

COPY

for Mr. F. L. Hutchinson
F. W. Jesser

November 15, 1925.

Mr. Gano Dunn,
45 Exchange Place,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Dunn:

Referring to the recent pleasant telephone conversations regarding the additional honor to be conferred upon Mr. Lieb, I have pleasure in enclosing herewith a biography which fully covers his activities and connections. For your peace of mind and so that you may feel free to use it either in part or entirety I would say that this sketch as enclosed has Mr. Lieb's approval.

Mr. Lieb himself dictated the following for a choice of the reasons why the medal was conferred and requested me to say that he leaves it to your judgment which to select:

"For his work in the engineering development and practical applications of electricity supply from central stations"

or

"For his work in the development of electricity supply from central stations"

I am also attaching hereto a photograph of Mr. Lieb for use in connection with this matter.

If I can be of any further service in any direction command me.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) F. W. Jesser

GANO DUNN
43 EXCHANGE PLACE
NEW YORK

Thursday
November 15, 1923.

F. L. Hutchinson, Esq., Secretary,
Edison Medal Committee,
29 West 39th St., New York.

Dear Mr. Hutchinson,

I enclose biographical matter
in the form of an enumeration of occu-
pations and honors as distinguished
from a biography.

If this is not as suitable as
the connected biography from which I read
at the Edison Medal meeting, please let me
know and I will take steps to get the
latter for you.

What I am sending today I am
advised by Mr. Jesser has passed under
Mr. Lieb's eye and has his approval.

I also enclose a latest photo-
graph of Mr. Lieb for publication, as
you requested.

Very sincerely yours,

Gano Dunn

November 16, 1923

SUBJECT: Biographical sketch
of Mr. Lieb.

Mr. Gano Dunn
43 Exchange Place
New York City

Dear Mr. Dunn:-

This will acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of your letter of the 15th instant, enclosing biography of Mr. Lieb, together with his photograph.

We can of course make use of the material in the form submitted, but I think you will agree that it would be much more suitable for publication in our Journal if it were in the form of a running story of Mr. Lieb's record, similar to that which was published regarding Dr. Millikan.

However, our editorial department will be able to change the form of the material somewhat; and this we will do unless we hear from you to the contrary.

Very truly yours

Secretary

FLH H

JACKSON & MORELAND
ENGINEERS
387 WASHINGTON STREET
BOSTON, MASS.



PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, SUPERVISION
OF CONSTRUCTION, GENERAL
SUPERINTENDENCE AND MANAGEMENT
EXAMINATIONS AND REPORTS

DUGALD C. JACKSON
EDWARD L. MORELAND
ARTHUR L. NELSON

Boston, Mass., December 1, 1923.

Mr. F. L. Hutchinson, Secretary,
American Institute of Electrical Engineers,
33 West 39th Street,
New York City.

Dear Hutchinson:

Enclosed herewith is the matter about John W. Lieb, about which we recently conversed. If you print the matter in a pamphlet a la the Millikan pamphlet, it is my understanding that Mr. Edison will furnish a signed two-line introduction referring to Lieb that can be used in the same way as the one on the title page of the Millikan pamphlet. I presume that any other use of the material would make the Edison statement appropriate and you can secure it by telephoning to Mr. Meadowcraft.

I understood from you that the subject, as stated for the Award, was "for developments in central station systems". In publishing the Award, if it is appropriate, I think it might be better understood if it were stated as "~~for~~ developments ~~in~~ central station and distribution systems."

The enclosed matter may be used by you in any way that you choose, that is, either as a news item which you hand out or as a statement over my name.

With regards,

Sincerely yours,

Dugald C. Jackson

TO	ACK'D BY NOTES	
	DATE	BY
MR. JACKSON		
MR. MORELAND		
MR. NELSON		
MR. TOLSON		
MR. WASHINGTON		
MR. WOOD		
MR. YERGEN		
MR. ZIEGLER		
MR. BROWN		
MR. GARDNER		
MR. HENNING		
MR. LADD		
MR. NICHOLS		
MR. ROSS		
MR. TRACY		
MR. WHELAN		
MR. WINTERROWD		
MR. WOODRUFF		
MR. WYATT		
MR. ZIEGLER		
MR. BROWN		
MR. GARDNER		
MR. HENNING		
MR. LADD		
MR. NICHOLS		
MR. ROSS		
MR. TRACY		
MR. WHELAN		
MR. WINTERROWD		
MR. WOODRUFF		
MR. WYATT		
MR. ZIEGLER		

DCJ:P
Enclosure.

JOHN WILLIAM LIEB

Born at Newark, N. J., February 12, 1860.

M.E. 1860 - E.D., 1921, Stevens Institute of Technology
Knight Commander of the Order of the Crown of Italy 1904;
elevated to Grand Officer 1922.

