



The Newetowne Chronicle

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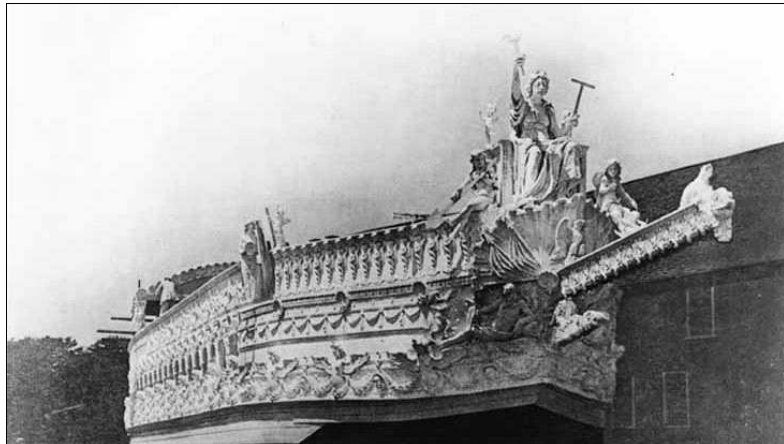
PEOPLE AND PLACES

Arriving with Pomp and Circumstance

By Michael Kenney

When MIT moved across the Charles River from Boston's Back Bay to Cambridge on a June day in 1916, it did so with a ceremonial style that might have befitted a Renaissance potentate.

A procession of robed deans and faculty escorted a chest containing the school's crest and charter from the old buildings on Boylston Street down to the riverbank, where it was placed on the Bucentaur, a replica of the barges that carried the Venetian doges along their canals.



The Bucentaur, designed by the master architect Ralph Adams Cram, symbolically carried MIT across the Charles to Cambridge in 1916.

Lit by searchlights, the barge was rowed across the Charles and landed at the just-completed Grand Court, where a "Masque of Power" was performed by a troupe of some thousand students and faculty. To the right of the Grand Court, as one sees it from the river, is MIT's Walker Memorial Building, designed as a center of student life and chosen by the Cambridge Historical Society as the site of this year's Spring Benefit (see page 3).

As MIT's architecture professor Mark M. Jarzombek described the event in *Designing MIT*, the characters Will and Wisdom were seen guiding Man through the ages when Greed, Selfishness, and War appeared from a darkened corner.

"Just as all seems lost," he writes, "a light bursts through a rift in the clouds, and there stand the figures Righteousness, Will, and Wisdom."

(continued on Page 10)

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The Newetowne Chronicle is published three times a year by the Cambridge Historical Society.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Transition time at CHS

Last fall, executive director Karen Davis and associate director Lewis Bushnell announced their intention to resign in 2008. They set their actual resignation date far enough in the future to permit the Society to hire and put in place their successor.

In January, the council unanimously approved the search committee's recommendation to appoint Gavin Kleespies, who grew up in Cambridge. Following college graduation in 1996, he did archival work for the Cambridge Historical Society and for the Cambridge Historical Commission. After obtaining a master of arts degree in 1999 from the University of Chicago, he became executive director of the Historical Society in Mount Prospect, Illinois. He expects to begin work here between June 15 and July 1.

Another recent transition was the election at the annual meeting of four new councilors, who are profiled in the sidebar. They replace four who will stay connected to the CHS as advisors. Mike Solet joined the council in 1999, serving as secretary and vice president as well as on two search committees. Lindsay Coolidge joined the council in 2001, becoming curator in 2003. In that post she made significant contributions to organizing our artifact collection. She also wrote and underwrote a catalogue for our 100th birthday that presented highlights from the collections. She will continue to serve on the collections committee. Chandra Harrington joined the council in 2002, serving for several years as chair of the nominating committee and vice president. Michael Kenney, who was editor in 2007, has written articles for our newsletter since 2002 and will continue to do so as a member of the publications committee.

We thank them all for their contributions.

Finally, Sally Hild, our capable director of programs and data base guru, will be leaving in the spring on a three-month maternity leave for the birth of her second child.



New council members (l-r) Rebekah Kaufman, Jinny Nathans and Virginia Jacobsen, with president Ted Hansen.

