

ANIMAL HEADS (from Scrapbooks in computer)

"Prof Lyman was appointed a committee to attend to the return to their owners of certain game heads formerly [sic] hung in the rooms at the Harvard Club."

(Minutes of Council meeting, 9 October 1914. BookY p37 item42)

"The Secretary was authorized and instructed to see that the plaques under the heads belonging to the Harvard Travellers Club in the Aesculapian Room at the Harvard Club are put in proper condition and those that are missing be replaced. Also to have the heads cleaned and put in proper condition."

(Minutes of Council Meeting, 7 May 1936. Min1 p36 item47)

"Mr. Lyon called to the attention of the Council the following clipping from the Harvard Club Bulletin of October-November 1915 [sic]: [A clipping is attached which reads, in part:]

"The members of the Art Committee feel that the members of the Club should know of the interest shown by Charles R. Cross, Jr., '03, and the help which he gave their Committee in collecting and arranging the mounted heads and skins lent by various members of the Harvard Travellers' Club to the Harvard Club of Boston. ... Mr. Cross gave most generously of his time in arranging for this collection of heads. Many of the trophies were shot by him."

(Continuation of Minutes of Council Meeting, 12 January 1937. Min1 p47 item55)

"Mr. Hall brought up the question of the animal heads now in the Aesculapian Room. The heads are owned by the Harvard Travellers Club but are lent to the Harvard Club. The Harvard Club recently redecorated the room and removed several of the heads. Mr. Hall will examine the other heads and determine which heads should be rehung in the room."

(Minutes of Council meeting, 18 October 1949. Min1 p147 item171)

"To contribute \$100 to Boston Harvard Club to help defray the cost of renovating and redecorating the Aesculapian Room."

(Minutes of Council meeting, 15 October 1963. Min2 p57 item58)

"It was voted to subscribe \$25.00 to the Aesculapian Room Murals Fund."

(Continuation of Minutes of Council meeting, 16 March 1971. Min3 p43 item40)

# HUNT TROPHIES SHOWN BY CLUB

Harvard Travellers Exhibit  
Prizes from All Parts  
of World.

Replete with rare trophies of hunting and scientific expeditions, the triennial exhibition of the Harvard Travellers' Club opened yesterday noon at Copley Hall. The collection, which is regarded as of an interest exceeded only by the largest museums of the country, will be open through Wednesday night.

The features of the show have come from nearly every part of the globe, including Alaska, the Hudson bay country, Mexico, Peru, the African jungles, India, South Sea Islands, the Asiatic interior and the Philippines.

John T. Coolidge, Jr., presents one of the most interesting displays, showing pictures of animals taken in their native haunts by automatic flashlight.

African pictures of especial value are shown by Dr. S. B. Walbach of the Harvard medical school, who studied the mysterious sleeping sickness in British West Africa. African trophies are shown by Francis T. Colby and Prof. Theodore Lyman. Mountain bear and sheep skins are a feature also, and there are some of the largest heads in existence.

An attractive and valuable exhibit of costumes of American Indians is brought by Dr. Theodore J. Eastman. Several of the complete skin costumes are richly embroidered with bead work sewn with deer sinew.

One of the largest displays is of Alaska Indian work by S. Prescott Fay. Grass baskets, with 2000 stitches to the square inch and highly ornamented, are of particular interest. He presents some beautiful rare bead work of the Athabascan Indians who live in the Mackenzie river basin.

Other exhibitors include W. Cameron Forbes, with a Philippine collection; Dr. Denman W. Ross, with India photographs; G. C. Curtis, with pictures of volcanoes in action; Ernest Harold Baynes, with bird life pictures, and Dr. Alexander Forbes, with displays of mountain climbing.

The stage of the hall is arranged in reproduction of a canoeing camp in the Hudson bay country. A number of talks are included in the program of the exhibition. Prof. Theodore Lyman

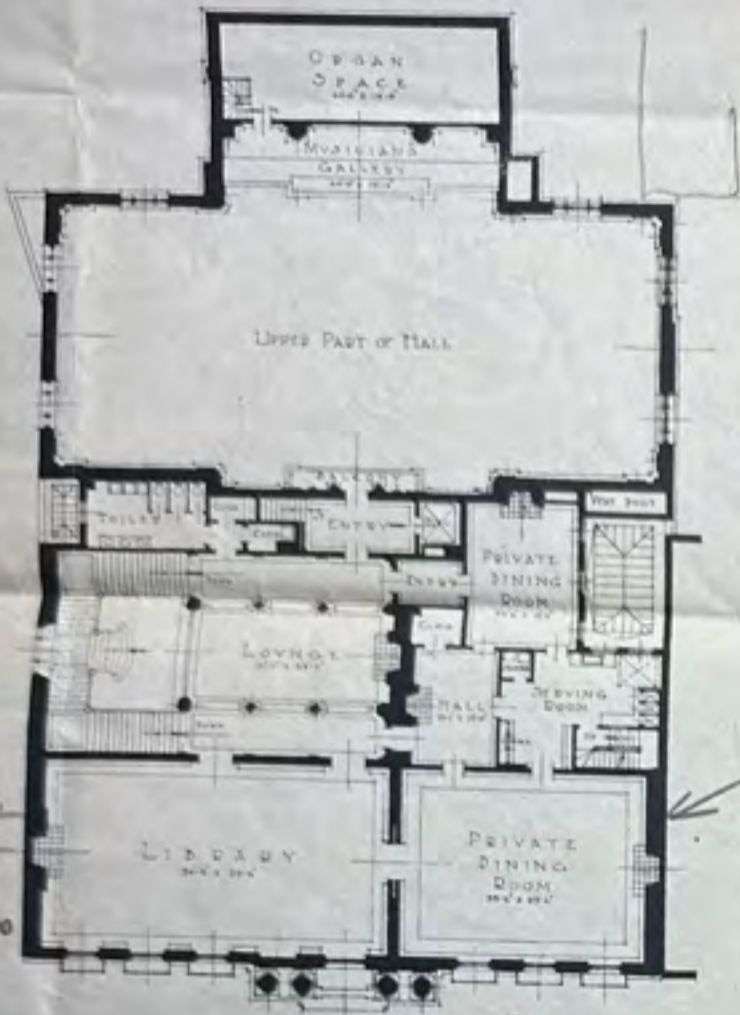
yesterday afternoon told of "A Journey to the Altai Mountains," and last night Ernest Harold Baynes spoke on "Bird Conservation."

This afternoon J. T. Coolidge, Jr., will tell of "Photography of African Game," and in the evening Prof. Roland B. Dixon will describe "A Journey in the Northern Himalayas." Tomorrow H. W. DuBois will speak in the afternoon on "Hunting with a Camera in British Columbia," and in the evening Prof. Hiram Bingham of Yale will describe "Recent Explorations in the Land of the Incas."



*Parker Thomas & Rice  
Architects Boston.*

THIRD FLOOR PLAN



*not available  
on account  
of book cases*

*Parker Thomas & Rice  
Architects Boston.*

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

*Parker Thomas & Rice  
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*Parker Thomas & Rice  
Architects Boston.*

FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

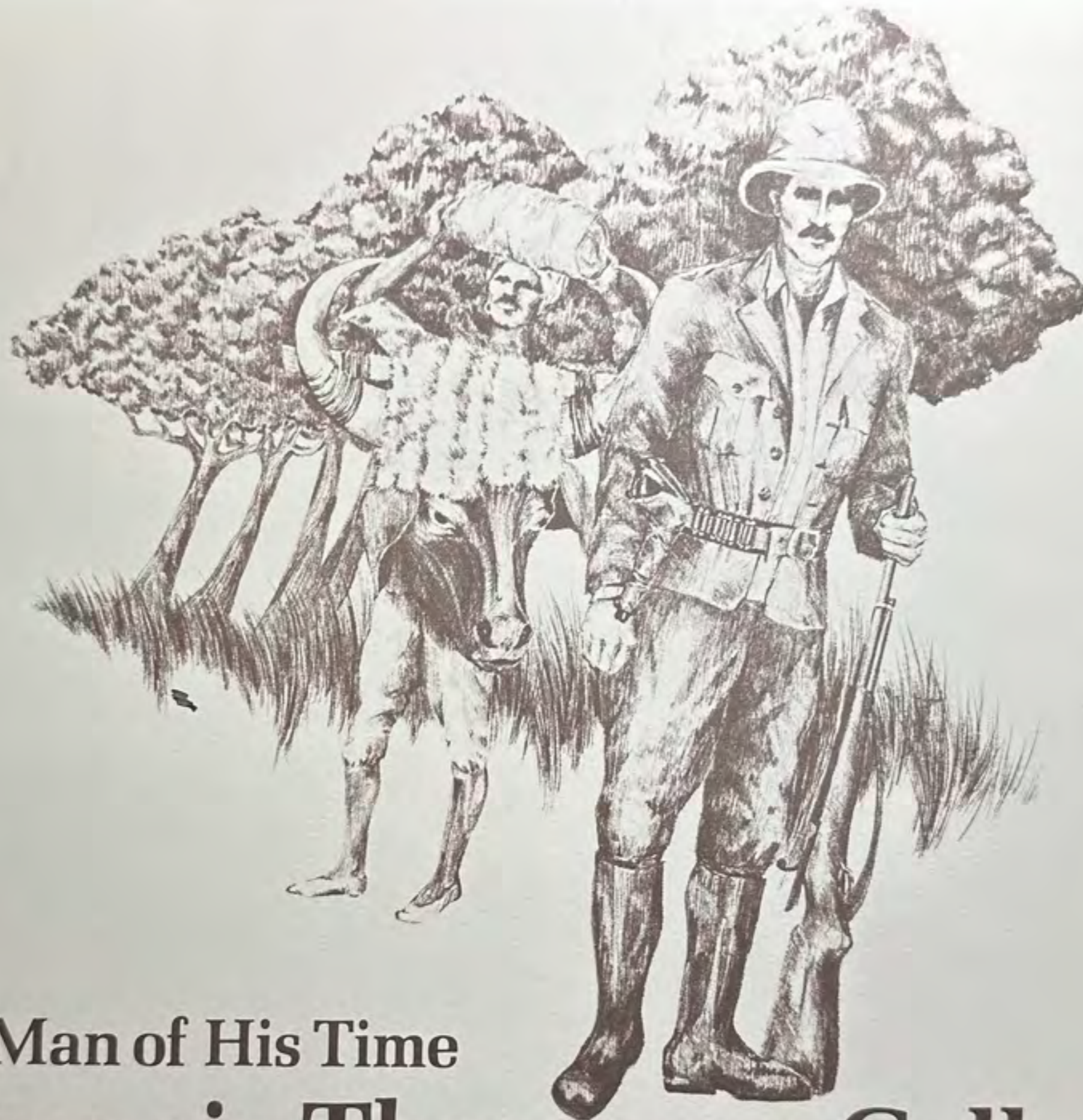


BASEMENT PLAN

*Parker Thomas & Rice  
Architects Boston.*

PRELIMINARY SKETCHES  
OF PROPOSED HARVARD  
CLUB OF BOSTON  
PARKER, THOMAS and RICE, ARCHITECTS.





