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F. SCOTT FITZGERALD ’17 needs no introduction to readers of the Princeton University Library Chronicle. His “A Full Life” is published here for the first time.


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Fitzgerald Explodes His Heroine

BY JAMES L.W. WEST III

In March 1937, F. Scott Fitzgerald was living in a hotel in Tryon, North Carolina, attempting to write short stories for the New York magazine market. His situation was discouraging: he was heavily in debt to Charles Scribner's Sons, his publisher, and to Harold Ober, his literary agent. Fitzgerald had been in debt to Scribner's and Ober many times before, but he had always been able to rescue himself by writing fiction for popular magazines—especially for his best-paying market, The Saturday Evening Post, and for such magazines as Redbook, Metropolitan, Woman's Home Companion, and Liberty. By 1937, however, Fitzgerald had lost the knack of writing for the magazines, and his stories were not selling. He had his drinking under control, was in relatively good health, and was working hard on his fiction, but during the troubled years of 1935 and 1936—years that had seen the publication of his penetrating Crack-Up essays and other confessional writings for Esquire magazine—Fitzgerald had somehow lost the ability to turn out consistently saleable short fiction.

This situation was caused in part by his inability to continue to write convincingly about a character who had appeared in his stories for years—the Fitzgerald heroine. Young, beautiful, and willfully independent, she had become a feature of his popular fiction for the Post and other magazines. His female characters like Ardita Farnam of "The Offshore Pirate," Nancy Lamar of "The Jelly-Bean," Rags Martin-Jones of "Rags Martin-Jones and the Pr-nce of W-les," and Emily Castleton of "Majesty" had become trademarks of Fitzgerald's work. By 1937, however, he was no longer much interested in this heroine, and his attempts to recreate her for the "slick" magazines were mostly unsuccessful. His wife Zelda, on whom many of these heroines had been modeled, was now confined to a mental hospital; Fitzgerald himself had recently turned 40; the glamorous 20s and the glamorous legend the FitzGeralds had created were dead.
Fitzgerald's published short fiction from 1935 to 1937 reflects these difficulties. Stories like "The Intimate Strangers," "The Passionate Eskimo," "Zone of Accident," "Fate in Her Hands," "Image on the Heart," "Too Cute for Words," "Inside the House," and "Trouble" have always puzzled Fitzgerald scholars and critics. The familiar matter is undoubtedly there, but the manner is distinctly lacking. The heroines especially are curiously diminished versions of their more engaging, vital sisters from Fitzgerald's earlier short stories. At his best, Fitzgerald could infuse the characters of any magazine story, no matter how frivolous or improbable, with a depth of feeling not usually found in popular fiction, but in the stories published after 1935 that spark of emotion is missing. Fitzgerald had not lost the ability to write: during these same years he was turning out excellent autobiographical and semi-autobiographical material—stories like "The Long Way Out" and "Financing Finnegan," and articles like "Early Success" and "Afternoon of an Author"—but the ability to write convincing romantic fiction had deserted him. As a professional writer, however, he had to meet the demands of his market. That market, as he interpreted it, still wanted his heroine.

This article is a record of one of Fitzgerald's attempts to resurrect his heroine. It was an unsuccessful attempt and a frustrating experience for him. Finally he became so weary of writing about her and so disgusted by his situation that he made a telling private gesture: he filled his heroine with dynamite and blew her up. The aborted short story published here for the first time reveals his attitude toward his heroine and helps account for the difficulties he had in writing saleable magazine fiction after 1935.1

Dear Harold:

This will reach you with a story The Vanished Girl. It is, I think, a pretty good story—at least it reads and isn't muffled, even if the conception isn't very full-bodied.

The point is that I have to sell it right away. I mean I'd rather have a little for it now than a lot in two weeks. On Monday there is income tax—thank God very little, Scotty to get out of school hotel bills + two doctors who are driving me frantic. On a guess I can get by with about $900.00. Do you think Costain would give that—I have absolutely no way to raise the money

I know all this is poor policy and if I could struggle along until it could get a hearing I would, but it has been struggle a plenty to get this out—a good eight hours a day for five weeks + This the only one of four starts to come through at all. I am well, not pessimistic and doing my level best, including being 2 mos. on the absolute wagon and the next one will as usual try to be Post story but this just has to be sacrificed for immediate gold. Four hundred on the 15th and $500 on the 20th would do it. Isn't there some editor who would advance me that much on a delivered story. Tell them anything, tell them frankly that you've advanced me the limit but for Gods sake raise me something on this story + wire it to Baltimore. If the income tax isn't paid the 15th it has to all be paid—and as for the insurance...

Wont Costain come through? I mean I dont mind his knowing I've been sick and strapped—I honestly don't mind anyone knowing if I can get money by the 15th. Please wire me about the story.

Ever Yours,
Scott

"The Vanished Girl" was not one of Fitzgerald's better efforts. Among the surviving records at Harold Ober Associates is this synopsis of the story, written by Constance Smith, Ober's assistant:

Girl leaves N.J. town to go to college in N.Y. and isn't found for 10 years. Man who doesn't know her has inter-

1 The only surviving draft of "A Full Life" is part of the Fitzgerald Additional Papers, Marie Shank Additions, Box 12, Folder 11, Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library. Marie Shank was Fitzgerald's secretary in 1937.

ested himself in case and traced her. Forced to marry a man to save father she has deliberately forgotten earlier life. Carried on several careers under different names including demonstrating inflated suits for window jumping. Not credible and I fear a very dull and silly story. C.S.

On 17 March, Ober sent "The Vanished Girl" to Edwin Balmer, editor of Redbook, but Balmer promptly rejected it. Ober seems not to have liked the story himself and had little confidence in its saleability. On 24 March he returned the typescript to Fitzgerald via special delivery and, on that same day, included these comments in a follow-up letter:

I like the first few pages of this very much indeed but when the girl floated out the window, it began to be improbable and all the latter part of the story seemed to me weak. Balmer has just declined it. I talked to him about it and he says he is very keen to get a modern story of yours but that this story is too crazy for him. I really don't know where to offer it. I wish you could work the story out without having the girl a mental case. Do you think that Esquire would take it? That may be a way to get some immediate money for it.4

Fitzgerald attempted to follow Ober's advice and rewrite "The Vanished Girl" as a new story, possibly intending it for Esquire. He took the first three pages of the "Vanished Girl" typescript, revised them heavily, and re-used them as pages 2-4 of the first and only draft of the new story; the remaining pages were apparently discarded and do not survive.5

The new story, entitled "A Full Life," begins with the improbable incident that Ober disliked. The heroine jumps from the 53rd story of a New York skyscraper in an inflated rubber flying suit—and survives. From this point the story proceeds through various twists of plotting in order to present other scenes from the life of this heroine, whose name is Gwen Davies. Fitzgerald's use of this name is surprising. In 1936 he published two stories in the Post about a young female character named Gwen Bowers.6 Gwen was to have been the subject of a series, but these first two stories are poor work, and Fitzgerald was unable to sell further Gwen material to the Post. It is puzzling to see him giving the name "Gwen" to the heroine of "A Full Life," because this new Gwen is quite a different character from the Gwen of the Post stories. Possibly Fitzgerald was using "Gwen" as a temporary name on his working draft, and planned to change the name for his fair-copy typescript. Another possibility is that he meant for a connection to be drawn between the two characters; he wanted readers to know that he disliked the Gwen of the Post stories enough to explode her.

The plot of "A Full Life" is formulaic: There is a hero, Dr. Harvey Wilkinson, who is on a romantic search for the heroine, Gwen. The structure of the story is episodic, and the action covers 14 years. Fitzgerald was apparently planning to use the motif of Gwen's flying and falling—from a skyscraper window, from the deck of an ocean liner, and from a circus cannon—as a unifying device in the story.

These materials are fairly promising, but as one reads over the surviving draft of "A Full Life," one sees that Fitzgerald's heart was far from his work. The familiar Fitzgerald style is present, but plotting is artificial and improbable, characters are wooden, and motivations are unclear. Fitzgerald apparently knew this. Close study of his revisions on the manuscript reveals that about midway through the draft he realized that the story was not going well and decided to work in a gristy joke. He filled Gwen with dynamite. On page three he added, as a revision, her comment that she had originally left home because she did not want to "raise the roof." Also added as revisions were the identification of her first husband as the son of a gunpowder manufacturer and her cryptic explanation that she married this young munitions heir because she had "always really belonged to him." Fitzgerald was trying to prepare the way for Gwen's admission, near the end of the story, that she had always been "full of dynamite." One won-

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6 A telegram from Fitzgerald to Ober reveals that the original typescript of "The Vanished Girl" was at least 22 pages long. See Braddock and Atkinson, As Ever, Scott Fitts, p. 299.

The stories are "Too Cute for Words" (18 April 1930) and "Inside the House" (13 June 1930), The Saturday Evening Post.
ders whether Fitzgerald originally meant to carry the joke out in literal terms—that is, by blowing Gwen to pieces. The surviving manuscript gives no answer to that question.

If one is so minded, one can find much interesting symbolism in “A Full Life.” The hero, Dr. Wilkinson, first encounters Gwen in 1923, when the Boom Decade is in full swing. To him her leap from the skyscraper is symbolic of the recklessness of the period. He likes to imagine her “floating slowly out over the city at dusk, buoyed up by delicious air, by a quintessence of golden hope, like a soaring and unstable stock issue.” Dr. Wilkinson, shy and retiring, is intrigued by Gwen and follows her progress through life. He learns of her two marriages, the first to the munitions heir and the second to a wealthy French count. To Dr. Wilkinson her life seems mysterious, glamorous, and dangerous, but by the time he catches up with her in June 1937 she has fallen in status. She is now working as a human cannonball in a traveling circus. By this time Dr. Wilkinson is himself 40 years old—Fitzgerald’s age when he was writing this story. Gwen has for years fascinated the doctor, but her performing name suggests that there is actually little with which to be fascinated. Fitzgerald has dubbed this heroine “The Human Shell,” and indeed she is an empty, artificial character. By entitling the story “A Full Life,” Fitzgerald is indulging in additional word-play. Gwen is “full”—of dynamite—as he proceeds to show by detonating her. The explosion kills Dr. Wilkinson, who is standing too close. Perhaps he, like Fitzgerald, should have abandoned interest in this particular heroine long before.

