CHAPTER TEN

Envoi

When William Barton Rogers laid down the principles upon which the Massachusetts Institute of Technology would operate from 1864, he could just as well have been writing with The City University in mind. Firstly, he emphasized the importance of being useful, secondly the importance of building an educational programme around a professional objective (engineering). Rogers’ third principle was learning by doing and the fourth, the concept that the learning of principles is more important than learning facts. A basic feature of M.I.T., too, was the inclusion of an undergraduate school and a graduate school as co-equal parts of a homogenous faculty.

The first decade of The City University’s existence was marked by academic programmes that had evolved from Diploma in Technology sandwich courses and London University, (specifically Northampton) sandwich degree courses that embodied all four of Rogers’ principles. Adaptation to changing demands had modified the sandwich but new degree courses in social sciences and the arts had evolved with a practical workplace element in them. The City University Business School was soundly established in this period, fulfilling the hope that Sir Horatio Davies, Lord Mayor of London, expressed when he declared the Institute open on 18th March 1898. “I hope and believe that not only technical education will be taught in this Institution, Commercial education should not be forgotten.” Rather quaintly he went on to say: “‘the man who can make a pair of boots perhaps may not be the man who would know how to sell them to the best advantage. While you teach the man to make the boots also teach him how to sell them,’ which surely has relevance for British manufacturing industry today.”

Growing links with the City of London via the University Council, the Livery Companies and the Business School programme, must attract funds that are essential if there is to be any growth in the present economic climate of strict cost limits to public expenditure. Optimism must stem from the level of support already received. The knowledge of the City of London and all its ways possessed by the University Council collectively was, and is, a most valuable asset. The enthusiasm of successive Pro-Chancellors, and indeed of the whole Council, readily gained support from all quarters of the City Commercial as Oliver Thompson and Sir James Tait had earlier gained that of the City Civic.
The City University has attained maturity and now has key educational and research roles to play that are firmly based on its history. The strands in that history link Sir Thomas Gresham's dream to The City University of today. They link Robert Kitchin's bequest to the current generosity of personal and corporate donors and the pious philanthropy of the past to modern rate and tax based funding. They link the past and present needs of industry to the necessary research and management training facilities and to technological manpower provision. There is, above all, the historical thread of development over time to meet the expressed need for higher education, from Walsamley's innovative educational and recreative Institute serving the locality, toward the modern university aim—*To Serve Mankind.*
References
2. Islington Gazette 21st March 1898.