A Man of His Time

# Francis Thompson Colby

A Museum of Science Publication

COLONEL FRANCIS THOMPSON COLBY  
GAVE THIS ROOM  
IN MEMORY OF HIS FATHER  
REAR ADMIRAL HARRISON GRAY OTIS COLBY, U.S.N.  
IT CONTAINS COLONEL COLBY'S TROPHY COLLECTION  
AND IS A REPRODUCTION OF THE GUN ROOM  
IN HIS HOME AT HAMILTON, MASSACHUSETTS,  
FOR A GREAT MANY YEARS A PLEASANT  
MEETING PLACE OF THE COLONEL  
AND HIS FRIENDS

IN MEMORY OF  
FRANCIS THOMPSON COLBY

1882 - 1953

*WHOSE GENEROUS BEQUEST FOR ENDOWMENT  
REPRESENTS THE GREATEST EXPRESSION OF  
FAITH AND CONFIDENCE RECEIVED BY THIS  
MUSEUM IN ITS FIRST 125 YEARS*

# Colonel Francis T. Colby — A Man of His Time



The Colby Bequest, like almost all large gifts, had an extraordinary beginning.

At about 10 o'clock one night toward the middle of June in 1952 the telephone rang at our home in Cambridge. Preparing for bed and not too eager for a telephone call on any subject at that time of night, I simply let it ring. But the caller was more determined than I was, so I finally picked up the receiver.

"This is Francis Colby," said a voice at the other end of the line. I hesitated for a moment, as I couldn't instantly place the name — and he continued, "From Hamilton — you remember, we've met at the Harvard Travellers Club."

I did remember immediately — a fine, erect gentleman of possibly seventy years, British in bearing, who knew an enormous amount about Africa, and always talked about it with enthusiasm.

"Of course," I finally replied. "It's good to hear you. What can I do for you?"

"I've become rather interested in your Museum and I have a scheme related to it which I'd like to discuss with you if you could drive down to see me some evening soon."

I said that I'd be delighted, and a few days later I turned left at "the Town Hall with the cannon in front of it," and drove exactly 1.7 miles and parked my car beside Colonel Colby's home — in a frigid, driving northeaster. It was only a hundred feet from my car to the door, but I was already drenched by the time that it opened and Colonel Colby — Frannie, as everyone called him — stood in the entrance to greet me. He beckoned to me to warm myself in front of the fire, while he stretched out on a huge bedlike couch in front of me where he had been reading

a book. The fireplace was enormous, and so was the fire. I had not been there twenty seconds before he came right to the focus of our meeting:

"I suppose you wonder why on earth I've brought you all the way down here on this ghastly night." He scarcely hesitated as I nodded, then continued, "I'm dying of cancer and I'd like to give this room to your Museum if you can find a place for it." He looked upward past the bear skulls on the mantle to the huge Alaskan Brown Bear glowering down on us from the face of the chimney and his hand swept above his head in one wide arc to include the myriad skins, heads, horns, guns, and memorabilia which seemed to cover every inch of the walls and ceiling.

We chatted about his plan far into the night, and my warning that this was certain to be a costly undertaking did not faze him a bit. Aside from the expense of taking the room down, moving it to Boston and rebuilding it, would be the inevitable annual costs of cleaning and poisoning the skins and heads — and occasional replacement costs if moths thwarted our efforts and some of the scores of animals deteriorated.

And then, too, another barrier was the fact that we didn't even have a building to put it in — although planning for one was already well under way, but completion far, far off (1961). However, his enthusiasm for his idea was boundless, as was his confidence that the Museum would eventually erect an excellent place to install the room.

We agreed to pursue the matter further — I to try to estimate the expenses involved in moving, reassembly, and main-

tenance; he to give more thought to the amount of money he felt he could devote to meet these costs. I hadn't the slightest idea of the extent of his resources, and he never divulged the slightest scrap of information on this vital subject. All I knew was that he had an extraordinary idea and that he seemed completely confident that there weren't any barriers that could not easily be overcome.

I was sworn to total secrecy. I could not breathe a word about this plan to anyone — except our architect, Josiah Child, who was also sworn not to tell a soul. Nobody but Colby's doctor and his lawyer knew the nature of his illness, as he did not want to be surrounded by grieving friends during his last few months on earth.

I had paced off rough measurements that first night, and Jo Child and I made preliminary estimates of cost. Colonel Colby was delighted on hearing them and invited both of us to come down for lunch on July 30 — a date I shall never forget, as my mother died at Squam Lake in New Hampshire the day before, and Jo had to make the trip to Hamilton alone.

He had a delightful lunch with the Colonel and made scores of precise measurements of the Gun Room — from which, during the next month, he drafted a complete set of plans and sections of it.

As summer turned to fall, we chatted on the phone and finally it was agreed that it would be both too complex and too costly to move the room to Boston and reassemble it — that the wisest course was to recreate it as faithfully as possible in every detail. The cost for this intricate job and the space which it would occupy in our new building was set at \$75,000.



been many dinners and meetings in that room, and each and every time we've toasted Frannie Colby.

On July 30, as Barbara and I were driving along the McKinley Park Highway halfway between Wonder Lake and Mount Eielson, we were hailed by a man in a jeep, coming from Park Headquarters in the opposite direction. He handed me a shopworn telegram which looked as if it had been read by everyone in town. It was signed by Caroline Harrison and David Freeman of my staff at the Museum. Frannie Colby had died on July 30, precisely on the anniversary of the day when he and Jo Child had discussed and measured the room together.

The funeral service was held in the Gun Room. The rhinoceros was removed from the great East African mvuli wood table that Childs Frick had given him in the old days, and Frannie's casket, covered with an American flag, lay there, surrounded by flowers. The room was filled to overflowing with a throng of friends: from Myopia and Essex, from the Back Bay where he kept an apartment on Marlborough Street; friends from New York, hunting companions, and solid local folk from Hamilton who had worked for him over the years. They all knew each other as well as Frannie — in school, college, clubs, sports, business, travel, and the military.

When the will was opened we were all astonished. In addition to generous income for his retainers and some cousins, the Museum received \$200,000 to build and endow the Gun Room in memory of his father, Admiral Harrison Gray Otis Colby, final residual interest in a \$500,000 trust (now valued at \$1,072,000) — and, at

the end, the entire residue of the estate, \$1,012,000, to be used as unrestricted endowment! And this document had never been changed since it was signed in March, after which he'd had many long talks with me about our needs. What delight he must have had in knowing throughout all these sessions that he had already taken care of everything.

Francis Colby was an extraordinary man. His personal resources made it possible for him to do exactly what he wanted — and he was never really happy unless he was on the trail in the wilderness. Today, in the Ecological Revolution, a big game hunter is viewed as a criminal; then, he was a hero. His room epitomizes the excitement of this bygone era and the highlights in the life of a restless, generous bachelor who loved the campfire, the veldt, the Alaska wilderness — the vigorous, dynamic outdoor life — more than anything else.

This little book will tell you more about Francis Colby and his room. The Museum's Trustees, members, friends, and all its countless visitors owe him a tremendous debt of gratitude. For his great gifts established a firm financial foundation on which we could build and expand confidently, at a time when nothing was more necessary to our survival than confidence and generosity.

Bradford Washburn

Cambridge, Massachusetts  
January 15, 1973



# Francis Thompson Colby 1882-1953

Francis Thompson Colby was born in Boston in 1882, son of Mary Catherine Thompson and Harrison Gray Otis Colby. A direct descendent in the eighth generation of Myles Standish, Harrison was a man of action who sought the front line or its equivalent in adventure at every step. His distinguished naval career spanned 22 years that saw him rise from midshipman to rear admiral. It is no wonder that Francis — so like his father in spirit and verve — would consider the Gun and

Trophy Room replica at the Museum of Science a suitable monument to his father's memory.

Frannie lived through school years that were relatively placid. They were in fact prescribed, as they were for many of his friends: like them, he prepared at Noble and Greenough School and was graduated from Harvard with a B.A. in 1905.

"His memory was miraculous," a friend said of him. "He never repeated himself, and he had the ability to make an intriguing tale out of the

smallest incident. He could out-Kipling Kipling!"

Keen, intelligent, alert, he was not a scholar but rather a serious student of life. To Francis Colby, life was a Happening. From its moments, he spun sagas and epics. He was a story-teller of great dimensions. When life did not seem to have the pace he thought it should, he took matters into his own hands and set the stride himself. When he died in 1953, he had lived 70 years of high adventure of his own design.