Welcome New Council Members

VIRGINIA JACOBSEN grew up in New York City and now lives in Cambridge, where she and her husband are raising three daughters. In 2007, the Jacobsens received preservation awards from the Cambridge Historical Commission and the Massachusetts Historical Commission for uncovering and replicating many of the original features of their house, designed by Ralph Adams Cram.

REBEKAH KAUFMAN, a marketing director, has lived in Cambridge since 2001. A dedicated volunteer, she served as chair of public relations and programs for the Longfellow Bicentennial Committee and has completed volunteer assignments for People for Riverbend Park Trust, the Longfellow National Historic Site, the Cambridge Public Library, and the CHS. She holds degrees from Cornell University and the Simmons Graduate School of Management.

JINNY NATHANS, curator, a lifelong resident of Cambridge, is the librarian and archivist for the American Meteorological Society in Boston. She has served as president of the Harvard Square Defense Fund and was a member of the Harvard Square Historic District Study Committee. She has been a member of the CHS program committee since 2004.

ROGER STACEY, editor, has lived in Cambridge for the better part of the last 40 years. Recently retired from his position as an English teacher at BB&N, he is a former trustee of BB&N, a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, vice-president of the Boston Branch of the English-Speaking Union, and a member of the Old Cambridge Shakespeare Association.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Endings and Beginnings...

...was the title of my first "From the Director" column in the fall of 2003. That title seems appropriate now as Lewis and I prepare to step down as executive and associate directors of the Cambridge Historical Society. We were hired as a team, dividing what had been one full-time position into two part-time positions. Our decision to resign is driven by our ages and the recognition that the Society's next phase is to plan and implement a major capital campaign. Rather than changing directors mid-campaign, we wanted the CHS to have the opportunity to bring on a new executive director at the beginning.

We could not be more pleased with the Council's decision to hire Gavin Kleespies (see page 2). Gavin grew up in Cambridge, attended the public schools, and started leading walking tours when he was 13. He has a master of arts in the social sciences with a concentration on American history, and he has experience in all aspects of running a historical society. We will tell you much more about him in our summer newsletter, which will come out around the time he begins work here.

Although Lewis and I will not be leaving until Gavin arrives and we have given him a complete orientation, I want you to know that it has been a privilege to be the executive director of the Cambridge Historical Society, particularly during this period encompassing the Society's centennial celebration and the publication of *A City's Life and Times*. It has also been especially satisfying to have administered two of the largest Hooper-Lee-Nichols House preservation projects ever undertaken by the Society.

The Society's accomplishments depend on teamwork that combines the talents of the staff, council members, and volunteers, all supported by membership dues, grants, and contributions from local institutions and businesses. Lewis and I have been incredibly fortunate to work with a wonderful team, and we thank you all for your support and encouragement. I am ea-

ger to continue my involvement in the CHS as an active member and volunteer.

We know that you will join us in welcoming Gavin this summer and in doing all that we can to ensure a smooth leadership transition and great future for the Cambridge Historical Society.

Karen L. Davis

Spring Benefit

**From Empty Space to Infinite Corridor:
CHS Celebrates MIT**



Date: Sunday, May 18
Time: 2:00–4:30 p.m.
Location: Morss Hall at MIT's Walker Memorial Building

This year's event will spotlight one of our great institutions and its impact on Cambridge in the 20th century. Our speakers will include Paul Gray, MIT president emeritus, Charles Sullivan, executive director of the Cambridge Historical Commission, Mark Jarzombek, MIT architecture professor and author of *Designing MIT: Bosworth's New Tech*, O. Robert Simha, director of planning at MIT for 40 years, and Samuel Jay Keyser, MIT professor emeritus and an expert on MIT's ingenious pranks known as "hacks."

They will touch on MIT's spectacular arrival in Cambridge (see cover story), significant scientific and educational achievements, the importance of the original architecture—Cambridge's own "White City"—the expansion of the campus, and the extraordinary student pranks that continue to amaze and delight us.

The event will begin with food and music and end with special tours of the campus led by Simha and Jarzombek. It promises to be an unparalleled experience that should not be missed. Invitations will be mailed in April. Come one, come all.

