

Historic Visual Images of the University of Santo Tomas in Intramuros, from the Archivo de la Universidad de Santo Tomas

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A proper architectural history of the building mass that was the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in Intramuros, the walled city of Manila, still has to be written. In aid of this, a treasure trove of rare photographs, maps, plans, and book illustrations conserved in the University's Archives is presented in this article. Many of the images are published for the first time.

Keywords: *University of Santo Tomas, Intramuros, architectural history, archival photographs, maps, plans*

One location, several street name changes

The block that enclosed the old Intramuros campus of the University of Santo Tomas was bounded on the northeast by the present Solana Street; on the southeast by Santo Tomas Street; on the southwest by the Ayuntamiento building, also known as the Casas Consistoriales; and on the northwest by Aduana (renamed Andres Soriano) Street. In accordance with Philip II's Laws of the Indies, the checkerboard plan of the walled city of Intramuros was oriented diagonally to a north-south axis, so that at any time of day while one side of the street was warmed in sunlight, the opposite was cooled in shade. Thus, both the principal and secondary façades of UST greeted the rising sun, whose rays

filtered into the windows of the left side of the chapel. (In the same fashion, the morning sun bathes the façade of the UST Main Building on the Sampaloc campus).

The names of the streets around the old compound went through a number of changes throughout the more than four centuries of existence of the walled city. Sources for the 17th century are only textual descriptions. The earliest map of Manila with street names is that commissioned by Governor General Jose Basco in 1783.¹ The next useful maps are those which appeared in the *Diccionario* of Augustinians Buzeta and Bravo (1850),² in the *Historia Geográfica* of Agustin de la Cavada Méndez y Vigo (dated 1870, but published in 1876),³ in the report prepared by the architect Serrano y Salaverri in 1871,⁴ in Leon Salcedo's 1872 *Cuadro Sinóptico de las Islas de Filipinas*,⁵ in Ruperto Ybañez' 1886 *Memoria* for installation of lightning rods on UST,⁶ and in an 1890s set of plans for the rehabilitation of the UST compound which then included the ruined Hospital Militar.⁷ Armengol's *Intramuros de Manila* presents the streets as they were in the mid-19th century.⁸

The street that ran across the principal façade of UST was known in 1611 simply as “the street that ran from said main chapel [of Santo Domingo] to the plaza and Cathedral church.” In Basco's map of 1783, and as late as the 1850s Buzeta y Bravo map it was known as Calle Cruzadas (“crusades”). The name was eventually changed to Postigo, alluding to the Postigo or postern gate that led from the walls to the shore of Manila Bay. By the 1870s, it was called Calle de Santo Tomas, by which it is still known today.

The street parallel to Calle de Santo Tomas at the back of UST was known in 1611 as that “which led to the river gate.” In Basco's 1783 map, it was identified as Calle del Cuartel (“of the barracks”), perhaps because it ran past by the royal hospital which was primarily occupied by military wards. In the 1850s, it was unnamed. In Serrano's 1871 *Plano*, it is marked as Calle de la Aduana, because it ended at the

¹ Plano de la Ciudad de Manila (...) segun lo mandado en el Decreto de 23 de Abril de 1783 por el M.Y.S.Dn. Josef Basco y Varas, in Merino 1983, p. 328.

² Manuel Buzeta and Felipe Bravo. *Diccionario Geográfico, Estadístico e Histórico de las Islas Filipinas*, Madrid, 1850.

³ Agustín de la Cavada Méndez y Vigo. *Historia Geográfica, Geológica y Estadística de Filipinas*, Manila, Imp. de Ramirez y Giraudier. Reproduced in Merino 1983, p. 330.

⁴ Vicente Serrano y Salaverri. Plano situacion Manila parte de la ciudad murada, December 1871, reproduced in Merino 1983, p. 329.

⁵ Leon Salcedo. *Cuadro Sinóptico de las Islas de Filipinas*, Madrid, 1872; reproduced in Edgardo J. Angara, José Maria A. Cariño, and Sonia P. Ner, *Mapping the Philippines- The Spanish Period*, Rural Empowerment Assistance and Development Foundation, Inc., Quezon City, 2009, p. 55

⁶ Memoria descriptiva del proyecto de colocación de pararrayos en la R. y P. Universidad de Sto. Tomás, 1886, AUST.

⁷ The plans do not come with a text (perhaps misplaced), and are in the AUST.

