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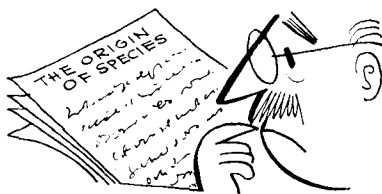
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FARRAR, STRAUS & CUDAHY

TRADE

Winds

HAVING SEEN one of the twelve extant pages of the original manuscript of "The Origin of Species," I am surprised that the book was ever published. Charles Darwin's emendations and execrable handwriting must have sorely tried the printer whose job was to decipher the world-shaking ideas contained there. Darwin admitted his



handwriting was pretty bad. I couldn't read more than a word or two of the page I saw.

This rare sheet, incidentally, is in the collection of the Burndy Library, Norwalk, Connecticut, which owns 13,000 scientific documents valued at \$500,000. The institution is particularly rich in books and pamphlets dealing with electricity and magnetism, some of them going back to the Middle Ages. Typical are such priceless and fascinating items as Volta's own copy of Galvani's original studies on the phenomenon of animal electricity, and a Faraday letter describing his discovery of electromagnetic induction. The library, in fact, owns the very machine on which Volta made his famous experiments. (He invented your automobile battery, in case you didn't know.)

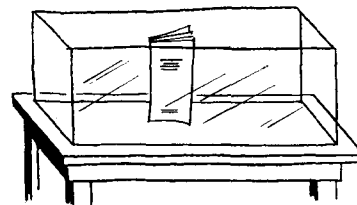
This institution, chartered in 1941 by the Board of Regents of New York State, gathers and makes available to students and authors its comprehensive collection of original source documents on which the development of modern technology has been based. Another means of sharing this invaluable information has been the annual publication of a book on some scientific subject, using the library's material as its basis. Printed in editions of about 10,000 copies, the books are offered to a selected list of interested people in the scientific field.

THE BURNDY LIBRARY'S seventeen books have covered such topics as da Vinci's military machines, the moving of the Egyptian obelisks to their present locations (Rome, New York, London, etc.), and the laying of the Atlantic cable. They have all been illustrated with unusual maps and prints and written in a readable style. The

latest publication is "Darwin of the Beagle," the story of the young naturalist's five-year voyage on the brig HMS *Beagle* and the subsequent events leading up to his "theory of evolution."

Contained in this book is a facsimile of the original manuscript mentioned above. Since the Burndy Library has on its shelves the complete *Journal of the Proceedings of the Linnean Society*, it was possible to include in "Darwin of the Beagle" an exact duplicate of the joint paper presented to the Society on July 1, 1858, by Darwin and Alfred Wallace, the explorer in the Malayan jungle who had, independently, arrived at the same conclusions about varieties of species as had Darwin.

THE AUTHOR of the Darwin volume and most of the others is Bern Dibner, director of the library (hobby) and president of the Burndy Corporation (business). The concern is the nation's leading manufacturer of electrical connectors used by power companies and by makers of aircraft, electric equipment, and appliances. It's simple enough: tiny little wires and huge



cables all have to be connected somehow to something. Burndy makes millions of dollars' worth of these vital connectors every year.

In fact, the success of the corporation means that Mr. Dibner can afford the rather costly library, a private institution. Every year he roams a part of Europe where he can make contact with the book dealers and agents who know about his interest in scientific documents. That's how he happens to have a pamphlet linking magnetism and electricity that was published by the Dane Oersted in 1820. He showed it to me, and his eyes lit up with excitement as he said:

"This was an ephemeral thing. It was printed and then everybody forgot about it. You are now looking at one of the four or five copies in the world of this important paper. We got it in Copenhagen from a book dealer. We paid \$1,800 for this scrap of paper, because a collection like ours either

has this cornerstone or it hasn't. This is truly priceless. It has been reproduced many times, but a reproduction doesn't carry the conviction, the reality, or the truth of primary evidence."

Oersted, whose paper was entitled "Experiments on the Effects of Electricity on a Magnetic Needle," will be the subject of next year's Burndy Library publication by Dibner.

A FRIEND OF MINE with sharp eyes and a good memory was reading Louis Untermeyer's "Lives of the Poets" when he thought he spotted some familiar passages. Investigation proved he was right: in the article on poetry in his old edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica he found what he was looking for. Untermeyer had not only adopted ideas and conclusions from the encyclopedia, but he had lifted phrases and passages word for word, almost.