Exploding Gwen seems to have been a private gesture for Fitzgerald. According to Arnold Gingrich, then editor of Esquire, Fitzgerald did not offer this story to him for publication, nor is there any record among the Ober papers of an attempt to sell “A Full Life” to another magazine. No fair-copy typescript survives, probably because none was ever prepared. Fitzgerald may have considered publishing this story in Esquire or elsewhere as a public statement of his feelings about his famous heroine, but such a move might have damaged further his already shaky position on the commercial fiction market. Done in the proper tongue-in-cheek fashion, “A Full Life” might have made its point with a kind of black humor, but there is a grim quality about the story that keeps it from being genuinely funny. Fitzgerald must have recognized this shortcoming and decided to put no more effort into the story.

Unsuccessful attempts to write—unfinished and discarded manuscripts—sometimes reveal more about an author than do completed and published works. What an author chooses to offer for publication is often not a true reflection of his state of mind. In this case, the surviving draft of “A Full Life” tells us that for Fitzgerald, his heroine was dead long before he exploded her.

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7 Gingrich to West, 13 April 1970. There is no mention of “A Full Life” in Bruccoli and Atkinson, As Ever, Scott Fitz. Jennifer Atkinson has informed me that the story is not mentioned in any of the Harold Ober Associates materials on Fitzgerald omitted from the book.
A Full Life

BY F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

At twilight on September 3rd, 1923, a girl jumped from the fifty-third-story window of a New York office building. She wore a patented inflatable suit of rubber composition which had just been put on the novelty market for purposes of having fun—the wearer by a mere jump or push could supposedly sail over fences or street intersections. It was fully blown up when she jumped. The building was a set-back and she landed on the projecting roof of the fiftieth floor. She was bruised and badly shaken but not seriously hurt.

She recovered consciousness in the ambulance and gave the name Gwendolyn Davies but in the emergency room when the intern so addressed her she denied it, and insisted on leaving the hospital after necessary stitches had been taken. Several inquiries that were undoubtedly for this girl asked for a different name. The intern, Dr. Wilkinson, gathered that a little orgy after hours had been taking place in the office at the time.

A week later Dr. Wilkinson took out a library book that he had borrowed there some time before. It was a collection of mysterious cases re-written from contemporary newspaper accounts, and the third story, entitled The Vanished Girl, read as follows:

In 1915 Delphis, N.Y., was an old town of large, faded houses, built far back on shady lawns—not at all like the Long Island and New Jersey villages where even Sunday is only a restless tull between the crash of trains. During the war there was a murder there, and in 1922 bandits held up a garage.

"A Full Life," by F. Scott Fitzgerald, is published by arrangement with Harold Ober Associates Incorporated. Copyright © 1988 by Eleanor Lanahan Hazard, Matthew J. Bruccoli, and R. Andrew Bose. Trustees u/a 7/5/75 by Frances Scott Fitzgerald Smith. The text published here is that of the only surviving draft. Five minor substantive emendations have been made, obvious misspellings have been corrected and a few marks of punctuation added for clarity.
After that nothing happened for a long time till Gwendolyn Davies walked out of her father's house one day and disappeared off the face of the earth.

She was the daughter of a poor doctor and the prettiest girl in town. She had a brave, bright face that made you look at her, yellow hair and a beggar's lips that would not beg in vain. The last person who ever laid eyes on Gwen Davies was the station master who put her suitcase on the train. She told him lightly that she was leaving for her family's own good—she didn't want to "raise the roof," but no scandal ever developed about her. When she reached New York she was to go directly to a recommended boarding house adjacent to the college. She didn't appear there—she simply melted like a shadow into the warm September night.

"Height, five feet five inches, weight, one hundred and sixteen pounds. Features, regular and pleasing. Left eye slightly larger than the right. Wearing a blue traveling suit and a red, leather-trimmed hat. Bright personality. We ask everyone to keep an eye out for this girl whose parents are prostrated by her disappearance."

She was one of many thousands of lost girls, but her beauty and the fact that her father was a reputable physician made it news. There was a "ring" said the tabloids; there was original sin, said the pulpit; and "mark my words," said the citizens of Delphus, their words being wild suppositions about somebody knowing something more than he or she saw fit to tell. For awhile the town of Delphus was as sad as the village of Hamlin after the Pied Piper had come and gone—there were young men who forgot their partners entirely when the orchestra played "Baby in the Woods" or "Underneath the Stars," and fancied they had loved Gwen and would never love another.

After a few years a New York judge walked away into the blue and the case of Gwen Davies was revived for a day in the newspapers, with a note that someone had lately seen her or her double in a New York surface car; after that the waters closed over her, apparently forever.

Dr. Wilkinson was sure it was the same girl—he thought for awhile of trying to trace her by going to a newspaper with the story but he was a retiring young man and the idea became shelved like the play he was always going to write and the summer he was going to spend on the Riviera.

But he never forgot—he was forever haunted by the picture of the girl floating slowly out over the city at dusk, buoyed up by delicious air, by a quintessence of golden hope, like a soaring and unstable stock issue. She was the girl for whom a part of him was always searching at cafés and parties and theatres, when his practical wife would ask:

"Why are you staring around, Harvey? Do you see anybody we know?"

He did not explain.

II

Five years later the following story appeared in the New York papers:

This afternoon at four o'clock the Comtesse de Frejus jumped from the deck of the liner Stacia one day out from New York. She was rescued after the ship had turned around and searched for two hours through a fortunately calm sea. The Comtesse is an American, the former Mrs. Cornelius B. Hasbrouk, who obtained her divorce in Reno last year and then married René, Comte de Frejus, in Paris. She gave out no statement but said to an officer of the cutter which picked her up that her chief thought in the water was to beat off the huge birds who attempted to perch on her head and peck at her eyes. The passengers with whom she had been talking had no warning of her sudden act nor any explanation.

There were no pictures of the Comtesse de Frejus and when Dr. Wilkinson went to the newspaper files at the public library he found that there were no pictures of Mrs. Cornelius B. Hasbrouk either, save with her arm covering her face. But there were a great many columns about Mrs. Hasbrouk's first marriage and one of them mentioned a scar on her forehead—a scar that corresponded to a suture he had performed himself.

The columns had been written two years before. Mrs. Hasbrouk's first marriage had begun stormily. The groom, a junior at Harvard, was twenty and had just inherited a fortune of twenty million dollars from his father, the powder manufacturer. The bride was a young lady of no background, not even the stage. The story ran that when Mr. Hasbrouk was located the next morning in a barber shop he had to be shown his picture in the paper before he realized that he was married.

The new Mrs. Hasbrouk was the cross of the cameramen but the
reporters did rather well by her. She was described as lovely, modest, well-bred, and charming. There was a vague impression that she was either from the South, North or West, though one paper announced her birthplace as New York City. She said rather cryptically that she had married the young munitions magnate because she had "always really belonged to him" but that she would give him up if he preferred. Pending an annulment the couple departed for a trip to the South Seas.

Dr. Wilkinson was rather relieved that this marriage had not lasted and that her subsequent union with a member of the French nobility had led her to jump into the Atlantic. He felt that he knew her, in some such manner as one might know a composer or a writer one had never seen—he knew her though she had written only on air and there was a mysterious compulsion that made him follow her career with admiration and curiosity. He made certain notes from these newspaper files and settled down to wait for her to become news again.

III

At two o'clock on a June afternoon in 1937 Dr. Wilkinson, now a stout baldish man of forty, parked his car by a circus which had pitched on the shores of Long Island. The performance was not to begin until three but there were certain preliminary attractions and it was one of these which had attracted him to the spot. A little aside from the main tent stretched a large white banner on which was lettered:

THE HUMAN SHELL
At two-thirty this afternoon
the Countess of Frejus will
be fired out of this cannon.

A crowd of intellectuals was already inspecting the enormous piece of ordinance but Dr. Wilkinson stationed himself beside the net which was to catch the living bullet at the end of its trajectory.

In a few minutes a little group approached the cannon and Dr. Wilkinson's heart put-putted like a motor boat. There, not a hundred feet away, dressed in the costume of an aviatrix, stood the girl whose life he had followed in the headlines. For him this was the high point of a somewhat humdrum and defeated life—he felt a great excitement, almost a reverence, in the face of the moment.

There was a sudden deep booming sound and a great puff of smoke from the mouth of the cannon; on the instant the form of the Countess of Frejus, née Gwendolyn Davies, arched gracefully into the air, described a perfect parabola and plumped gently into the net beside which he stood. In a moment she had clambered out and the doctor advanced toward her.

"Good afternoon," he said and introduced himself as a doctor who had once attended her.

"So it was you," she said politely. "I'm afraid I must have seemed ungracious in leaving the hospital so quickly."

"But I understand," he assured her. "In fact I have been greatly interested in your career."

"You're not a reporter too."

"No indeed. My interest is personal. I do want to ask you a few questions."

Her lovely face clouded.

"I hate questions," she said.

"But I have waited so long. Come, Countess—I simply want you to explain certain remarks you made here and there. For instance when you ran away from Delphis you said you 'did not want to raise the roof,' and when you got married you said you had 'always really belonged to Mr. Hasbrouk.' But you never said anything about why you jumped out the window or off the boat. Couldn't you give me a little clue for my own satisfaction?"

She looked at him closely.

"And if I won't tell you?"

He had his trump in reserve.

"Then, Countess, I shall be forced to give information to the police of Delphis and collect the reward for information leading to your whereabouts. While I have conceived a great admiration for you, there are others who might judge otherwise. It would be a salutary story for prospective runaways to find you ending up as an artificial shell."

She gave a little laugh.