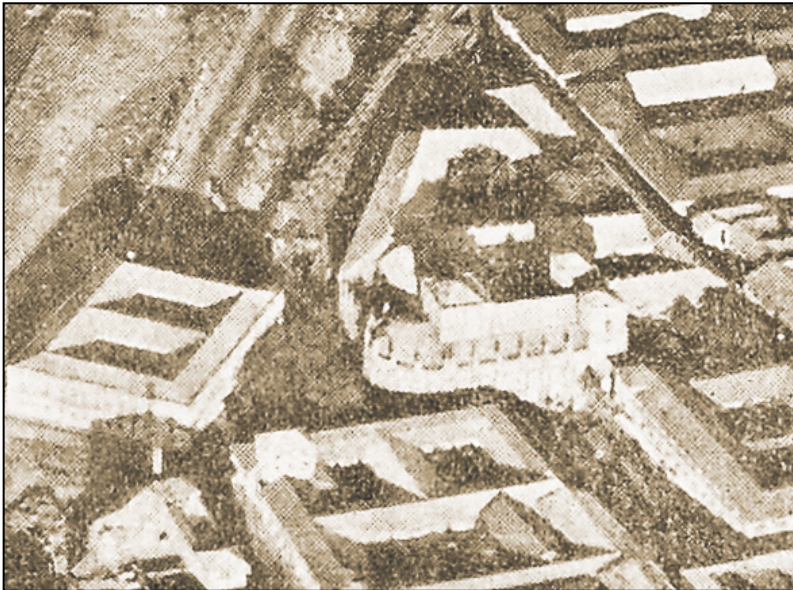
⁸ Pedro Ortiz Armengol. *Intramuros de Manila*, Madrid, 1958. p. 143.

newly-built Customs House (Aduana) at the north-eastern corner of UST. However, the 1872 *Cuadro* and in 1890s plans of UST mark the street as Calle del Hospital, referring as before to the Military Hospital across the UST (this name may have been on the wane, as the Hospital was ruined by the 1863 earthquake and not rebuilt). It is popularly known as Aduana today, though it has been officially renamed Andres Soriano Street.

The street that separated UST from the church of Santo Domingo was unnamed in 1611. In maps of 1783 and the 1850s it was known as Calle de Fonda (Street of the Inn). By 1870 it was known as Calle de Solana, by which it is known today. Confusingly, it appears in 1880s and 1890s plans of UST as Calle de Aduana, the same name later given to the former Calle del Hospital.

The street that separated UST from the Ayuntamiento was not described in 1611, because this property had not yet been acquired. According to maps of 1783 and 1850, it appears as Calle del Farol (Street of the Lamp). It had received its present name, Magallanes—commemorating the first Spanish explorer to the Philippines—by the time a map was drawn in 1870. ■

Thomasian 1930. AUST Libros 304



Detail of a photograph taken by a US Air Force plane over Intramuros. The University of Santo Tomas is the quadrangle at the bottom of the photo, with one large and two small patios. Above it in the center is the church of Santo Domingo. Left of this at an angle is the Aduana or Customshouse. The tower of the UST can be plainly seen. Across the UST on the left is the YMCA building, erected on the empty land on which used to stand the Military Hospital.

Pair of undated plans of the UST, but possibly in the 1870s: the Museum of Natural History, which was inaugurated in 1871, is marked in the second floor plan.



AUST Large format section

Ground floor, showing the main patio surrounded by classrooms. The “Arch of the Centuries” stood in the open space left of center of the top. The right half of the plan shows four longitudinal and parallel constructions, from top: the Parainfo, the large refectory, the small refectory, and the kitchen.



AUST Large format section

Upper floor. The upper leftmost corner was the Office of the Rector. The longitudinal section on the upper right section was the chapel. Parallel to it below was the library (Biblioteca). At right angles to it above was Cell no. 18, followed by the famous Gabinete de Física. Across this was the longitudinal corridor straddling two patios which housed the Museum of Natural History.

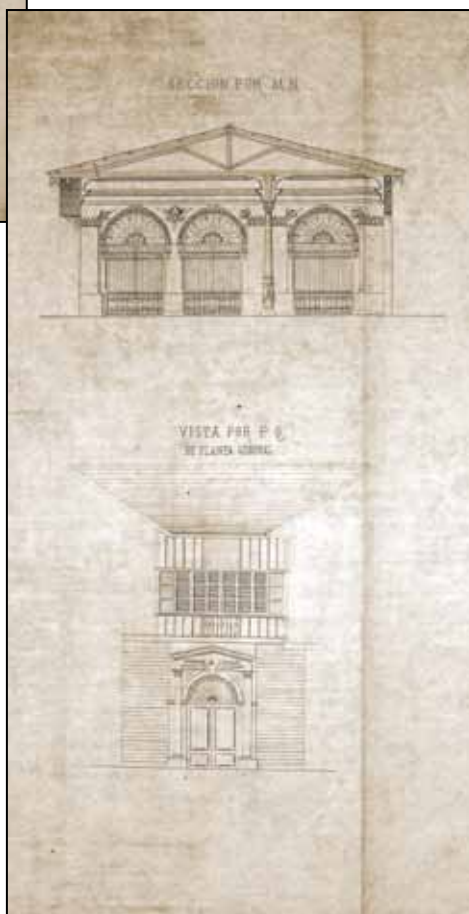
Plans prepared by the architect Ramon Hermosa to renovate the building, including enlarging the museum, November 30, 1879.