103RD ANNUAL MEETING

On January 27, President Ted Hansen presided as the Society transacted its regular business, including the election of councilors, officers, and advisors (see page 2). Summaries of committee reports follow:

Finance Committee Report

Andrew Leighton, Treasurer

I am pleased to report that the Historical Society enjoyed a good year financially. Total assets increased by almost \$41,000 to a little over \$660,000. This was achieved by balancing the budget for operations and allowing the full amount of gains from the excellent investment performance to be retained.

The generous funding of our centennial book, *A City's Life and Times*, by the Cambridge Savings Bank and an anonymous gift of about \$16,000 resulted in a surplus from operations of almost \$20,000. Proceeds from the book—far exceeding our expectations—generated about \$4,000 over budget. The Society was awarded a Cambridge Community Preservation Act grant to update the electrical system in the house (see Facility Report), and the surplus has been spent as part of the funds needed to match the grant.

Next year will be more challenging financially. The stock markets are in trouble, and we still need to raise additional monies to take full advantage of the Community Preservation Act grant. The Society is in good financial health, and with the aid of our many friends, I am confident we will meet the challenges ahead.

Development Committee Report

Paula Paris, Chair

The Development Committee oversees and supports all of the Society's income-generating activities, including membership, annual appeal, Spring Benefit, and special campaigns. We are now hard at work planning our Spring Benefit (see page 3).

As this newsletter goes to press, our 2007 annual appeal has generated more than \$30,000. We also received other monetary gifts that, together with the annual appeal, resulted in a total of \$48,000 for the calendar year. My heartfelt thanks to you all for your loyalty and generous contributions.

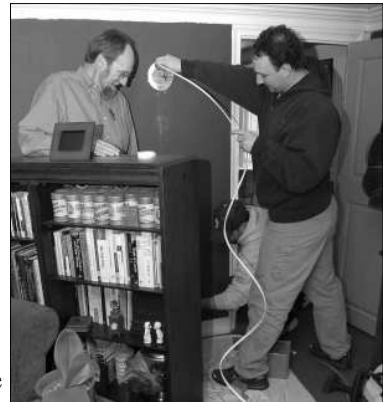
As you know, the Society has been exploring the feasibility of a capital campaign. At the January 9, 2008 meeting of the Council, however, it was voted unanimously to postpone further action on the capital campaign until the new executive director has been installed. We will, however, continue to analyze our membership donor base.

Facility Committee Report

Charlie Allen, Chair

Our major project in 2007 addressed the electrical systems in the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House and garage. While repairing mysteriously failing electric light sconces, we had discovered a serious fire hazard due to our old wiring. It was our tremendously good fortune to receive a CPA institutional grant to rewire and upgrade our electrical system. Working with Charles Sullivan of the Cambridge Historical Commission, we developed a scope of work and put the project out for bid, selecting Patriot Electrical Contracting & Service Corporation to do the job.

The project started in November with the installation of a 200A underground service running from Kennedy Road and entering the house under the west roughcast wall. This was accomplished, thanks to the oversight of the



Charlie Allen of Charlie Allen Restorations and electricians Zack Dolloff (standing) and Mike Homan of Patriot Electrical Contracting rewiring the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House.

Cambridge Plant and Garden Club and Michael Hanlon, without damaging the plantings along the route.

New electrical panel boxes are replacing old fuse boxes and obsolete circuit breaker panels. The first floor has been rewired, and work is under way upstairs. Our sconces have been rewired, pull chains are being replaced by switches, and outlets are being added here and there. We can now remove those little notes in the kitchen that say things like “Unplug coffee maker before using microwave.”

When the project is complete, we will still have windows in need of restoration, sagging shutters, antiquated plumbing—and it’s getting to be time to paint again. But I’d like to believe that with courageous leadership and the support of the members and our friends we will find ways, year by year, to maintain and upgrade this treasure that’s been entrusted to us.

It has truly been my privilege to be leading the Facility Committee and supervising this work during a time when such important and large-scale improvements to the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House are taking place. Thank you very much for your help and support.

