

JUN 20 1940

Colonel S. S. Watson
WATSON

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS
URBANA

June 18, 1940

Mr. F. W. Lovejoy
Eastman Kodak Company
Rochester, New York

Dear Mr. Lovejoy:

This is a note in reply to your letter of April 24 concerning a history of Mr. Eastman.

My acquaintance with him was not extensive, but it was my good fortune to cooperate with him in advising about the adjustment of the acoustics of the Eastman Theater and Kilbourne Hall.

At that time, the science of control of sound in auditoriums had not progressed as far as I would have liked, and there were some elements, for me, in the pioneer stage. Imagine my dismay when Mr. Eastman, with his direct business methods, asked me point-blank, "Can you make the acoustics of Eastman Theater perfect?" I wasn't sure I could, so I hesitated a moment or two, and replied, "I can say that so far, we have had no failures. Before advising about the Eastman Theater, I would like to visit some well-known music halls and make a further study of the problem." He agreed at once. When the Theater was opened, it proved to have good acoustics, and he went to the trouble of sending me a long telegram of congratulations, stating that the auditorium would have failed in its purpose without satisfactory hearing conditions. Naturally, that telegram is one of my prized possessions. It illustrates the thoughtful kindness he had in recognition of earnest endeavor.

Sincerely,

F. R. Watson

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Watson, F. R.