AUST Large format section

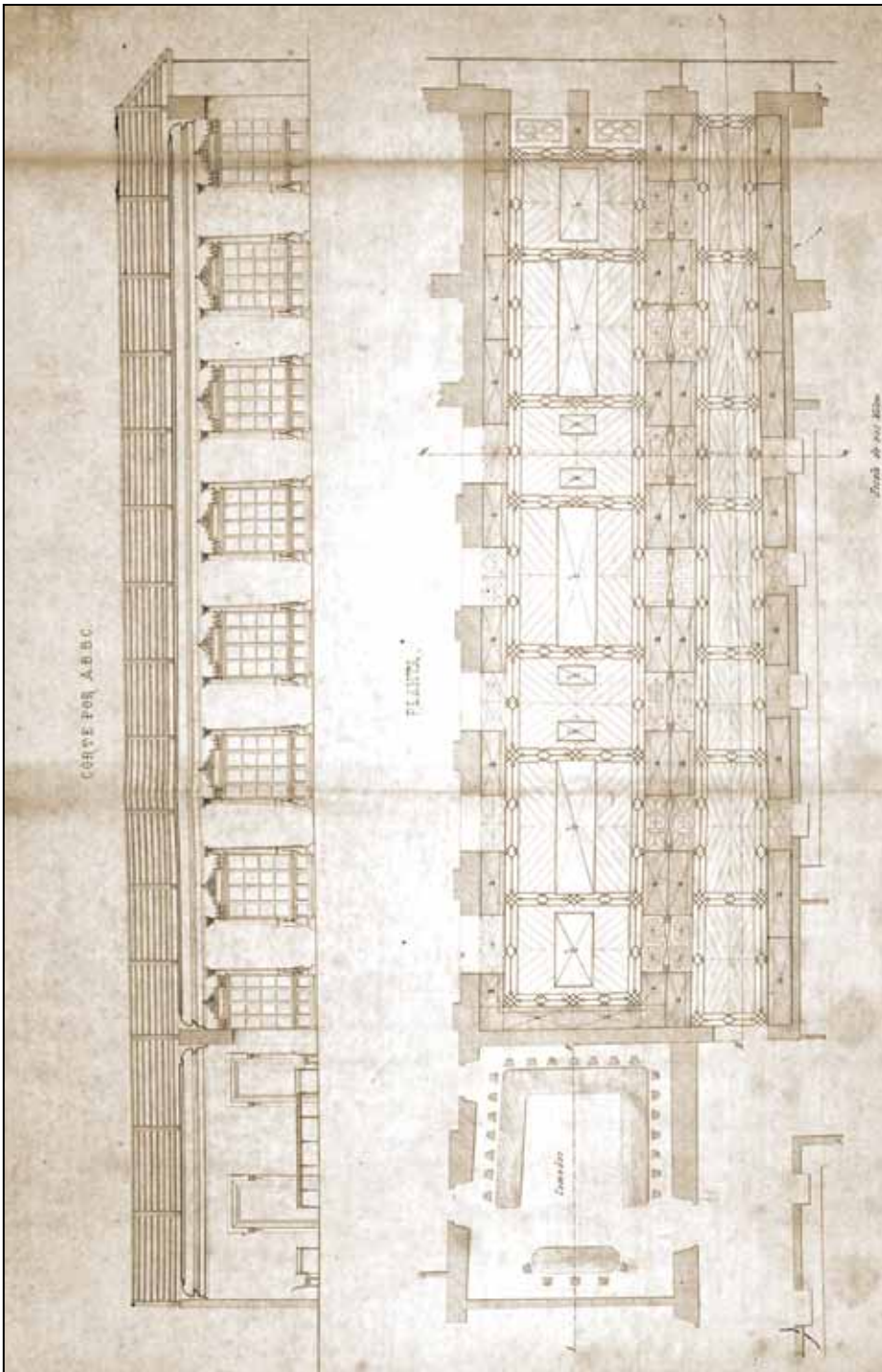


Cover of the project proposal.

Decorative details from the plan.



