**Whitman Dedication...**

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hours left before the bids expired and higher prices would be asked, that the Board voted an additional million dollars.

Construction Delayed

Ground was broken two weeks later on the soccer field behind the library with plans for completion of the building in 1952. However, the advent of the Korean War and the steel industry strike with the corresponding decline in building supplies considerably delayed construction. With progress at almost a standstill, students came to call the familiar half-erected structure on Campus Road the “Hole.” Finally, as materials became available construction proceeded and the cornerstone was laid on April 17, 1950 by President Gideonse and Borough President Cashmore.

Numerous Delays

As building proceeded last year there were numerous announcements of proposed dates of opening—all of which were postponed. The building was finally opened last fall with much of the work still to be completed, and has been in full use since then for both college and community activities. The George Gershwin Theater, smaller of the Hall's two auditoriums, was dedicated earlier this semester with the presentation of a portrait of Gershwin.

Present at last night's ceremonies were Arthur Rosencrans, Chairman of the Brooklyn College Administrative Committee of the Board of Higher Education, Gladys D. Doerner, Vice-Chairman, Mary S. Ingraham, member of the BHE, Harold J. Baily, Chairman of the Whitman Foundation and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Public Library, Mrs. Thomas G. Evans, President of Library Associates, publishers of “Leaves of Grass,” and Edwin B. Wilkes, Executive Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle.

**New College Building Officially Opened**

BY AL EDELMAN

Highlighted by a program honoring the memory of Walt Whitman, BC's Whitman Hall received formal dedication on Oct. 14, 1950, more than five years after the first civic efforts which marked the beginning of the building's turbulent history. Included in the off-postponed ceremonies for the $5,000,000 student arts center were speeches by President Harry D. Gideonse, Dr. Joseph B. Cavallaro, Chairman of the Board of Higher Education, and Col. John J. Bennett, Chairman of the City Planning Commission; the premiere performance of “I, Walt Whitman”; and the exhibition of two recently acquired portraits of Walt Whitman.

President Gideonse, just arrived from the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges in Washington, D.C., acknowledged the indebtedness of the College to Borough President John Cashmore, Dr. Cavallaro and the members of the Board of Estimate, and introduced the speakers. The capacity audience, including many community leaders, heard Dr. Cavallaro declare that “for the first time in the history of this borough, we shall have an adequate center for cultural and community activities.”

Describing the activities scheduled for the new building annually, Dr. Cavallaro said, “I am the boy who has no doubts that Brooklyn College will soon take its place in the forefront of our institutions of learning in promoting high standards of achievement in these fields.”

Cites College’s Role

Col. Bennett, noting that New York City has long been a leader in the establishment of free higher education, stated that “the campus which we are now completing—and with the new library annex—Brooklyn College, which has grown to one of the largest arts-and-science enrollment in the country in the quarter century of its history, can confidently hold out promise for the future that equality of opportunity will continue to be not merely a good topic for eloquent speeches, but a reality for thousands of students every year.”

The dedication ceremonies were climaxed by the first presentation of “I, Walt Whitman,” a symphonic drama by Dr. Randolph Goodman of the English department. The presentation of this play at the ceremonies last night, and its forthcoming publication in book form, celebrate the 100th anniversary of the first publication of Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," in 1855. The play dealt with the life of Whitman and used his poetry for oral and musical selections.

Dedication of the building, originally scheduled for Oct. 17, was postponed due to incomplete lighting and landscaping facilities. The history of the building has been characterized by such delays from its very beginnings. The first funds of $3,000,000 for the building were voted on Jan. 1, 1950 by the Board of Estimate. There funds were insufficient, however, to meet the bids of the contractors, and it was not until a year later on Dec. 1, 1950, with only

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