



Quadrangle Club, 1915

Notes from the Archives

by Steve Treffman

The brief reference to the early history of the Quadrangle Club in the July, 1994 issue of this newsletter inspired a letter from Ed Campbell:

In *Notes from the Archives* (July 1994) Stephen Treffman recounts in fascinating detail early social clubs in Hyde Park - Kenwood. There was a minor error in locating the first Quadrangle Club building at 5757 University Avenue. Its actual location was across the street at the southeast corner of 58th Street and University Avenue. The entrance was on 58th street facing north.

And thereby hangs a tale: the location of the Club on 58th street with the main facade looking north is a determining factor in the ultimate fate of that building which Jean Block in *The Uses of Gothic* (University of Chicago Library 1983) describes as "having the appearance of an English country house with a few neo-classic features." The building was designed in 1896 by Charles B. Atwood, architect of the Fine Arts Building (now MSI) at the 1893 Columbian Exposition.

The Club was pressed to find a new location in 1915 when the University developed a plan to free up the block for the chapel and its adjacent buildings. The University contributed \$100,000 toward a new building

which was completed at the present site, 57th street and University Avenue, in 1922.

The old Club house was turned over to the School of Commerce and Administration and used until 1929 when the site on 58th street was redesignated for the Oriental Institute.

The old Quad Club building was cut in two, a 12 foot section removed from the center, and the two parts moved to the present location at 58th and Ingleside where they were rejoined.

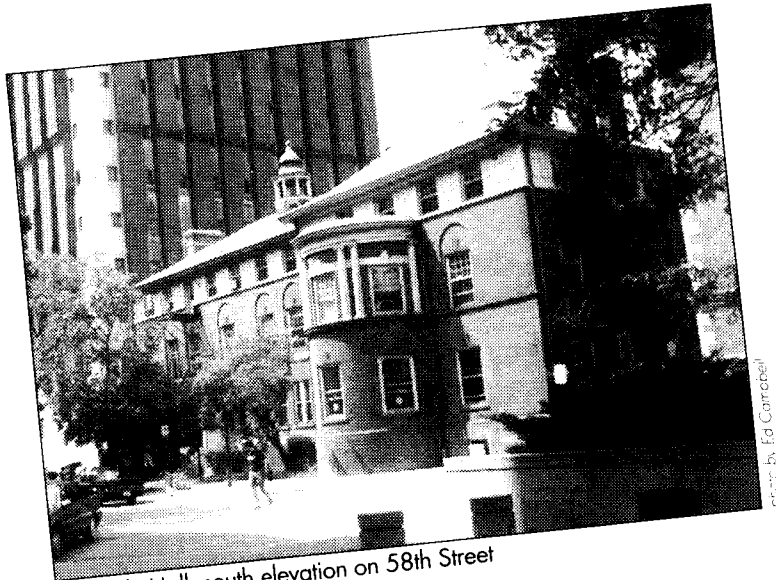
The process of moving involved setting the structures on logs and rolling them across the main quadrangle, over Ellis Avenue to the site west of the present bookstore. This was an arduous undertaking and no unnecessary moves, such as an 180 degree turn to maintain the original street orientation of the building, were apparently entertained. Moving directly west to a site on the north side of 58th street resulted in the back of the structure facing the street and the front of the structure facing north toward the Buildings and Grounds shops.

In recent years the maintenance buildings have been removed to create the Science quadrangle and the old Quadrangle Club, now named Ingleside Hall, has an open green space as an appropriate setting for the classic charm of its front facade.

— Edward A. Campbell ►

◀ *Steve Treffman responds:*

Actually, the Quadrangle Club had a number of homes before what is now Ingleside Hall was constructed, as Ed correctly notes, on the southeast corner of Fifty-eighth and University, the site now of the Oriental Institute. Originally, the club was organized by and for University of Chicago male faculty in 1893 at the old Del Prado Hotel, then called the Barry Hotel, where many of the club's early members lived. International House stands there now. The club was incorporated in 1895 and a three story red brick club house was built on that Fifty-eighth and University corner and opened on June 19, 1896. In 1897, however, it experienced three successive fires. The third, on December 25, 1897, caused such extensive damage that major reconstruction was made necessary while, as well, allowing expansion of the old building. For approximately six months thereafter the club maintained temporary quarters at a building that once stood at what is now 1358-1360 East Fifty-eighth. On July 26, 1898, the new club house, now twice the size of its predecessor but retaining the original facade, was once again opened to its members. The larger quarters were needed because of an increase in the club's membership which occurred when a change in requirements allowed men to join who were not University of Chicago faculty. By 1897, these "community" men made up almost half of the club's membership of 165. Women faculty members were not allowed full membership until the late 1940s. The building contained a library, dining room, meeting rooms, gymnasium and living quarters for some of the club's members. It was this building that eventually would be trundled across the campus to become Ingleside Hall. For more information see: Emily Kadens, *Creating A Sense of Society: The Quadrangle Club, 1893-1993* (Chicago, 1993), published by the Club and available at Regenstein Library Special Collections. ✕



credit: by Ed Courcheil

Ingleside Hall: south elevation on 58th Street

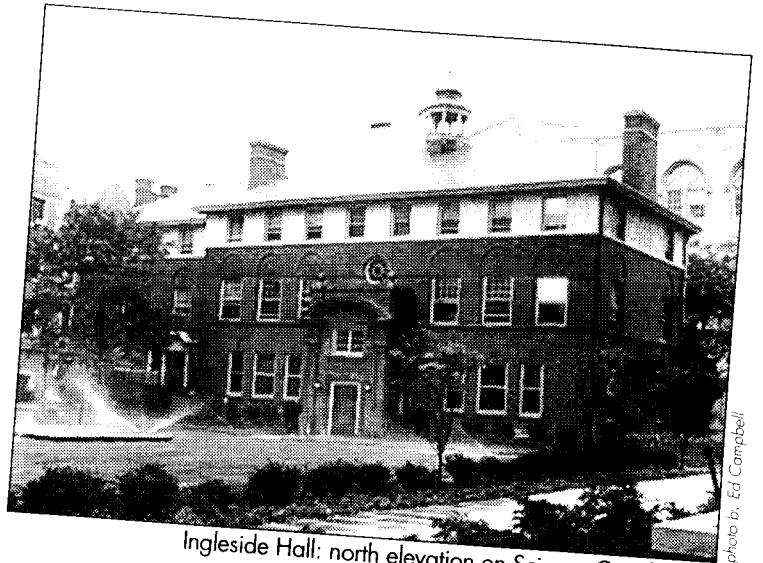


photo by Ed Campbell

Ingleside Hall: north elevation on Science Quadrangle

*Accompanying this article, is a postcard view of the rear or south facade of the Quadrangle Club and its tennis courts as they appeared around 1915. At the far left behind the Quadrangle Club in this illustration may be seen Seminary House at 5757 South University. Originally a professor's home, it was converted into administrative and faculty offices for the Chicago Theological Seminary until it was razed for expansion of the Seminary. The recent photograph of the rear of Ingleside Hall reproduced here may be compared to an early view of the front of the club house appearing in Jean Block, *Uses of the Gothic* (Chicago, 1983), page 210.*