AUST Large format section



Elevation and floor plan of the proposed expansion. The proposed refectory may be seen on the left section of the drawings.

Plans to enlarge the Museum, prepared by Ramon Hermosa, April 6, 1884.

AUST Large format section

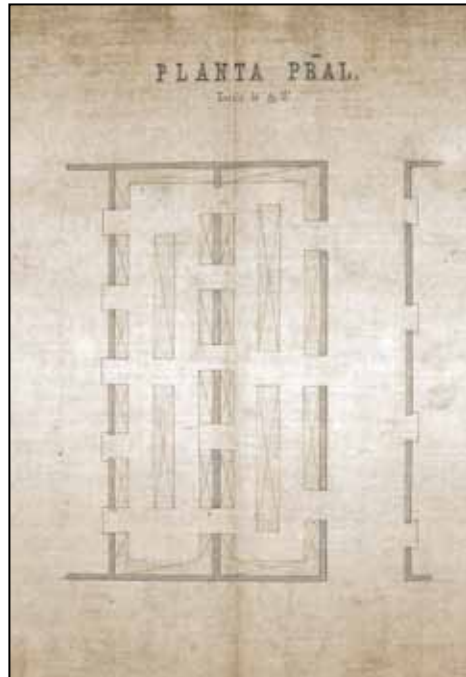


Cover of the project proposal, beautifully executed in pen and ink.

AUST Large format section



Ground floor plan, showing the museum space between two patios.



Upper floor plan.

AUST Large format section

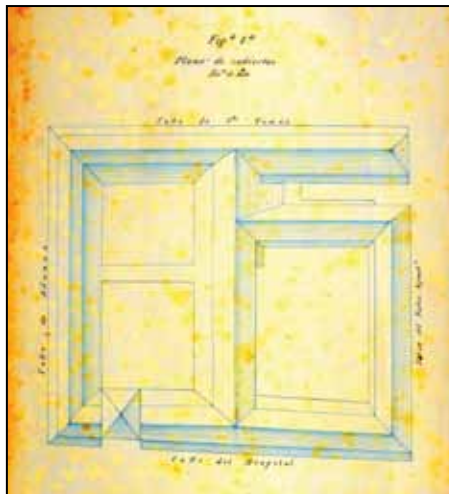
AUST Large format section



Elevation of the museum flank.

Set of plans regarding the construction of lightning rods on UST, prepared by Ruperto Ybañez on September 13, 1886.

Plan of the UST, showing the three patios. The rightmost flank shows a structure built over the land that used to be Calle Magallanes, separating UST from the Ayuntamiento. This land was ceded by the city government to UST in 1860 in exchange for the Plaza Benavides which was to be made into a public park. The “Arch of the Centuries” stood at the top flank, left of center. The tower can be distinguished by the “X” roofline on the lower left section of the building.



AUST Large format section

AUST Large format section

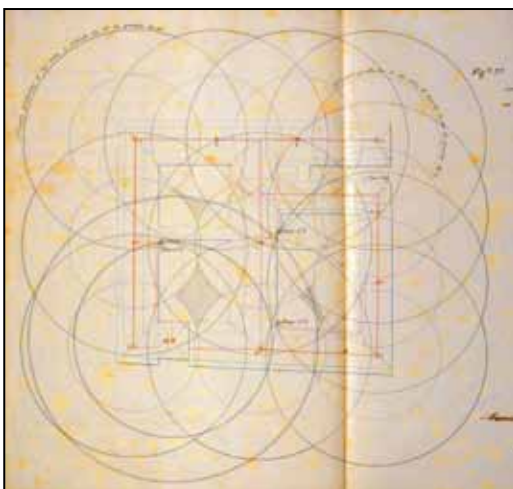
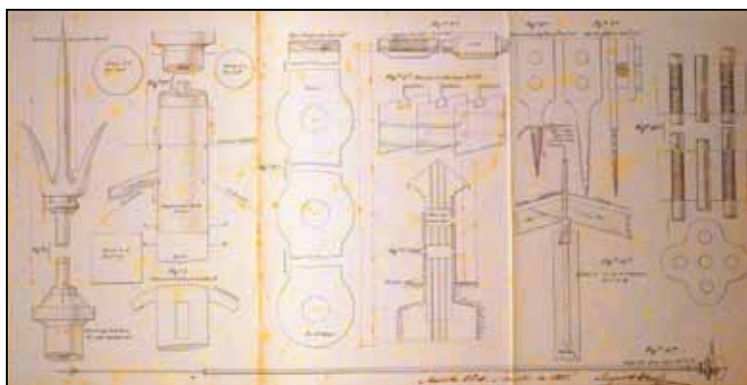


Diagram showing calculations in aid of proper placement of the lightning rods.