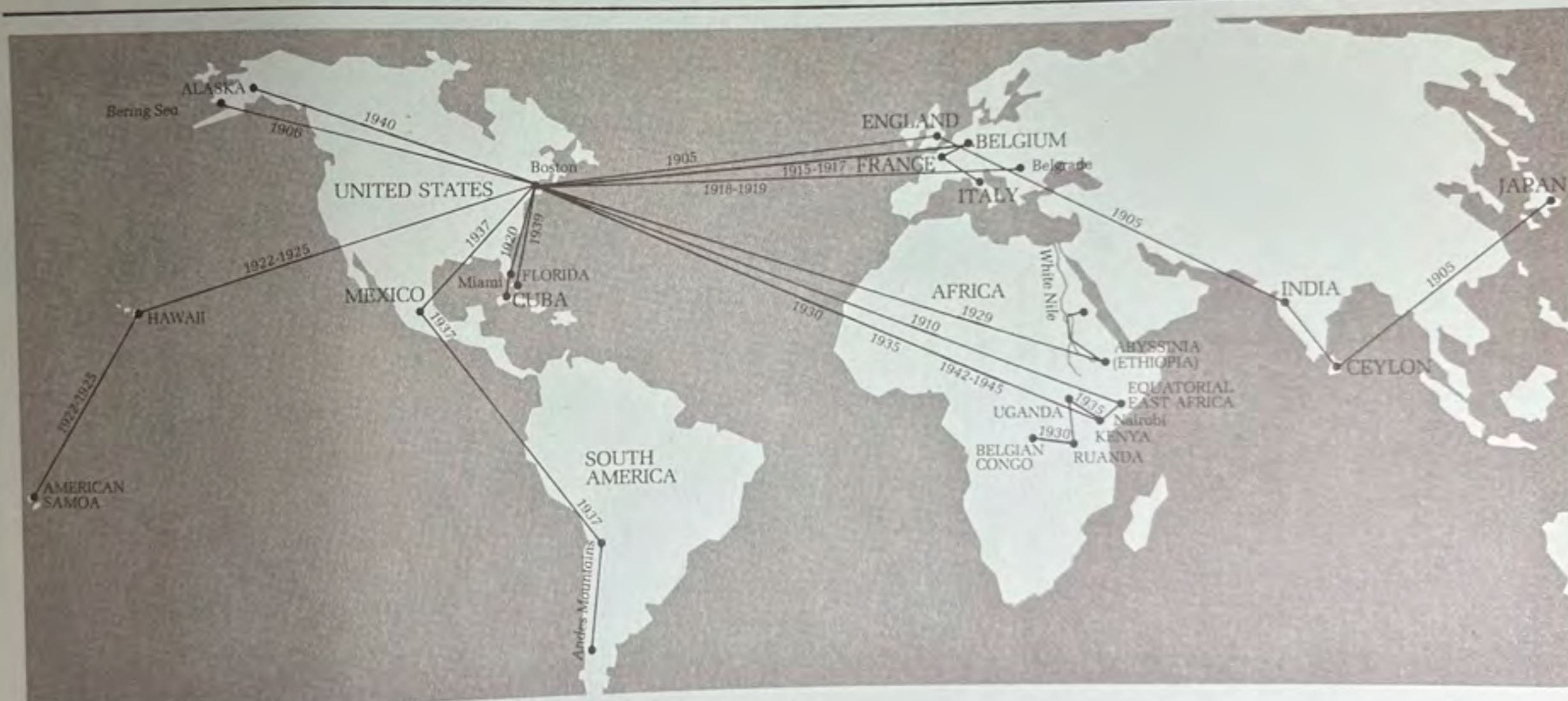
# A life of travel

As a wealthy bachelor Francis Colby was able to do much traveling, and he didn't stay put long. As a young man his first ports of call were England, Ceylon, India, and Japan. Following graduation in 1905, he settled into the offices of Kidder, Peabody and Co. in Boston to study banking. After a few months he left with a gun over his shoulder for an eight-month trip to Alaska, where he inspected coal and other mining properties. Even at this early period in his life — he was

only 24 — collecting had become a part of him. Moose, caribou, and black bear — fine specimens all — were hunted, shot, shipped home, and mounted. It was on this trip that he bagged the largest Alaskan Brown Bear recorded to that time. He brought the animal home and had the head and forequarters mounted so that others might see exactly how it looked through the sights of his rifle. A replica of it is installed today where he placed the original, over the

fireplace in the Trophy Room — a fierce sight, appearing almost to crash right out of the wall into the viewer's lap.

In 1910 Colby discovered his other home: Africa. Buffalo, elephant, rhinoceros, antelope, lions and many other cats joined the collection. He lived at the Muthaiga Club in Nairobi, had his boots spit-and-polished and his bush clothes washed and pressed, and enjoyed his position as one of the important big game hunters.



## A life of travel

Then, for three years, he settled into the somewhat sedentary life of his class, practicing law in association with Samuel Thorne, Jr., in New York City. During this period, up to the start of World War I, he became associated with the military, serving in cavalry squadrons in New York and nearby Connecticut.

In 1915, he was a first lieutenant in the Belgian Army, heading up an ambulance column, and served with distinction in The War. In 1920, while

in the 2nd battalion of the 7th Field Artillery, he traveled to Miami and Cuba. In 1922, he was in Hawaii, working for the Department of the Army in defense intelligence. In 1928, Colby resigned his commission and went home to Hamilton, Massachusetts.

A short stay there was followed a year later by a trip across Abyssinia — the Ethiopia of today. While there, he represented this country at the coronation of Emperor Haile Selassie, because —

so the story goes — he was the only American on the African continent who had a top hat and was therefore qualified for the honor. All the while he was engaged in military duties, he was enjoying a more light-hearted side of his life: fishing, hunting, playing polo, camping, fully enjoying the outdoors and the life of a sportsman.

Those who knew Colby well remember his great love for hunting. In fact, an older gentleman said after Frannie's death that his first vivid



memory of him was in Princeton, Mass., as a 10-year-old alone, with a .22 rifle hunting rabbits. The whole aspect of the chase thrilled him. He seemed never to tire of either the adventure or the relating of it. He sought out the best possible trophies, and frequently his animals were the record-breakers of that era. He was neither wasteful nor unsportsmanlike in his desire to make up a fine collection.

Shooting and photographing, he traveled widely

throughout Africa — in Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda, and the Belgian Congo, when travel there was a complex, challenging undertaking, a far cry from the commercial travel available nowadays. He then moved across the seas into Mexico and South America. In 1939 he was asked by the Boone and Crockett Club to collect the bears that were needed for the North American Hall in the American Museum of Natural History. He wrote for the Harvard Travellers Club as well as the

Boone and Crockett Club. Through all his travels, he was adding to his Trophy Room possessions. By now he was collecting military uniforms, helmets, firearms, and countless photographs.

One of Colby's more spectacular contributions to his country occurred at the outbreak of World War I when he served in France with an organized ambulance column attached to the Belgian Army. It was called Colby's Company, and he commanded it for more than a year.



# The military man

In one of his scrapbooks, an aged and yellow article from the *Boston Evening Transcript*, dated October 31, 1914, had this to say:

"Without regard to race or nationality, the American Ambulance is writing the first chapters of what will be a new book in military surgery and medicine."

How had all this come about? Fate had played its own trump card in that Colby had been turned down by the military because of a broken leg

sustained while playing polo. Undaunted in his desire to get to the front, he had conceived the idea of forming an ambulance company and had set to work to raise subscriptions for it in Boston, crutches and all. A group of interested and generous citizens backed him and, in record time, the idea became an actuality.

"Not a word of his personal experiences in those four years of service with the valiant soldiers of the Belgian Army could be obtained from

Capt. Colby, but his three war crosses and three citations for bravery speak for themselves," these old newspapers state, and then they describe him: "Tall, spare, and muscular, bronzed and a wonderfully attractive figure. . . ."

With America's entry into the war, Colby was transferred to the U.S. Army and he served in France and Italy during that period.

After The War, in 1922 a whole new part of the world opened up to him with his appointment to



the Hawaiian Department of the Army. For the three years following he was stationed in the Pacific and was commander of the 2nd Battalion. He wrote an extensive report on conditions and possibilities for the defense of American Samoa, covering the air approaches to Hawaii — highly classified material.

After he resigned his commission in 1928, he continued his travels. While in Africa in the 30's, he wrote many reports on various political, eco-

nomical, and military topics for the U. S. Government. The subjects of other reports covered the Balkans, the Danzig area, and the South Seas. As World War II approached, Colby became the logical choice to head up U. S. intelligence in East Africa.

Wherever he went, Colby gathered artifacts, statuettes, weapons, and any article that he felt represented the essence of the country he was in.



# Africa – land of contrasts



Africa meant more to Colby than just a shooting gallery. He understood this continent of contrasts: violent and peaceful, ugly and beautiful, ancient and contemporary. He studied the people and the animals, often observing their customs and habits with a combination of scientific detachment and singularly subjective involvement. He studied the land and recognized early that in the richness of the earth lay the potentialities for Africa's wealth and power. Colby was curiously sensitive, almost intuitive about Africa. Glimpses of his personal response to Africa are found in some of his letters to friends back home. These remarks were written in 1944 in Ethiopia:

"This is one of the loveliest places you can possibly imagine. It's 8600 feet up in the mountains. It nestles in a sort of sky valley with mountains all around it, and it is full of strange looking men with black beards, brass cartridge belts, and big heads of hair. I am guest of H.R.H. the Crown Prince, and I live in a Little Palace. It's a villa on a hill high up over the town in an artificial grove of Eucalyptus trees and flower gardens.

"The Palace is on a hill, a gate and guard at the bottom and another guard at each side of the steps at the top. The Prince is the Governor of this area and also commands the troops with the rank of Lieutenant General. . . .

"There are all kinds of country in Africa, but this is certainly the land of milk and honey. Most beautiful great valleys of rich black soil and green grass with thousands of cattle, sheep, and horses feeding as far as one can see. The villages are pretty. They are circular turkles, stone walls and thatched roofs, and they are clustered on little hills midst



trees and gardens. The villages are always walled and loop-holed for defense.

"This (Sacred City of Axum) is a very remarkable and ancient City. The present church was built in 1634 but the Monoliths and ancient stones where the kings of Tigre and Emperors of Ethiopia are crowned must be of tremendous age. In various niches in the Church walls and under trees, devout Christians sat reading the Bible. The Head Priest had been told of my arrival and presently joined me. We had met before and I was familiar with the Church and its remarkable painting. This time I asked to see the crowns of the Emperors. After a short delay four crowns were produced. The first was that of Johannes II, a Tigrean Prince who aided Lord Napier's expedition in 1865 and thereby became Emperor after the defeat and death of Emperor Theodor. He was killed at the battle of Gallebat after defeating the Mahdi's General Osman Dinsa in 1888. The next was the Crown of Menalik himself, then there was that of Ras Seyoom, present King of Tigre, now under protective custody of Addis Ababa. I have met him twice this year. The last crown was the Crown of Haile Selassie as King Regent before being crowned Emperor. The Priests held these crowns standing in line before a beautiful red and yellow Persian carpet and I photographed them in color and in Pan." A number of remarkable Ethiopian paintings of the early history of Christianity (with all the important figures Negroes) collected on this trip by Col. Colby are displayed in the Colby Room.

In 1928, he had bought a house in Hamilton, Mass., and now, on returning from Africa, he actually used it for the first time. For a while, he relaxed, relish-

# At home in Hamilton

ing his new leisure and a lifestyle far removed from what he had enjoyed with equal delight amid the ancient ruins of Abyssinia and the jungles of Kenya.

