FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL
OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

March 8, 1957
Foreword

A graduate school may superficially be defined as an institution of higher learning that grants certain advanced degrees. This is its official and outward activity. But within, if the school fulfills its purpose, it is a company of students and scholars who work at the fullest stretch of their capacity in the common cause of the university—the pursuit of knowledge. The graduate school succeeds in the university when it enriches and leads the continuous process of learning. It succeeds in the world when, through research and teaching and writing, it disseminates the truth. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Cincinnati is, and for half a century has been, just such an institution. It looks forward with hope and confidence to its next half-century of service in the cause of knowledge and truth.

Walter C. Langsam, President
University of Cincinnati.
Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary

Alister Cameron, Chairman
William B. Atkinson
Isay Balinkin
Harry R. Muegel
Dillwyn R. Ratcliff
Edwin H. Zeydel
Program

WILSON AUDITORIUM

MARCH 8, 1957

8:15 P.M.


WALTER C. LANGSAM, President

RENTON K. BRODIE, Chairman of the Board of Directors

THEODORE M. BERRY, Vice-Mayor of the City of Cincinnati

HOKE S. GREENE, Dean of the Graduate School
and Dean of Academic Administration

SIR EDWARD APPLETON, Principal and Vice-Chancellor
of the University of Edinburgh

"THE PATTERN OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
IN
GREAT BRITAIN"
A Brief History of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

by

Reginald C. McGrane,

Professor of History and Fellow of the Graduate School

On November 16, 1906, "University Day," as it was called by a resolution passed by the Board of Directors, the Graduate School of the University of Cincinnati was dedicated. The members of the Board of Directors, the faculty, and guests of the University assembled in the afternoon of that day at the Cincinnati Law Building on Ninth Street and marched in cap and gown to the neighboring Ninth Street Baptist Church where the exercises were held. Mr. Oscar W. Kuhn, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presided. President Charles W. Dabney of the University of Cincinnati delivered a brief address and then installed Professor Joseph Edward Harry of the Department of Greek as Dean of the new division.

President William T. Pierce of Kenyon College, who came as the representative of the colleges in the Ohio Valley, spoke of the importance of the University's new adventure in higher education in this section of the country and extended the best wishes of sister institutions upon its success.

The principal speech was made by Andrew F. West, Dean of the Graduate School of Princeton. He stressed the ideals and methods of teaching which were needed in American colleges and universities to advance scholarship in this country. Dean West stated that the best preparation for post-graduate study in any field was a broad liberal education. He thought that every scientific student in his undergraduate days should study not only mathematics, physics, and chemistry, but should also become acquainted with the best literature of the Old World and of this country and the classics. The opposite, said the speaker, was also true. Dean West deprecated the commercialism of the age which was attracting too much of the best brains of the country into business and the professions; and strongly urged that Graduate Schools maintain high standards of scholarship and encourage the study of the humanities.

Although this celebration marked the formal establishment of the Graduate School, graduate instruction in the University had been in process of development for many years. As early as 1877 the Academic Department of the University announced that
persons properly qualified would be recommended by the faculty for the respective degrees of Master of Arts, or of Sciences, or the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, provided they pursued a prescribed post-graduate course of liberal study and fulfilled the necessary requirements for these degrees. In that year the University conferred upon two candidates the degree of Master of Arts. These were the first graduate degrees granted by the University. Before the Graduate School was founded, the University had granted 52 degrees of Master of Arts, 19 of Master of Science, 8 of Master of Letters, and 4 of Doctor of Philosophy, making a total of 88 higher degrees. In 1895 the Board of Directors on the recommendation of the faculty established a Fellowship in each department of instruction in the Academic Department of the University. Fellows at that time were exempt from the payment of tuition and laboratory fees, but received no stipend. For one year (1901-1902) a separate Graduate Department was maintained. The Graduate Faculty was then composed of the heads of departments in the College of Liberal Arts offering graduate courses.

