

GARGOYLE AT U. OF P. "DORMS" CARICATURE OF PRESIDENT WILSON

Comic Portrayal in Marble Said to Represent Him Holding Huerta's Head in His Hands

FRANK OF AN UNKNOWN

The University of Pennsylvania has immortalized in marble a comic portrayal of Woodrow Wilson and set the life-size image of the President's cousin upon one of its buildings.

Wilson and Huerta are among the "gargoyles" that line the walls of the dormitories, though not half a dozen persons connected with the University know it.

Of course it wasn't the official intention of Provost Smith and the others in authority at Penn to hold up to ridicule the former President of the neighboring (and rival) institution at Princeton. It was a young architect's joke and not the intention of the University, but nevertheless, say some Penn alumni, it is the University that is put in the position of posing public fun at the President, and the young architect's name will probably never come out.

Not the most happy phase of this particular trick to the minds of Penn "grads" is that it presents a political opinion, like a cartoon and precisely the opinion which patriotic Americans in the future will object to. For, they say, the President went into Mexico to avenge an insult to our flag and not "to get Huerta's head." But in a most graphic manner this bit of cartoon in stone teaches that Wilson took Vera Cruz just to oust Huerta; in other words, that he conducted a most hypocritical procedure, which is the very thing his enemies accuse him of having done.

The firm of architects that built the dormitories denies it all, but the professors of the School of Architecture don't deny it. They think it's a good joke, it being legitimate, in the good old tradition of gargoyle-making to play pranks in these fantastic decorations.

The ones in the dormitories are not, strictly speaking, "gargoyles"; they are really "grotesques." A gargoyle is the decorative figure at the end of a rain spout; the grotesques, or chimeras, that are so interesting and mysterious an expression of medieval architecture, are decorations of a similar nature not connected with rain spouts.

Why these grotesques should have been made often to look like the evil one himself, though used to embellish cathedrals, is a question that dips into theology; some think they were put there to make fun of the devil and expose his ugly features to public contempt. But architects hate to admit that religion had anything to do with the building of cathedrals.

They like to think that cathedrals were purely of architects, by architects and for architects, and that if there never had been such a thing as a Christian religion, there would still have been cathedrals built just to decorate cities. As a matter of fact, they are probably right in thinking the designing of grotesques was left entirely to the decorative fancy of the sculptors who happened to be engaged in the various parts of the decoration.

Now, these young men combined business and pleasure, sometimes by making the apex and quaint visages of monks, scholars, clowns, etc., in their grotesques resemble persons quite well known in the neighborhood, perhaps the bishop himself, if they were daring and subtle enough in caricature, or perhaps only the master architect. So it is right in the tradition of the art that one of the innumerable grotesques of the dorms shall be a sly caricature of Mr. Wilson.

Now for the categorical denial of Mr. Stewardson, of Stewardson & Page, designers of the dormitories. "I designed the building in question myself," he said, "there was no intention of making the decoration resemble Wilson or Huerta. As a matter of fact, the faces do not resemble those men. The idea that we tried to caricature the President is amusing, but absolutely without foundation."

After that denial there is no use in pointing to the fact that the leering gargoyle in the living, breathing image of the President. Nor in pointing to the fact that the head has a scholar's mortar-board cap and tassel of the modern type, unlike the medieval owl usually seen in



JOKE ON THE UNIVERSITY

It has been discovered that these gargoyle heads on the University of Pennsylvania dormitories bear a remarkable resemblance to the features of President Wilson and of the late General Huerta, of Mexico, whose head is being carried in the former's hands. Front and side views are shown here.

grotesques of similar design. Nor in noting the square spectacles on Huerta, as contrasted with the round eyeglasses on Wilson.

Nor in recalling that the decoration was put up in the summer following the taking of Vera Cruz. Nor in comparing it with the nearby grotesques of African big game, showing that the designer took the Roosevelt expedition as his theme in making those grotesques three or four years earlier. There is no use pointing to this evidence, because the designer ought to know, and so the whole thing is reduced to the status of "a mere coincidence."

Still, the man who designs a building almost always has young architects help with details, and it is just barely possible that a young assistant of the firm played the trick. Judge for yourself by strolling in through the main entrance of the dormitories, 37th street and Woodland avenue, turning to the left, then down the steps and over to the little tower over in the far corner. There at the archway marked "1911" you can see the grotesque in question.