Friends were important to Colby. He loved an audience. Callous, violent, flamboyant, and selfish one moment, he could be gentle, kind, and full of Victorian sensibilities the next. He loved to talk and he expected to hold the stage himself.

"What a host he was!" reminisced a close friend. "He was full of fun. Full of ideas and always the center of everything."

There are many stories about his untraditional lifestyle. According to one story, whenever Francis Colby was feeling particularly full of himself, he did not bother to call the maid with the bell that was in his gun room. Instead, he would pick up a gun from his enormous library table and fire a shot. His serving lady would appear, unperturbed by the performance, and ask him solemnly if there were something he wished.

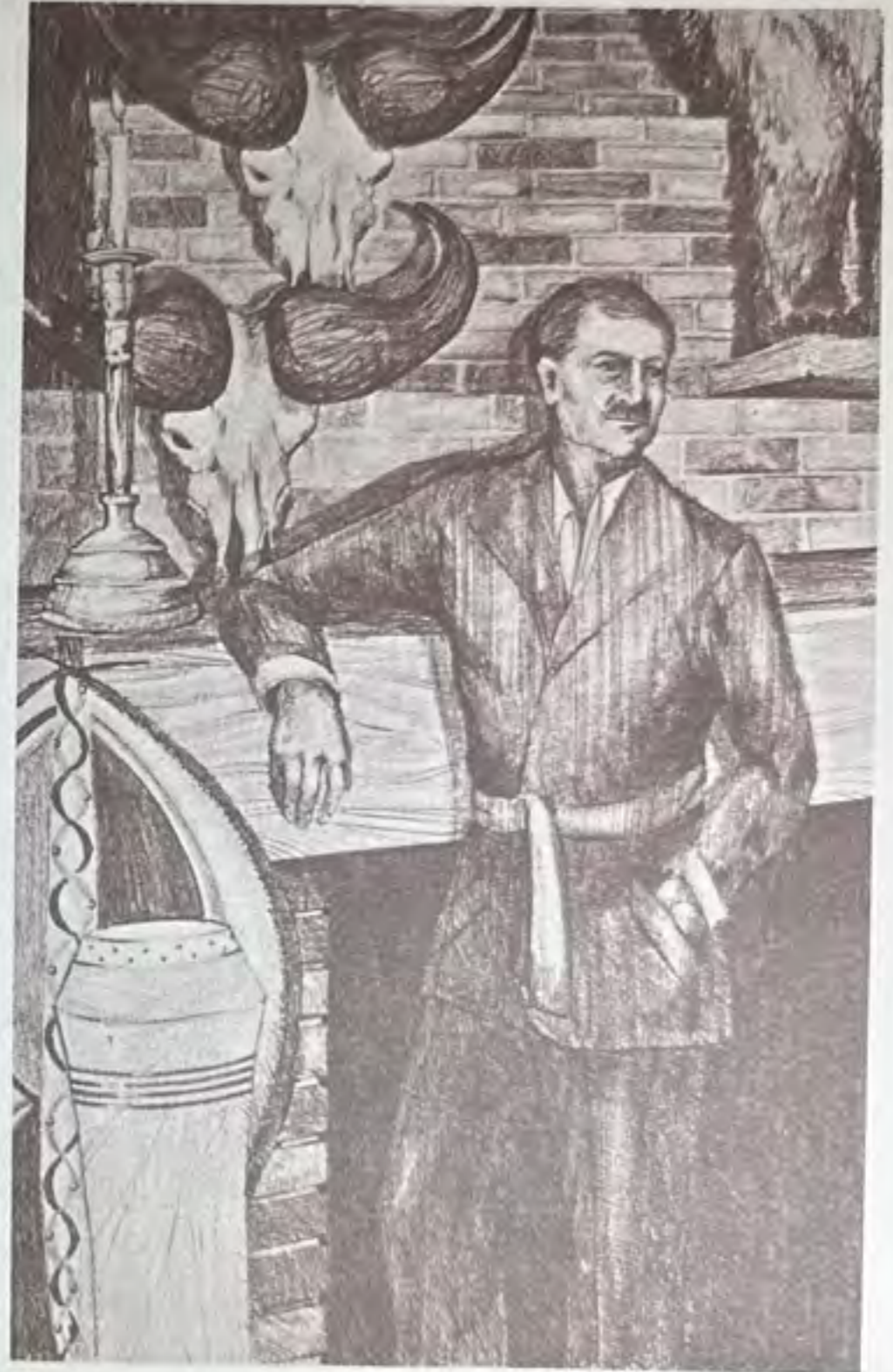
In those Hamilton years, Colby had a German shepherd dog, David, that he was very fond of but did not bother to control or discipline, much to the discomfort of his friends who felt the sharpness of the animal's teeth many a time. Such incidents amused the Colonel.

Whether he laughed with or at people might sometimes have been a question. He brought many guests home to Hamilton and among them was a man he claimed to be the uncrowned king of Uganda. There was always a suspicion in the minds of many that this was not the uncrowned head of Uganda but just an ordinary friend from Africa.

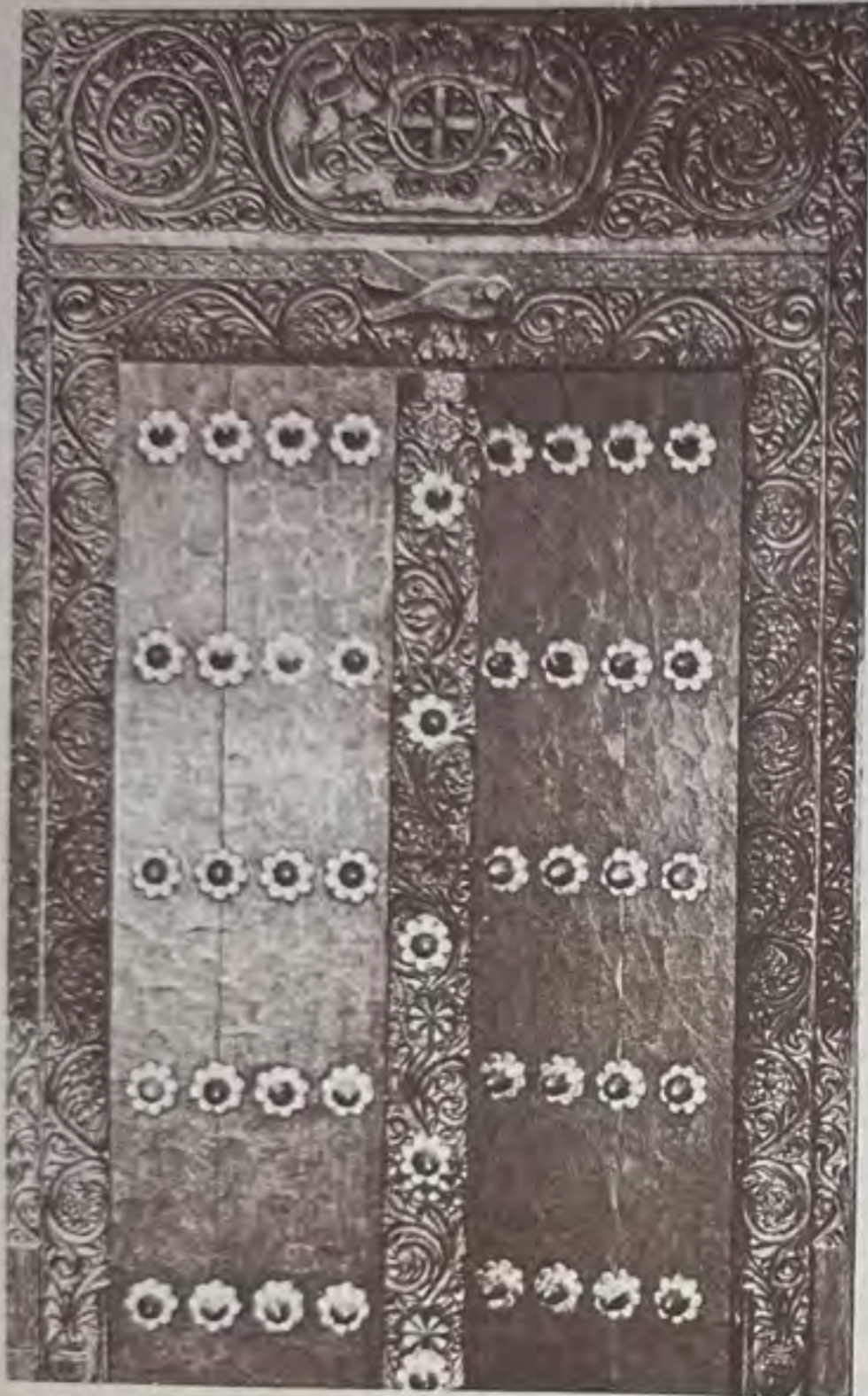
Colby was frugal yet extravagant. It

was not unusual for him to buy a second-hand radiator, and then spend twice its worth to have the plumber fix it. He was known to be generous to those who served him. When, for example, he prepared for his African trips, he bought and packed masses of medical supplies. He never went anywhere without his medicine trunk. The size of this operation amused a companion who one day challenged him as to what he would do if he found a native in the bush with an acute appendix. "Why I suppose I'd take it out!" was his prompt reply. He was in fact most generous with his medicines and brought aid and relief to both his bearers and the tribes he met.

As the years progressed, Francis Colby returned often from his African trips to spend more time in his home in Hamilton. The Gun Room became his Africa in the United States, and it was there that he entertained lavishly on Sundays and all major holidays. These events were unique and everyone loved them. All agreed that Colby's Gun Room not only expressed very accurately the man but the lifestyle of a segment of society in one area of American living. Even though a glance around the room might lead one to believe that it epitomized the senseless slaughter of African game, it was here that many of the early seeds of present-day attitudes toward ecology and conservation were born, as lovers of the jungle and veldt came to chat with the Colonel — not only about the wonders of the wilderness but of preserving them for future generations.



# The Gun and Trophy Room



There are few rooms in the world like the Colby Gun and Trophy Room, because there have been few people like Francis T. Colby. The room is a reflection of the man himself, of his unique personality and his deep, sensitive appreciation for his second home, Africa. He was not a man of understatement. Even to speak of him one uses superlative terms, as in this description by a friend.

"World soldier, sportsman, explorer, naturalist; so proudly American bred, so Olympian in his tastes; so fondly and so deeply self-tutored in the experience, the wonder, and the mystery of the Twentieth Century Africa, and with such quick and fascinating comprehension of the grace of races other than his own."

