

Postcard Reproductions and Leonard Weber Prints Krause Lounge, Folsom Library, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

The postcards included in this exhibit are part of a much larger collection of period postcards of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and the Troy area held by Rensselaer's Institute Archives and Special Collections Department. The exhibit was framed and installed by Clement Frame and Art Shop, and was a gift from the Friends of Folsom Library.

TROY UNIVERSITY

Built in 1858 on the site of the current Folsom Library, the Troy University, a Methodist college, had a very brief life of three years. However, its four spires dominated the Troy skyline until the middle of the 20th century. After years as St. Joseph's Convent and seminary, it was acquired by Rensselaer in 1958 and razed in 1969 to make way for construction of the new library.

PROUDFIT LABORATORY

Built as Proudfit Observatory in 1878, this structure was located near the site of Walker Laboratory. It was a gift from Mrs. Ebenezer Proudfit, in memory of her son, William, a student in the Class of 1877. In 1900, again with Mrs. Proudfit's help, the building was renovated and served as the first home of mechanical and electrical engineering at Rensselaer. It was demolished in 1959.

WARREN HOUSE DORMITORY

This was the main structure on the estate of the Walter Phelps Warren family. The building and its 10 surrounding acres provided the land that forms the heart of Rensselaer's current campus. It was acquired at a cost of \$125,000 after a 1904 fire damaged Rensselaer's Winslow Laboratory and destroyed the Main Building along 8th Street. The house served as a student dormitory from 1907 until it was razed in 1935.

RENSELAER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, by Leonard Weber, a limited edition offset lithograph, 2000. Leonard Weber's most widely recognized work is his series of townscape prints of watercolor paintings he has done of New England and New York communities. Typically, a Weber townscape depicts selected prominent structures, not necessarily in the order they appear in real life.

RENSELAER STUDENT ASSOCIATION CLUBHOUSE

The Warren House barn, located on the knoll overlooking the west end of the '86 Field, was converted into a clubhouse and opened in 1908. It featured a dining room and kitchen, lounge, locker room and showers, committee rooms, and a billiard room. The third floor contained sleeping spaces for the association's secretary and staff. The structure was demolished in 1932 when the current Lally Management Center was built as a new home for the Union.

TILLINGHAST MEMORIAL GATE

Originally built in 1914 east of the first section of the '87 Gymnasium, this gate was the gift of Mrs. C.W. Tillinghast. Later it was moved to its current location, just west of the gym. Its ornamental iron arch was removed in order to accommodate larger vehicles entering the campus.

RUSSELL SAGE LABORATORY WITH RADIO TOWERS

In 1906 Margaret Olivia Slocum Sage donated \$1,000,000 in memory of her late husband, Russell Sage. Part of the gift was used to build and equip a laboratory of mechanical and electrical engineering, which was completed in 1909. In 1916 the Roebling family contributed funds for the establishment of a campus radio station at Rensselaer. Due to the first World War, the station was not constructed until 1922. The structure on the roof is the tower for WHAZ, the first college installation for general broadcasting to reach a worldwide audience.

THE APPROACH

Located on the site of Rensselaer's former Main Building, which was destroyed by fire in 1904, this broad granite staircase, designed in the Beaux Arts neoclassical style, was completed in 1907. Allowed to fall into disrepair in the late 20th century, the massive staircase was completely restored in 1999 by a combination of funds raised from the federal and city governments, Rensselaer and its alumni, and private citizens. It was renamed the Louis Rubin Memorial Approach, in honor of one of Troy's leading philanthropists.

TROY TOWNSCAPE, by Leonard Weber, a limited edition offset lithograph, 1994. This is the second townscape Weber has painted of Troy. It was commissioned by Clement Frame and Art Shop. The first was created in 1988 for the Troy Bicentennial Commission as part of its celebration of the 200-year anniversary of the naming of the City of Troy.

VIEW OF TROY FROM THE APPROACH

Descending from Eighth Street, the Approach originally entered directly onto Broadway. The building at the left with the turret is Rensselaer's first gymnasium. Completed in 1887, it served as the home of indoor physical activity for Rensselaer students until the construction of the '87 Gymnasium in 1912. Later it became known as the Playhouse and was the home of Rensselaer dramatic productions until it was demolished in 1966.

Additional postcard views of RPI and Troy can be seen on the archives web site at:

<http://www.lib.rpi.edu/archives/gallery/postcards/postcards.html>

More information on Leonard Weber's townscapes is available at:

<http://www.leonardweber.com>

For information about the Friends of Folsom Library, go to:

<http://www.lib.rpi.edu/friends>