Hardware needed for the assembly of the lightning rods; the tip itself is on the leftmost side.



AUST Large format section

Plans for the base of the Benavides monument on the eponymous plaza, prepared by architect Juan J. Hervas, on March 31, 1888.

AUST Large format section



Cover of the proposal.

AUST Large format section



Elevation of the pedestal.

AUST Large format section



Circular plan of the base of the monument.

In 1896, the UST purchased the lot across it from Calle Aduana, on which used to stand the Military Hospital. This edifice was ruined by earthquake and later rebuilt on the site of today's City College of Manila. These plans were prepared for a proposed massive renovation of the UST building and rebuilding of the hospital as a school. The plans, due to obvious historical reasons, were shelved.

Ground floor plan of a proposed renovated UST building and a school extension on the military hospital site.



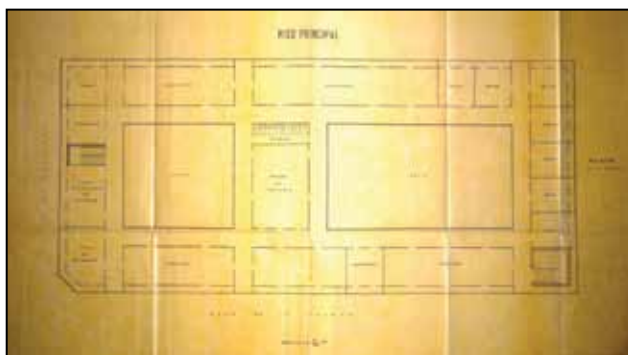
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Alternative ground floor plan for a proposed school on the hospital site.

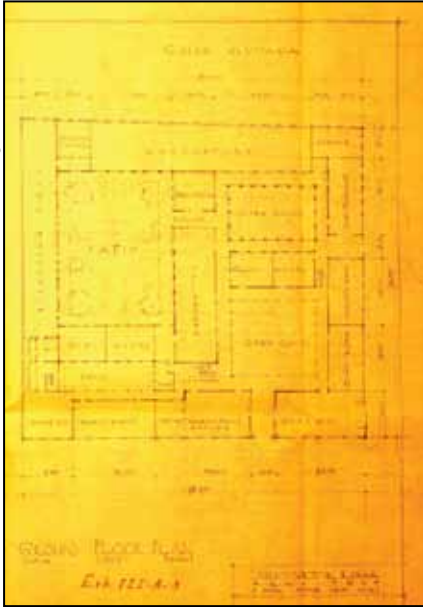
Alternative upper floor plan for a proposed school on the hospital site.



AUST Large format section

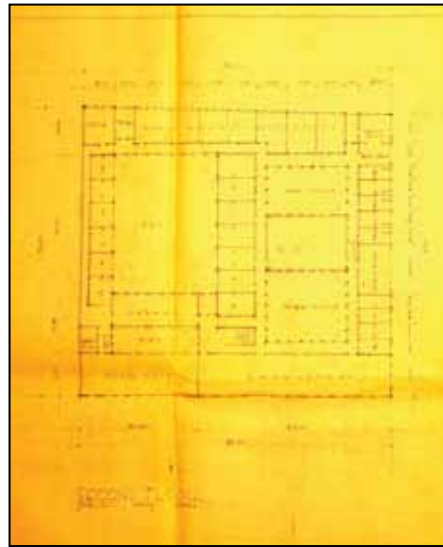
Plans prepared by architect Julio Victor Rocha in 1940 for the conversion of spaces in the old UST building into classrooms, laboratories, and a dissecting hall for the College of Medicine.

AUST Large format section



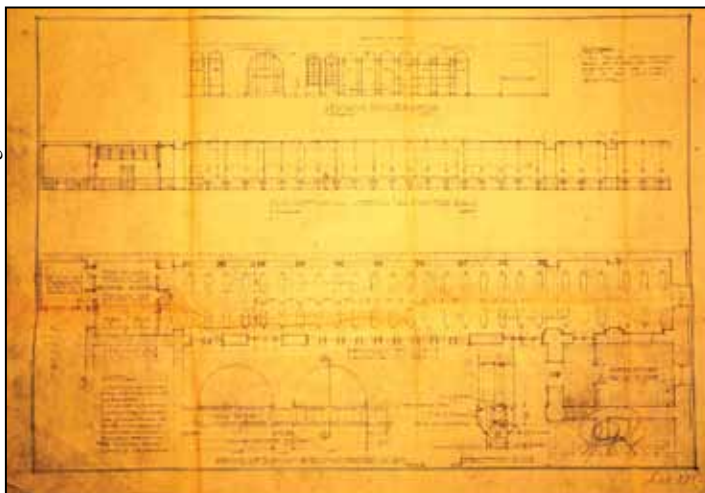
Ground floor plan of the proposed renovation. The Dissecting Hall and Laboratory took over the spaces left by the UST Press, which was transferred to its Sampaloc headquarters in 1940.

