



*George C. Gordon
Library*

*GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES
AT
WORCESTER POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE
APRIL 22, 1965*

GEORGE CROMPTON GORDON

George C. Gordon was born August 20, 1872 in Worcester, Massachusetts. He was the youngest of three Gordon brothers to graduate from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, where he received his degree in electrical engineering in 1895.

In the early years of his business career, Mr. Gordon served as master mechanic at the American Steel and Wire Company, as chief engineer at Carpenter Steel Company and from 1905 to 1910 as general superintendent of Wyman-Gordon Company of Worcester, which his brother, Lyman, had founded in 1883.

His next business affiliation was to last for more than half a century. In 1911, Mr. Gordon became vice-president and general manager of The Park Drop Forge Company of Cleveland when it was just beginning to feel the boom of the fledgling automobile industry. Shortly after World War I, he was elected president of the firm and continued in that post until 1953. At that time, he was elected chairman of the board, the post he held until his death, May 27, 1964. He also served since 1932 as director of The Ohio Crankshaft Company.

He had the gift of intuitive financial and management skill. He was also known as an astute investor in small but promising companies. His holdings included stock in several successful and well-known Cleveland companies which he backed when they were small and unknown.

During his lifetime, he was a regular and generous contributor to the Worcester Tech Alumni Fund and to campus and laboratory improvements. In his will, he left a bequest of five million dollars to his Alma Mater for its unrestricted use in furthering the educational opportunities for young men preparing for careers in engineering and science.

THE GEORGE C. GORDON LIBRARY

Worcester Tech gratefully acknowledges the magnificent gift of Mr. Gordon. As ground is broken today for this important addition to the campus and its academic life, the first step is being taken in carrying out his wishes. Scheduled for completion in late 1966, this new structure will fill a long standing need for an adequate central library on the Worcester Tech campus.

In one generation, the growth of scientific knowledge has been in geometric proportions. The cornerstone of a fine technical education is the availability of information in the form of books, technical papers, scientific journals, and published scientific data of all types. In this modern age, "availability" means electronic data retrieval systems, microfilm readers, and audio-visual aids in addition to the conventional library stacks of books and periodicals.

The new library will incorporate these features together with study facilities for 600 students, shelf capacity for 200,000 volumes, and special purpose rooms for college archives, art exhibits, extracurricular reading, typing, and listening to music. A night study room, open 24 hours a day and isolated from the rest of the building after regular library hours, will meet a current demand for late evening study areas.

The memory of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who had no children of their own, will thus be perpetuated in the minds of thousands of young people who will be the beneficiaries of their generosity.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONIES FOR THE GEORGE C. GORDON LIBRARY Worcester Polytechnic Institute April 22, 1965 — 11 o'clock

Tribute to Mr. Gordon

Introductory remarks from President Harry P. Storke
Message from the Gordon Family — Read by

Mr. Wayne E. Keith,
Chairman, Board of Trustees

Tribute to Mr. Gordon by

Mr. Fred L. Ball
Director, The Park Drop Forge Company

Tribute to Mr. Gordon by

Mr. George Gund,
Chairman of the Board,
The Cleveland Trust Company

Prayer —

Rev. Mr. Gordon M. Torgersen,
Minister, First Baptist Church,
Trustee, Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Groundbreaking Ceremonies

Introduction by President Storke
"Significance of the New Library" by

Prof. Albert G. Anderson, Jr.,
Head Librarian

Breaking of the ground:

Mr. Albert A. Gordon, III
Mr. Fred L. Ball
Mr. George Gund
George W. Mitschang
Mr. Warren C. Whittum
Prof. Albert G. Anderson, Jr.
Dean M. Lawrence Price
President Harry P. Storke
Board Chairman, Wayne E. Keith

Benediction —

Rev. Mr. Torgersen