"But I'm not an artificial shell," she said. "The joke's on you—I'm full of dynamite so I always thought I'd go off."
Even as this explanation issued from her lips she exploded with a tremendous bang, which was heard as far as New York City. There were headlines in all the papers but Dr. Wilkinson was unfortunately killed by the concussion and did not see them. And so another glamor girl passes into history.

Documenting the French Experience during World War II
The Howard C. Rice, Jr., Collection

BY JOHN BELL HENNEMAN, JR.

Scholars interested in the social history of war have rediscovered an important source of information: collections of ephemera and propaganda. Research libraries have been busy acquiring such materials, especially those relating to occupied areas during World War II. Not many librarians had the foresight of Princeton’s Howard C. Rice, Jr., who included in his collection substantial amounts of propaganda issued by both the Germans and the Allies. In this article, the Library’s History Bibliographer describes the genesis of Mr. Rice’s collection and the way in which it was shaped for preservation and for use by scholars.

Howard C. Rice, Jr. (1904-1981) came to Princeton in 1948 to fill the new position of Chief of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections in the recently opened Firestone Library. Since 1946, he had served as an attaché at the American Embassy in Paris, where he directed the United States Information Service Library. While Rice was in Paris, Julian P. Boyd, editor of the Papers of Thomas Jefferson, asked him to locate materials in France relating to our third President. Rice carried out the mission with such success that Boyd, who was also Librarian of Princeton University, became convinced that he should be asked to take charge of Rare Books and Special Collections when Firestone Library opened. Thus began a 22-year career at Princeton ending in 1970 with Rice’s retirement.

The relations between France and the United States formed a central theme in the life and work of Howard C. Rice, Jr., who became an unabashed francophile at an early age. While still an undergraduate at Dartmouth, he had studied at Grenoble and Paris. After his graduation in 1926, he taught French for two years at the Loomis
School and then returned to France, where he earned the degree of Docteur de l'Université de Paris in 1933 and wrote his thesis on a well-known French expatriate to colonial America, Michel Guillaume St. John de Crèvecoeur.  

While working towards his degree in Paris, Rice taught English at a French boys' school and later at the Sorbonne. In 1934 he married France Chalouf, and the couple returned to the United States. After teaching American history at Andover for two years, Rice moved on to Harvard as instructor in French and tutor in history and literature. He pursued an active scholarly career, but with the coming of World War II his talents were needed elsewhere. By 1943 he had joined the Office of War Information (O.W.I.). Based in New York, then in London, he was assigned to the Broadcasting Division (French Section). After the Allies invaded Normandy in June 1944, Rice received a concurrent assignment in the U.S. Army's Psychological Warfare Division and was back on French soil.  

After the war, he left O.W.I., but it was not long before he returned to Paris to head the U.S.I.S. library. His assistance to Julian Boyd in running down materials for the Jefferson papers stimulated an interest in Jefferson that would continue throughout his life. He soon produced a book, *L'Hôtel de Langeac, Jefferson's Parisian Residence, 1785–1789*, but nearly 30 years would pass before the appearance of his much-acclaimed book, *Thomas Jefferson's Paris*.  

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Rice had no training as a librarian when he was assigned to Paris in 1946, nor did he have any experience with rare books and manuscripts when Boyd invited him to Princeton. But his scholarly work and his experience as a teacher were important assets, and Boyd was quite perceptive in recognizing from a distance his tireless ingenuity in locating and accumulating valuable materials for scholarly use. Those talents were to serve Princeton well during his career in the University Library, and Rice continued to be an active, publishing scholar.  

His Princeton appointment diverted Rice permanently from one scholarly project to which he had devoted considerable time and effort: a study of what happened to France during World War II. The crisis of 1940 and the collapse of the Third Republic must have been a traumatic experience for the Rices, who had many friends and relatives in France. From the beginning of the war, both Rice and his French wife seem to have been diligent in maintaining contact with Free French organizations and the many francophile groups that quickly became active in the United States, Canada, and elsewhere. Rice soon collected large amounts of material on all aspects of the French tragedy, and while still at Harvard he compiled a carefully indexed bibliography.  

Rice's *France 1940–1942: A Collection of Documents and Bibliography* resembles a preliminary report which would someday be followed by a more comprehensive study. Rice continued to collect materials on contemporary France throughout the war and during his post-war years in Paris. It seems probable that he intended to expand his earlier book into a major study of the French experience during World War II, but other scholarly and administrative pursuits diverted him. After he came to Princeton he stopped adding cards to his bibliography. Nevertheless, his collection was large and important, as I discovered in 1985 when it became my task to examine and sort the material so that whatever was still worth keeping might be housed properly and made available to scholars.
By 1942, when he published *France 1940–1942*, Rice had already begun accumulating documents from Occupied France and acquiring Free French newspapers and broadsides from all over the world. His association with the American propaganda apparatus gave him the opportunity to add substantially to his personal collection, which included materials from all sides in the conflict. He obtained propaganda leaflets that had been dropped from Allied planes or circulated by the German occupiers. He was able to acquire some pro-Vichy materials that are genuine curiosities, as well as documents produced by the clandestine press. His collection includes information on the Resistance, reports of anti-Semitic atrocities, and two bulky handbooks classified secret and containing maps and other detailed information about France, apparently designed for aviators who might have to bail out over enemy-occupied territory.

Rice divided his collection into six sections:

1. The Disaster of June 1940
2. The "Révolution Nationale" (i.e., the Vichy regime)
3. Life in France 1940–1942
4. Free France
5. The French Colonial Empire
6. France in Perspective

His bibliography—already substantial by 1942 when his book was published—followed the same format, and he maintained this basic arrangement as he added to it in the ensuing years. His only subsequent alterations were the extension of Part III to include the entire period of Axis/Vichy rule, and the insertion of a new Part VI entitled "The Liberation." The former sixth section—the shortest part of his bibliography in 1942—was renumbered VII.

Three steps were required to organize the collection: removing materials that were already available in the Library in better-preserved or more complete condition; microfilming items too brittle to retain in any other form; and organizing and inventorying the material that would be stored in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. It was a massive undertaking, and could not have been accomplished on time without the help of two student assistants: Susan Jackson '86 and graduate student Ken Arnold.

The first step was accomplished piecemeal during the 17 months when the collection was in my possession. As it turned out, much could be discarded because it duplicated Library holdings.

Nearly half the collection was converted to 16 reels of microfilm, catalogued as a single item with the title "France during World War II: Documents from the Howard Rice Collection." The microfilm set preserves Rice's excellent collection of Free French newspapers and a number of other serial publications from various organizations. The most difficult decision concerned one of the bulkiest items in the entire collection: an almost complete run of the French newspaper published in the United States and entitled *Pour la Victoire*. Many other libraries have it, and it is available on microfilm in the Center for Research Libraries. Under the circumstances, we decided to discard rather than film the set preserved by Rice.

The material that remained was destined to be housed in the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. It consisted of 24 boxes of various sizes and shapes, about two-thirds of them contain-

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8 The catalogue record lists in detail the items found on the various reels, and the film is available under the call number (Film) Microfilm 500896.
ing materials arranged as I had received them and forming fairly coherent units. Once the inventory was complete, the staff repackaged the material in the standard boxes used in the Department, but the descriptive cataloguing retained the 24 units on which the inventory was based. 10

The great bulk of this material falls into one of two categories: pamphlets and brochures of various kinds, and mimeographed or dittoed material on poorly preserved paper which cannot be microfilmed because the writing is too faint to be readable after photographic reproduction. Some of the mimeographed material (notably from the French Press and Information Service) duplicates material in the Firestone stacks, but in these cases, Rice's sets are more complete and the poor physical condition of the circulating copies in the Library provides further reason for retaining Rice's sets.

The pamphlets and brochures are especially valuable as examples of propaganda materials issued by the belligerent governments and their supporters. Among the mimeographed documents are texts of news releases from the Vichy government 11 and texts of radio addresses by francophile leaders in the United States. 12 In addition to collecting Allied airborne leaflets, Resistance tracts, and tracts from the clandestine press, 13 Rice assembled a substantial number of leaflets and pamphlets circulated in France by the Germans. 14

Of all the material in the collection, perhaps the most curious is a box of 29 items used for pro-Vichy or anti-Allied propaganda. 15 They are very miscellaneous in character and show the wide range of methods used to promote the regime's policies and to disparage the Allies. There are two pieces of gift-wrapping paper printed with pro-Pétain pictures and slogans. There is a picture-postcard showing a French worker shaking hands with an SS trooper. There is a pack of cards entitled "les bons points du maréchal," comparing Pétain favorably with the heroes of French history. A little book of ABCs for small children features photographs of Pétain in scenes depicting each of the letters of the alphabet. One finds counterfeit American dollar bills which open to reveal anti-Jewish matter printed inside. There is a 16-panel French comic strip on the "sad history of Winston Churchill." In the 1940s, such material could damage the Allied cause; but today much of it—even some of the most virulent—seems merely silly and crude.

Free French organizations popped up all over the world, and Rice was able to acquire at least some publications from many of them. The collection includes material from Buenos Aires, 16 Canada, 17 and

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10 According to the catalogue record, the collection is organized into 24 cases, two of which are subdivided into five boxes, and one of which is supplemented by an envelope for oversize periodicals. The collection may be found in the online catalogue under the same title used for the microfilmed items: "France during World War II: Documents from the Howard Rice Collection"; its call number is Ex DC397.F72 1940.
11 Most of the contents of Case 6 are news releases emanating from Havas Télémondial in Vichy. Rice put together an almost complete collection of these, from number 22, dated 22 January 1942, through 398, the final number, dated 1 July 1942.
12 These radio broadcasts, mostly in French, were presented by Professor Fred G. Hoffman; they began when America entered the war and continued into 1943. They are found in Case 7 with assorted other materials published by "France Forever."
13 Most of these are found in Case 8.
14 Case 17, which consists of German propaganda material, contains one folder marked "Cherbourg, 1944," an envelope of material furnished by a correspondent in Brive, and another set of propaganda tracts furnished by the "Service d'Information" in Tours.
15 Case 3.
16 Case 10, and also Reel 3 of the microfilmed material.
17 Case 15, and also Reel 8 of the microfilmed material.
a France Journal published in San Francisco. There are Free French newspapers or other publications from Montevideo, Algiers, New Delhi, Johannesburg, and the islands of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon.

