

UNIVERSITY *of* PENNSYLVANIA



The University Archives
and Records Center

A Guide to the
Houston Hall Centennial Celebration Collection
1996

0.5 Cubic feet

UPG 60.1H843

Prepared by Kaiyi Chen

March 1998

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PROVENANCE

The collection transferred to the University Archives in February 1998 from the Office of Student Life Activities and Facilities.

HISTORICAL NOTE

In 1893, the University of Pennsylvania Trustees decided to provide a facility for the social and recreational use of students. Trustee (later Provost) Charles C. Harrison announced a contest for its design, which was won by two students, William C. Hays and M. B. Medary, Jr. To finance the project, Harrison succeeded in securing a donation of \$100,000 from the Trustee Henry Howard Houston and his wife Sallie S. Houston. Strong supporters of extracurricular activities in college life, the Houstons gave the gift in memory of their son, Henry Howard Houston, Jr., Class of 1878, who died in Rome in the spring of 1879. The Hall was dedicated in January 1896 to house the first student union in the United States. It has since been an important site on campus for social, recreational, educational and cultural activities involving and open to not only students, but faculty, staff, alumni and University guests.

In January, 1996, the University community marked the centennial of the Hall and combined it with the annual celebration of the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, the University Founder's Day. The Hall hosted a series of events, including an opening reception, brown bag lunch lectures, House Party, a jazz concert, Tea Party, and exhibits on the development of the Hall and the University.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists of two parts, miscellaneous memorabilia related to the centennial celebration including flyers, posters, booklets, and a program, as well as hundreds of photos of various events held on the occasion.

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INVENTORY

GENERAL FILE	Box	Folder
Flyers, posters, booklets, and a pin	1	1
Photographs and negatives	1	1
Reception	1	2
Tea Party and Homecoming exhibit, 1996 Jan. 22	1	3
Exhibit and Reception	1	4
Founder's Day Dinner, 1996 Jan. 19, with Photograph Identification Sheets	1	5
House Party, Casino night, 1996 Jan. 20, with Photograph Identification Sheets	1	6
MISCELLANEOUS	Box	Folder
(I)	1	7
(II)	1	8
(III)	1	9
(IV)	1	10
(V)	1	11
(VI)	1	12