fifty years, has left to Columbia a large collection of papers documenting her professional and philanthropic activities, along with a donation of ten thousand dollars to catalog, preserve, and process these materials for scholarly use.

Meade gift: Ms. Marion Meade has donated to the Library a group of manuscript materials relating to the life and career of the American writer Dorothy Parker.

Miller gift: Professor Rosalind Miller has given to the Library a compilation of letters and documents relating to her critical study of the early work of Gertrude Stein. Among them are a telegram from Stein in Paris to Miller in New York, as well as letters from Carl van Vechten, Alice B. Toklas, Lionel Trilling, and others.
Pratt bequest: Dallas Pratt, M.D. (1941), has left to the Library a portrait of John Masefield by William Strang, a fine Aubrey Beardsley drawing, and an Abraham Lincoln letter dated November 19, 1860. A member of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries since 1951 and long an editor of Library Columns, Dr. Pratt was the co-founder of the American Museum in Bath, England. During the five decades of his association with the Rare Book and Manuscript Library, he contributed numerous rare books and manuscripts to the collection, including important works by Ptolemy, the Duchess of Marlborough, Jonathan Swift, Alexander Pope, and John Keats.

Rothkopf gift: To their earlier gift of the papers of painter Stephen Haweis, members of the family of Mrs. John Roosevelt and Mr. P. James Roosevelt have added three oil paintings by Haweis and other materials relating to the artist and his life on the island of Dominica.

Rothkopf gift: Ms. Carol Rothkopf (A.M., 1952) has added a number of volumes to the modern literature collections. Her donation includes, among many other titles, three books written by Bernard Stone and illustrated by Name To Come: Emergency Mouse: A Story (1978), Inspector Mouse (1980), and Quasimodo Mouse (1984), autographed by the author and illustrator, with drawings by the latter; and a group of audiocassettes of the music of composer Georges Antheil.

Salisbury bequest: An extensive and invaluable collection of manuscripts and books from the library of the late Mr. Harrison Salisbury (L.L.D., 1973) were received by bequest in late 1993 and added to the Rare Book and Manuscript Library collections in the spring. As a correspondent in Russia during World War II and later as a traveler, journalist, and historian in post-war Europe and China, Mr. Salisbury witnessed many of the most critical political encounters and social upheavals of the twentieth century. His papers, including both his own major contributions to international dialogue and his correspondence with leaders of all the countries playing a major role in world politics, document with remarkable vividness the course of modern history. Among the more than three thousand volumes added to the Columbia collections from his library are inscribed and association copies of his own books and those of his contemporaries, and a large collection of long-unavailable Russian periodicals and publications from the former Soviet Union.

Sassoon purchase: A collection of autograph and typed letters and cards to British poet Siegfried Sassoon, as well as letters from Sassoon to others, including E. M. Forster and Lady Ottoline Morrell, has been purchased with the Rare Book and Manuscript Fund.

Saxon gift: Mrs. Nancy Saxon (A.B., 1994, B.) has added twenty-six watercolors and charcoal drawings to the extensive collection of works by her late husband, New Yorker cartoonist Charles Saxon (A.B., 1940). His subjects range from topless dancers to Santa Claus, his settings from the beaches of southern France to the streets of New York.

Weil gift: Mr. James L. Weil has added two more contributions to the fine collection of poetry by William Bronk that he has given to us over the years: Bare Bones and Exemplaries (both New Rochelle: James Weil, 1994).
 Contributors to this issue

Whitney Bagnell is Special Collections Librarian at Columbia University Law Library.

Francis J. Sypder, Jr.'s most recently published book is *The Iskensius Letters from Germany to New York, 1726–1737* (1994). He is currently writing a scholarly biography and working as a financial consultant on Wall Street.

Anders Winroth is a graduate student writing his dissertation in medieval history at Columbia and is Research Assistant on the National Endowment for the Humanities Medieval Manuscripts Cataloging Project in Columbia's Rare Book and Manuscript Library.
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By helping preserve the intellectual accomplishment of the past, we lay the foundation for the university of the future. This is the primary purpose of the Friends of the Columbia Libraries.

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