

From the Office of Public Relations
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139
Telephone: (617) 864-6900, Ext. 2701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Note to Editors: The luncheon of the M. I. T. Corporation is private. There will be an open house in the new Barker Library at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 6, to which the press is invited. If you plan to come or to send a photographer, please call Joanne Miller at the number above.)

The naming of the Engineering Library at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for James Madison Barker, '07, former chairman of the board of the Allstate Insurance Company, was announced Friday by Dr. James R. Killian, Jr., Chairman of the M. I. T. Corporation.

The Barker Library, housed within the Institute's great central dome, has undergone extensive renovation during the past three years, while remaining at all times a working library. One chief aim of the restoration project was the accommodation of innovative uses of automation under Project Intrex (for Information Transfer Experiments), directed by Dr. Carl F. J. Overhage. Project Intrex, which is now operational, will use the library as a laboratory for experiments in improving user access to materials in an academic library.

Dedication of the Barker Library took place at a luncheon of the M. I. T. Corporation at the Faculty Club with Mr. Barker and several members of his family as honored guests. Dr. Killian presided. Speakers included Mr. Barker, M. I. T. President Howard W. Johnson, Dr. Overhage and Douglas M. Knight, vice president for educational development of the RCA Corporation who gave the main address.

In recounting the many ways in which Mr. Barker has served the Institute as alumnus and trustee, Dr. Killian said, "In addition to his earlier substantial contributions to the Institute, Mr. Barker has recently committed an additional million dollars for the engineering library.

Mr. Barker reflected on the promise offered by Intrex for bringing organization to the vast quantity of information being generated. "It may be easy to put material into a library," he said, "but the real problem which the librarian faces in an age when his material is ever more complex, is how to index it so that its content shall be available to the seeker."

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President Johnson accepted the new library on behalf of M. I. T. He said, "Great universities are built around modern, efficient libraries. Our students who will use this new facility will benefit in immeasurable ways in the years ahead. The importance of the James Madison Barker Library can best be understood in the context of the growth of M. I. T. libraries and the central role they play in the educational program of the Institute."

Other special guests at the luncheon included Professor William N. Locke, director of the M. I. T. Libraries, Dr. Overhage, and Daniel J. Griffin, '71, representing undergraduate users of the library.

Mr. Barker, who received the S. B. degree in civil engineering, was a member of the teaching staff and faculty of M. I. T. for seven years. He then served with the First National Bank of Boston for nine years before joining Sears, Roebuck and Company, where he spent the balance of his active career. Mr. Barker is the first and only honorary director of Sears, Roebuck and Company and the Allstate Insurance Company.

First elected to the M. I. T. Corporation in 1934, Mr. Barker became a life member in 1940. He is a proprietor of the Boston Athenaeum, a trustee of the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, a governing life member of the Art Institute of Chicago and a life trustee of Northwestern University. He has received honorary degrees from Middlebury and Westminster Colleges.

Architect for the renovation of the library was Walter Netsch of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill in collaboration with James DeStefano and William Berrier. The design allows for traditional functioning but includes architectural capability for accommodating the results of Intrex experiments.

Project Intrex is a pioneering concept in information transfer which has been developing for the past five years. Nearly 8,000 documents relating to materials science are now listed in the Intrex computer-stored catalog and the full text of these documents is available through the remotely accessible microfiche storage and retrieval system. Users of the system in this first experimental stage have a choice in how they want information presented: as soft copy via visual display on a television-like screen, or as hard copy on 35mm film strip or printed on standard size paper.

The library gained 7,000 square feet of usable space during renovation, 4,000 feet on the fourth floor and 3,000 feet on the eighth floor which had previously been used only for dead storage. The main reading room, on the fifth floor of the Institute's central building, now opens all the way up to the skylight. Formerly an enormous lighting fixture, reputed

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to be the largest in the world, was suspended overhead, obscuring the dome itself. Now the skylight in the dome rises more than 65 feet from the floor, its coffered ceiling acoustically treated to control noise level in the room.

The entire library is carpeted, which further lowers resonance. Six-foot periodical racks in the main reading room also are carpeted and are used as sound baffles for Intrex's computer consoles located on the periphery of the room. The periodical cases and low upholstered chairs help to bring the area into human scale while at the same time enhancing the effect of the ceiling.

The upper three floors of the Barker Library contain alternating sections of stacks and study space and will include Intrex installations as that system expands. Both library and Intrex offices are located on the fourth floor, as is the reserve book room.

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March 5, 1970