Collections Committee

Lindsay Leard Coolidge, Curator

The year 2007 has been extraordinary for the Society due to the unprecedented number of gifts we received. I have selected a few items that represent a cross section of these gifts.

Family papers, books, and maps donated this year include two 1934 volumes of the Sanborn Insurance maps of Cambridge given by Charles M. Sullivan. Jeanne A. J. and William M. K. Nixon gifted approximately four cubic feet of family papers and books from the family of Francis Child.

Research papers were also donated. Rosamond Dana, who spoke at last year’s annual meeting, donated a copy of her master’s thesis, “Privileged Radicals: The Rebellious Times of Six

Dana Siblings in Cambridge and New York in the Early 20th Century.” Heli Meltsner donated “An Historical and Architectural Study of 12 Chilton Street.” Esther F. McQueeney gifted a manuscript entitled “A History of Berkeley Street: Cambridge, Massachusetts,” by Alice G. Allyn.

Bob Crocker donated 78 photographs of Cambridge houses that had belonged to the real estate office of Dudley & Borland. Deborah Langston donated photographs of 55 Fayerweather Street ca. 1910, as well as the 1905 architectural plans for the house and the renovation plans of 1936 and 1960. Mrs. Melville Chapin donated the architectural plans of 15 Traill Street, designed by Lois Lilley Howe.



55 Fayerweather Street, ca. 1910

The Society received gifts from other institutions, including the Boothbay Regional Historical Society, which donated two photographs of Cambridge residents, Tina Littlefield ca. 1902 and the Littlefield twin sisters ca. 1904.

Our library and archives saw a large increase in research inquiries mostly through our Web site. This year, requests numbered close to 200.

It has truly been an honor to serve as curator of the Historical Society for close to six years. As my term comes to a close, I want to thank the staff and members of the Collections Committee for all their work in organizing and rejuvenating the collections.

Publications Committee Report

Michael Kenney, Chair

Your Publications Committee is pleased to report its surprise—and delight—at the success of the Society’s centennial volume, *A City’s Life and Times: Cambridge in the Twentieth Century*. Published in November in an edition of 750 copies, it sold so well that we were forced to “borrow” back copies from local booksellers in order to have copies available for members at the Society’s annual meeting. A second edition was swiftly ordered to ensure a continued supply for the Society and for local bookstores.

Daphne Abeel, the book’s editor, has described the challenges she faced—and successfully overcame—in securing essays on all aspects of the city’s public and private life and in preparing the book for publication (see page 10).

Not to let this success go to its head, your Publications Committee will be considering future projects, as well as continuing to publish *The Newetowne Chronicle*.

In Memoriam

Phebe Crampton Leighton, the wife of our treasurer, Andrew Leighton, passed away on December 15, 2007. The CHS is indebted to Phebe, a landscape designer and member of the Cambridge Plant and Garden Club, for her years of dedication to the Hooper-Lee-



Phebe and Andy Leighton at the CHS Holiday Party, December 2005

Nichols House garden since at least 1967. The catalyst for the CP&GC’s ongoing care of our gardens, she was instrumental in the design and planting of our present glorious front flower beds.

Annual Meeting Keynote Address:
Robert Frost: The Cambridge Years

Our speaker, Warren M. (Renny) Little, CHS executive director emeritus, has a special point of view on the crusty, renowned New England poet. Little currently lives on Brewster Street, in the house that Frost lived in for 22 years until his death in 1963.



Courtesy Famous Poets and Poems

Robert Frost

Frost’s roots in Cambridge stretch back to 1897, when he entered Harvard at age 23. He dropped out in 1899 but continued an on-and-off relationship with the university, writing the “Ode to Harvard” on its 300th birthday, giving the Norton lectures, and receiving the Ralph Waldo Emerson Fellowship. Frost became a Harvard Fellow in 1941, the same year that his secretary and friend, Kay Morrison, bought the Brewster Street house for him.

Little regaled his audience with memories and anecdotes. Frost’s lawyer and neighbor, Erastus Hewett, recalled Frost in 1965 as “a charming conversationalist” and noted that the poet loved candy and ice cream. Frost’s working hours were typically from midnight until 4 a.m. He slept until noon and spent his evenings with fellow poets and friends. Said Little, “Kay would line up people to walk Frost home, and then he would walk them home.”



