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## **MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

Visitors' books, 1904-1941

Archival Collection – AC 211

2 volumes in 2 flat boxes  
Accession number: 1989-128  
Processed by Erin Edwards, May 2006

### **ACCESS**

There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from the collection should be directed to the head of the Institute Archives and Special Collections.

## **HISTORICAL NOTE**

**Louisiana Purchase Exposition at St. Louis:** MIT occupied exhibit space at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition throughout its duration in 1904. The Institute's exhibit won several awards, including Grand Prize for General Exhibit, Gold Medal for Mining Engineering Exhibit, Silver Medal for Special Exhibit of Department of Analytical Chemistry, Silver Medal for Special Exhibit of Drawing, Silver Medal for Special Exhibit of Photographs and Students' Work.<sup>1</sup>

**Walker Memorial:** The Walker Memorial (Building 50) was built to commemorate MIT President Francis Amasa Walker (1881-1897). Construction of the building commenced in January of 1916, and the building was first occupied in September of 1917. The memorial, designed by W. W. Bosworth, was intended to be a facility that would provide a sense of community among students, its highlights including a gymnasium, an assembly hall, a dining hall, a lounge, an auditorium, and offices for student activities. The building has been a prominent fixture on campus since its completion, providing the MIT community with a place for leisure activities or study. Of particular note are the Blashfield Murals, painted in the Main Hall by Edwin H. Blashfield (CivEng '69). The murals are in the Main Hall of the building. Walker Memorial is located at 142 Memorial Drive, Cambridge.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection includes a visitors' book of MIT alumni, faculty, and students who visited the Institute exhibit at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition, as well as a visitors' book of non-MIT visitors to Walker Memorial between 1919 and 1941. These visitors' books are unaffiliated with the Office of the Registry of Guests<sup>2</sup>. The exact location of the books at each site is unknown, although the Walker Memorial book may have been in the lobby or reception room on the first floor of the building.

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<sup>1</sup> MIT Report to the President, 1905, pp. 28-29.

<sup>2</sup> See AC 76, Office of the Registry of Guests

**Box**

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