



January 1940

The University of Pennsylvania Today

Cornell M. Dowlin

Follow this and additional works at: http://repository.upenn.edu/penn_history

Dowlin, Cornell M., "The University of Pennsylvania Today" (1940). *History of the University of Pennsylvania*. 9.
http://repository.upenn.edu/penn_history/9

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations used for purposes of scholarly citation, none of this work may be reproduced in any form by any means without written permission from the publisher. For information address the University of Pennsylvania Press, 3905 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-4112.

Reprinted from *The University of Pennsylvania Today: Its Buildings, Departments & Work*, edited by Cornell M. Dowlin (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1940).

This paper is posted at Scholarly Commons. http://repository.upenn.edu/penn_history/9
For more information, please contact libraryrepository@pobox.upenn.edu.

The University of Pennsylvania Today

Abstract

The present volume has been prepared in the hope that it will be of interest to visitors to the University of Pennsylvania and also to undergraduates, alumni, and other friends of the University who would be glad to have a brief outline of its present organization and activities, the extent of its physical equipment, and something of the origin of its many divisions.

In the arrangement of the material, it was found advisable not to give a strictly geographical account of the Campus and its buildings and of the departments of the University. Because of the belief that visitors and others will especially wish to learn how the University of Pennsylvania functions, the book has been organized on the basis of departments. Strangers to the Campus are urged to examine the map printed on the end-papers and to make full use of the index. If a considerable amount of space has been devoted to current research activities, which change from year to year, the reader will realize that no picture of the University at work would be complete without a description of the varied contribution to human knowledge that is continually being made. For a full account of the growth of the University from its Colonial roots to the present, the reader is referred to the *History of the University of Pennsylvania, 1740-1940*, by Edward Potts Cheyney, for fifty-one years an active member of the Department of History and since 1935 Professor Emeritus and Curator of the Lea Library of Medieval and Church History.

Comments

All rights reserved. Except for brief quotations used for purposes of scholarly citation, none of this work may be reproduced in any form by any means without written permission from the publisher. For information address the University of Pennsylvania Press, 3905 Spruce Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104-4112.

Reprinted from *The University of Pennsylvania Today: Its Buildings, Departments & Work*, edited by Cornell M. Dowlin (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1940).

THE
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA
TODAY



Library

CAMPUS VIEW
Irvine Auditorium

College Hall

THE
UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA

T O D A Y

ITS BUILDINGS
DEPARTMENTS & WORK

• • •

Edited by

Cornell M. Dowlin

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

Philadelphia

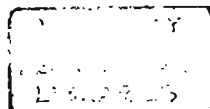
1940

Copyright 1940

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

*Manufactured in the United States of America
by the Haddon Craftsmen, Inc., Camden, N. J.*

London: Humphrey Milford
Oxford University Press
PENNIMAN



FOREWORD

THE present volume has been prepared in the hope that it will be of interest to visitors to the University of Pennsylvania and also to undergraduates, alumni, and other friends of the University who would be glad to have a brief outline of its present organization and activities, the extent of its physical equipment, and something of the origin of its many divisions.

In the arrangement of the material, it was found advisable not to give a strictly geographical account of the Campus and its buildings and of the departments of the University. Because of the belief that visitors and others will especially wish to learn how the University of Pennsylvania functions, the book has been organized on the basis of departments. Strangers to the Campus are urged to examine the map printed on the end-papers and to make full use of the index. If a considerable amount of space has been devoted to current research activities, which change from year to year, the reader will realize that no picture of the University at work would be complete without a description of the varied contribution to human knowledge that is continually being made. For a full account of the growth of the University from its Colonial roots to the present, the reader is referred to the *History of the University of Pennsylvania, 1740-1940*, by Edward Potts Cheyney, for fifty-one years an active member of the Department of History and since 1935 Professor Emeritus and Curator of the Lea Library of Medieval and Church History.

The Editor wishes to express his deep appreciation to Dr. Cheyney for his assistance in supplying data and for the Introduction which he has provided for this book. The Editor is also grateful for the assistance rendered him by Dr. Edward W. Mumford, Secretary of the Corporation and the official custodian of the archives of the University; to the various departmental officers and others who have contributed articles and information; and to Dr. George E. Nitzsche, Recorder of the University, whose files are a storehouse of interesting information and whose interest has been of great value. Dr. Nitzsche is the compiler of a guidebook to the University which, between 1905 and 1918, passed through seven editions.

In the eighteenth century the Oxford University guidebooks were amplified by a wag (Thomas Warton), who published a *Companion to the Guide* and a *Guide to the Companion*. It is hoped that similar adjuncts to the present work will not be needed.

CORNELL M. DOWLIN

CONTENTS

Foreword	<i>page</i> v
Introduction	i
THE ARTS AND SCIENCES	
The College	3
The Wharton School	36
The Towne Scientific School	56
The Moore School of Electrical Engineering	65
The School of Fine Arts	68
The College of Liberal Arts for Women	71
The School of Education	73
The Summer School	79
The Graduate School	80
The University Library	87
The University Press	90
The University Museum	91
THE STUDY OF LAW	97
TEACHING AND RESEARCH IN MEDICINE	
The School of Medicine	103
The Graduate School of Medicine	149
The Wistar Institute	153
The Phipps Institute	155
The Evans Institute and the School of Dentistry	157
The School of Veterinary Medicine	161
STUDENT LIFE	165
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SERVICE BUILDINGS	199
Index	205