Rice collected a vast number of mimeographed reports (issued weekly for the most part) from the various French ministries between the end of 1939 and the fall of the Third Republic in the spring of 1940. His large collection of documents from the French Press and Information Service (issued almost daily in some periods) began with March 1943 and continued through June 1947. The chronological gap between these two sets of official documents is largely filled by a long run of documents published by the Service d'Information de la France Libre. Other items of special interest in that part of the collection now available on film include "France and Britain," a bulletin published in England by the Fabian Society, and the published editorials of Philippe Henriot, the Vichy regime's Secretary of State for Information and Propaganda.

Rice also collected magazines and single issues of newspapers that had a common theme. One such group of publications he entitled "Newspapers and Magazines of the German Occupation." Another group consists of Parisian and a few foreign newspapers of the Liberation (August–October 1944), while still another consists of newspapers from the same period that appeared in French provincial cities.

* * *

The wide range of source material in the Howard C. Rice, Jr., Collection offers scholars a valuable resource for the study of France during World War II. Now that the material he so diligently collected is finally available for inspection and study, it will be possible to bring to fruition, from a different and much later perspective, the project that Rice never took up again after publishing his preliminary volume in 1942. To recapture the atmosphere in which he assembled his collection, we should recall the words he wrote in the preface to that volume:

I should like to thank my friends and associates of the past two years who have helped me to collect these documents. I wish to thank, too, those who have permitted me to reprint selections from their writings, those whose words I have borrowed without asking permission, and especially the many contributors who must for the moment remain anonymous. These nameless friends—some of them known to me and others unknown—have been constantly present in my mind during this month of June 1942... I can only express the hope that they will some day be able to approve of this compilation.

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These, which are listed in the bibliography in Rice’s France 1940–1942, have been grouped together in Case 11 and are listed in the inventory of the collection. Two were written by André Morize, an older French writer who had collaborated with Rice before the war on a manual for students planning to visit France, entitled Introduction to France. An Outline for Study and Reference (New York, 1937).
An American Trader in Revolutionary Haiti
Simeon Johnson’s Journal of 1807

BY LÉON-FRANÇOIS HOFFMANN

We know next to nothing about Simeon Johnson. We do not know where or when he was born, nor when he died—in Haiti, according to family lore—nor even the name of the wife to whom he sent a packet of documents now in the manuscript collections of the Princeton University Library. The principal item in the series of unpublished documents is the diary that he kept between 10 January and 3 February 1807 while at Gonaïves, a seaport north of Port-au-Prince. Another document, issued at Gonaïves on 22 September 1805, “year 29 of the independence of Hayti and of our reign the 1st,” explains Johnson’s presence there, telling us that

Jacques, Emperor 1st of Hayti, and Supreme Commander of the army, by the grace of God and by the constitutional law of the state, Declare and recognize that Messrs. Powell, Kane & Co. are commissioned as consignees in accordance with the imperial decree dated August 1st, provided they conform to the clauses and conditions mandated by said law.

The document is signed with the emperor’s surname, “Dessalines.”

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1 According to a clipping from the Nashville Record of 1 April 1854, a Johnson descendant, Frederick Leake 1808, reported that, at some point, Johnson returned to Haiti, where he died. Mr. Leake, who was postmaster of Franklin, Tennessee, donated two of the documents in the Simeon Johnson file to the Library; the patent signed by Dessalines and an exit visa signed by Henry Christophe. They, together with the other documents in this small but important collection, are catalogued under the call number AM 1659.

2 Jean-Jacques Dessalines (1758–1806) declared himself Emperor of Haiti in October, 1804.
and below his signature there is an endorsement declaring that the right and title to the patent are transferred on 5 July 1806 by Ch. Kane to "Simeon Johnson, an American Citizen residing at Gonaives."

Simeon Johnson was a witness to the civil war that raged in Haiti in 1806–1807 between the forces of Henry Christophe and those of Alexandre Pétion. Both had been leaders in the War of Independence against France. That war began with the general uprising of the slaves in August 1791, which plunged the flourishing French colony of Saint-Domingue into a state of turmoil. The years which followed saw fierce fighting between and among Blacks, whites, and mulattoes, supporters and opponents of the French Revolution, slave-owners and abolitionists, rich planters and poor whites, champions of independence and advocates of continued ties to the metropolis. Alliances were made and broken at a dizzying pace; atrocities were committed by one and all; cities and plantations were repeatedly set on fire. Taking advantage of the chaos, British and Spanish troops attempted to wrest the colony from French control.  

In 1801 Toussaint L’Ouverture, who had assumed command of local troops and militia and expelled the English invaders, proclaimed himself governor-general of Saint-Domingue. Although claiming to rule in the name of the French Republic, he was absolute master of the colony and did not hesitate to negotiate on his own with England and Spain. In order to restore the economy of the island, he encouraged the French planters and technicians who had fled abroad to return and reclaim their property. His regime reaffirmed the 1793 edict abolishing slavery, but in fact the former slaves were compelled to continue working in the fields, often for the former master; they were forbidden to leave the plantation to which they had been assigned; shirkers and runaways were punished by whipping. This may explain why the 1803 expedition sent to the island by Napoleon Bonaparte to re-establish the authority of the French government met with only half-hearted opposition. Indeed, most of Toussaint’s generals, including Alexandre Pétion and Henry Christophe, cooperated with the French forces, either for ideological reasons or because they resented Toussaint’s dictatorship.

It soon became clear, however, that Bonaparte intended not only to restore complete French control over Saint-Domingue, but to bring back racial discrimination, slavery, and the slave trade. Indignation at French policies increased rapidly. After Toussaint had been betrayed and captured—he was sent to France to die in the fortress of Joux in the Jura Mountains—the Black and mulatto military leaders deserted the French. They and their troops united behind General Jean-Jacques Dessalines. In 1803 the few survivors of the 40,000-man French expeditionary corps surrendered and, on 1 January 1804, Dessalines proclaimed the independence of the country which was henceforth to be called Haiti. For the first time, Napoleon’s troops had been soundly beaten, a fact still ignored by history manuals in France and abroad; white historians have tended to be very discreet about the achievements of people not descended from Europeans. Simeon Johnson’s admiring comments on Haitian soldiers are therefore a welcome novelty. While most historians attribute the Haitians’ rout of Napoleon’s army to the ravages of yellow fever and the difficulty of supply, Johnson insists that “in the field [the Haitians] are brave in the extreme, have excellent officers & well disciplined. . . united they are invulnerable.”

Dessalines followed Bonaparte’s example and had himself crowned Emperor of Haiti under the name of Jacques the First. Many of his former comrades in the War of Independence, Generals Henry Christophe and Alexandre Pétion among them, conspired to assassinate him at the gate to Port-au-Prince on 17 October 1806. The conspirators claimed to have saved the country from a brutal dictator; more probably, they simply wished to eliminate a ruler who was trying to prevent them from dividing among themselves all the spoils of victory while keeping the former slaves landless, destitute, and powerless.

The conspirators decided to establish a republic, and General Christophe was asked to become President. The proposed constitution, however, was framed in such a way as to make the presidency little more than honorific, while effective power rested with the Senate. Christophe, a Black and former slave, understood that he was being out-maneuvered by Pétion, the sophisticated mulatto who had studied in France and whose followers controlled the Senate. Chris-
tophe refused the title and marched on Port-au-Prince with his troops. On 1 January 1807, a few weeks after the death of Dessalines, civil war broke out between the North of Haiti, which followed Christophe, and the West, which remained faithful to Pétion. To complicate matters, the South also tried to break away from the Port-au-Prince government; this explains why, after beating back Christophe's forces, Pétion hesitated to stretch his supply lines, and thus did not pursue his advantage. A stalemate ensued. Pétion had himself elected President of the part of Haiti under his control, while Christophe established his capital in the northern city of Cape Haitian and eventually crowned himself king. The North and South coexisted more or less peacefully until Christophe's death in 1820, at which time the country was reunited under the Port-au-Prince government.

Thanks to Simeon Johnson's diary, our knowledge of the civil war of 1806–1807 and of the men and women who were caught up in it is enriched. As in a newsreel, we see officers and soldiers come in and out of the picture; we see Jean-Jacques Dessalines' widow and his favorite mistress, General Martial Besse's white wife and sickly daughter, and the refugees, neighbors, peasants—and a few thieves—who surrounded them. Most surprising, the image Johnson gives us of Henry Christophe, the man upon whom Eugene O'Neill would one day model his Emperor Jones, is quite different from that handed down by 19th-century Haitian historians. Johnson seems to have known Henry Christophe relatively well and to have liked him. According to Johnson, Christophe was humane towards his prisoners, magnanimous with his political enemies, and hesitated to shed his countrymen's blood. He was aware enough of world affairs to prefer Aaron Burr's policies to those of Thomas Jefferson. This unusual portrait of Christophe might owe much to the fact that the General-in-Chief had protected and befriended Johnson.

Johnson lived and worked in Gonaïves, a port on the west coast of Haiti about 70 miles north of the capital and 50 miles south of Cape Haitian. In Johnson's time the harbors at Gonaïves, Saint-Marc, Port-de-Paix, and the Cape (to name only those mentioned in his journal) were quite active. Ships, mainly of British and American registry, came to exchange manufactured goods and such foodstuffs as salt fish, lard, and flour, for coffee, Haiti's principal export.