In Colonel Colby's home in Hamilton, the Gun Room — perhaps his favorite spot — looked out onto an expansive lawn, shaded by large elms. There his horse, Foursquare, often roamed at will, sometimes nudging his way through the door and into the house to have a bite of sugar always kept on a plate for him beneath the rhinoceros. There was a pond in the yard where the Colonel kept swans in the summertime and where migrating birds stopped on their way south. A built-in view has been given to the Museum's replica of the trophy room through the construction of diorama shells, just beyond the window panes. Painted by the prominent artist, Henry B. Brooks, these dioramas show the scene precisely as it appeared through each of the windows. One view across the lawn is complete in every detail with Foursquare browsing in the background.

It was not uncommon to find a gun or trophy room in homes a generation or so ago — today's equivalent is probably

called a den, or gameroom, or family room where sporting equipment or souvenirs of travels are displayed. Such rooms have atmosphere of their own and are extremely personal. In Colby's room, the visitor senses the action of military and sporting events. The decor, rococo by today's standards, is a fine example of the plush opulence so in vogue at the time. It is indeed a period room. Even the animal specimens, so carefully mounted and displayed, are larger than you might choose to display, and there are certainly more of them in the room than would comfortably be included in a modern day counterpart.

Standing in the doorway of the Colby Room is like standing on the threshold of a trapper's den. The great Arab doors from Witu provide the initial frame. Magnificently carved and studded with beveled brass spikes, the doors were taken from the Palace of the Sultan of Witu, a coastal village in Zanzibar, south of Malindi and north of Mombasa. They are nearly twelve feet high and four inches thick and are known as elephant doors because the brass spikes were supposed to inhibit wandering elephants from entering.

Pass through this impressive doorway and step into another world. Overhead, all kinds of cat skins — leopard, cheetah, jaguar, serval — hang from the rafters. On the wall, like bell pulls, are long and delicate-looking python and cobra skins, an interesting textural contrast to the full and hairy Colobus monkey skin draped casually over a chair. Nearby is the great long table, a made-to-order piece carved from a massive slab of East African mvuli wood. It is a fitting base for the half-scale model of an Indian rhinoceros.

the work of famed animal sculptor, Katharine Lane Weems — the original model for the two huge life-sized bronze rhinoceri that now flank the entrance to Harvard's biology building on Divinity Avenue in Cambridge.

In an inspection of the room one should not miss the massive, African-made, silver candlesticks on the fireplace mantel. These held great significance for Colby, accompanying him on all his hunting trips, gracing his evening dinner tables in the wildest bush country, both on safari and in Muthaiga.

On either side of the fireplace are two buffalo-hide Masai shields, made from the skins of animals Colby shot during his last stay in Africa. The Masai are great East African warriors, a proud and elegant people who still resist Westernization. The Colonel felt especially honored to own shields made by these tribesmen. He waited many weeks directing complicated arrangements for an Indian bush trader to go as his emissary to the Masai with the prepared skins, wait while they were painted, and bring them back out again.

On a side wall, the Colonel's gun collection is displayed in a glass case. A favorite was an old elephant rifle, a gun of great weight and antique design. Colby used this piece to shoot elephants in the Pygmy Forests near the Mountains of the Moon. The Colby guns are historical pieces of considerable value, according to the National Rifle Association.



# The Colby Collection

Listed on the next few pages are some of the important items from Colonel Colby's collections. The Gun and Trophy Room, a reproduction of the original in Hamilton, Massachusetts, was opened as a Museum of Science exhibit on January 23, 1965.



1. Alaskan Kodiak Bear — shot in 1907
2. African Buffalo horns
3. Mountain Goats — Alaska
4. Alaskan Dall Sheep
5. Silver candlesticks — made in Africa and taken on all hunting expeditions
6. Bear skulls — Alaska 1907
7. African shields — made from hide of buffalo shot on last safari; shields made by Masai tribesmen
8. Tom-tom of wood and lizard skin — used in marriage ceremonies
9. Tom-tom of wood and animal hide — used in marriage ceremonies
10. Leopard skin
11. Jaguar skin
12. Leopard skin

13. Alaskan Moose
14. Zebra skin
15. Bear skin
16. Pennants, Field Artillery Battalion Flag
17. Brass plate candelabra
18. Polynesian wood shields
19. Impala skin
20. Cabinet containing pieces of African carved ivory
21. Temple doors from the Palace of the Sultan of Witu, a village south of Malinde and north of Mombasa; brass knobs to keep out elephants
22. Kodiak Bear diorama — miniature of the one in American Museum of Natural History, New York, which contains bears shot by Colonel Colby. Background, James Perry Wilson; foreground, Joseph A. Spacer, Jr.; animals (gift of American Museum of Natural History), Louis Paul Jonas Studios



- 23. Masai spears — war, ceremonial, hunting
- 24. Ibex
- 25. St. George and Dragon (St. George is the patron saint of Ethiopia)
- 26. Morris chair covered with robe made of several Colobus Monkey skins, from Colby's Nairobi house
- 27. Rear Admiral Harrison Gray Otis Colby, Colonel Colby's father

- 28. Colonel Francis T. Colby
- 29. Gazelle skull
- 30. Alaskan Caribou
- 31. Grant's Gazelle



- 32. Thompson's Gazelle horns
- 33. Black Rhinoceros
- 34. Oryx
- 35. Indian Black Buck
- 36. African brass and wood figurines
- 37. Cabinet of guns, muskets, rifles, etc.
- 38. Uganda Kob, skull and horns
- 39. Eland

- 40. East African Drum with Zebra skin
- 41. Black Buck. Below: African knife in sheath
- 42. Gazelle
- 43. Snake skin



- 44. Indian Black Buck
- 45. Indian Black Buck
- 46. Elephant foot containing canes and clubs
- 47. Asian and African figurines and tools
- 48. German and American helmets, vintage World War I and World War II
- 49. Impala skulls
- 50. Eland

- 51. Oryx
- 52. Ethiopian paintings
- 53. Hand-fashioned mortar and pestle from tree trunk; also assorted fly whisks
- 54. Gazelle skulls
- 55. Black Rhinoceros
- 56. Collection of guns, muskets, rifles; second gun from right is elephant rifle, of

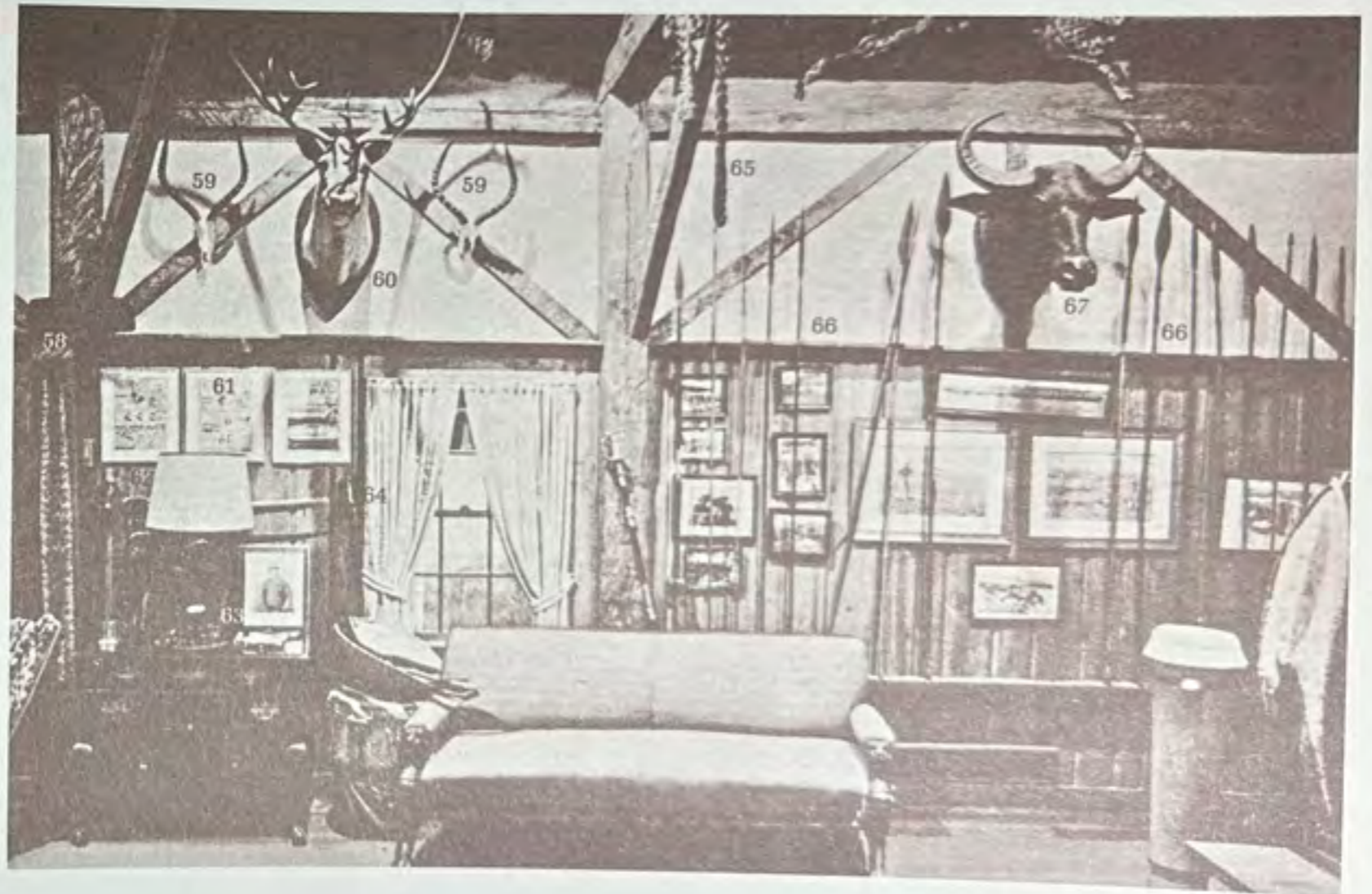
great weight and antique design, used by the Colonel in his early African days of hunting elephants in the Pygmy Forests near the Mountains of the Moon

- 57. Serval cat skin
- 58. Python skin



- 59. Impala skulls
- 60. Alaskan Caribou
- 61. Ethiopian paintings of Biblical incidents
- 62. Sabres
- 63. Photograph of Colonel Colby
- 64. Rear Admiral Harrison Gray Otis Colby's sword
- 65. Jaguar skin

- 66. Masai spears — both ceremonial and hunting. Hunting spears used for hunting lions, rhinoceros, antelopes, and elephants
- 67. Indian Water Buffalo



## Photographs

- Page 3 The Gun and Trophy Room: a view from the balcony.
- Page 4 Crystal chandelier from Colby's Marlborough Street apartment.
- Page 5 Balcony: moose head, zebra skin, brass candle sconces, and World War I flags.
- Page 6 a) Colby's father, Rear Admiral Harrison Gray Otis Colby.  
b) Oil painting of Francis T. Colby as a young boy.  
c) Harvard classmates in the Boone and Crockett Club. Colby, seated second left.  
d) Colby with ibex.
- Page 8 a) Touring in the Alps.  
b) Colby, center, with safari group and lion kill.
- Page 9 a) In Alaska.  
b) American Samoa circa 1925.  
c) On safari.  
d) Colby with elephant kill in African bush.
- Page 10 Colby in uniform of Belgian army staff officer.
- Page 11 American Samoan military band drill.
- Page 12 a) Gun Room: detail from Ethiopian painting.  
b) Colby in Africa.  
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- Page 14 Elephant doors from the Palace of Witu, coastal village in what is now southeastern Kenya, formerly a part of Zanzibar in East Africa.
- Page 15 a) Bronze rhinoceros by Katharine Lane Weems.  
b) Masai shield made especially

for Colby.

