

May 2016

Rarick Hall Dedication

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Recommended Citation

Wisner, Harold A., "Rarick Hall Dedication" (2016). *Rarick Hall*. 1.
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RARICK HALL DEDICATION

Fort Hays State University, Hays, Kansas

9:00 a.m., October 3, 1981

LITANY OF DEDICATION

Harold A. Wisner

Proper recognition has been made as to the beauty and usefulness of new Rarick Hall. What goes on inside this beautiful building is even more important. It houses at least ten departments in the University and this Litany will refer to them.

I. THE ART DEPARTMENT

We mention this department first because the building itself is a work of art; architecture being crystalized thought and soul. We remind ourselves that Art leads to a more profound concept of life, because Art itself is a profound expression of feeling, emotion being a large part of the essence of life. Art nourishes the roots of our culture and also describes it. The dignity of the Artist lies in his conviction that he must keep awake the sense of wonder in the world. Nietzsche summed it up by saying, "Art is essentially the affirmation, the blessing, and the deification of existence".
TO THIS END WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

II. THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

One major aim of educational institutions should be, it seems to me, to help an individual become a self-educating person, rather than a stereotype.

Someone said, "I find the three major administrative problems on a Campus are: sex for the students, athletics for the alumni, and parking for the faculty". There's some truth in all three statements.

I think Lord Brougham summed it up very well when he said before the House of Commons: "Education makes a people easy to lead, but difficult to drive; easy to govern, but impossible to enslave".

TO THE HIGHEST AIMS OF EDUCATION WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

III. AND IV. THE ENGLISH DEPARTMENT AND FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

Perhaps of all creations and inventions of mankind, language is the most astonishing; the next would be the writing down of that language.

Language can never be static - living persons are spinning the web of language all the time. It is not the dictionaries or professors that are creating new language; this comes out of the living of ordinary people.

Those of us who have studied and half-learned other languages agree with Goethe: "Who does not know another language does not know his own". It is a great hope that differences of language will be accepted to express our oneness.

THEREFORE - TO THE STUDY AND LEARNING OF LANGUAGE, WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

A Philosopher can never find a black cat in a darkened black room.
He's too busy asking: "What is a black cat doing in a black room", or "are shadows necessary in perception", or "what is blackness". The scientist and theologian have no trouble finding the black cat in a black room, they snap on the light. Philosophy is very helpful in all the disciplines as well as in the field of raising ultimate questions that you and I must answer through the living of life.

TO THE STUDY OF PHILOSOPHY WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

IX. THE SOCIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Man's solution to his human needs is exceedingly complex in this modern world; there are so many factors affecting man in society. And the way society is organized is just as important because it determines the human relations within it, as well as the view of man, as shown in the contrasts of Communism and Democracy.

What a problem Sociology has: to permit freedom of the individual and yet create a new collective individual.

It is a duty of society to give each of its members the possibility of fulfilling his individual destiny.

This is what makes politics so difficult and why there are always compromises, or rather, why there must be compromises.

TO THE PROPER AIMS OF SOCIOLOGY - WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

X. LASTLY - THE POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

"The brain of our species is, as we know, made up largely of potassium, phosphorus, propaganda, and politics", wrote James Thurber.

It seems to me that politics is based on:

- (1) knowledge of human nature;
- (2) an adequate concept of social institutions;
- (3) an awareness that the majority are indifferent, and must be influenced;
- (4) the realization that the fanatics of the Right and Left must never be acquiesced to;
- (5) that compromise is not a fault, but a virtue;
- (6) that integrity must fit into the chequered results;
- (7) and that he serves his party best who serves his country best.

With all the temptations, degradations, Watergates and ABSCAMS that seem to be entered into by some, politics is still one of the noblest careers that one can enter. And it would help if one had the courage of heroes and the hide of a rhinoceros, and a stomach of cast-iron, nickel plated.

TO THE PROPER STUDY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, WE DEDICATE THIS BUILDING.

PRAYER: Eternal God, we dedicate this building to the centers of learning which it will house. And we wish and pray that your spirit will influence those who teach these disciplines to dedicate themselves to the highest ideals of the subject taught.

Amen.