Several of the documents reveal details about Johnson's business affairs. We know, for example, that he shipped 110 bags of coffee to a firm called Booth & Windsor, 7 but again we do not know whether

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7 The name of the second partner in this firm is all but illegible; “Windsor” is the best reading possible, and may be incorrect.
it was an English or an American firm. A receipt in the name of Simeon Johnson, signed by Charles McNeill (very probably the captain of a merchant ship) is dated at Gonaïves on 14 March 1807. It informs us of the prices fetched by various commodities and allows us to calculate that the Haitian sol was worth about .61 cents in United States coin. It also tells us that Johnson exchanged his coffee at US$13.33 per hundred-pound sack. Simeon Johnson also drew up and signed a list of his debtors with the amount owed. The list is counter-signed by James Lee Irish, who is mentioned in the journal. Johnson probably prepared it just before he left for London, and entrusted Irish to recover the debts.

The import-export trade was at that time dominated by the English and the Americans, which explains why Johnson and the colleagues and compatriots with whom he socialized were on the island. Clearly, Johnson also had friends among the Haitians. A charming manuscript invitation in the collection reads:

B. Audigé. On behalf of his mother invites citizen Johnson to honor her by attending his sister's wedding which will take place Tuesday three instant at precisely four in the afternoon. He hopes that he will grant him this delightful pleasure. Gonaïves 1 June 1806.

I have no idea who B. Audigé was, but thanks to the invitation we know that Johnson had taken up residence at Gonaïves no later than the end of May 1806.

Another invitation, signed by Juliette Seguineau, invites Johnson to the birthday party of Dessalines' wife, the Empress Marie-Claire Heureuse, on 12 August 1806. The French, of course, reads "Sa Majesté," but we know that it refers to the Empress rather than to her husband because Johnson wrote on it "An invitation to Her Majesty's Birthday Party." Perhaps his wife, to whom he sent all these documents, would not have been able to understand the original.

* *

The few pages of Simeon Johnson's journal, written in semi-telegraphic style and obviously without literary pretensions by a lonely man stuck in a strange and alien country, give us a remarkably vivid image of their author. A man of the sea as much as of the counter, he is interested in meteorology and cartography. He notes down the fluctuations in the price of coffee, of ducks in the local market, of a bottle of honey. He tells us how wax candles were made in Gonaïves; from wax he goes on to bees, to their history in Haiti, to their disagreeable disposition, and regales us with the tragic fate of horses and hogs who fall victim to their anger. He obviously enjoyed a good story. Modesty was not his forte; he does not hesitate to praise his own courage, possibly expecting his wife to share his admiration for the way he routed house-breakers and single-handedly saved his neighbor's houses from fire. A man both curious and perspicacious, writing in a pungent and not inelegant style, this merchant would have made a good newspaper reporter.

Johnson's journal consists of seven sheets of paper, written in ink on both sides and numbered at the top of each page. His handwriting is not always easy to decipher, and I have been forced to render a few words as "illegible" or, when I am not quite sure that I am transcribing correctly, to follow them with a question mark in brackets. Johnson's punctuation is haphazard or absent; for better comprehension of the text, I have systematized it throughout, and have started new paragraphs when he neglects to do so. His spellings have been retained, but I have systematically spelled out certain words, mostly proper names, which he indicates only by their initials. Whenever a reading is not evident and has been determined by recourse to external evidence, my bracketed additions are italicized, as in F[ort] N[ational] for "F.N." Also in brackets are the occasional words or clauses I have added in an effort to clarify the text. Finally, I have kept footnotes to a minimum, for fear of smothering the text under its critical apparatus.8

SIMEON JOHNSON'S JOURNAL AT GONAÏVES, HAITI

10 January 1807: On the first day of January General Christophe with his army before Port-au-Prince & was met at 8 in the morning by the Army of General Pétion about 3 leagues [north of the capital].

8 I am grateful to the staff of the Princeton University Library, and particularly to Patricia H. Marks, Emily M. Belcher, and John L. Logan, who have been of immense help in tracing obscure references and solving editorial problems.
After a parley of some little time the order was given to fire by the party of General Christophe. 9 The 4th and 7th [demi-brigades] was repuls'd back upon the main body [of the Northern forces]. When Pétion was drawn back towards Port-au-Prince at 4 in PM [after a flanking movement by Christophe's troops], a charge was made to carry Port-au-Prince. The want of Cannon & Cavalry oblig'd them after a smart action to retreat. A number were kill'd & wounded on both sides. General Papalié 10 & several Officers were made prisoners. They arrived here on their way to the cape the 7th, departed this day. They were allowed the liberty of the Town without any Guard & treated well. General Christophe endeavored all in his power to save the effusion of blood, treated all the prisoners well. Yesterday news that the army was on the return. Christophe expected here today.

An Embargo since the 2d instant on which day I slept on board the Schooner "Bon[?]ami," Capt. Remy. [I sent] to the address of Mssrs Booth & Windsor[?] 110 sacks coffee 10.75 4 2, but before the schooner could be cleared the Embargo was ordered. It still remains on board. Coffee at present 10. I purchase a little every day.

Times very gloomy. Since Six Weeks have slept but little; constantly under fears for safety of person & property. Twice fire has been put to my house at night. Was so fortunate as to smell the fire before it had made any progress & put it out without giving an alarm. The first about 1 o'clock the last about 9. A few days previous to first attempt house beset by 2 or three Robbers; my pistol missed fire which sav'd the life of one of them. I rushed out upon them so suddenly that one lost his hat & coat. I knew the person. He escaped in the morning & has not since been seen. A few nights after this last attempt to fire the house my kitchen was broken open & sundry things stolen, since which time no other attempts have been made. Constant danger has rendered me vigilant without being timid; my courage does not fail me. I am the only American in this place. Am treated politely.

General Christophe is at Marchand, [General] M[agnum] at Saint-


9 at night town tranquil. My situation unpleasant: no Society no books not a vessel in the harbour & shut out from all the world in the midst of civil war amongst a people——xxx. 12 All profit by the present disturbances, none pay. I must loan a great deal of money: 3,000 $ out in debts.

Empress 13 parts this evening for Marchand to meet General Christophe.

From November to March no rain at this place. Wind almost constantly N.E. from the mountains & very fresh. On first & second of this instant snow fell in considerable quantities at Gros Morne, but melted the moment it touched the ground. Rain from 24 December to 5 & 6 instant almost continual in the mountains towards the Cape. Roads terrible & rivers uncommonly high: for several days last week were impassable. Everything wanting in the market. A number of people drowned in attempting to cross this River.

This Town stands upon a plain near the foot of the mountains North-North East & East, [the plain] opens 3 or 4 leagues to the south towards Saint-Marc, 8 or 10 leagues to the mouth of the Artibonite. 14 South-West lays Grande Saline 15 for 6 or 8 leagues. Harbour on the West good & perfectly safe from April to November. Sea breezes & daily Showers; much Thunder & Lightening.

Remains of a very extensive Carib City are to be seen extended round for 3 leagues in circumference. Shells, Flints & Pottery mark the places where their houses stood; many pieces of Pottery of a very curious workmanship are in my possession. 16

9 Johnson will correct this information on 15 January, after Christophe's troops have returned to Gonaïves. Haitian historians agree with his later assertion that Pétion's forces opened fire first.

10 After his capture, General Papalié, one of the signers of the Act of Independence, served Christophe faithfully and was made a baron. However, he eventually incurred the king's displeasure and was executed.

11 One of the forts defending Port-au-Prince.

12 The sentence is interrupted in the manuscript; three dashes and three crosses stand for whatever Johnson was about to say about the Haitian people. Perhaps his opinion was unfavorable and he hesitated to put it in writing.

13 Marie-Claire Heureuse, widow of Dessalines and former Empress of Haiti, was very popular. Both Christophe and Pétion protected and honored her. See Louis Marceau, L'Empératrice Marie-Claire Heureuse d'Haiti (Port-au-Prince, 1955).

14 The principal river of Haiti.

15 La Grande Saline is named after the extensive salt flats found in the area.

16 Johnson's is the only reference to Indian remains at Gonaïves proper that I have found, although M.L.E. Moreau de Saint-Méry mentions decorated caves and burial grounds in the nearby hills; see the modern edition of his Description topographique, physique, civile, politique et historique de la partie française de l'île Saint-Domingue, 2 vols. (Paris, 1958), Vol. 2, p. 807. The Library has the first edition, published in Philadelphia in 1797.
Water is conveyed into the Town from the River Kunt by a Canal of about two Leagues. The River falls into a Bay to the south about 2 1/2 leagues. The Soil is quite salt. After a rain it is uneven all over & looks white & crackles under foot like frost. Quite barren to the back of the Town.

11th [January]: Troops returned from Port-au-Prince. Lost 2 killed & 4 or 5 wounded. I waited on the General [Christophe] this evening; he assured me of that I should at all events be protected, to rest perfectly easy—or if I wish'd was at Liberty to go where I pleased. A number of the principal Merchants were arrested on the arrival of the troops but were soon releas'd. The General gave notice that those who were dispos'd to leave him & join the enemy were at liberty to go, that he wanted none but friends, but that now was the time to make their election. None would go. This night the troops spend in singing & dancing just without the Town. Soldiers on both sides well treated; soldiers taken by both parties immediately discharged.

12th [January]: Night passed tranquilly. Troops singing & dancing all night. This war will probably last a long time. The Constitution of Dessalines will be adopted by this quarter. The men of Pétion dispute [the choice between] Monarch & Republic.

13th [January]: Last night about 11 o'clock the general [alarm] was beat. Very dark; the Town in the utmost confusion; none could tell the cause. Such a scene at such a time was truly alarming. I dress'd, armed & went out. Every body repair'd to the General [Christophe]. At 4 the Army which the day before came back, again set out for Saint-Marc. Some new alarm in that quarter. 2 Barges arrived from Saint-Marc with poor, wounded distress'd objects of the victims of New Year's day [battle]. This night all seems quiet, all want sleep.

14th [January]: Nothing new this day, all still. A calm which perhaps may be followed by a storm.