- c) Window diorama of Colby's horse, Foursquare, grazing on the lawn in Hamilton. Painted by Henry B. Brooks.
- d) Miniature Kodiak Bear diorama, replica of fullscale model in the American Museum of Natural History in New York that contains bears shot by Colby.

Page 16 Gun Room: fireplace wall.

Page 17 Gun Room: balcony wall.

Page 18 a) Gun Room: left end of west (Foursquare) wall.

b) Gun Room: west (Foursquare) wall with ibex shot by Colby.

Page 19 a) Gun Room: African brass and wooden figurines.

b) Gun Room: right end of west (Foursquare) wall.

Page 20 a) Gun Room: left end of east (couch) wall.

b) Gun Room: African wood bust. The bookcase behind it contains bound volumes of photographs taken on Colby's expeditions, declassified Samoan intelligence reports, and declassified African intelligence reports.

Page 21 a) Gun Room: Ethiopian painting of Biblical incidents.

b) Gun Room: right end of east (couch) wall.

## Illustrations

Page 2 Colonel Francis T. Colby.

Page 7 Map of Colby's travels.

Page 10 Belgian Ambulance Corps, World War I.

Page 13 Colby at home in the Gun Room.

Grateful thanks must go to the many friends of Colonel Colby, to specialists on African life and culture, and to dozens of Museum volunteers and staff who have had a share in the publication of this booklet. Through the years, they have contributed their time, talent, and skills in amassing the information required to document it.

Special acknowledgement is made of the efforts of Mrs. G. Kenneth Mallory, Mrs. James L. Phillips, and Mrs. F. S. vonStade, Jr., members of the Museum's Service League Blue Book Committee, upon whose research and original presentation this booklet is based.

Copy by Priscilla E. Potter

Design and Illustrations by Sally  
Solfisburg

Photographs from the Colby Collection  
or by John Glynn

Editing and Coordination by  
Lorraine T. Welsh

Boston, Mass., April 22nd, 1913.

Theodore Lyman, Esq.,  
c/o Jefferson Physical Laboratory,  
Cambridge, Mass.

My dear Mr. Lyman:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of yours of April 21st in reference to the Harvard Travellers Club, and am also in receipt of a letter from Dr. Smith today about the same matter.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held recently it was the opinion of the Committee that if the Harvard Travellers Club desired its regular meetings could be held in the large private dining room on the second floor of the Harvard Club, as this room could be more conveniently used for the purpose of private meetings without cutting off the rest of the members of the Club from one of the principal rooms in general use. This room could be reserved for the Harvard Travellers Club by any member of the Harvard Club on any nights which might be desired which did not conflict with other engagements of the same room and by making the engagements far enough in advance I should think that the Harvard Travellers Club could be sure of any dates which they wanted.

I believe that it also would be perfectly feasible to hold any large meetings of the Club in the Harvard Hall, as on such nights arrangements can be made to serve the regular diners elsewhere.

The Executive Committee felt that the question of what should be put on the walls should be reserved entirely in the control of the House Committee and that the Club could not commit itself at the present time to any plan for putting up maps, charts or trophies upon the walls except in such manner as the House Committee might approve from time to time.

I hope that we can arrive at some arrangement which will be mutually satisfactory, as I believe that it is very desirable, both for the Harvard Club and the Harvard Travellers Club, to have your meetings held in the Boston Harvard Club House.

I am,

Very truly yours,

Chairman of the House Committee,  
Boston Harvard Club.

Venus  
Harvard Club  
Heads

Handbook

XXXXXXXXXX 209 Newton St.,  
Brookline, Mass.

March 4, 1931.

Dr. Edward Wigglesworth,  
Museum of Natural History,  
Berkeley Street,  
Boston, Mass.

Dear Edward:

I have just replied to the letter of the Royal Danish Geographical Society expressing regret at not being able to give them the Handbook. Do you know of any copies that are available? Perhaps we could pick one up somewhere.

It is interesting to note how everything gravitates to the most desirable centers eventually, isn't it?

I understand that many of the heads in the Aesculapian Room belong to Bob Cross, a member of our Club who died in 1915, and I have been told that these heads were originally given to the Harvard Travellers Club and not to the Harvard Club. Do you know anything about this? If we have a room in the new Geographic Building in Cambridge as is possible, they would be of value to us I should think.

Sincerely yours,

GAL-KAC

George A. Lyon.

Venues  
- Harvard Club  
HEADS

E. WIGGLESWORTH  
234 BERKELEY STREET  
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

- Handbook

H |

HTC

March 5, 1931.

Mr. George A. Lyon,  
Boston, Mass.

Heads

Dear George:

The Harvard Travellers Club Handbook is evidently very scarce. While I was secretary we had numerous inquiries for it but I never was able to locate a single copy. Everybody who has one hangs on to it with an iron grip. The only chance to get one would be to pick one up some day in a second-hand book shop. Or you might put a note on the next meeting notice asking any members who no longer had use for their copy to turn it in to you. A few years ago we appointed a committee to look into the advisability of republishing it. The Harvard University Press, contrary to our agreement with us, had destroyed the electros. We therefore found that it would be a very expensive proceeding to republish. As I remember it Glover Allen and Bill Cabot with one other member composed this committee. The third member may have been Tom Barbour.

In regard to the heads in the Aesculapian Room at the Harvard Club: It is my impression that the heads

given by Bob Cross were given to the Travellers Club and not the Harvard Club. However this is only an impression. Other heads there were given by the Mixters and Francis Colby. There may be some record at the Harvard Club. A letter to them might give you the information whether or not they have any record of the heads belonging to them. If they have not, I would take it for granted that they belong to us.

There is one head and front legs of a bear over the mantelpiece that Doctor Mixer gave to the Harvard Club while I was treasurer. This is the only one that I know does definitely belong to the Harvard Club. I certainly think that if we have a room in the new Geographic Building, our heads should be there.

Sincerely yours,

*Edward W. Nye*

GEORGE ARMSTRONG LYON

P. O. BOX 2287, BOSTON

OFFICE  
10 POST OFFICE SQUARE

RESIDENCE  
209 NEWTON STREET  
BROOKLINE

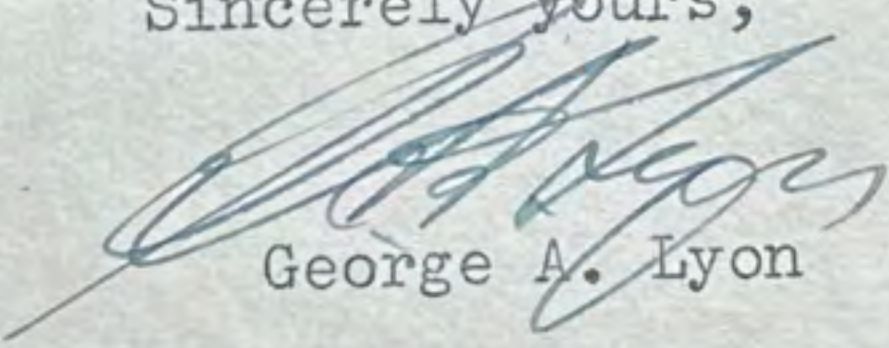
September 5, 1933.

Thomas D. Cabot, Esquire  
294 Washington Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Tom:

The enclosed communication was forwarded to me and refers to the Estate of Charles R. Cross, who was one of our members. I do not know just where we come in as a beneficiary but suppose it has something to do with the heads in the Aesculapian Room; at any rate, it is something for the Secretary to attend to, I should think, and I suggest that you call up whoever "W.C.P." is at 50 Federal Street, Boston, Room 1000, and find out what it is all about.

Sincerely yours,



George A. Lyon

GAL/G  
enc.



Heads

#3

41 Walden Street  
Concord, Massachusetts  
March 5, 1931.

Mr. George A. Lyon  
10 Post Office Square  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Lyon;

Thank you for your letter about the dues. I will see that they are sent out at once.

With reference to the big game heads that belonged to Mr. Charles R. Cross Jr. the only record I find is in one of the records of the Council in 1914, when Mr. Theodore Lyman was elected to be a committee to arrange about the heads at the Harvard Club of Boston. Mr. Cross died in October 1915 and my recollection is that there was nothing done about the heads until after he died.

Perhaps you can get information from some of the former officers.

Mr. Roland B. Dixon	President	1914-1915
Mr. Thomas Barbour	"	1915-1917
Mr. Theodore Lyman	"	1921-1924
Mr. S. Prescott Fay	Secretary	1914-March 1916
Mr. John T. Coolidge Jr	"	1916-1923

Mr. Coolidge resigned from the Club in 1924. His address was at that time Readville(37).

I hope the above will help you.

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Robert F. Perkins which you may want to answer yourself.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Dunderoff.

May 11, 1936

Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Richardson,  
Trustee U/W of Charles R. Cross  
25 Cottage Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts

My dear Mrs. Richardson:

At a meeting of the Council of the Harvard Travellers Club held last week, it was voted to accept the bequest of \$1,000 to the Club's permanent fund left to us by the Will of Charles R. Cross in memory of his son and to express our deep gratitude therefor. Will you be good enough to convey these sentiments to those of his family who may find them of interest?

