

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 2/10/54

FROM : SAC, New York (62-3)

INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

INDEXED

SUBJECT: LELAND I. ANDERSON  
ASSOCIATES

Mr. GEORGE H. SCHERFF, JR., 149 Bedford Road, Rochelle, New York, advised that he received two letters from LELAND I. ANDERSON, 127 Seymour Avenue Southeast, Minneapolis, Minnesota, photostats of which are being furnished the Bureau and Minneapolis.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he was an associate of NIKOLA TESLA in 1914 and that for many years his father had been Dr. TESLA's private secretary. Mr. SCHERFF said that he never heard of LELAND I. ANDERSON but did he ever hear of any of the names mentioned in ANDERSON'S letter.

Mr. SCHERFF stated that he has quite a lot of TESLA'S writings in his possession and he didn't know whether or not they would be of value to a foreign government.

No further action is being taken by the N.Y. Office. UACB.

Encs. (2)  
1 - Minneapolis (Encs.)

EXP. PROC.

memo: New York  
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MAY 1 1954

3-11 no action

Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 3, 1954

Mr. George H. Scherff, Jr.  
149 Second Road  
Westchester, NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Scherff:

re.: The life and work of Dr. Nikola Tesla.

Recently, I have founded an organization in name and honor of Dr. Tesla in cooperation with several people who were intimately associated with Tesla during his lifetime, and with others who are interested in Dr. Tesla and his achievements from a scientific and historical standpoint. (See enclosed brochure.) I have had some difficulty locating a few of Tesla's associates, and, the name of George Scherff is among them. Therefore, it is my sincere hope that you, Mr. Scherff, are the person I seek as having been associated with Tesla.

I have personally studied the works of Tesla for a number of years, being particularly interested in elaborating upon his researches regarding high-tension radiant beams. Through some travel and other efforts, I have been fortunate to locate many original collections of Tesla's correspondence and manuscripts, and in a few cases obtained a number of interesting items.

I was in New York a short time ago on business, and while there I visited Mr. Kenneth M. Swezey. He intends to undertake some significant work on behalf of Tesla in the near future, and since he knew Tesla for so many years during his later life, it will be handled with great understanding.

I hope that you may have some interest in the work which I have initiated on behalf of Dr. Tesla. There are many matters that I wish to discuss with you, provided of course, that you are the Mr. Scherff related to the Tesla story. I would be most happy to hear from you at your earliest convenience, and will send you all publications of the organization if you wish to receive them.

Very truly yours,

*Leland I. Anderson*

# TESLA-INTERNATIONAL

University Station, Box 115  
MINNEAPOLIS - 14 - MINNESOTA

To Those Who Are Interested in the Life and Work of  
DR. NIKOLA TESLA

Following the death of Dr. Nikola Tesla on the 7th of January, 1943,  
Mr. John J. O'Neill, former Science Editor of the New York Herald Tribune,  
presented the biography

## PRODIGAL GENIUS The Life of Nikola Tesla

- a memorable tribute to one of the most outstanding figures in the entire field of electrical science. Many reading this biography learned of Nikola Tesla for the first time. Despite his momentous achievements with which he has won world-wide acclaim in scientific circles. Even those closely associated with the fields of science and engineering discovered a remarkable story not generally known of the brilliant genius Tesla whose sensitive personality and seclusion kept his face in a shadow.

The TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is being established in the United States in name and honor of Dr. Nikola Tesla by those sharing a mutual interest in his life and work. The organization has as its objective the promulgation of the truth about Nikola Tesla: that a full recognition be made for his unparalleled research work on the effects of currents of high frequency and high potential, and for his achievements in the realms of polyphase power transmission and telecommunication. It would be the duty of the organization to do all in its power that the name of Tesla win in the eyes of the nation the fame deserving of a truly great American for his contributions to science, industry, and to this country.

A journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization was issued beginning the month of November, 1943. In addition to items of recent and historical interest related to Tesla, the journal will include

- 1) A formal roster of all those who have an interest in the Tesla organization and wish to help it in its activities
- 2) An opportunity of expressing views and proposals of the organization through the medium of the journal
- 3) A comprehensive bibliography consisting of all available items concerning Tesla, which would include a cataloging of the various collections of Tesla's not generally known. Such a listing will be of particular importance to scholars in the research field
- 4) A presentation of his unpublished writings and analyses of Tesla's technical research studies as they become available

The journal of the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization will be forthcoming at intervals of 12 - 2 months. Subscription rate is \$1.00 for 10 issues. Membership in the TESLA-INTERNATIONAL organization is concurrent with subscription to the journal.

Leland L. Anderson  
127 Seymour Ave. S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

REGISTERED

Wm. ...