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17 Johnson's misspelling of the name of the River Quinte.
18 Johnson must mean 200 killed and 400 or 500 wounded.
19 Dessalines' constitution, known as the Constitution Impériale d'Haïti, was the first of independent Haiti. It divided the country into military regions or "quarters," and was signed on 20 May 1803 by 22 military leaders of the War of Independence, Christophe and Pétion among them. It was superseded by the 1806 Constitution in Pétion's republic, and by the 1807 Constitution in Christophe's kingdom.
15[th January]: This morning the Emperess set off for M[archan]d accompanied by an escort of 8 or 10 dragoons & Gentlemen. Tis said she will go from there to Port-au-Prince & endeavor to mediate between the parties. She is highly esteemed by all. She may do much towards restoring tranquility. This proved to be incorrect: in the evening she returned having only reached a [nearby] plantation.

Mr. Asbury's arrival day before yesterday at Port-de-Paix & will be here in a few days. I am extremely lonesome, no business, no Americans here, nor any amusement to kill time. Mr. Asbury will have much interesting news from America.

Markets at this season are well stocked with different species of wild ducks—2 for ¼$. Teal black & gray such as visit our climate in the Spring & Summer when there are none here.

All the Women & Children are ordered to leave Saint-Marc. Many arriv'd here today some by water & others by Land. When Caesar felt the dagger of his assassin Brutus—Brutus was a patriot—but Marc Antony had to avenge his death Brutus & his party fell. Patriotism murders more than Tyranny: one Tyrant is preferable to fifty.

Nothing from the armies; the premature attack of General Christophe has taught him caution. The party of General Pétion gave the first fire they were concealed on each side of the road for nearly a League & hit the advanc'd guard of General Christophe's troops when, after a parley, they attack'd in front & rear. The loss in kill'd & wounded as near as I can learn is say 1,500. The main body [of Christophe's army] came up, Pétion's army in turn retreated on the 6th January, considerable reinforcements having arriv'd [in Port-au-Prince] from the south. An attack was made by the North but repuls'd & [they] retreated to Saint-Marc & march'd where they now are. From the very bad roads & heavy rains the division from Port-de-Paix did not arrive till after the retreat of the Army. Reinforcements are daily arriving at Saint-Marc & General Christophe will soon be in a situation to again advance. Tis surprising with what little baggage large Armies of 8 or 10 [thousand] men march. A knapsack with a few Bananas & a Calabash for water are their equipment, no baggage waggons, no luggage of any kind to follow tardily after the army. Thus equipp'd, bare-footed, they move with a celerity really astonishing. Hunger, fatigue, rain, heat of the sun has no effect upon them; seldom there are any sick. In the field they are brave in the extreme, having excellent officers & well disciplin'd. No European troops in this climate could succeed for one campaign against them: united they are invincible.

Honey is in great plenty [at] a sol for a Bottle. Wax of course plenty; few other than wax candles are us'd. The wax is work'd by the hands (after being exposed to the sun) until it can be roll'd into a sheet. The wick is then roll'd up in the wax & polish'd by rolling until as smooth as if run into a mold. They are prefferable to tallow. It is about fifteen years since bees were discovered in the island near Cape Nicola Môle[1] and came from Cuba. They pretend to have notice the first swarm that arriv'd; this is however doubtful. Certain it is they came from Cuba to the Môle point of the island from whence they have spread over the whole.[2] They are not however yet very numerous in the south & East part. The bees seem a darker colour & more fierce than ours.

A singular anecdote was related to me by an eye witness of the fact: a person at the platform[3] had in his yard 15 or 18 hives of bees. When one day there came two of his friends who tied their horses to the fence, one of them near a hive of the bees. In flicking his tail one of the horses must have offend'd some of the bees when they immediately began an attack. The Horse flounc'd & kick'd over the hive. Instantly the whole community was in motion. Every hive was deserted. The attack became general. The unfortunate Horse was covered with his cruel assailants but was too strongly tied to get clear. The other Horse, more fortunate, escap'd from his briddle & saved himself by flight. None dared approach to relieve the poor beast. Every person who appeared without the door was attack'd. The doors & windows were all secur'd & the poor horse left to his fate. At night the bees were in clusters on trees & under the Galeries [i.e. the porches] of the Houses in the Village. For a day or two they were seen in swarms about the Town, after which they entirely disappeared: the hives were all deserted. The horse swelled up & the same night died.

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[1] In 1807, one U.S. dollar was worth 165 sols. A bottle of honey therefore sold for about $0.0061, less than ¼ of a U.S. cent.
[3] Not according to Moreau de Saint-Méry, who states that Count de la Croix, captain of the ship Annibeld, transported six bee hives from Martinique to his Gonaïves plantation in 1761; see Description . . . de la partie française, Vol. 2, p. 806.
Another circumstance was related of a large Hog entering a yard where were a large number of hives. They began the attack upon him. Every hive was deserted in an instant. The whole republic was upon the poor hog. The poor animal swell'd up & died. The bees all deserted & left their hives empty. These circumstances were considered ominous of some great calamity by the dutch settlers in that quarter. It was previous to the insurrection & evacuation of that part of the island.

18th January: Yesterday arriv'd five or six Barges from Saint-Marc with women & children & effects. All women & children are oblig'd to leave the town. None but the military are allow'd to stay. Last evening Mr. Irish [illegible] from Saint-Marc arriv'd; he will stay with me for the present. He came in company with Mme Poncito [?], favorite mistress to the late Emperor, together with a number of other women of rank. The Lady & daughter of General M[artial] Besse arrive here since some days. They are white. Madame Besse has been handsome; she is still agreeable. The daughter is sickly, very delicate, but extremely vivacious.

February 5: Since the 18th a number of events have taken place. I set off for the Cape 10 o'clock at night arrived there 3 the day following. Found a great number of American vessels anchored there. Coffee 20s. Cordially received by Gentlemen American. Waited on General in Chief [Christophe] with American Gentlemen. Conversation. General [Christophe] did not like Mr. Jefferson: was too pusillanimous, gave Burr the preference. Said the Americans were deficient in honor, would submit to any degradation rather than go to war, that war was necessary to ensure a peace.

Staid at the Cape until 28. Took leave of General in Chief who engag'd to send round the first American vessel that arrived with supplies for Gonaives under convoy of an armed schooner. Left Cape 10 o'clock. Breakfasted at Lumbay. Waited on General Romain. Treated politely. Proceeded on to Plaisance. Met nearly 100 ox-carts loaded with powder from Marchand bound to the Cape. The road full of cultivators at work repairing the roads; say 1500. Slept at Plaisance. At 3 started & at day light began to descend the Escalier. Arrived at 10 at Gonaives. Found all things right. Madame Aubert much alarmed at my long absence. Coffee 10l. No money to buy.

Army of Port-au-Prince appear'd before Saint-Marc. Made prisoners of the advanc'd Guard at L'Arcayhe. The troops at Mont-Rouiss fell back to Saint-Marc. New forces arrive everyday & are sent on to Saint-Marc & Marchand. Troops of Port-au-Prince retreated to L'Arcayhe without any engagement. Great preparations to oppose the south. Every person in town obliged to take arms & march.

February 3d: At 9 o'clock at night a cry of fire. Sprang to the door, found it burnt 3 Houses from me. Lock'd the front door, secur'd Books & papers, order'd all my domesticks to bring water, mounted the roof, threw water till the house was safe. Flew to my neighbour across the street, mounted his roof with water, with strength & great exertion sav'd the house. Saw the next House on fire. Jump'd from the roof, mounted by a ladder & with my hands dissipated the fire. Was considerably burnt. Neighbors lost much by pillage. Kept my door lock'd, lost nothing. Kept guard with pistols & ponyard. A great number offered their kind assistance to save my things; I had nothing for them to save. The wind was violent. Houses covered with straw. About 50 houses were destroyed.
My exertions very much limited the fire as it took on my side of the street & swept through the town spreading as it went. Burnt for nearly two squares. I kept it confin'd to the square in which it originated. I have been much applauded for my exertions. The negroes were astonished to see me upon the tops of the houses like a squirrel. In our store were nearly 200 [thousand pounds of] Coffee; nearly ⅛ has been sav’d. The loss is very great.

No American vessels yet arrived. Three days since Mr. Asbury arriv’d here. I was very happy to see him. Brot no letters. Had one for me [but it] was char’d & threw it over board. Parted this day for Port-de-Paix.


Simeon Johnson's journal ends with the following inscription written with another pen:

The foregoing notes were written at Gonaïves at the date mentionné. I send them to you with my other papers. S.J.
To my dear Wife.

Among his papers in the Library is a passport issued by Henry Christophe, “President et Generalissime des Forces de Terre et de Mer de l'Etat d'Haiti,” which declares that “Mr. Johnson American Merchant of Gonaïves is permitted to go to London in pursuit of his business having fullfill’d all his engagements before his departure.”

Passport issued to Simeon Johnson by Henry Christophe at Gonaïves, Haiti, on 1 April 1807. Simeon Johnson Papers, Rare Books and Special Collections, Princeton University Library.
Hilandar Monastery
An Archive of Architectural Drawings, Sketches, and Photographs

BY SLOBODAN ĆURČIĆ

On Mount Athos in Greece—the “Holy Mountain” of Eastern Orthodoxy—no fewer than 20 major monasteries were established beginning in the 10th century A.D. The Serbian Hilandar Monastery is traditionally ranked as fourth in the hierarchy of Athonite religious institutions that includes the Greek Great Lavra and Vatopedi monasteries and the Georgian Iviron.¹

Hilandar was an important center of Serbian religious and cultural life throughout the Middle Ages.² During the succeeding four centuries of Turkish rule (15th–19th centuries), Hilandar continued to play a pivotal role in the survival of Orthodoxy and Serbian national consciousness. Its austere walls contain some of the greatest architectural and artistic treasures to be found on Mount Athos, while its library, notwithstanding repeated plundering, still contains an important collection of books and manuscripts.³

The documented history of Hilandar Monastery goes back to 1198 A.D., though various physical remains appear to confirm the legend that its origins extend farther back, perhaps to the 11th century when a Byzantine monastery may have been founded on the site. Hilan-

¹ Other monasteries on Mount Athos which, like Hilandar, are associated with national Orthodox Churches include the Russian Panteleimon and the Bulgarian Zographou monasteries.
² The major monograph on Hilandar Monastery by D. Bogdanović, V. J. Djurić, and D. Medaković, Hilandar (Belgrade, 1978) is available in several Western languages, including English; it provides the reader with the most comprehensive up-to-date bibliography on all aspects of Hilandar Monastery.
³ A major microfilm collection of manuscripts from Hilandar Monastery is housed at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio; see Mateja Matejić and Predrag Matejić, comps., Hilandar Slavic Manuscripts: A Checklist of the Slavic Manuscripts from the Hilandar Monastery (Columbus: Ohio State University, 1972).