Charles R. Cross, Jr. was a very active and productive member of our Club up to the time of his death and he left for the use of the Club many of the trophies of his travels. In the belief that it would please the donor and conform with the spirit of his gift, we are considering using a small part of it to preserve, maintain and suitably inscribe these trophies and thus keep his son's memory green before the members of the Club, or by some other appropriate memorial in the rooms where the meetings are held.

We trust that you will approve of this purpose.

Very truly yours,

GAL/G

George A. Lyon  
President

SCUDDER, STEVENS & CLARK

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

BOSTON · NEW YORK · PHILADELPHIA · PROVIDENCE

CABLE ADDRESS  
SCUDCLARK  
TELEPHONE  
HUBBARD 3990

10 POST OFFICE SQUARE  
BOSTON

May 12, 1936

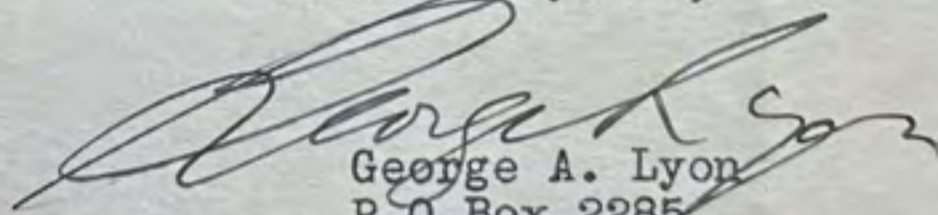
Mr. J. K. Howard  
82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear K:

The enclosed letter speaks for itself and it seems to me to offer an opportunity to check up finally on the ownership of these trophies and possibly do something along the lines here suggested. Those heads badly need attention and preservation, and I think this might be a good way to use, say, \$100, to include a plaque with an inscription placed somewhere to indicate the significance of the trophies. There may be, of course, some better way to follow out this plan, although we are not under any direct obligation to do anything in this respect. It seems to me that a committee of one, two, or three to follow up this whole subject and get it closed up by the fall would be worth while.

Awfully sorry that I cannot come to your dinner for Mr. Ward tomorrow night but Mrs. Lyon has made another engagement for me.

Sincerely yours,

  
George A. Lyon  
P.O. Box 2285  
Boston

GAL/G  
encl.

By telephone - drop for Junior King -  
G.L.

Copy to J. K. Howard, Treasurer

May 12, 1936

Mrs. Elizabeth Perry Richardson,  
Trustee U/W of Charles R. Cross  
25 Cottage Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts

My dear Mrs. Richardson:

At a meeting of the Council of the Harvard Travellers Club held last week, it was voted to accept the bequest of \$1,000 to the Club's permanent fund left to us by the Will of Charles R. Cross in memory of his son and to express our deep gratitude therefor. Will you be good enough to convey these sentiments to those of his family who may find them of interest?

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We trust that you will approve of this purpose.

Very truly yours,

George A. Lyon  
President.

GAL/G

25 Cottage Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. Lyon:

I thank you for your letter of May 12th. I cannot imagine a better use for Professor Cross's bequest to the Harvard Travellers Club than by restoring his son's trophies of travel and by any appropriate inscription or memorial which may please your Council. It was most kind of you to let us know of your proposed use of the gift.

With kind remembrance to you and  
Marjorie,

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) Elizabeth Perry Richardson

13th May

SCUDDER, STEVENS & CLARK

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

BOSTON · NEW YORK · PHILADELPHIA · PROVIDENCE

CABLE ADDRESS  
SCUDCLARK  
TELEPHONE  
HUBBARD 3990

10 POST OFFICE SQUARE  
BOSTON

May 13, 1936

Mr. J. K. Howard  
82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear K:

Pete Fay hunted with Bob Cross and says he is sure that his heads were only loaned to the Harvard Club and he thinks that they were given to the Harvard Travellers Club. He was secretary of our Club from 1912 to 1917. He also feels pretty sure that a good many of the other trophies in the Harvard Club are there on loan.

Bob Blake, Dr. Richardson and Charles and Jason Mixter all have trophies in the Club. We might check up with them.

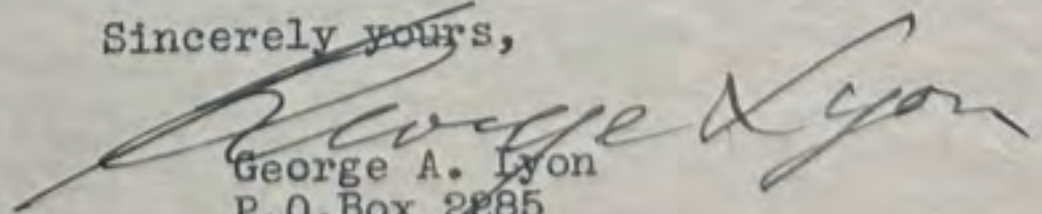
Glover Allen, Alston Burr, Francis Colby, John Remmick and Rodman Peabody are all still members of our Club, contemporaries of Cross, and might have some information.

Pete Fay thinks the idea of spending a small part of the bequest for a more personal memorial to Cross than the contribution to the permanent fund would be, for some time at least, is worth considering but of course this is merely one suggestion and there may be others that are more appropriate. I am thoroughly in favor of building up a fund for the purpose of promoting travel, but it will take some time to make this effective.

I enclose copies of my letter to President Conant and Mr. Greene which I hope are all right.

No notice as yet reached me but I presume they will be gotten out very soon as there is less than a week before the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

  
George A. Lyon  
P.O. Box 2285  
Boston

GAL/G  
enclosures

SCUDDER, STEVENS & CLARK

INVESTMENT COUNSEL

BOSTON · NEW YORK · PHILADELPHIA · PROVIDENCE

CABLE ADDRESS  
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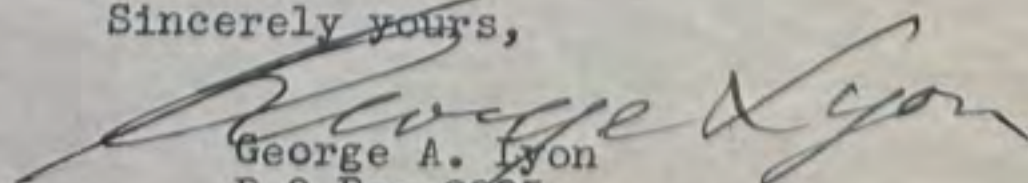
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Sincerely yours,

  
George A. Lyon  
P.O. Box 2285  
Boston

GAL/G  
enclosures

May 13, 1936

Dr. Charles G. Mixter  
319 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Charles:

The Harvard Travellers Club believes that it owns the trophies killed by Bob Cross, which you no doubt have seen at the Harvard Club. The title is difficult to establish, however, as the heads have been there so long.

I believe that you hunted with Bob Cross. Do you remember anything about the situation? Personally, I think that they must have been loaned to the Harvard Club by him. What is the status of your own trophies there? Were they a gift or on loan? Who attends to the cleaning of them?

I hope that you can help me on this problem and that you will let me hear from you as soon as convenient. I am writing to Jason too.

Sincerely yours,

GAL/G

George A. Lyon

May 13, 1936

Dr. William Jason Mixter  
57 Clyde Street  
Brookline, Massachusetts

Dear Jason:

The Harvard Travellers Club believes that it owns the trophies killed by Bob Cross, which you no doubt have seen at the Harvard Club. The title is difficult to establish, however, as the heads have been there so long.

I believe that you hunted with Bob Cross. Do you remember anything about the situation? Personally, I think that they must have been loaned to the Harvard Club by him. What is the status of your own trophies there? Were they a gift or on loan? Who attends to the cleaning of them?

I hope that you can help me on this problem and that you will let me hear from you as soon as convenient. I am writing to Charles too.

Sincerely yours,

GAL/G

George A. Lyon

WILLIAM JASON MIXTER, M. D.

REGINALD H. SMITHWICK, M. D.

CHARLES G. MIXTER, M. D.

THE LONGWOOD MEDICAL BUILDING  
319 LONGWOOD AVENUE  
BOSTON

OFFICE HOUR 2 TO 3  
BY APPOINTMENT

TELEPHONE BEACON 3911

May 25, 1936

Dear George:

In answer to your letter of May 13th inquiring about trophies of Bob Cross and myself at the Harvard Club - I have only one bear skin at the Club. That hangs over the central stairway and as I remember it I loaned it directly to the Club on the stipulation that it be cleaned and gone over with disinfectant yearly. Whether this has ever been done I cannot say but from its general appearance I should say that little attention has been paid to it.

Regarding Bob Cross's trophies - my recollection is that he lent them to the Harvard Travellers Club rather than to the Harvard Club. They were to be hung in the Travellers Club room and I believe were loaned at that time though of this I am not sure. After he was killed in France his father disbursed his arsenal and I imagine turned the loaned trophies into gifts in which case it would seem to me that they should be the property of the Harvard Travellers Club. Professor Cross died some years later and Bob Cross had no immediate relatives other than an aunt who has since died I believe and who of course took no interest in trophies of the hunt. When next I go to the Harvard Club I will endeavor to ascertain from the plates on the trophies to whom the heads were loaned or given.

My boy Charles is having his exams at the Medical School at the present time but as soon as those are over we intend to pay a call on you and I would very much like to take up your offer of the Springfields for this fall.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles G. Mixter*

HARVARD CLUB OF BOSTON

374 Commonwealth Avenue

May 27, 1936

John K. Howard, Esq.,  
82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts.

My dear Mr. Howard:

The Harvard Club of Boston was very glad to be allowed to furnish the facilities for the dinner of the Harvard Travellers Club, which was given here on May 19th, and I am writing this to express to you our appreciation of the chance to serve you in connection with your Club activities. It is our desire to co-operate in every way possible and I trust that you found everything satisfactory on this occasion.

Yours very truly,

Seth T. Gano  
Treasurer

STG:H



82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Mass.  
May 28, 1936

Mr. George A. Lyon  
P. O. Box 2287  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear George:

I am enclosing copy of a letter from Seth T. Gano, Treasurer of the Harvard Club, which is self-explanatory. Do you think that this creates an occasion for saying something to Gano about the Aesculapian Room and that it is as much our room as the Aesculapian's? Perhaps it is just as wise to say nothing, but if you think it is wise to say anything his letter seems to furnish an appropriate occasion by way of answer. He evidently does not realize that we have always met and had our dinners at the Harvard Club.

