

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCIENCE AND ART CLUB OF GERMANTOWN

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Since the Science and Art Club of Germantown attains this year the venerable age of seventy-five, it seems fitting, as has been done on previous occasions, to issue a booklet commemorating this important anniversary and recording the proceedings of the Club throughout its long history.

Clubs come and go in this land of ours. Some flourish vigorously so long as the reason for their establishment exists, and then fade out. But comparatively few survive with their vitality unabated over three quarters of a century.

That the Club was established on a firm foundation is evident from the fact that the policy and procedure adopted at the very beginning have been pursued with no appreciable variation ever since. The original rules have been faithfully adhered to, the limited membership of fifty men still prevails, and the character of the meetings, at which each member in turn acts as host, is essentially the same. Since each host decides what the subject of his meeting shall be and who shall conduct it, there is no monotonous sameness to the meetings, but an infinite variety on art, literature, music, science, national and world affairs, and other matters of general interest. At times the host conducts the meetings; but more often as has been the case throughout the years, he provides a specialist in some field of interest to present his views. At the conclusion of the address a question period usually follows, which unfailingly enlivens the meeting and reveals the widespread and detailed interests of the Club members in the fields of human thought and activity.

In the early days of the Club the majority of the meetings were held in the homes of the members. But with the passing of the years and the multiplication of apartment houses, those living in homes sufficiently large to entertain the members and their wives have steadily decreased in number. As a consequence the majority of the meetings are held in a suitable and convenient place in the Germantown area.

Although the membership of the Club is restricted to men only, happily the meetings are not; for the wives of the members are always invited and thus provide a charm that the meetings would otherwise lack. Moreover, each member has the privilege of inviting a few of his friends to the meeting at which he entertains the Club, and this introduces new faces at every meeting. And after the formal part of the program there is a delightful social hour, to the accompaniment of light refreshments, when old friends mingle and new friendships are formed.

Thus it has been since the Science and Art Club of Germantown was organized so many years ago. And since the principles on which the Club is conducted meet with such wholehearted approval of the members, thus it will probably be for another three quarters of a century.