



4-1-1982

A Nice Place for Fairman Rogers

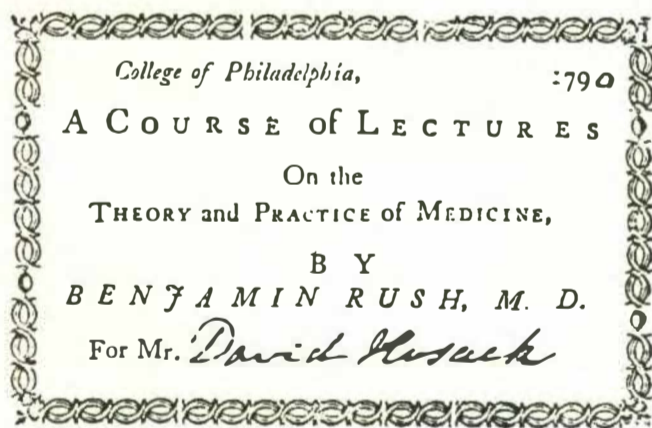
A Nice Place for Fairman Rogers



University Seal, 1782-1847



Joseph Wharton



Ticket of admission to lectures, 1790

In the midst of all of this activity, enrollment increased rapidly. By the end of World War I there were about 11,000 students, and by 1938 this figure had reached 16,000.

It was not until 1930, however, that the University had a full-time president. The election of Thomas Sovereign Gates was a fortunate choice since Gates was the noted financier who artfully guided the school through a major depression.

The School of Veterinary Medicine is a part of a long, and proud academic heritage. Here are a few statistics about the University as it is today:

- Enrollment: Over 22,000 students.
- Alumni: Over 120,000 living alumni.
- Total yearly payroll: Over \$232 million.
- Faculty: Over 1,700 full-time faculty.
- Library books: Over 3 million.
- Plant replacement value: Over \$1.2 billion.

In 1893 the librarian of the University of Pennsylvania reported that he had received 566 bound copies and 357 unbound pamphlets and periodicals from Mr. Fairman Rogers. This magnificent collection, now known as the Fairman Rogers Collection on the Horse and Equitation, eventually found its way to the School of Veterinary Medicine, and now resides in the Jean Austin duPont Library at New Bolton Center. Dean Robert R. Marshak has pointed out that this beautiful library on the rural campus of the School of Veterinary Medicine is a perfect setting for those who want to browse through or read on the ancient art of horsemanship. It is also apropos that Mrs. Alice Holton should be the librarian and custodian of this world famous collection, which brings us to the connection between Fairman Rogers and gourmet cooking. We do not have any documentation about Mr. Roger's gastronomic tastes, but considering his appetite for many of the other good things in life, it can be concluded that food would be among them. Alice Holton, who has been at New Bolton Center since 1963, is a gourmet cook, who recently developed the art of baking French bread from ingredients found here in the United States. It seems very probable that Fairman Rogers would highly approve of such a person with such tastes being in charge of his collection.

Mr. Fairman Rogers was a man of many talents who undoubtedly enjoyed life to the fullest. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Pennsylvania in 1853, and by 1855 was professor of civil engineering. From 1871 to 1876 he was a member of the Board of Trustees of the University. Mr. Rogers served on the special trustees committee which recommended the establishment of a veterinary department in 1884.

Fairman Rogers had a keen interest in many things—engineering, architecture, military service, horticulture, horsemanship, yachting, photography, the fine arts, and veterinary medicine. He was one of the original fifty members appointed to the National Academy of Science by the U.S. Senate. He served in the Civil War, and is believed to have contributed substantially to the development of the first typewriter. Mr. Rogers had a great interest in photography, and in this he was joined by his good friend, Thomas Eakins, the famous Philadelphia artist. Rogers was involved in the development of the zootrope which made it possible for Eadweard Muybridge to take photographs of horses in motion. Many authorities consider Muybridge to be the "Father of Motion Pictures."

While he was an expert in things of a scientific nature, it seems probable that Fairman Rogers' great love was driving. He was the first to introduce four-in-hand driving as a pastime in Philadelphia. In the years just before his death he wrote the *Manual of Coaching* which is a classic in this field. Mr. Rogers was a

serious student of equitation as evidenced by his collection of books on the subject. Over the years books have been added to the original Fairman Rogers Collection so that it now comprises over 1,000 volumes and periodicals. The collection is international in scope and covers about four centuries of literature on the horse and horsemanship.

In order to make the Collection more accessible to readers, students, and scholars, Dr. Mark Allam, former dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, commissioned Dr. Clarie Gilbride Fox to prepare a guide to the Collection. This was published in 1975 (Medical Documentation Service, College of Physicians, Philadelphia). As well as being a guide, it provides an interesting and informative biography of Fairman Rogers.

We do not need to look far to find some parallels between the interests of Fairman Rogers and those of Alice Holton. Mr. Rogers was an architect; the handsome building which houses the Union League on Broad Street in Philadelphia is mainly his conception. In turn, Alice is interested in old buildings. She and her husband, Herbert, have been involved for twenty-seven years in renovating their pre-revolutionary home. Mr. Rogers traveled extensively, and Alice and her husband have traversed Europe many times. Last year they spent five weeks in the Orient.

When Alice Holton came to New Bolton Center in 1963, the library was located in what is now known as the Allam House, and consisted of five books and a few periodicals. Today, the Jean Austin duPont Library, which is located in the Alarik Myrin Memorial Research Building, contains about 5,000 volumes.

History has been kind to the Fairman Rogers Collection. It is housed in a good place, and is under the care of a person who cares and appreciates it.



Mrs. Alice Holton