In the fall of 1906, 82 students registered for advanced courses in the new college. The Graduate Faculty then consisted of twenty members; and the University Library housed in the Van Wormer Building, erected as the result of a gift of $60,000 by Mr. Asa Van Wormer, contained about 50,000 volumes and 8,800 pamphlets. There were four Fellowships in the Graduate School, namely, the Hanna Fellowship in Physics, established by Mrs. Mary J. Hanna in memory of her husband, Henry Hanna, who had given Hanna Hall to the University, which carried a stipend of $500 a year; the Alliance Francaise Fellowship which yielded an income of $300 a year and was awarded to a student in the Department of Romance Languages who was required to attend the summer course of instruction given by the Alliance Francaise in Paris; a Fellowship in American History, established by the Daughters of the American Revolution, with a stipend of $100 a year; and a Fellowship in Ohio Valley History of the value of $500 a year established by the Society of Colonial Dames. A year after the Graduate School was founded the Chair of Comparative Literature was established in memory of Nathaniel Ropes of Cincinnati and Salem, Massachusetts; and two years later Frank Wadleigh Chandler of the Brooklyn Polytechnic Institute was appointed to this position. In the same year (1910) the Armstrong-Hunter Scholarship in English was founded in memory of Miss Sarah J. Armstrong and Miss Clara Hunter by eighty of their former pupils. The income on $1,000 in this fund was used to establish a scholarship in the Department of English to enable a woman graduate of the University to pursue advanced work in this field. In 1909 the Graduate School conferred its first degrees of Doctor of Philosophy upon two candidates, one of
whom was Robert Clyde Gowdy, who later became the Dean of the College of Engineering in the University.

In 1916 Professor Louis Trenchard More, head of the Department of Physics, became Dean of the Graduate School. For twenty-four years Dean More charted the course of the Graduate School; and by his breadth of vision and by his own example as a productive scholar gave a decided impetus to graduate work on the campus. At his suggestion the post-graduate work which in the past had been confined to the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Teachers was extended to include work done in the Colleges of Engineering and Medicine and the personnel of the Graduate Faculty henceforth included the full-time professors in all of these colleges.

During World War I there was a drastic reduction in the attendance and in graduate instruction. When the war was over, the Board of Directors wisely decided at the request of the faculty to encourage scholarly work by creating a separate budget for the Graduate School; by devoting a portion of the income from the Francis Howard Baldwin Fund for the establishment of Fellowships bearing the name of this generous benefactor of the University; and by appropriating a fund for books and apparatus for higher instruction. In 1922 a donation of $5,000 a year was received from Mrs. Charles P. Taft to establish Taft Fellowships; and in that year two members of the faculty, Associate Professors Charles Napoleon Moore of the Department of Mathematics, and Walter Bucher, of the Department of Geology were placed for one-half of their time and salary on the Graduate School Budget as recognition of their attainments in scholarship.

Two years later, Dean More established the Society of Fellows which were divided into two classes. The first class was composed of Fellows appointed annually who were usually candidates preparing for the doctorate. This class was composed of no members of the faculty. The second class consisted of voting members of the faculty of professorial rank, on indefinite appointment, whose formal teaching was presumably to be largely limited to advanced students. The primary service of these Fellows to the University was assumed to be their productive scholarship.

On May 3, 1930, Mrs. Charles Phelps Taft wrote a letter to the Board of Directors of the University announcing a gift of the sum of $2,000,000 to establish the Charles Phelps Taft Memorial Fund in memory of her husband. The income from this fund, she proposed, was to be “used to assist, maintain, and endow the study and teaching of the Humanities in the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School of the University” namely, the Departments of Classics, Economics, English, German, History, Mathematics, Philosophy, and Romance Languages. Mrs. Taft
stipulated in her letter that this fund should be administered by a Board of Trustees, consisting of Mrs. Louise Taft Semple, William T. Semple, Robert A. Taft, Hulbert Taft, Sr., Herbert G. French and herself. In the fall of September, 1930, the President of the University, Herman Schneider, at the suggestion and with the approval of the Trustees of the Fund, appointed a Faculty Committee of the Fund to work in conjunction with the Board of Directors and the Trustees of the Fund in administering the income of this bequest.