"It'll be interesting to see how these big writers explain their plagiarism," he said to me as he shot off a letter



to Untermeyer demanding satisfaction. The reply was satisfying. I must say. Untermeyer replied that he had been caught red-handed. He had, indeed, stolen material from the poetry article in the Encyclopaedia Britannica because (1) it was a darned good article and (2) he had written it.

Furthermore, he asked, "Who can you steal from, if not yourself?"

THE BEST I've ever read on the subject is the book "Baseball, The Early Years" (Oxford), by Harold Seymour, a former Brooklyn Dodger batboy, college player, scout, umpire, and manager. Right now he is a college history professor, but he is probably best known for having been awarded his doctorate (Cornell) for a thesis on the history of baseball. This book is the first of a projected two volumes on the subject. I found it informative and myth-shattering.

I learned, among other things, that Abner Doubleday had nothing to do with the invention of the game, that baseball is a business not a sport, that gamblers were fixing games from the very start, that Billy Sunday played major league ball, and that there really was a Mike Kelly.

Kelly played with the White Sox in the 1880s. He was flamboyant, colorful, and notorious both on and off the field. He was a fine hitter and a clever base runner whose exploits in-



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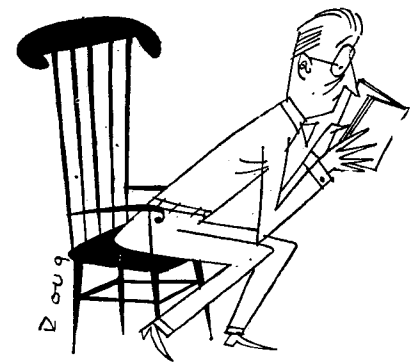
spired the well-known cry, "Slide, Kelly, Slide," which later became the title of a popular song. One famous story tells how once in a crucial situation he leaped from the bench, announced "Kelly now substituting!" and caught a foul pop fly, retiring the side and saving the game for Chicago.

Kelly liked horses, night clubs, and liquor as much as he did baseball. Once he sent word to the manager that he wouldn't be at the ball park because he was in a Turkish bath getting into shape. It turned out he had spent the day at the racetrack. Kelly's career ended when he was thirty-six years old. He died of "typhoid-pneumonia." Perhaps there is a lesson here for today's big-leaguers.

ONE OF THE MOST significant new moves in the direction of efficient distribution of books is being made by Robinson K. Russo, the West Coast financier and scientific genius. They've been calling him "the boy wonder" for almost a decade. Although he's twenty-nine, he still looks it.

His latest venture is based on the knowledge that communications and liaison between publishers and book-sellers have broken down seriously. Russo, who doesn't read very much, heard someone complaining that when he had gone into a store and asked for a book, he was told it would take two or three weeks to obtain it. Russo's family motto, freely translated, means "everything can be done better and faster," so he doped out a system whereby autographed books can be delivered to outlying districts in a day or two.

The boy wonder learned that every author always has several copies of



his books on hand. If the bookstores were supplied with the home addresses of each author, he realized they could appeal directly for urgently needed copies. It would take only a thirty-five-cent telegram, and in the case of some writers it could be sent collect. The writer would immediately dispatch the book, suitably inscribed, to the store. He would then ask the publish-

er for a replacement, which would arrive in two or three weeks.

The simplicity of the Russo plan is astounding, and could come only from a person outside the business who is not hampered by the taboos and prejudices that often prevent experienced men from coming to grips with a problem. As of April Fool's Day, Russo had signed up eighteen writers and four bookstores, all in California.

IDDZIES AND ODDZIES: Let's get this one out of the way first. Dick Wormser of Bethel, Connecticut, suggests a motto for a chiropodist: "Large Aches from Little Corns Grow."

► In 1886, when Conan Doyle, a poor physician, decided to write a detective story to make some money, he thought of his old teacher at Edinburgh, Dr. Joseph Bell, and modeled his detective after him. He named him Sherlock, after a famous English cricketer of the time, and Holmes, after Oliver Wendell.

► Talk about payola! In Hampton, Virginia, a school principal eats at a hamburger drive-in on the house. The owner's son gets away with murder at school. This is a second-grade rumor which I cannot verify.

► Why doesn't the telephone company develop an instrument that has a special ring when someone has called the wrong number, so that you won't have to waste time answering it?

► Did you know that *intuit* is a perfectly good verb? Look up *fubsy* in the big dictionary and see if you don't think it means what it sounds like. The opposite of malnutrition just has to be *bonnutrition*, *n'est-ce pas?*

► A. Kinney Griffith holds the current record for the oldest author of a first novel. His "The Big Scalphunter" will be out in a few months, and he is sixty-two years of age.

