

This promotion of Bollmann's also came to naught, but he paved the way for the early introduction of a steamboat line on the Weser, which was established only a year after the date he had planned. Bollmann's lack of success resulted from his suggestion that a corporation should be created for the new enterprise; the day of the corporation had not dawned in Germany. The man who actually set up that first German steamboat line, more or less following Bollmann's recommendations, ran the enterprise at his own risk with his own capital.

After this unsuccessful promotion and another short stay in America, Bollmann settled as a chemical manufacturer in London, but his enterprise there is not of any particular interest. However, in 1821 Baring Brothers & Co. sent him as their representative to South America, probably in order to explore the possibilities of the mercury business and to negotiate a loan to Bolivar, whom Bollmann met personally in what is now Colombia. We do not know any details of his commission and negotiations, but we do know that he was successful and that he died from a tropical fever on the way home in December, 1821, in Kingston, on the island of Jamaica.¹⁶

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Another Collection of Business Records

A recent letter to the Editor brings word that a new manuscript collection, The Western Historical Manuscript Collection, is being established at the University of Missouri. W. Francis English, an historian, is the director; the manuscripts will be housed in the Library of the University. Though the collection is to cover all aspects of Western history, the Director is very much interested in preserving the business records of Missouri and the surrounding region.

¹⁶A biography of Eric Bollmann, by the author of this article, will be published shortly.