The establishment of the Charles Phelps Taft Memorial Fund had an invaluable influence in promoting the humanities and in encouraging the scholarly work of the members of the faculty. In the past twenty-six years (1931-1957) the total amount of money expended by the Taft Fund to advance higher education has been more than $1,750,000. The Fund has enabled the University to bring to the campus distinguished visiting professors; has made possible "the publication of over two score learned books by members of the faculty, including the results of the archaeological expeditions to Troy sponsored by the University through its Department of Classics under the direction of Professors William T. Semple and Carl Blegen"; has aided the eight departments designated in the original gift to award fellowships and scholarships in the Graduate School; has spent over $20,000 per year for the purchase of books and periodicals by these departments; and paid part of the salaries of four professors. To give additional incentive for scholarly work the Trustees have recently set aside a special fund of $50,000 for the academic years 1955-1958 to make it possible for faculty members to devote longer periods to research either abroad or in this country.

On March 5, 1937, the thirtieth anniversary of the organization of the Graduate School was celebrated. Dean Luther P. Eisenhart, of the Graduate School of Princeton, was the guest of honor and delivered an address on the functions of graduate study.

The personnel of the faculty of the Graduate School underwent significant changes within the next few years. The services of the heads of three departments—Professors Burtis B. Breese (Psychology), Nevin Fenneman (Geography and Geology), and Harris Hancock (Mathematics)—were ended by retirement at the close of the academic year 1936-1937; and during the same year Professor Max Poll of the Department of German and Professor William B. Wherry of the Department of Bacteriology and Hygiene died. At the close of the year 1939-1940, Dr. Louis T. More retired from the deanship of the Graduate School; and three years later, Professor Frank W. Chandler, for many years Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and head of the Department of English, retired. All of these scholars had taken a prominent part
in the inauguration of the Graduate School and during their years of active duty had been wise counsellors and steadfast upholders of scholarship in their respective fields of work. The loss of these distinguished members of the faculty left a serious lacuna in the staff of the Graduate School.

Upon the retirement of Dr. Louis T. More, Professor Rodney P. Robinson of the Department of Classics was appointed Dean of the Graduate School. Because of ill-health Dean Robinson was compelled in 1945 to resign. The next two years Dr. Claude M. Lotspeich, Professor of Comparative and English Literature, served as Acting Dean. In the fall of 1947 Professor Hoke Smith Greene, head of the Department of Chemistry, was appointed Dean of the Graduate School; and nine years later in addition to this office was also appointed Dean of Academic Administration.

Meanwhile the graduate work on the campus was considerably expanded. A course for Training for Public Service was inaugurated in the year 1927-1928. The College of Engineering, the College of Medicine, the Department of Applied Science, and the Tanners’ Council Research Laboratory increased their graduate offerings and their faculties engaged in more research projects. In addition to the degrees of Master of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctor of Philosophy, the Graduate School in cooperation with the Teachers’ College began in 1942 to offer work leading to the degree of Master of Arts in the Social Sciences. The course of study was designed especially to meet the needs of high-school teachers in the social sciences. In 1953, the Graduate School, in cooperation with the Evening College, announced a program of graduate studies during evening hours leading to the degree of Master of Science in certain areas of the physical sciences. In the meantime, the Summer School increased its opportunities for graduate work; and the Graduate School expanded its offerings in industrial medicine, pediatrics, and nuclear engineering.

The primary function of the Graduate School since its establishment has been to promote scholarship and to add to the fund of knowledge through the research and publication of the faculty and through the training of students in research. Within this half century the number of students in the Graduate School has increased from 82 in 1906 to 870, full and part-time, in 1956; and the school has conferred 1,528 Master of Arts degrees, 657 Master of Science, 505 Doctor of Philosophy, 2 Master of Arts in the Social Sciences, 17 Doctors of Science in Industrial Medicine, and 1 in Pediatrics, a total of 2,500 higher degrees. The Graduate School has endeavored throughout these years not only to advance knowledge but also to keep abreast of the needs of the community.