—JEROME BEATTY, JR.

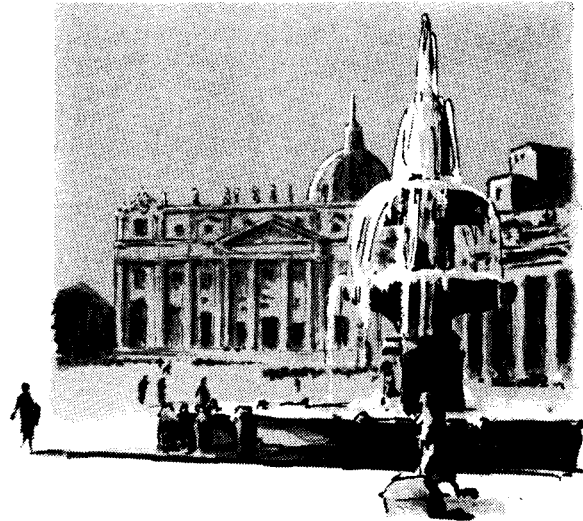
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HOW MANY WORLDS DO WE NEED?

By PAUL-HENRI SPAAK, secretary-general of NATO and a former Prime Minister of Belgium. Mr. Spaak's essay appears in connection with the fiftieth-anniversary program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. The article will form a chapter in the book "Perspectives on Peace: 1910-1960." The book will be published by Stevens and Sons in England and by Praeger in the United States.



Paul-Henri Spaak

IT IS a little difficult nowadays to understand, even in the United States, the high hopes and the enthusiasm which were aroused in my generation during the early Twenties by the ideas of President Wilson.

We had just emerged from a cruel war. Great novels like "Le Feu," by Barbusse, and "La Vie des Martyrs," by Duhamel, to say nothing of the terrible statistical evidence, were there to remind us of the price Europe had had to pay for the defense (with America's help) of freedom and for what we considered, correctly, a victory of right over might.

What filled us with hope was the belief that this war, which had lasted so long and been so heartbreaking, had put an end to wars, and that the immense and painful effort imposed on so many millions of men would be fol-

lowed by a brave new world in which the enemies of yesterday, now reconciled, would be able to live in peace.

This belief found political expression in the messages of President Wilson. Of course we all admired Clemenceau, Lloyd George, Foch, and Pershing, but it was in the President of the United States that we placed our hopes for the future, for he was proclaiming a new gospel of human solidarity.

The last of the famous Fourteen Points postulated that a general association of nations must be constituted with a view to affording collective guarantees of the political independence and territorial integrity of states, both large and small. It was this that started the League of Nations.

The idea of collective security was, of course, not new. Its germ already lay concealed in the first alliance ever concluded in the dawn of history between two chieftains or two peoples. Many different forms of it have emerged at different periods of history. What was entirely new about President Wilson's proposal was its universal character. Collective security was no longer to be confined within the framework of narrow self-interest. On the contrary, it was to be extended to the world at large through general application of the principle of the equality of all states.

THE Covenant of 1920 clearly specified in its preamble that the purpose of the League of Nations was to prevent war and to obviate, as far as possible, recourse to force by the firm establishment and the strict observance of international law. The aggressor was in effect outlawed and the solidarity

of all was enlisted on behalf of the victim. In view of the large membership of the League, this really amounted to almost universal application of the principle of collective security.

Sincerely accepted and loyally carried out, this principle would have made peace secure, for no nation could feel strong enough to defy a world combination of nations.

Why, then, was the League of Nations, founded on such noble principles, to prove such a lamentable political failure?

I can see three main reasons: it was too far in advance of the times; it was greatly weakened by the absence of the United States and the spectacular retirement of Germany, Italy, and Japan; and it was reduced to impotence by the absurd rule of unanimity.

NATIONAL selfishness and the principle of the absolute sovereignty of states were still all-powerful. The rejection of the Treaty of Versailles by the United States and its refusal to join the League were probably the most striking political manifestations of this state of mind. The League never seems to have entirely recovered from this initial setback. It was difficult indeed to frame and carry out a world policy in which the United States had no part.

Nazism and Fascism were in any case not conducive to the success of the experiment. In order to maintain itself, every regime based on a dictatorship must of necessity call to its aid the most uncompromising nationalism. Any totalitarian organization was bound to find itself in conflict with the democratic spirit of the League of Nations.

Nevertheless, these many factors of