Renny Little

It was Frost who conjured up the name Brewster Village for the area where he liked to walk his border collie, Gilly. Frost’s granddaughter told the Littles that the grand old man padded about the house in bare feet but was deathly afraid of splinters. Little noted that this may be why Frost’s bedroom floor was covered with asphalt tile when he and his wife bought the

house in 1994. They also found a suitcase containing Frost’s formal wear, which they presented to the CHS, and Frost’s keys to his Bread Loaf house.

In spite of his fame, the poet lived a simple, spartan life at 35 Brewster, said Little, making do with a wood stove in the kitchen and two tiny bathrooms. Today, Little said that tourists often come by to visit the house, which is identified by a historical marker. Little will often go out to talk to them and tell them what he knows.

Daphne Abeel



Above is a section of our recent exhibition “Cambridge Literati: Writers in Residence.” It featured photographs, quotes, and commentary on more than 20 writers and poets who lived in Cambridge, including Anne Bradstreet, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, Harriet Jacobs, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Also represented were more contemporary figures such as the cartoonist Al Capp, chef Julia Child, novelist and poet May Sarton, and playwright William Alfred.

Handwritten notes from Longfellow, William Dean Howells, and John Kenneth Galbraith were on display.

Also on view was Robert Frost’s tuxedo, a model of the first printing press in the colonies, and other items reflecting the history of publishing in Cambridge, including details from the life of the editor—and Hooper-Lee-Nichols House resident—George Nichols.

RECENT EVENTS

Book Launch at Harvard Book Store

It was a full house on November 7 at our kick-off party for *A City’s Life and Times: Cambridge in the Twentieth Century*. In remarks prepared for the event, Daphne Abeel described the publication. The following is a condensed version of her remarks:



Harvard Book Store owner Frank Kramer welcomed attendees at our publication party.

I want to begin with two questions: What is Cambridge? What is history? You could describe Cambridge as a city of about 100,000 inhabitants, situated on the Charles River, that’s home to two great universities. And you could say that history is what has happened that is recorded and remembered.

Each of the contributors to this book has grasped an aspect of Cambridge to highlight some feature of the city’s complex and diverse life. No one essay tells the whole story.



Daphne Abeel

These are views and perspectives written by your friends, your acquaintances, your neighbors, people you may have read about in the paper, or people with whom you may have shared an involvement.

It was the centennial of the Cambridge Historical Society in 2005 that inspired this book. The Society’s mission is “to collect, preserve, interpret, and publish the history of Cambridge.” With this book, we have done that.

The book has variety, depth, and surprises. You will not read it through, but you will read in and around it with pleasure and fascination. My sincere thanks to all the contributors.

Annual Holiday Party

More than 100 people enjoyed the festive atmosphere, seasonal music, and elegant buffet at our December 12 event. We wish to thank our members and the following local caterers, who donated food: Cuisine Chez Vous, East Meets West, Riley to the Rescue Catering, and Tables of Content. Many thanks also to Ruth Crocker and Beth Meyer for decorating the house and to Jeanne Donovan and her Celtic ensemble.



The John Harvard Film

On February 27, we held a screening of *John Harvard*, a 65-minute film written, produced, and directed by Harvard graduate student Michael Van Devere



Actors Michael Laures, Elina Kanellopoulou, Alex Breaux, and Evan Siegel. Except for Kanellopoulou, all were Harvard students.

A fictional account of the last day in the life of John Harvard—Harvard University’s first benefactor—the production was filmed almost entirely in the Chandler Room at the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House last spring. Van Devere discussed both the man and the film project.

Dana Fellow Event

On March 9, Larry Nathanson presented an illustrated talk on the work of Lois Lilley Howe, America’s first woman architect. The event took place at his Gray Gardens East house, which Lois Lilley Howe designed.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 18
From Empty Space to Infinite Corridor: CHS Celebrates MIT
 Time: 2:00–4:30 p.m.
 Place: MIT’s Walker Memorial Building
 Tickets: \$75
 (See page 3 for details.)

