

# New Tesla Books at the CHRS Library

By Bart Lee, K6VK, Archivist

Nikola Tesla was “The Man Who Invented the Twentieth Century” -- including radio. He sited his last big laboratory on Long Island more than a century ago. This otherwise unpublished 1905 image shows his large tower for radiating both signals and power.



Two new and excellent biographies of Tesla (1857 - 1943) have recently come to the library:\*

Marc J. Seifer, WIZARD, THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NIKOLA TESLA (1997), and TESLA, WIZARD AT WAR (2022):

---

\* Archivist's donations.

† Where I was, at the time, counsel to the President of Saybrook.

Author of the International Bestseller  
*Wizard: The Life and Times of Nikola Tesla*

MARC J.  
SEIFER

The Genius,  
the Particle Beam Weapon,  
and the Pursuit of Power

TESLA

Wizard at War

**PRAISE FOR MARC J. SEIFER AND THE CLASSIC  
WIZARD: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF NIKOLA TESLA**

**“Marc Seifer is an excellent writer and scholar, who has produced a wonderfully readable and illuminating biography of one of the most intriguing men of this century . . . mak[ing] us understand not only the man, but also the times in which he lived . . . [A] masterpiece.”**

**—Nelson DeMille**

**“Underneath the layers . . . the core of Seifer’s book is a serious piece of scholarship.”**

**—*Scientific American***

**“I highly recommend this biography of a great technologist.”  
—A.A. Mullin, US Army Space & Strategic Defense Command**

**“Seifer’s vivid, revelatory, exhaustively researched biography rescues pioneer inventor Nikola Tesla from cult status and restores him to his rightful place as a principal architect of the modern age . . . Seifer provides the fullest account yet of Tesla.”**

**—*Publishers Weekly***

**“*Wizard* is a compelling tale presenting a teeming, vivid world of science, technology, culture and human lives.”**

**—*New Scientist***

**“It is my opinion that Dr. Seifer leads the world as the most authoritative of all the Tesla researchers.”**

**—J.W. McGinnis, President, International Tesla Society**



"The story of one of the most prolific, independent, and iconoclastic inventors of this century . . . fascinating." —*Scientific American*

# Wizard

*The Life and Times of*  
**NIKOLA TESLA**  
*BIOGRAPHY OF A GENIUS*

MARC J. SEIFER

Nikola Tesla (1856-1943), credited as the inspiration for radio, robots, and even radar, has been called the patron saint of modern electricity. Based on original material and previously unavailable documents, this acclaimed book is the definitive biography of the man considered by many to be the founding father of modern electrical technology. Among Tesla's creations were the channeling of alternating current, fluorescent and neon lighting, wireless telegraphy, and the giant turbines that harnessed the power of Niagara Falls.

This essential biography is illustrated with sixteen pages of photographs, including the July 20, 1931, *Time* magazine cover for an issue celebrating the inventor's career.

**"Wizard is a truly remarkable biography of a remarkable man. The expression 'ahead of his time' is used too loosely and too often today but in the case of Nikola Tesla 'ahead of his time' barely describes the genius of this man. Marc Seifer makes us understand not only the man but the times in which he lived."**

**—Nelson DeMille**

**"A deep and comprehensive biography of a great engineer of early electrical science—likely to become the definitive biography. Highly recommended."**

**—American Association for the Advancement of Science**

**"Vivid, revelatory the fullest account yet of Tesla as an entrepreneur, experimental physicist and inventor." —Publishers Weekly**

**CITADEL PRESS  
KENSINGTON  
U.S. \$21.95  
CAN \$23.95  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.**

Visit us at [www.kensingtonbooks.com](http://www.kensingtonbooks.com)



Nothing came of the Particle Beam Weapon proposal. The idea was to send small molecules of, say, tungsten, through the air to destroy enemies. Now we can use lasers that way, so once again, Tesla was a man ahead of his times.

Both the Seifer books are deeply researched from primary sources. The author is trained in psychology (PhD from Saybrook University, San Francisco, 1986<sup>†</sup>). This perspective sheds much light on Tesla, both on his successes and his failures.

Among the many books about Tesla in the library, two are outstanding: W. Bernard Carlson, TESLA - INVENTOR OF THE ELECTRICAL AGE, and David J. Kent, TESLA - THE WIZARD OF ELECTRICITY. The Carson book is the best technical analysis of Tesla's work.

Denny Montecelli has noted that there is a house in Zagreb, Croatia with a memorial plaque on it. Tesla "... either lived in this house or was born here. One parent was Croatian and the other Serbian. The two rival countries each claim exclusive rights to his fame."

Tesla came from a family of warrior priests. Although this does not feature in Seifer's writing, it does explain a lot about Tesla. He lived the intellectual tenacity of a warrior, and as Edwin Land of Polaroid once said, and for Tesla too, "The bottom line is in heaven."

(09 II '23 de K6VK) ##

---

<sup>†</sup> Where I was, at the time, counsel to the President of Saybrook.