Past President and Fellow: A. I. E. E.
Past President N. E. L. A.
Past Vice-President A. S. M. E.
Past President Edison Pioneers
Past President New York Electrical Society
Fellow New York Academy of Sciences

Chair. A.I.E.E. Committee on Code of Principles of Professional Conduct

Mem. N.E.L.A. Public Policy Committee and Rate Research Committee

Chair. Lamp Com. Assoc. Ed. Ill. Cos.

Mem. Franklin Institute

Mem. Amer. Soc. Military Engineers

Mem. Amer. Assoc. Advancement of Science

Mem. ~~Amer.~~ Soc. for Promotion of Engineering Education

Membership in numerous other Professional and Technical Organizations.

Delivered lectures on Engineering and Technical subjects at Princeton, Yale, Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Johns-Hopkins, Franklin Institute, Rutgers, Stevens Institute, Roanoke College. Author of numerous papers, committee reports and discussions appearing in the Transactions of Engineering and Technical Societies.

American representative, Raccolta Vinciana of Milan, Italy - An Institute of research and studies in connection with the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci.

Relations with National Commercial & Industrial Associations:

Mem. Indus. Relations Com. U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Nat'l Councilor representing N.E.L.A.

Mem. Nat'l Industrial Conference Board representing N.E.L.A.

Chair. Indus. Committee, Merchants' Association of New York.

International Relations:

Hon. Mem. Association of Italian Engineers and Architects

Hon. Mem. Association of Italian Railway Engineers

Mem. Institution of Electrical Engineers of Great Britain

Mem. Associazione Elettrotecnica Italiana

Mem. Newcomen Society, London

International Relations (Continued)

Rep. Department of State at International Railway Congress,
Rome 1922

Rep. Nat'l Eng'ng Societies as Special Delegate to Italian
Eng'g. Societies and Offic. Delegate to Com-
memorative Exercises in Honor of Galileo
Ferraris, University of Turin, 1922.

War Service:

Chair. Nat'l Com. on Gas and Electric Service, Headq'trs,
Washington, D. C., rep. the Nat'l Public Utility
Assoc. - A.G.A., N.E.L.A. and A.E.R.A. - in
relations with the various departments of
U. S. Government;

Advisor to Federal, N.Y. State and Metropolitan Fuel Adminis-
trations

Chair. Joint Fuel Committee representing Nat'l Public Utility
Assoc.

Professional Service:

Draftsman, Brush Electric Company, Cleveland, Ohio, 1880;
February, 1881, draftsman and assistant in Engineering
Department, Edison Electric Light Company;
1882 Assistant to Mr. Edison in experimental research and
tests in connection with his electrical inventions.

Electrician, Edison Electric Illuminating Company of
New York in charge of installation and operation of
the Pearl Street pioneer electric light station.

November 1882 sent to Milan (Italy) to represent Mr. Edison
in connection with the design, installation and opera-
tion of the Milan central station. Chief Electrician,
Chief Engineer, then Technical Director of the Societa
Generale Italiana di Elettricit  Sistema Edison, of
Milan, Italy, 1883-1894.

Engaged while with Italian Company in the design, installa-
tion and operation of direct and alternating current and
series arc, electric light and power stations, through-
out Italy and in the manufacture of incandescent lamps,
dynamos, motors and electrical apparatus.

At the Milan Station, one of the largest in Europe, there
were made under his direction some of the earliest
experiments in the parallel operation of direct driven
alternators, operation of large synchronous motors for
shop drive from alternating current distribution cir-
cuits, the long distance transmission of high tension
alternating current from underground cables.

Professional Service (Continued):

In 1894 returned to New York as Assistant to Vice-President, until 1901, Third Vice-President and General Manager of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of New York in charge of technical operations; with organization of The New York Edison Company, made Associate General Manager, then appointed to present position of Vice-President, in general charge of operating, also for affiliated electric companies in the Metropolitan District.

Since 1900, President Electrical Testing Laboratories, engaged in the business of electrical and mechanical testing and investigations.

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Those who are well informed denominate Lieb an inspiring associate, a scholar, and a great engineer with notable accomplishments in electrical engineering and particularly in the development of comprehensive central station and distribution ^{systems} for city service.

Graduating from the Stevens Institute of Technology in 1880, he chose to cast his lot with that notable group of men, now richly represented amongst the Edison Medalists, who were laying the foundations of electrical engineering. First employed by the Brush Electric Company of Cleveland, Ohio, he soon after found his way to New York in the employment of Edison's enterprise called The Edison Electric Light Company, and within two years was carrying on tests of new machinery, electrolytic meters, and experimental investigations as an assistant of Mr. Edison. In this way was started his international career as designer, constructor and executive officer of notable central station systems.

The development of the ^{methods for} generation and distribution of electricity for light and power during the past forty years is one of the marvels of our age, and to the engineers highly endowed with imagination, initiative, versatility and constructive ability, who have put their lives into these accomplishments, we owe the epochal result. Lieb's creative ability has made him a master always in the forefront of this development. It was pioneering of the nature of scientific research since precedents were lacking and many of the principles to be applied were but obscurely understood either by engineers or physicists. Successful work in such a field calls for rather the unusual qualities of mind that are traditionally ascribed to men of accomplishment in scientific research.

