

INTRODUCTION



Pennsylvania Album contains ten essays written by Penn undergraduates, presenting a series of snapshot views of University history and student life from 1740 to 1990. The album is illustrated by paintings, prints, photographs and other documents from the collections of the University Archives and Records Center. Those of us who have put together this booklet believe that it presents a fresh and spirited portrayal of a variety of interesting episodes from Penn's history. We have designed it for the edification and entertainment of the alumni, students, faculty, staff and friends of the University of Pennsylvania, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the founding of our institution. The undersigned editors conceived the idea for this album in the Spring of 1989, when a number of Richard Dunn's students from his Junior Honors American History seminar worked in Mark Lloyd's University Archives, and produced a group of intelligent and provocative papers. These essays demonstrated what Dunn already knew, that a great many Penn undergraduates have the talent to undertake independent historical research and produce original, thoughtful results. They also demonstrated what Lloyd already knew, that the Archives contains a wealth of fascinating information on the history of Penn. The two of us calculated that a good many members of the Penn community might well be interested in an attractively illustrated collection of student essays on aspects of our University's history. So we approached the organizers of Penn's 250th Anniversary Celebration and discovered to our delight that they were willing to provide the

sponsorship and funding which has made possible the publication of *A Pennsylvania Album*. And when we extended an open invitation to undergraduates in the Fall of 1989 to submit research papers on the history of Penn, we received ten publishable essays. Five of these papers were written by students from Dunn's honors group, and the other five were papers originally prepared for other Penn courses.

Fifty years ago, one of the senior History professors at the University, Edward Potts Cheyney, published an official *History of the University of Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1940) to mark the 200th anniversary of Penn's founding. Cheyney's book has stood the test of time, and most of the present authors refer to him or quote from him in the course of their essays. Yet *A Pennsylvania Album* is very different in character and purpose from Cheyney's book. The authors represented here are students, not professors; they tend to view the history of Penn more skeptically and less piously than Cheyney did; they are more interested in the social side of the institution than he was, and most of them focus on past student life rather than on institutional history from the top down. Furthermore, the last three essays discuss events unknown to Cheyney, developments at Penn since 1940.

Adele Cecelia Moore opens our story with a discussion of Benjamin Franklin's novel plans for an Academy in Philadelphia, and the establishment of this Academy in a building (now replaced by a Holiday Inn) at Fourth and Arch Streets. Michael G. Dubrow follows with an ironic account of the politics of the American Revolution at Penn, pointing out that William Smith, who turned Franklin's

Academy into a genteel College, purveyed a Tory political philosophy that was rejected by many outspoken Patriot graduates of the College. In the third essay, Jonathan S. Bennett examines the founding of Penn's law school in 1850, which significantly altered the style of legal training in Philadelphia, since law students previously had been trained in an apprenticeship system. Next, Denise Pieczynski discusses the impact of the Civil War upon Penn, focusing on the withdrawal of large numbers of medical students from the seceding southern states, and the University's lack of strong commitment to the Union cause. Mark J. Drozdowski then considers Provost Stiles efforts to strengthen the University in the 1870s by instituting major changes, such as the move to West Philadelphia; however, Stille never obtained the support he wanted from the University Trustees, and in 1880 he resigned. In the next essay, Andrew K. Becker and Michelle A. Woodson discuss the colorful turn-of-the-century student rituals at Penn, when freshmen and sophomores battled each other in Bowl fights and Pants fights, and then developed a new tradition of more generalized, spontaneous rioting with the Rowbottom. In a companion piece, Elizabeth A. Linck describes the conception of Penn's first dormitory, the Quad, and the evolution of undergraduate taste in interior decoration as illustrated by photographs of student rooms in the Quad from the 1900s to the 1960s. Next, Marvin P. Lyon, Jr., discusses the social ostracism experienced by the few black students admitted to the University in the early twentieth century, and blacks' efforts to cope

with this discrimination by forming a support network of black clubs and fraternities. In somewhat parallel fashion, Lisa M. Silverman examines the social and academic environment of women students at our male-dominated University in the 1950s, and concludes that the "campus queen" image perpetuated in the student newspapers conflicted considerably with reality. In the final essay, James A. Bessin considers the University's relationship with its West Philadelphia neighborhood, pointing out a quite striking contrast between Penn's physical expansion of the 1950s and 1960s in the name of "slum clearance" and the University's current efforts at community leadership, especially through student volunteer work in West Philadelphia.

Even this capsule summary suggests the vigor and variety of the essays in *A Pennsylvania Album*. We thank the eleven student authors for their excellent contributions; and the members of the Archives staff, particularly Sandra J. Markham, Thomas G. Potterfield and Christina W. Moxham, who helped them with research problems whenever called upon; and Jessica Weber, who designed this handsome booklet and kept production on a tight, firm schedule. Above all, we thank Martin Meyerson, Clare L. Wofford, Sharon E. McCullough, and the other staff members of Penn's 250th Anniversary Celebration for their confidence in this project. And we hope that everyone who reads it will enjoy the results!

Richard Slator Dunn
Mark Frazier Lloyd