Hilandar Monastery: One of six known engravings of Hilandar Monastery dating from the second half of the 18th century, it illustrates with considerable accuracy and in remarkable detail the physical aspects of the monastery complex. It shows a liturgical procession of monks wending its way around the church and carrying the icon of the Virgin Mary under a canopy. A single monk on the north side of the church (middle foreground) is shown announcing the occasion by striking a wooden board (sementron) with a mallet. Such engravings were intended to popularize Hilandar Monastery. Engraving, 1775, attributed to Zabarije Orfein. Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University.
Thanks to the William R. and Thomas J. Berry Fund, the Department of Art and Archaeology has had the good fortune to acquire a substantial archive of architectural drawings, sketches, and photographs of Hilandar Monastery. The collection is the result of 30 years of research and involvement in the conservation of the monastery by Dr. Slobodan Nenadović, Professor Emeritus of the University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia, whose essay on Hilandar is to be found in the catalogue of the collection. The Hilandar Archive includes more than 200 inked architectural drawings of the monastery and the buildings associated with it, more than 250 field sketches, and several hundred photographs, engravings, and other documents such as old postcards and maps.

The importance of the Hilandar Archive is manifold. Above all, it will facilitate the research of historians of Byzantine art and architecture and continue to serve as a resource for those charged with the conservation of the monastery complex. The collection will interest scholars in other fields, too, including anthropology and ethnography. Many of the drawings and photographs document the material culture of the monastery; for example, there are illustrations of a wide range of objects such as stoves, window grills, doorknobs, locks, and utensils for eating and drinking.

Already renowned for its collections of Byzantine manuscripts and other art objects, Princeton has become an important locale for the study of Hilandar and, by extension, of Mount Athos and the culture of Eastern Europe. Only a few of Professor Nenadović’s drawings are reproduced here, but they enable us to appreciate something of the architectural and decorative beauty of Hilandar Monastery.

The Tower of Saint Sava is the tallest structure in the monastic complex. Its lower, unarticulated portion built of rough stone is one of the oldest surviving structures in the complex and is believed to date from the 12th century. In its upper reaches, built in the 16th century, the articulation of pilasters and arcing executed in brick and stone results in a more richly decorated exterior. The tower functioned in a manner comparable to that of the French medieval donjons, as the best-protected part of the complex where the monks could withdraw in times of siege, and from where they could best defend themselves. The partially crenellated wall to the right of the tower is the only surviving portion of the original 12th-century exterior wall of the monastery. Other buildings visible in the drawing are the dormitory buildings (on the far left and the far right), the domed Chapel of the Archangels (left), the belfry (right), and the so-called “old prothesis” (center). The latter building has been replaced by the new monastic library, designed by Slobodan Nenadović.

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4 Slobodan Ćurčić, ed., Hilandar Monastery: An Archive of Architectural Drawings, Sketches and Photographs (Princeton, N.J.: Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University, 1987). Besides Professor Nenadović’s essay on the conservation of the monastery complex, the illustrated catalogue lists all 1,103 items in the collection.

5 Slobodan Ćurčić and Archer St. Clair, eds., Byzantium at Princeton: Byzantine Art and Archaeology at Princeton University, Catalogue of an Exhibition (Princeton, 1986). For an account of the exhibition which opened 1 August 1986, see the Princeton University Library Chronicle, Vol. XLVI, No. 1 (Autumn 1986), pp. 88-90. The exhibition, mounted in the Library, was sponsored jointly by the Department of Art and Archaeology, the Art Museum and the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. An illustrated catalogue is available from the Department of Art and Archaeology and from the Friends of the Library.
The highly irregular plan of the monastery complex reveals the general topography of the site, as well as Hilandar's pattern of growth over the centuries. Even in its enlarged, irregular form, the site plan reflects the general planning principles of Byzantine monasteries. Its main church, the katholikon, occupies roughly the central position in the open court; such churches are always freestanding in order to facilitate the monastic processions which must circumambulate the building.

Opposite the church on its west side is the refectory (trapeza), with the kitchen at its southeast corner.

Scattered throughout the monastic compound are separate chapels (pakeklesia) dedicated to various saints and used for distinct liturgical functions. To the north of the church is the freestanding Holy Water font (phiale), a canopied open structure with a basin used for holding sanctified water throughout the year.

Dormitory buildings occupy most of the monastery's outer perimeter. Their size and the number of rooms reflect the period of the monastery's greatest prosperity. At present, they are for the most part unoccupied, as is the case with most of the other monasteries on Mount Athos.

The outer perimeter of the complex also reveals the presence of towers—that of Saint Sava on the east, and of Saint George on the south—which strengthened the fortifications of the monastery at the close of the Middle Ages when Mount Athos was increasingly vulnerable to attack by pirates.

The present *katholikon* of Hilandar Monastery is probably the third church to occupy the same site. In its present form, the main part of the church dates from the early 14th century and is known as King Milutin's Church. Its exonarthex (outer vestibule), seen as the two bays on the far right, probably dates from the mid-14th century. The main church, with its characteristic three-apsed disposition, follows the Athonite tradition of church planning, while its architectural details reveal the unmistakable presence of a builder from Constantinople. The church is the finest building of its kind on Mount Athos.

Hilandar Monastery: The *katholikon* or main church, west tympanum window of the naos. Architectural drawing by Slobodan Nenadović. Department of Art and Archaeology, Princeton University.

The west tympanum window displays one of the most characteristic Byzantine window forms. The three-light organization, featuring the central arched opening flanked by a pair of lower half-arched openings, is a frequently repeated formula. Equally common are the marble mullions with their characteristically chamfered capitals, and the use of brick for the construction of arches. The general form of such windows is derived from Roman "thermal windows," and is normally associated with tympana enclosing the end of a vaulted space.

An inscription tells us that the pair of wooden door-leaves was executed in 1632 A.D. during the period of extensive restoration of the monastery undertaken by the abbot (igumen or hegumenus) Filimon (Philimon; Philip?). The door is made of oak with a thin veneer of walnut containing the carved design inlaid with mother-of-pearl. Both the technique and the geometric patterns recall Islamic workmanship, and reveal the strong Muslim influence on Christian arts during this period in the Balkans.

The molded marble door frame of the south portal features a strip of partially preserved mosaic inlay. The lintel section of this inlaid work once included an inscription, only a few words of which have survived. Two names are recognizable—Michael and Varnava; they might have been the architects of the church.
One of a pair of stone parapets of a two-light window, the panel above is noteworthy for its use of a heraldic symbol—a helmet with a pair of horns. The use of heraldic symbols was essentially unknown in Byzantium; the idea is, therefore, of Western derivation. The specific motif is most often associated with Prince Lazar and the Hrebeljanović family.

The panel above is one of a pair of parapet slabs for a two-light window. The double-headed eagle is a symbol associated with Byzantine imperial art during the Palaeologan period (1271–1453 A.D.).
The relatively open, single-domed exonarthex was added in front of the early 14th-century church probably around the middle of the same century, though popular tradition associates it with the Serbian Prince Lazar, thereby dating it in the 1370s. Its richly decorated facades are related to works of the so-called "Morava School," the works of architecture and architectural sculpture associated with Serbia during the last quarter of the 14th century.

The refectory in its present form retains its 14th-century layout, despite extensive subsequent restorations and alterations. Located directly opposite the exonarthex facade, it follows the established monastic planning convention dictated by liturgical considerations. The refectory was the locale of strictly-prescribed meals extending the ceremony of church liturgy beyond the doors of the church.

The rectangular wooden-roofed hall of the refectory, its walls covered with frescoes, should be contrasted with the small and austere domed kitchen. The use of masonry domes on monastic kitchens was a standard practice spurred by utilitarian considerations. The presence of a tall conical chimney atop the dome attests to the practical nature of this architectural solution.
Several fountains exist in the courtyard of Hilandar Monastery. The fountain illustrated is a four-piered structure carrying a blind (windowless) brick dome. The four sides of the fountain are open, and each side features a double-arched opening with a central columnar mullion. The dome is comparable to those of the kitchen and laundry buildings, and is covered by slate tiles in a fashion characteristic of Athonite utilitarian structures.

The laundry building belongs to a fairly large number of utilitarian buildings preserved at Hilandar. It is situated outside the monastic compound, near a stream supplying the necessary water which was centrally heated by a stove. The facility consists of 10 stone tubs connected by the water-supply line. Two blind (windowless) domes cover the interior space. Their use, as in the domed kitchen, is strictly utilitarian.