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SUBURBAN

NEWS OF SON'S TRAGIC DEATH KILLS MOTHER

Heart-Broken Woman to Be Buried With Scenarios Writer

EAST ORANGE, N. J., May 6.—Mrs. William F. Stage, mother of Clinton H. Stage, scenario writer, who was killed in an automobile accident at Los Angeles Wednesday, is dead here today of a broken heart. She was ill from the effects of an operation when the news that her son had been killed reached her. She suffered a relapse at once. Son and mother will be buried together here Tuesday.

Typewriter Concern to Build

The Underwood Typewriter Company has purchased, through A. Milton Napier, from Manning & Trunk real estate agents, of New York, a site at the southeast corner of Vasey and Greenwich streets in that city, 84 by 124 feet, on which it will build a 12-story structure for its own use. The price paid for the site was in excess of \$1,000,000.

MAY DANCE WITH NOTED STARS OF THE SCREEN

Privilege Accorded Movie Fans by Lot at New York Exposition

NEW YORK, May 6.—At the great exposition of the Motion Picture Industries, which began in Madison Square Garden today, movie fans who hold the lucky numbers in a drawing will have the privilege of dancing with famous idols of the film. Even those who don't draw prizes can imitate the cat who found it easy to look at a king.

The exposition, under the direction of the Motion Picture Board of Trade of America, will last a week and be the biggest thing of the sort ever attempted.

British Admiral Dies

LONDON, May 6.—The Right Hon. Lord John Hay, Admiral of the fleet in 1888, died yesterday at Fulmer, Slough. Admiral Hay was the fourth son of the eighth Marquis of Tweeddale. He was born in 1827. He retired in 1897.

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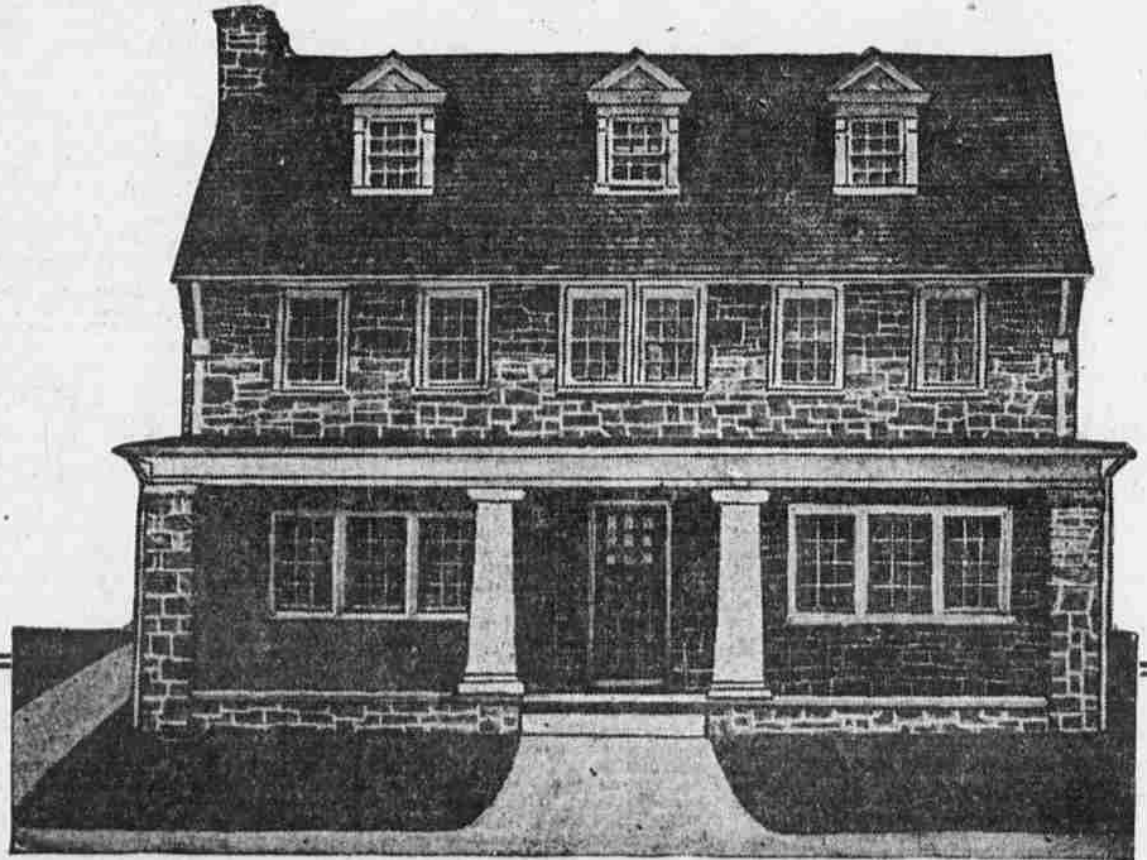
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