In counting the milestones of electric light and power development, the Pearl Street Station of New York City and its underground distribution system stand out in the first rank. Lieb was Electrician of the station when it was started in operation. The central station and distribution system established in Milan (Italy) in 1883 is another of the milestones. Lieb personally guided its design, installation and operation as Mr. Edison's representative. Later, he became Technical Director of the Italian company which constructed and operated electric light and power systems throughout Italy. The installation of the first electric railway system in Milan, and the solution

of pioneer problems in paralleling direct-driven alternators, the driving of mills by synchronous motors, the substitution of lead covered cables for Edison tubes for low tension distribution, and the transmission of power through underground cables by means of high-tension alternating currents, fell into his ^{capable} ~~able~~ hands ^{during} in this ~~period~~ ^{period}. His achievements in these ^{and corresponding} fields ^{have been} ~~were~~ signalized by decorations by the King of Italy.

A similar career of initiative and creative achievement in the development of great central station and distribution systems has continued since he returned to the United States at the end of 1893 and became responsible for operating the plant of The New York Edison Company. In 1896 an alternating current substation, converting to direct current, was introduced, using motor generator sets. In 1898 rotary converters were in use in several substations. A little known incident occurred in this connection in 1898, when finding that one of the old style direct current generating stations was becoming overloaded and needed reinforcing, rotary converters were installed at that point, and other converters to be used inverted were installed in a similar station three and one-half miles away. Three-phase, twenty-five cycle alternating currents were then transmitted at 6600 volts between these converters in the two stations through underground cables. This equipment was operated for a considerable period taking advantage of the diversity factors between the loads of the two stations so that each

aided the other as conditions made desirable. About the same time steam turbines were introduced in the generating stations in New York in a preliminary way, and plans for using superheated steam were canvassed.

Constantly alive to the importance of constructive endeavor, he has been a leader among those who have wrought for the perfection of service to the consumer who buys electricity for light and power, among those who have wrought for the improvement of the instrumentalities of illumination, and among those who have wrought for greater reliability and economy in the generation and distribution of electric power in great city systems. The influence for scientific testing and investigation in the electrical industries which he has exerted as Chairman of the Lamp Committee of the Association of Edison Illuminating Companies and as one of the originators and the President of the Electrical Testing Laboratories has been a contribution of much importance to progress in the use of electricity for light and power.

Even in the present days of heavy executive duties, his concern is constantly turned toward the engineering problems relating to the coordinated operation of several large generating stations in such a manner that the maximum economy is secured while assuring the utmost reliability of service, and to the associated engineering problems ~~and~~ providing economical transmission, conversion or transformation, and low tension distribution of the energy, so that some

millions of people who rely for lighting, power or heat on the electricity from those stations may enjoy the advantages of economy of service associated with one hundred percent continuity.

These and associated accomplishments are scientific achievements that place all electrical engineering in his debt.

One of Lieb's characteristics is his comprehensive vision in the great ~~f~~ field of electric light and power, which has enabled him to direct his attention to those lines of progress that from time to time have promised most fruitful results in the electrical engineering profession and the electrical industries. Thus his influence and his work have been constantly contributory to the improvement of scientific and practical methods relating to electrical engineering.

In addition to his electrical engineering accomplishments, Lieb's executive capacity joined with his engineering abilities have resulted in many calls upon his leadership, and one of these associated with the War may be mentioned. It was laid upon him as Chairman of the National Committee on Gas and Electric Service to take an important part in securing for the Government of the United States the supply of toluol which it needed, and through relations with departments of the Government to assure the

delivery of fuel to the gas and electrical industries in order that fuel shortage should not curtail the production of gas and by-products, or electricity for light and power needed in the industries and for the transportation of workers. The completeness with which the needs were fulfilled is a signal example of the qualities of his scientific vision, engineering skill and administrative experience.

No creative and many-sided man seems complete without an avocation to fill in such leisure as he may have, and to refresh the streams of his mental activity. With Lieb this has been a scholarly study of the life and works of Leonardo da Vinci. When studying hydraulic power problems associated with the hydroelectric development at the Falls of Paderno on the River Adda his attention was drawn in 1890 to hydraulic work in the form of locks and canals ascribed to the constructive genius of Leonardo of some four centuries earlier. Thence began a study of Leonardo's life and works until Lieb now is known internationally in circles interested in Leonardo as a scholarly authority on this subject, and also the owner of the richest library of Vinciana in America.

December 4, 1923

Professor Dugald C. Jackson
387 Washington Street
Boston, Mass.

Dear Professor Jackson:-

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st instant, enclosing biographical sketch of Mr. Lieb, which, in accordance with my previous arrangement with you, we shall be glad to use at a later date in connection with the Edison Medal award.

Very truly yours

Secretary

FLH H