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. George H. Bennett, Jr.  
149 Second Road  
Westchester, New York

*Wm. ...*





Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

February 12, 1953

Dear Mr. Scherff,

It was so very rewarding to receive your reply concerning Dr. Nikola Tesla... I have initiated an undertaking on behalf of Tesla because I feel that in all right and justice something should be done to perpetuate the name of Tesla and see to it that his name becomes a part of the heritage of this nation. A great task perhaps, but as time goes on I believe the name of Tesla will become more significant in scientific developments. I hope that you may have an interest in the organization which I have proposed and established, and I will be honored to have you as a member. The organization is presently set up on the basis of those having a mutual interest in Tesla, with a free exchange of information between members. The first two issues of the journal of the organization are being sent to you under separate cover, and should reach you in a day or two.

Some other members which may be of interest to you are; Muriel Arbus, Dorothy Skerritt, Kenneth Swezey and W. W. Wilhelm. The recent deaths of John O'Neill and Edwin Armstrong were very unexpected, and it is with a great sadness that I received the news and loss of these two members.

Do you know if Mr. Lowenstien had a daughter? The reason I ask is that a woman visited Mr. O'Neill before his death and told him that she inherited a great amount of Teslaiana from her father - whom I presume to be Mr. Lowenstien. This woman was afraid of disclosing the information by reason of her mistaken notion and fear that she would rudely be raided by the army. You see Mr. O'Neill related to her that a few army officials visited his home with insistent requests for information. Of course all this sort of government interest was aroused by Tesla's "Death-Ray" rumors, played up by enterprising journalists. Well, the result of all this is that she refused to give Mr. O'Neill her married name - only that she married a blameless prince no less, and moved to some mid-western city. If this woman has the amount of material that Mr. O'Neill indicated, it would certainly be important to locate her.

I believe that one of the valuable efforts of the Tesla organization would be to catalog every piece of information concerning Tesla. I have made a beginning effort along this line, and I hope that before too long all collections of Teslaiana may be located, cataloged, and reproduced for fear of eventual loss. Through Mary A. Benjamin (of Walter H. Benjamin Autographs in New York) I have obtained a number of significant items of correspondence between Tesla and Robert U. Johnson. The entire collection of correspondence with Mr. Johnson numbers in excess of 70 pieces. I share this collection with Mrs.

Leland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue Southeast  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

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James A. McGlashan of Long Island. The period of this correspondence runs from 1894-1900. Mrs. McGlashan has another group of correspondence between Tesla and George Sylvester Viereck which is very interesting in that it is from a period later in Tesla's life. (If you wish to receive any photostatic copies from these or other collections I will be happy to send them to you.)

I am interested to learn whether you have collected any mementoes, correspondence, notes, writings, etc. of Tesla. For a long while I have been trying to locate a copy of the brochure which Tesla issued the first week of February, 1904. It came in a large square envelope bearing a yellowed wax seal with the initials "N.T." stamped thereon. Quite a number of them were distributed throughout New York and elsewhere as the Tesla enterprise in an effort to secure financial backing for the tower and power plant erected at Wardenclyffe, Long Island. You no doubt know of the brochure of which I speak. I thought it would be interesting to reproduce this brochure and distribute it among the members of the Tesla organization as a memento. Although I have written and inquired about this brochure extensively, I have not been able to locate a copy. Did you ever have one?

I have hopes that in 1956 (The Tesla Centenary) some significant observance may be organized here in the United States in honor of Tesla. The Tesla Museum in Yugoslavia has obtained the Tesla inheritance, which amounts to 2 tons of apparatus, writings, etc. It is the intention (so stated) of the Museum to publish the entire writings of Tesla, including those in the inheritance, on the Tesla Centenary. I don't know what sort of political propaganda might be injected in this publication, but it occurred to me that it may be appropriate to arrange an advance publication in this country of Tesla's unpublished works. Unfortunately, there is not much to be said of early or important papers in the estate were made photostats of early or important papers in the estate were made photostats could be located there would be such material for a publication. However, in working with the Library of Congress in preparation of a film on Tesla, these photostats have escaped the most extensive search thus far.

Hoping that you may be interested in the efforts of the Tesla-NATIONAL on behalf of Tesla and wish to associate yourself with it, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Leland I. Anderson

# TESLA INTERNATIONAL

1400 S. State Street  
Chicago, Illinois 60605

## IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

To Members of the TESLA INTERNATIONAL organization  
and those interested in the works of  
Dr. Nikola Tesla

PLEASE BEWARE OF:

"The Complete Writings of Nikola Tesla"

by Dr. Samuel J. Martin

TESLA INTERNATIONAL, INC. It is with great pleasure that  
this organization announces the reprinting  
of the complete works of Nikola Tesla.

The complete works of Nikola Tesla are a significant and significant work  
in the history of science and a great demand for this  
work is being felt. The complete works of Nikola Tesla are strictly  
limited in quantity and will not be repeated when the  
supply is exhausted. Those desiring a copy of the book are  
urged to act quickly.

Cost of this book is only \$4.00  
plus shipping and handling. In the United States to members and  
friends of the organization.

Iceland I. Anderson  
127 Seymour Avenue S. E.  
Minneapolis 14, Minnesota

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**



**SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
**VIA AIR MAIL**

Mr. George Scherff  
149 Seacord Road  
New Rochelle, New York



**SPECIAL DELIVERY**