

**DREXEL INSTITUTE OF ART,
SCIENCE, AND INDUSTRY,
PHILADELPHIA. YEAR-BOOK OF
THE DEPARTMENTS AND COURSES
OF INSTRUCTION, 1899-1900**

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VARIOUS

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Drexel Institute
.....OF.....
Art, Science, and Industry
PHILADELPHIA

YEAR-BOOK
OF THE
Departments and Courses of Instruction



1899-1900

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DREXEL INSTITUTE OF ART, SCIENCE, AND INDUSTRY

INTRODUCTION

The Drexel Institute was founded in 1891, by Anthony J. Drexel, for the promotion of education in art, science, and industry. The chief object of the Institute is the extension and improvement of industrial education as a means of opening better and wider avenues of employment to young men and women. In accordance with the founder's desire, however, the plan of organization has been made comprehensive, providing liberal means of culture for the masses by means of evening classes, free lectures and concerts, the library, and the museum.

The building was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies, December 15, 1891. A beginning was made in some of the departments in February, 1892, and in September of the same year work was regularly begun in most of the departments included in the general scheme of instruction.

The Institute is situated on Chestnut street, at the corner of Thirty-second street. This location was chosen as being the most central and the most convenient of access from

all parts of the city. It is at a point near where a number of the principal highways converge; within easy reach of three or four main lines of street railways; but four squares from Powelton Avenue station; three squares from South Street station, and a few squares from the Baltimore and Ohio station.

The founder's gifts to the institution, as a whole, amount to three million dollars. Of this sum, one million has been expended upon the buildings with their equipments and appliances. The endowment fund of two millions of dollars is applied in maintaining the instruction. This enables the Institute to offer the instruction at extremely moderate and, in some cases, nearly nominal rates. There is also a number of free scholarships for deserving students.

The Institute is open to both sexes on equal terms. Students are recommended to enter regularly one of the departments or courses, but the same liberal opportunities are provided for those taking special or elective courses. Regular attendance and strict attention to the studies and training undertaken are expected of every student, and no one will be allowed to continue who is not making good use of the facilities offered.

The Evening Classes, which are open for six months of the year, from October to March, inclusive, offer instruction and training of the same kind and character, and with all the advantages of the extensive appliances and apparatus, as the instruction and training given in the day classes and at much lower rates. Systematic courses in all the departments of the Institute are organized for the benefit of the evening students, and certificates are granted to those who finish these courses and pass the required examinations.

Besides the instruction provided in the several educational departments, the Institute carries on a large and important work through the means of the Free Public Lectures and Concerts which are given during the winter months. These lectures aim to furnish opportunities for general culture to the public at large, a work in which the Library and Museum are also made to co-operate. During the past year, the attendance at the lectures and concerts has been more than thirty-six thousand.

In the administration of the Institute, every effort is made to bring the opportunities for improvement, which are so liberally provided, within the reach of the largest possible number.

THE BUILDING

The Institute building is in the style of the classic Renaissance, or what would be better described as a modern interpretation of Greek forms. This gives assurance of its purity of spirit and explains the impression it makes as a harmonious whole. Even the colors of the marble used are in harmony with the scheme of decoration, which consists chiefly of buffs and reds. The Greek motives are met with in almost everything about the building, even to the bronze electric light fixtures which were specially designed for the Institute. Additional beauty is lent to the exterior by the ornamental terra-cotta work. The façade on Chestnut street is broken in the middle by an attic story which projects above the roof of the structure proper. This is the center of the ornamentation, for here the wide frieze which extends around the building between the second and third stories meets above the lofty archway.

The portal, which is the main entrance, is twenty-six feet wide at the base and rises to a height of thirty-five feet. The decoration of the arch is elaborate and is made doubly interesting by the addition of a series of finely executed high-relief medallion portraits: Bach, representing music; Raphael, painting; Goethe, poetry; Columbus, navigation; Newton, mathematics; Faraday, physics; Humboldt, natural history; Jefferson, government; Galileo, astronomy; Shakespeare, drama; Michael Angelo, sculpture; William of Sens, architecture. In the spandrels of the arch are medallions of Apollo and Moses.

The central object of the arch is a figure representing the Genius of Knowledge. Above her, in the frieze, is a tablet bearing the words, "Drexel Institute." Another finely designed frieze extends across the attic.

ANNEXES

The rapid growth of the Institute has rendered necessary the acquisition of outside accommodations for several of the important lines of work. Temporary quarters have been secured in the immediate neighborhood of the Institute building, as follows:—

Annex No. 1. A building on Chestnut street, immediately east of the Institute building, which has been remodeled and enlarged so as to furnish classrooms, studios, workshops, etc., for several of the departments.

Annex No. 2. A row of houses on Thirty-second street, opposite the Institute building, in which a number of rooms have been fitted up for laboratories and classrooms, chiefly in connection with the Electrical and Mechanical Engineering courses.