Sincerely yours,

John K. Howard, Secretary

JKH:R

May 29, 1936

Dr. Charles G. Mixter  
319 Longwood Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts

Dear Charles:

Thanks for your letter of May 25 about the trophies of Bob Cross at the Harvard Club. From inquiries and also from a careful examination of the plaques marking some of the heads, it seems clear that they belong to the Harvard Travellers Club, and we are going to try to establish title to them definitely. Thanks for your help.

Your bear-skin certainly does not look as if it had ever been cleaned.

I think I told you that Professor Cross in his Will left \$1,000 to the permanent funds of the Harvard Travellers Club to perpetuate his <sup>SON'S</sup> memory and in the pursuance of this purpose we are considering having his trophies cleaned up, put in good shape, and properly marked as the outward and visible evidence that we are keeping his memory green.

I will be glad to see you and young Charles anytime you want to come over if you will give me a little previous notice.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours,

GAL/G

George A. Lyon

82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts.  
January 29, 1937

House Committee  
Harvard Club of Boston  
374 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Sirs:

I believe there has been some question as to who owned the heads and trophies now hanging in the so-called Aesculapian Room. The following is a transcript from the Harvard Club Bulletin of October-November 1915:

"The members of the Art Committee feel that the members of the Club should know of the interest shown by Charles R. Cross, Jr., '03, and the help which he gave their Committee in collecting and arranging the mounted heads and skins lent by various members of the Harvard Travellers' Club to the Harvard Club of Boston.

Announcement has already been made of Mr. Cross's recent death while driving a Hospital Supply Motor in France.

Mr. Cross gave most generously of his time in arranging for this collection of heads. Many of the trophies were shot by him. The Committee takes this occasion to present this slight recognition of his services to the Club.

J. Harleston Parker,  
J. Lovell Little,  
Ralph W. Gray,  
Art Committee"

I believe it is obvious from this that the trophies are the property of either the members of or the Harvard Travellers Club and not of the Harvard Club. The trophies are not in good repair and

January 29, 1937

the Club hereby offers to have the heads properly repaired and cleaned and to make arrangements to have them cleaned yearly at its expense. At the same time the Club would like to renew the plates on the trophies.

Would you please consider this as a request for permission to carry out the above.

Incidentally I believe originally the room now called the Aesculapian Room was designated as the room for the Aesculapian Club and also for the Harvard Travellers Club, but has become known as the Aesculapian Room on account of the doctors hanging their sign over the mantel piece, whereas the Harvard Travellers Club only decorated the room generally with its trophies, which would perhaps be more fitting as decorations than those that might be supplied by the doctors.

Very truly yours,

John K. Howard, Secretary

JKH:R

REPLY



HARVARD CLUB OF BOSTON

374 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

February 11, 1937

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Dear Mr. Howard:

In further reply to your letter of January 29th, at a meeting of the House Committee of the Harvard Club of Boston it was voted that the offer of the Harvard Travelers Club to maintain the heads and other trophies in the Aesculapian Room be accepted with thanks.

Will you kindly make such arrangements as you see fit with Mr. Jones, the Manager of the Club, for the removal and repairs of these trophies and skins.

Very truly yours,

W. H. NYE - Chairman of the House Committee

WHN.RE

John K. Howard, Secretary  
Harvard Travelers Club  
82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

CC: Mr. Jones



HARVARD CLUB OF BOSTON

374 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE

HOUSE COMMITTEE

February 3, 1937

Dear Mr. Howard:

Your favor of January 29th relative to the heads and trophies in the Aesculapian Room will be referred to a full meeting of the House Committee on February 10th, at which time I am certain that your proposal will be acted upon favorably.

Thanking you for calling this matter to our attention and for your generous interest in the preservation of these heads and trophies, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Chairman of the House Committee

WHN.RE

Mr. John K. Howard, Secretary  
Harvard Travellers Club  
82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts

82 Devonshire Street  
Boston, Massachusetts.  
February 13, 1937

W. H. Nye, Esq.  
House Committee  
Harvard Club  
374 Commonwealth Avenue  
Boston, Massachusetts.

Dear Mr. Nye:

Thanks for yours of February 11th.

I think the time to have the trophies cleaned and fixed up is after the present Harvard Travellers Club season. Our last meeting is in May and shortly after that I will make arrangements with Mr. Jones for the taxidermist to take the heads.

Sincerely yours,

John K. Howard

JH:R

Memorandum

To J.K.H.

On Tuesday night I talked with one of the old members of the Club who has been a member of the Harvard Club since the building of the clubhouse on Commonwealth Avenue. He does not remember what year that was but he said that before that time the meetings of the H.T.C. were held at private houses and that when the Harvard Club building was completed, the H.T.C. were to have a room called the "H.T.C. Room". The Aesculapian Club also wanted a room and Dr. Jim Huntington before the opening of the Club put a sign "Aesculapian Room" on the door of the room which the H.T.C. were to have and thus anticipated our Club. This caused a good deal of indignation but it was condoned on the understanding that H.T.C. were to have their game trophies (the Cross, heads, etc.) permanently put up in the room. This seems to confirm our title to them.

April 15, 1937

G.A. Lyon

Marks  
told  
Lyon.

~~Col. Francis G. Kelly~~  
Box 181 Nairobi Kenya Africa  
3 April 1950

My Dear Hall

Thank you very much  
for your good letter of 17 March.

In the past 40 years I have  
frequently talked to the H.T.C.  
& I have always enjoyed it!

I wish I could promise  
to be home by 16 May but  
I'm afraid that is not possible.  
I have a large equipment here of 5  
Motor Cars, men, house, guns,  
Cameras etc. It is a considerable  
job to put it all to bed when  
I return to the U.S.A. and it takes  
time. Also all air passages are  
now taken far in advance.  
So I'm afraid we shall have

to once more postpone my talk  
to the H.T.C. — Sorry but  
that seems to be it. I just  
don't know when I shall get  
home

However I greatly appreciate  
being asked & I'd do it if I  
could.

Sincerely yours  
—  
—  
Truman C. Callahan



My house & Safari in Nairobi  
1949-50  
Francis Colby.

CHOATE, HALL & STEWART

30 State Street

Boston 9

August 25, 1953

Harvard Travelers Club

c/o Henry S. Howe, Secretary

89 Broad Street

Boston, Massachusetts

Re: Estate Francis T. Colby

Dear Harry:

Enclosed in the court citation in connection with Colonel Colby's will. I am not entirely sure that it is strictly necessary to send this copy, but to be on the safe side I am doing so.

In his will he leaves all his guns and hunting equipment to the Museum of Natural History, with the provision that in the discretion of the Society, any such equipment may be used on expeditions conducted by members of, or sponsored in whole or in part by, the society, the Boone and Crockett Club or the Harvard Travelers Club.

Very truly yours,

*Wm* Arthur Dupee, Jr.

WADJr:mvh  
Enclosure

Registered Mail

(Copy made by H.K.)

## LARGEST GIFT IN MUSEUM HISTORY

The will of Colonel Francis T. Colby, a resident of Hamilton, Massachusetts, and retired U. S. Army officer and diplomatic attaché, who died on July 30, leaves the bulk of his estate to the Museum of Science (subject to certain conditions). Specifically provided are a special fund of \$200,000 to be used, so far as necessary, to build a reproduction of the trophy room in Col. Colby's Hamilton home, the residue left after construction and completion to form an Endowment Fund for the maintenance of the room and for general Museum purposes.

In addition, the will establishes a \$500,000 trust fund, its income to be shared with several individuals until their death, after which this Fund will revert to the Museum as residuary legatee to become a Permanent Endowment Fund for maintenance of the Colby room and for general Museum purposes.

The remainder of the estate, which appears to be substantial, is left to the Museum as an Endowment Fund. Col. Colby also leaves to the Museum his hunting and camping equipment and cameras which were kept both in his Hamilton home and at his hunting lodge in Nairobi, Africa, their use to be shared with the members of the Harvard Travelers Club and the Boone and Crockett Club of New York. All of these gifts and endowments to the Museum are subject to our acceptance of the obligation to construct a reproduction of Col. Colby's Hamilton Gun and Trophy Room at the Museum.

Col. Colby, as a world traveler and experienced big game hunter, had collected rare and unusual items displayed in his trophy room. The will specifies that this room will be named in honor of his father, Rear-Admiral Harrison Gray Otis Colby. The Trustees of the Museum are proud and happy to report this, the largest gift in the history of the Museum. It represents a magnificent expression of Col. Colby's confidence in the future of the Museum of Science.

Vermey  
- Harvard Club  
- Heads

Box 22 (50)

Museum of Science

AND HAYDEN PLANETARIUM

Science Park  
Boston 14, Massachusetts  
Telephone: Richmond 2-1410

April 6, 1962

Dr. Harrison E. Kennard  
246 Dudley Road  
Newton Centre 59, Massachusetts

H.T.C: Tues. Oct. 16, '62  
Tues. Nov. 20, '62

Dear Hap:

Our new Central Building is now rapidly approaching completion and we want to set a definite date for the dedication of Francis Colby's Trophy Room. As you know, this has been long postponed for various reasons, but we are now absolutely certain that we are safe in making plans for the coming fall.

Mon. Oct. 1, '62  
Mon. Oct. 8, '62  
Mon. Nov. 1, '62  
Mon. Nov. 2, '62

It is our hope to have present at this dedication the largest possible number of members of the Harvard Travellers Club, the Boone & Crockett Club, our own Board, and a number of Frannie Colby's friends who don't happen to be among any of these three groups. We are now considering four dates --- October 1, October 8, November 19 or November 26 --- and would appreciate it if you could talk with your Executive Committee and let me know which of these dates might prove best from the standpoint of your members, possibly listing them in order of priority --- the best date first, etc.

It is our plan to start the evening with refreshments and a brief dedication ceremony in the Colby Room. We will then move to our new Skyline Room for dinner and then adjourn to the Morse Auditorium where Royal Little will give us a program of his newest African moving pictures. We want to do everything in our power to have this the sort of evening that Frannie Colby would have liked to attend himself and we hope that we can select a date on which the largest number of his friends can be present.

Looking forward to hearing from you and with kindest regards.

Very sincerely yours,

Bradford Washburn  
Director

BW:MM