ILLUSTRATIONS

MAP OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA <i>Drawing by John H. Geiszel</i>	<i>end-paper</i>
CAMPUS VIEW <i>Library — Irvine Auditorium — College Hall</i>	<i>frontispiece</i>
	<i>facing page</i>
THE PROVOSTS' TOWER: DORMITORIES	10
BOTANICAL GARDENS AND MEDICAL LABORATORIES	11
COLLEGE HALL	
MORGAN LABORATORY OF PHYSICS	26
HARRISON LABORATORY OF CHEMISTRY	
ZOOLOGICAL LABORATORY	27
LOGAN HALL	
MOORE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	42
ENGINEERING BUILDING	
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS	43
EXPERIMENTAL ELECTRICAL WORK: MOORE SCHOOL	
HYDRAULICS LABORATORY: TOWNE SCIENTIFIC SCHOOL	58
MORRIS ARBORETUM	
PROVOST'S HOUSE	59
BENNETT HALL	74
UNIVERSITY MUSEUM	
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY	75
LAW SCHOOL	
MEDICAL LABORATORIES ON HAMILTON WALK	100
CHEMISTRY LABORATORY: SCHOOL OF MEDICINE <i>Courtesy of The Scope, 1941</i>	
X-RAY TREATMENT: VETERINARY HOSPITAL	101
MALONEY CLINIC	138
GRADUATE HOSPITAL	139

SCHOOL OF DENTISTRY	
WISTAR INSTITUTE	154
PHIPPS INSTITUTE	
SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE	155
BIG QUAD: DORMITORIES	
<i>Photograph by Horace M. Lippincott</i>	
HOUSTON HALL	166
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION	
LITTLE QUAD: DORMITORIES	167
PLAN OF DORMITORIES	page 170
<i>Drawing by John H. Geiszel</i>	
IRVINE AUDITORIUM	<i> facing page 184</i>
FRANKLIN FIELD	
THE PALESTRA	" " 185

INTRODUCTION

THE buildings and grounds that now spread through West Philadelphia and stretch to several outlying regions are the third of the successive homes of the University. In almost any corner of the present Campus could be tacked the couple of buildings with their acre of ground at Fourth and Arch streets that formed its first. It was in these two buildings and the three or four adjacent houses in which the professors lived that the colonial College led its vigorous and picturesque life. The college hall was for a long time the largest building in the city, and it was in it that colonial governors and the aristocracy of Philadelphia and, after the Revolution, representatives of the new republican government and foreign diplomats attended academic and other functions.

By the close of the eighteenth century this location had become too restricted and too inconvenient of access to satisfy the University authorities. Moreover, a stately house, built by the government of Pennsylvania in a much better part of the city as a dwelling house for the President when it was expected that Philadelphia would remain the national capital, was lying untenanted and for sale. It was surrounded by open lots that might well be utilized or made a source of income. "The President's House," as it was always called, and its successors at Ninth and Market streets became the University's second home. The house was purchased, repaired, then extended, then replaced on the same site by the two buildings, one for the College, one for the Medical School, that gave the University certainly its most symmetrical and on the whole the most pleasing architectural appearance in its history. In these buildings, with a few dependencies for the Medical School, its life was carried on for a half-century or more.

By about 1870 it had become evident that neither the size of the buildings on Ninth Street, nor the repute of the neighborhood, nor the land available for growth, was suited to a dignified and growing institution. Ringed around with dwelling houses, shops, offices, and saloons, the University had no room for expansion of any kind.

The old questions whether to remain a city college or to go to the

country; whether to settle in some small town, as had been the policy of Harvard, Yale, Princeton, and most other American and English colleges, where students should live on the campus in buildings belonging to the University; or to separate academic life from personal life, as at Columbia and in the Scotch and continental universities, came up for vigorous discussion. Each had its advocates. The decision to remain a city institution was mainly the result of two circumstances: the desire of the Philadelphia trustees to keep the institution near enough to make their visits to it easy, and the knowledge of the existence of an available tract to the west of the Schuylkill yet within the limits of the city life and its advantages. The land belonged to the city and, it was hoped, could be purchased on favorable terms.

So the old site was sold, and in June 1871, the corner stone of College Hall, the first building west of the river and the nucleus of the present extensive but somewhat incongruous agglomeration of buildings was laid. However, the first four, the greenstone group that covers the first ten-acre purchase of land—College Hall, the University Hospital, the medical building of that period (now Logan Hall), and the dental (now Hare) building of the time—were consistent enough in design and materials, if not very distinguished in their architecture. Since that period the University has nibbled away at the city land, obtaining one piece after another, on one set of conditions or another, and for the various uses of old or new departments or activities as they have been undertaken. Some independent purchases or gifts of adjacent land have been made, till the West Philadelphia property alone now covers 112 acres, on which have been erected or purchased since the migration some 130 buildings, and within the bounds of which have been laid eight athletic fields, the Botanical Gardens, and various parking places. These buildings, in the natural course of things, have been altered, added to, superseded, and changed in purpose as demands and funds have required or permitted.

But all this is merely the outer shell of the University, for a university is an organism in which the shell and the life within it are incapable of being separated. Classrooms and libraries and laboratories, studies and museums, seminary rooms and dormitories and places of recreation are alike the necessary means by which the life and work of faculty and students can be carried on. In the following survey of the buildings as they are now, an attempt will be made to describe the organization and work of all the principal departments of the University.

EDWARD POTTS CHEYNEY