Sunday, June 22
The Secret Gardens of Cambridge
 Time: 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
 The Cambridge Historical Society will open its grounds and offer tours of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House to those visiting gardens throughout the city. Sponsored by the Friends of the Cambridge Public Library.

Saturdays, August 9, and 16
Cambridge Discovery Days
 Time: Citywide events run concurrently throughout the day.
 Free walks, tours, and other activities organized by the Historic Cambridge Collaborative will explore this year’s theme, “From Settlement to Revolution.” Watch for information on the city Web site and for a flyer listing scheduled events to be mailed this summer.

Sunday, September 14
Collaborative Program with the Cambridge African American Heritage Alliance
 Time: 2:00–4:00 p.m.
 Place: The Hooper-Lee-Nichols House
 Joan Qualls Harris is scheduled to speak.
 Details to come.

Ongoing:
 Tours of the Hooper-Lee-Nichols House
 Tuesday and Thursday at 2:00 and 3:00 p.m.
 \$5; free for CHS members. Please call to arrange a group tour.

Active members make history come alive.

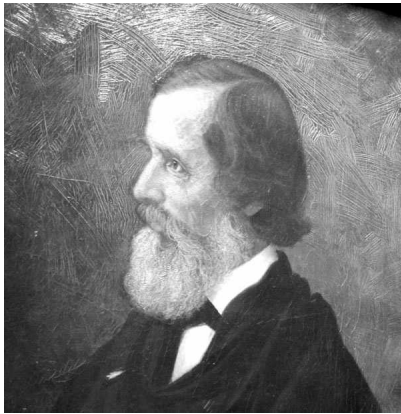
Become a member of the Cambridge Historical Society and make the past a thing of the present! Call 617-547-4252 to request a membership form, or visit us online at www.cambridgehistory.org.

COLLECTIONS UPDATE

*Edwin Tryon Billings's
Portrait of Ezra Abbot*

by Lindsay Leard Coolidge

In 1955 Marian S. Abbot donated a portrait of Ezra Abbot to the Cambridge Historical Society. At that time, the Society did not have a permanent home, and like many works from the collection, the portrait was loaned to Harvard University. After 53 years the painting has returned to the Society and joins a distinguished collection of 19th-century American paintings that hang in the Chandler Room.



Detail of the portrait of Ezra Abbot

Abbot is best known as the Bussey Professor of New Testament Criticism and Interpretation at Harvard Divinity School; however, his accomplishments in Cambridge were many.

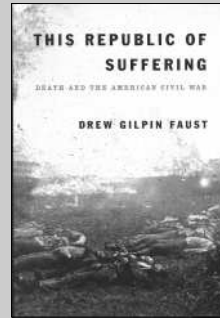
He was born in Maine, the son of a farmer, in 1819 and attended Bowdoin College. He moved to Cambridge in 1847 to study theology privately with Andrews Norton, a professor of sacred literature at the Divinity School.

From 1847 until 1856 Abbot worked as a teacher and then as the principal of the Cambridge High School. In 1853 he published *A Classed Catalogue of the Library of the Cambridge High School*, which outlined an innovative library classification system. As a result, Harvard College hired him as its librarian in 1856, and during the next 15 years Abbot cre-

ated the first alphabetical card catalogue at what was then the country's largest library.

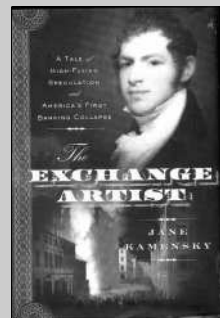
Concurrently, he continued his study of theology and published scholarly articles on the New Testament. In 1871 he received his first academic position at Harvard as a Lecturer of the Textual Criticism of the New Testament. In 1872 he was appointed to the newly founded Bussey professorship, which he maintained until his death in 1884. The half-length profile portrait of Abbot was painted by the Dorchester artist Edwin Tryon Billings, presumably at the time of Abbot's professorship.

