



LIBRARY

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

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(Founded 1727)

222 Drexel Building

April 29, 1938.

Phone: Lombard 7547

*Mr. Henline*  
*think you*  
*OK*  
*25/3/38*

Mr. H. H. Henline,  
American Institute of Electrical Engineers,  
33 West 39th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Henline:

A short time after the death of Dr. Elihu Thomson the question was raised as to the disposition of the many papers, manuscript and printed, which he had accumulated during his long life with reference to his significant achievements. A suggestion was made to Mrs. Thomson and to Mr. Owen D. Young of the General Electric Company that the American Philosophical Society, due to the Doctor's long period of membership and interest in the Society, would be an appropriate place to permanently house such a collection. This plan received the hearty approval of Mrs. Thomson and the Doctor's sons as well as the executives of the General Electric Company.

Up to the present time there have been deposited with the Society about 2000 pieces of correspondence, both to and from Dr. Thomson, five volumes of the Doctor's manuscript comments on his numerous patents, an almost complete set of his many articles contributed to scientific periodicals, a number of letterbooks containing his correspondence during the early days of the General Electric Company and its forerunners, and other miscellaneous items.

In order to make this collection as complete as possible we are writing to the many organizations of which Dr. Thomson was a member to ask that the membership be notified of this project. It is our hope that in this way many scattered pieces of Thomsoniana might be added to the material already here. The Society will be very glad to accept copies if the owners are loath to part with the original autographs.

Friends of Dr. Thomson anticipate that a biography of him will be written, and of course the more complete the file of papers the truer the picture of his life. Then too, looking ahead, it will facilitate the work of the future student of research in the history of the electrical industry to find the bulk of the material in one place rather than scattered far and wide.

The Society will be truly grateful for your cooperation in this work.

Very sincerely yours,

*Roland S. Morris*  
Roland S. Morris, President.