AUST Large format section



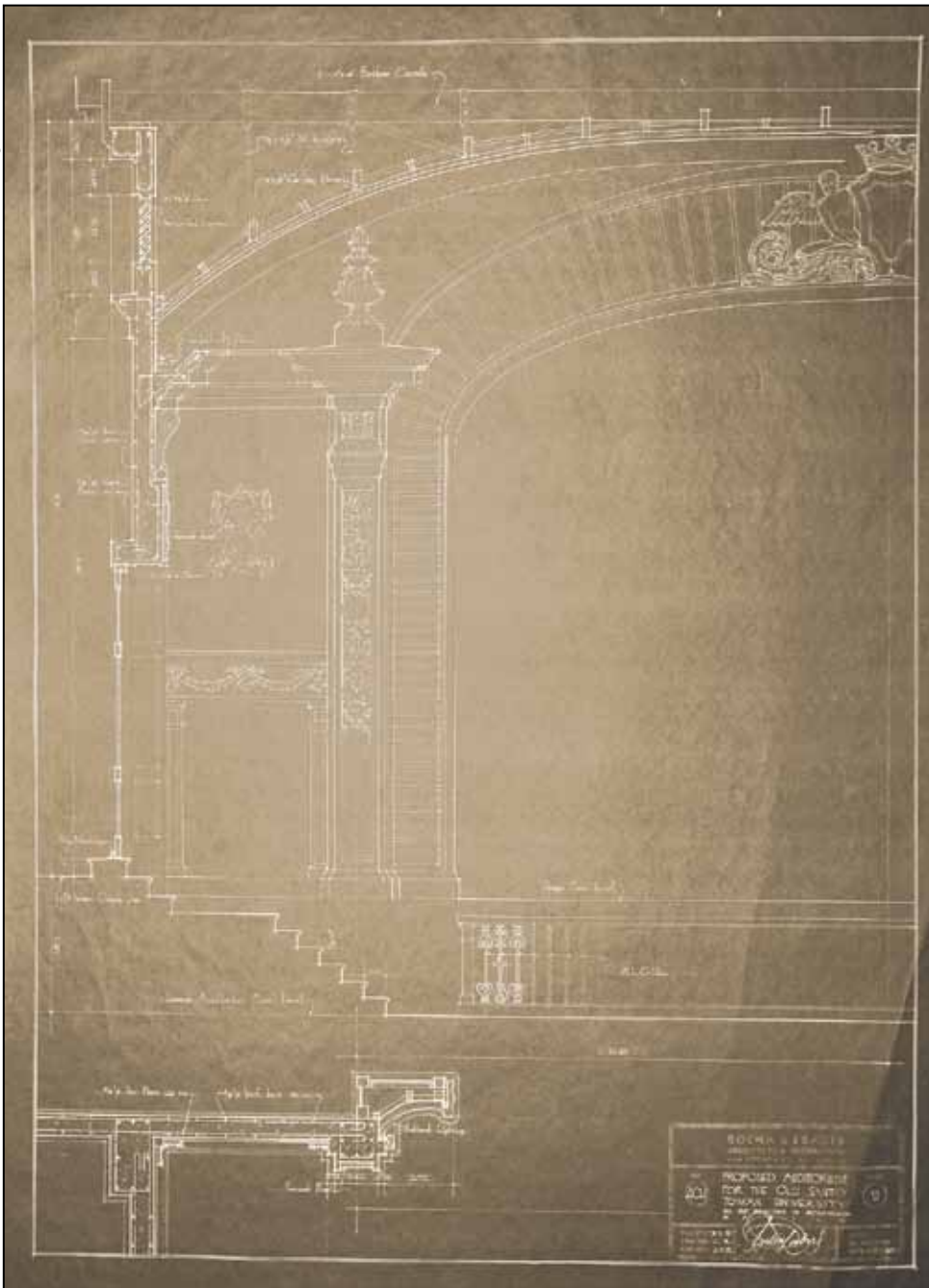
Upper floor plan. When the Museum of Natural History was transferred to the Sampaloc campus in 1939, its vacated space was converted into a large assembly hall (middle horizontal corridor running through the right half of the plan).

