The Papers of Thomas A. Edison

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Published by Johns Hopkins University Press

Nier, Keith, et al.
The Papers of Thomas A. Edison: Menlo Park: The Early Years, April 1876-December 1877.

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The editorial policy for the book edition of Thomas Edison's papers remains essentially as stated in Volumes One and Two. The additions that follow stem from new editorial situations presented by documents in Volume Three.

Organization

Edison and his staff often worked into the early morning hours. Sometimes they noted quitting time, but usually they did not. In order to maintain the chronology of events, such documents are generally assigned to the day they began. If such a record bears only the finishing date, it appears as the first technical document on that date.

Form

*Notebook entries and technical notes.* Many documents from 1876 onward are signed repeatedly by one or more staff members. To avoid cluttering the text and inflating the textnotes, this practice is simply noted in the general textnote by “Document multiply signed [and/or] dated.” Edison's name appears first in all such documents. Although members of the staff often signed one another's records as witnesses, the degree of interpretation required to identify witnesses as separate from authors precludes the categorization of signatures in almost all cases. It is important to understand that a signature does not necessarily imply that the signer was an eyewitness or participant; the writer often had the others sign to attest to the date on which the idea or experiment was recorded.

*Authorship.* Notebook entries and technical notes (documents with “X” as a physical description) are, as before, writ-
ten by Edison unless otherwise noted. If another writer is indicated in the general textnote (for example, "Written by Adams"), this should be understood to include drawings as well.