The Church of the Trinity belongs to the monastic dependency (skete) of Hilandar, located at Spasova Voda on Mount Athos, some distance from the monastery itself. The church, despite its small size, has all the essential characteristics of Byzantine church architecture: a square naos covered by a dome, and a tri-partite sanctuary. There are two notable differences, however: The dome of Trinity Church is blind, and it is hidden from external view under a slate-tile roof which covers the entire church in a manner comparable to utilitarian architecture.
Byzantine monasteries as a rule had special ossuary chapels associated with monastic cemeteries and usually located outside the compound. The ossuary chapel of Hilandar Monastery follows this pattern. In its present form the chapel largely retains its 14th-century appearance. It is two-storied; the upper story accommodates the actual chapel, while the lower story—a crypt—consists of a series of vaulted compartments intended for storage of the deceased monks' skulls. According to Byzantine monastic custom, the skeletal remains of a buried monk were exhumed after three years, and the bones deposited on a common heap. The skull was marked with a cross and the monk's name, and preserved in the ossuary.
colors, posters, and curiosa such as the conch shell that is also a Mayan manuscript dated 761 A.D. There was a print from Princeton’s complete copy of the “elephant folio” edition of Audubon’s Birds of North America (Stephen Van Rensselaer, Class of 1808, was the original subscriber whose copy is in the Library). The Audubon print was only one of many visual delights: a 14th-century illuminated Roman de la Rose, a satirical print by English caricaturist Max Beerbohm, pathbreaking 1870s photographs by Eadweard Muybridge documenting human locomotion, and a beautiful engraving by Swiss artist Kari Böddmer, who recorded in extraordinary detail the appearance of Sioux and Mandan Indians at the moment of their first contact with Europeans early in the 1890s.

Visitors to the exhibition were treated to a remarkable tour of the holdings of the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. The curators chose fine examples to illustrate the breadth and depth of the Library’s resources for teaching and research.

— WILLIAM L. JOYCE
Associate University Librarian for Rare Books and Special Collections

PRINCETON: THE CHANGING SCENE, 1760–1987

The last two centuries have witnessed the startling transformation of a small rural college housed in a single building, Nassau Hall, into a university of international renown. “Princeton: The Changing Scene, 1760–1987,” exhibited last autumn in the Leonard L. Milberg ’53 Gallery for the Graphic Arts, documented the architectural changes that accompanied the growth of the University. Once again, curator Dale Roylance produced an exhibition that was beautiful to behold.

The iconography of Nassau Hall occupied a central place in the exhibition. The first views of the building are copper engravings of 1760 and 1776. Nassau Hall appears again in miniature on the horizon behind General George Washington in paintings by Charles Wilson Peale and John Trumbull depicting the Battle of Princeton. It is the subject of a splendid primitive painted by Jonathan Fisher in 1807, copied from the often-reproduced Dawkins engraving of 1764.

The exhibition then chronicled the changes in the Princeton cam-

pus from the disastrous burning of Nassau Hall in 1802 through the remodeling by Latrobe (1837) and Notman (1856). A series of panoramic birds-eye views showed the changes in Nassau Hall’s setting as other buildings were added to the campus. The almost empty prairie-like surroundings of 1875 were soon changed beyond recognition. By the time Rummel’s aerial view of 1895 was printed, Nassau Hall was set in the midst of a Victorian architectural array which has, in its turn, vanished.

Following the Sesquicentennial celebration of 1896, grand ideas of creating an American Oxford at Princeton led to yet another transformation of the campus. By 1910 Collegiate Gothic had replaced most of the Victorian architecture of the old Princeton, and with the completion of the Chapel in 1925, the University could boast one of the finest examples of Gothic style in America. Ralph Adams Cram’s watercolor rendering of the Chapel’s façade was an especially beautiful part of the exhibition.

The evolution of Princeton campus architecture was not the sole subject of the exhibition. There were, for example, two oil portraits, one of Aaron Burr, Class of 1772, painted by Hippolyte Burr after the original portrait by John Vanderlyn. The large and brilliantly-
colored portrait of James McCulloch, Class of 1773, by the colonial painter Mathew Pratt was given to the Princeton Art Museum by Carl Otto von Keinbusch '06. These are the earliest known "class pictures" of Princeton students.

"Princeton: The Changing Scene, 1760–1987" was the first in a series of exhibitions planned to acquaint the public with the iconographic treasures preserved in the Library. The Keinbusch Angling Collection, the McCormick Aeronautical Collection, and several other especially rich iconographic collections will be shown by Dale Roylance in future exhibitions in the Milberg Gallery.

— P.H.M.

Friends of the Library

THE HOBART G. WEEKES '23 FUND

Helen W. McKernon, who died in April 1986 at her home in New York City, bequeathed to the Friends of the Princeton University Library a share of her residuary estate in memory of her brother, Hobart G. Weekes, a member of the Friends from 1963 until his death in 1978.

Following his graduation from Princeton in 1923, Hobart G. Weekes studied at Oxford, from which he received a B.A. degree in 1925. After two years with an advertising magazine, he joined the staff of The New Yorker in 1928, and there he remained for exactly 50 years until his death, with an interval of service in the Army Air Force during World War II.

"Hobey Weekes," according to his obituary in The New Yorker, "was one of the girders on which The New Yorker was built, and one that helped hold the magazine in place for fifty years. As an editor, a grammarian, and an arbiter of house style, he gave it coherence, structure, and uniformity—a wholeness it very much needed. In the magazine's early years, because he was able to see each issue as an entity rather than as a disparate collection of articles, stories, and drawings by a contentious and wildly independent assortment of contributors, he helped establish a character—a recognizable singularity—for the magazine."

The exact size of the bequest (originally estimated at $633,000) has yet to be determined because Mrs. McKernon's estate has not been settled, but the Friends have already received $545,000. At its meeting on 16 May 1987, the Council of the Friends approved the establishment of the endowed Hobart G. Weekes '23 Fund with a principal of $450,000, the annual income of which is to be expended at the direction of the Council. The remainder of the bequest will be used
to assist in the construction of a new conservation facility in the Firestone Library.

— ALEXANDER D. WAINWRIGHT
Treasurer, Friends of the Princeton University Library

FINANCIAL REPORT

The summary of financial transactions on the Operating Account and on the Publication Fund for 1986–1987 is as follows:

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Cash balance 30 June 1987 | $1,130 |  |

*The contributions received included gifts in memory of R. Balfour Daniels, Class of 1922, a long-time member of the Friends, who died in October 1986.

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Cash balance 30 June 1987 | $7,500 |  |

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY BOOK FUND

A donation of $500 in memory of Robert H. Taylor, Class of 1930, from a member of the Friends, was added during the year 1986–1987 to the endowed Friends of the Princeton University Library Book Fund, bringing the principal of the fund to $215,444 as of 30 June 1987. The income of the Friends of the Library Book Fund, which was established in 1967, is used for the purchase of books, manuscripts, and other material for the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections. Contributions to the principal of the fund are always gratefully received.
"With Prince-of-Wales hair and eyes that are, I am sure, green," F. Scott Fitzgerald’s "features are chiseled finely. His mouth draws your attention. It is sensitive, taut and faintly contemptuous, and even in the flashing smile does not lose the indication of intense pride." Thus reported a Hollywood writer in 1927, stepping over a tray full of "very, very empty Bourbon bottles" to interview the Fitzgeralds at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles.

Her remarks could as easily be directed at the pencil sketch of Fitzgerald which graces the cover of this issue of the Princeton University Library Chronicle. This sketch and that of Zelda Fitzgerald (reproduced here) were executed by James Montgomery Flagg and are part of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Papers owned by the Library.

James Montgomery Flagg (1877–1960) was a well-known illustrator, portraitist, scriptwriter and radio personality. He published more than ten books (most of them illustrated), wrote scripts for or helped produce 24 humorous short films, and was employed by most of the country's popular periodicals, contributing covers and drawings. His deft use of open hatching and his satiric wit (his motto was "we strive to annoy") became as familiar to readers as the printed full signature that became his hallmark about 1908.

A vigorous supporter of both World Wars, Flagg created 46 war posters between 1917 and 1919, one of which pictured his original conception of Uncle Sam with the caption "I Want You / for U.S. Army." Some four million copies were printed then and 400,000 more during World War II, making it probably the best-known American poster.

Flagg was an outspoken, cosmopolitan habitué of New York City’s entertainment spots, and he reveled in the company of theatrical, literary, artistic, and political celebrities. Boasting that he "made friends and enemies lavishly," he stood at the center of what one critic has called "the carefree bohemian camaraderie of [a] hard-working, heavy drinking, stunt-making circle of friends." One of America's most conspicuous bohemians himself, Flagg was as much headline copy as were the Fitzgeralds during the Roaring Twenties.

The companion sketches Flagg did of them framed an article entitled "Looking Back Eight Years" by "F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald" in the June 1928 issue of College Humor, a national digest of humor arranged, the magazine whimsically declared, "without regard to merit."

When the article was written, Fitzgerald was 30 years old and the author of This Side of Paradise, The Beautiful and Damned, The Great Gatsby, a satirical play, and several collections of short stories. He was regularly exalted in the popular press as "the interpreter of youth and the Jazz Age" (an era he had named in the title of his 1922 collection of short stories, Tales of the Jazz Age) and "the youngest of the younger generation of noted American authors."

It is no surprise then that "Looking Back Eight Years" is not a personal reminiscence but a cultural overview of a generation "prematurely forced to maturity" by World War I. An entire generation, the authors contend, "tasted the essence of life—which is death" and they now exhibit "a sort of debonair desperation—a necessity for forcing the moments of life into an adequacy to the emotions of ten years ago." "These children realized too soon that they had seen the magi-
cian's whole repertoire,” and while “they still hope wistfully that things will again have the magic of the theatre,” they are “haunted and harassed by a sense of Unfilled destiny and grope about between the ages of twenty-five and forty with a baffled feeling of frustration.” “Whether there is a war or not,” the Fitzgeralids conclude, “we will always be of the war generation and we will always have unclarified ways of reacting, privy only to ourselves.”

One bit of information about this article that was privy to very few was that despite its joint byline and use of the pronoun “we,” Fitzgerald himself had nothing to do with it. Zelda wrote it but the magazine refused to print it under her name alone, insisting that Fitzgerald’s name be added for reasons of publicity. “Looking Back Eight Years” was one of five articles by Zelda which, along with five stories, were published by various magazines only when they were billed as collaborations. (Later, one of her articles and two of her stories were actually published under Fitzgerald’s byline alone, with no mention of her authorship.) “At first,” a biographer notes, “Zelda seemed amused that her writing was salable only with her husband’s name on it, but as their marriage became openly competitive, Zelda resented the arrangement.”

—MICHAEL KOWALEWSKI
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