AUST Large format section



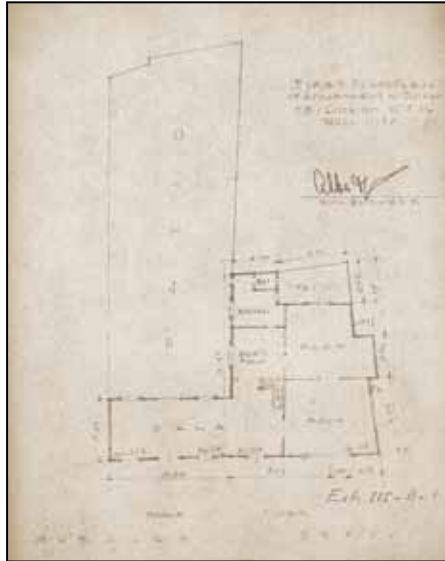
Detailed plans for the Dissection Hall.

AUST Large format section



Detail of a proscenium arch for a theater to be constructed in the UST Intramuros compound, designed by the company of Julio V. Rocha and Vittorio Edades in 1940. The theater was envisioned to rise in the left half of the quadrangle, near the Ayuntamiento. Its grand entrance was to open on Calle Aduana.

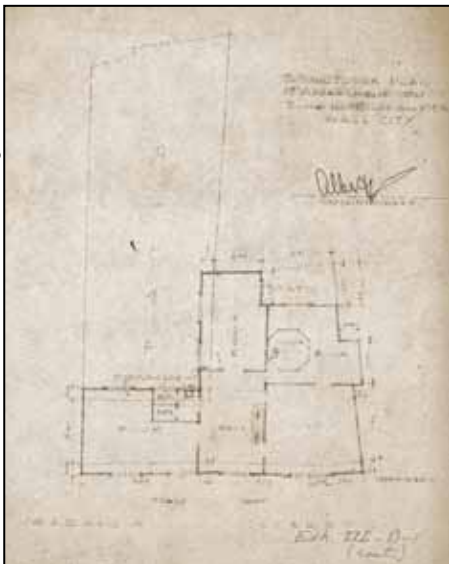
Plans prepared by engineer Alberto Guevara of a three-floor property on numbers 213-223 on Calle Muralla, Intramuros. It was probably close to the Colegio de Letran, since the other sections of Muralla street were occupied by buildings of the other religious groups. This property was acquired by the UST at an unknown date, but very possibly during the 1st half of the 20th century, during the American rule. Most curious here is the appearance of an octagonal tower on the 2nd and 3rd stories.



AUST Large format section

Ground floor plan.

AUST Large format section



Second floor plan.



AUST Large format section

Third floor plan.

Part Two: Photographs

General Bulletin 1908-1909, frontispiece.
AUST Libros 263.8.



Main façade of Santo Tomas, facing the Plaza Benavides. Perched on the roof, right of center, is one of the lightning rods installed in 1886.

The main façade of UST decked to welcome Governor Taft.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 4.
AUST Libros 263.8.

AUST Photos, Box 1. Also featured in
Thomasian 1940, Libros 314.



Lower section of the main entrance.

Central section of the main façade, renovated in 1938.



AUST Photos, Box 1. Also featured in Thomasian 1939, Libros 313.

AUST Photos, Box 1.



View of the central façade from the ramparts of Santo Domingo.

The view that greeted one leaving the main entrance of Santo Tomas: the magnificent hulk of Santo Domingo.



Thomasian 1939, AUST Libros 313.

Secondary entrance of UST, along Calle Solana and facing Plaza de España.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 88. AUST Libros 263.8.

Thomasian 1939. AUST Libros 313.



Central section of the secondary entrance, after it was renovated in 1938.

The view that greeted one leaving the Solana portal: the apse of Santo Domingo.



Thomasian 1934. AUST Libros 308.

Thomasian 1933. AUST Libros 307.



Rare photo of the main façade with the massive wooden doors closed. Posing in front are the 1933 Law Seniors with their Dean, Felicisimo R. Feria.

Bishop Alfredo Versoza of Lipa officiates at the blessing of the newly renovated building, on the occasion of the 327th anniversary of UST on November 13, 1938. The bishop passes the wooden doors to read a blessing in front of a glass *virina* housing a Calvary scene.



AUST Photos, Box 11.

AUST Photos, Box 11.



The bishop crosses the vestibule and passes the second set of doors, ornamented with heavy metal bosses. These doors give access to the main patio.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing
p. 40. AUST Libros 263.8.



The main patio of the old building, decked with American flags for the visit of Governor Taft.



Thomasian 1939. AUST Libros 313.



Thomasian 1934. AUST Libros 308.

Another view of the main patio, with one of the towers of Santo Domingo in the background.

A view of the main patio as one descended from the main stairway.