Recommended reading



During the Civil War, writes Drew Gilpin Faust, Americans "often wrote about what they called 'the work of death,' meaning the duties of soldiers to fight, kill, and die." In *This Republic of Suffering* (Knopf), Faust, who is Harvard's new president, explores the

attempt to reconcile the battlefield slaughter with the familiar passing of a loved one dying in peace, fully prepared for life after death.



When it was built in 1809 just a block from the Old State House, the Exchange Coffee House was "one of the tallest, strangest, most talked-about buildings in the English-speaking world," writes Cambridge Historical Society member Jane Kamensky. In *The Exchange Artist* (Viking),

she traces how the funding of its construction with worthless paper banknotes led to the nation's first bank failures and the ruin of investors and workers.

Pomp and Circumstance

(continued from page 1)

At that point appeared the event’s impresario (and designer of the barge), the architecture professor Ralph Adams Cram in the guise of Merlin, who “leads the forces of civilization... to the throne of MIT’s alma mater.”

But getting MIT from the Back Bay to that “throne” along Memorial Drive was not a certain thing.

By the early 1900s, MIT’s various academic departments and laboratories were scattered throughout the Back Bay, with little room to expand or provide playing fields and other student facilities.

One proposal was that MIT should merge with Harvard—and Harvard even went so far as to acquire land for that purpose in Allston, land that is now the site of the Harvard Business School. But in 1905, both MIT alumni and faculty voted overwhelmingly against a merger.

There was even a proposal to build an “expandable” island in the Charles, anchored on the Harvard (Mass. Ave.) Bridge roughly opposite the site MIT now occupies.

By 1909, however, MIT’s new president, Richard Maclaurin, “was casting his eyes” on that very site, writes O. R. Simha in his essay, “Town and Gown in the Twentieth Century,” in the Society’s centennial volume, *A City’s Life and Times*.

There were concerns that the site was too close to nearby manufacturing plants, a factor that had prevented a proposed residential development, and that it was too near Harvard.

A site selection committee focused “largely on a list of problems,” writes Karl Haglund in *Inventing the Charles River*, including the “encroaching manufacturing district” and proximity to Harvard.

But “the idea developed traction,” Simha writes, “as the Cambridge industrialist Everett Morss, president of the Simplex Wire and Cable Company, and other MIT alumni recruited supporters for it.”

In addition, Maclaurin received “a spate of letters” from Cambridge officials—and a pledge of \$500,000 from alumnus Coleman duPont toward the purchase of what was called the Riverbank site.

But even as Maclaurin began raising funds in 1911 to build what he would describe as “a great white city,” one potential donor, an engineering graduate, raised concerns about the “structural integrity” of the site, cautioning that MIT would be “faced by a continually increasing expense to protect [the site] against the encroachments of the sea.”

These concerns and those of other critics, writes Haglund, “are now only curious footnotes in the story of MIT’s renowned riverfront campus.”

Considering that the riverfront site was only selected—and fundraising begun—in 1911, it is startling to realize that the centerpiece of the campus, the Great Court with its central domed Building 10, was completed in time to serve as the stage for the “Masque of Power” on that June evening in 1916.

But could MIT have stayed in Boston after all?

Two evenings before the move across the Charles, MIT held a Smoker for some 2,000 alumni and students at the Boston City Club, where the featured speaker was the mayor of Boston, James Michael Curley.

Curley spoke of his pride in having MIT as a Boston institution and said: “I want you to join with me in continuing it as a Boston institution—by favoring the annexation of Cambridge to the old city of Boston.” It was, one might say, just another “last hurrah.”



Ralph Adams Cram dressed as Merlin

Courtesy, MIT Museum

We gratefully acknowledge the following businesses, foundations and individuals for their generous support of our
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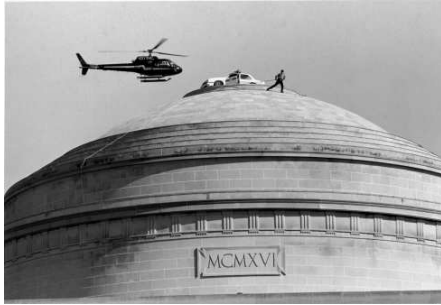
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“I’m against a homogenized society because I want the cream to rise.”

Robert Frost
as reported in the *Boston Globe*, January 3, 2008