Head table at the mass student banquet in celebration of Law Day, 1940, in the main patio of the old building.

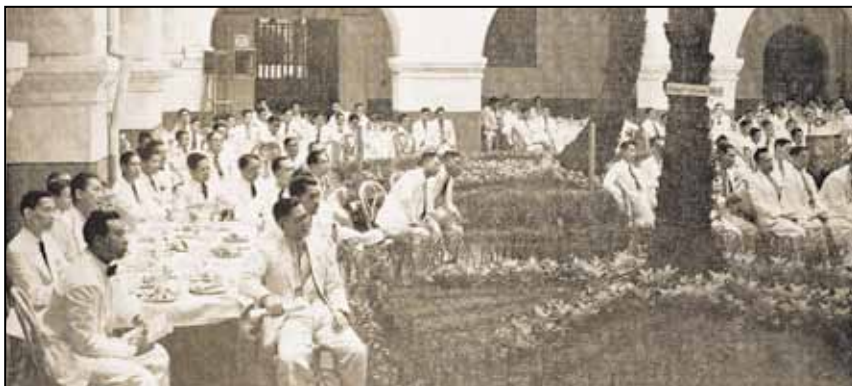


AUST Photos, Box 11. Also in Thomasian 1940, Libros 314.

Thomasian 1940. AUST Libros 314.



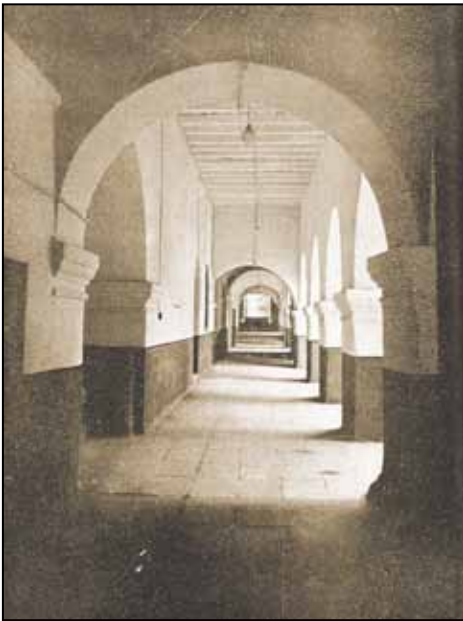
Head table at breakfast for the Holy Name Society, second Sunday of January, 1940, in the main patio. Towards the back may be seen the rear of one of two stone lions greeting those who crossed from the vestibule to the patio.



Thomasian 1940. AUST Libros 314.

Another view of the Holy Name Society breakfast. Many tables could be squeezed into the tight space.

Thomasian 1940. AUST Libros 314.

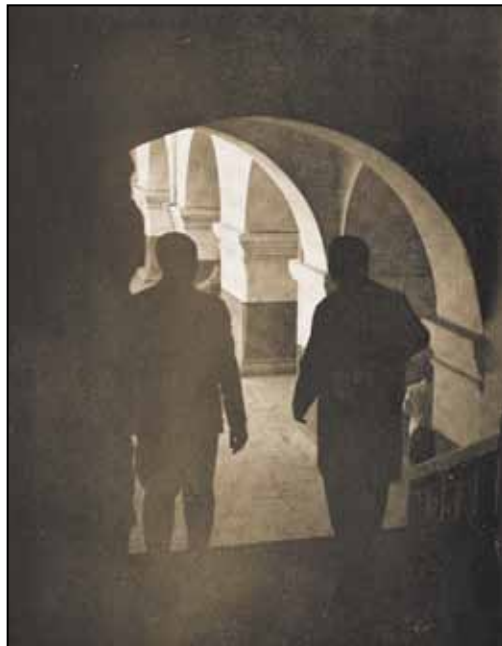


A corridor running through the patio. The archway to the left led to the main stairway. The door after it opened to a classroom. The gateway at the far end opened onto Calle Aduana.



Thomasian 1935. AUST Libros 309.

Pen-and-ink drawing of the passage from the corridor to the main stairway.



Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.

Descending the main stairway.

Thomasian 1934. AUST Libros 308.



The first flight of steps of the main stairway. At the landing is D. Celis' 1911 *The Foundation of the University of Santo Tomas by Archbishop Benavides*. This ambience would be radically redecorated in 1938.

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Remnants of stone balusters that bordered the first flight of steps of the main stairway. Now mounted in front of the UST Museum, Main Building, Sampaloc, Manila.



AUST Photos, Box 1.

The landing between the two flights of the main stairway, upon redecoration in 1938. Its walls were converted into a Fine Arts Gallery. In the center are replicas of Diego Velazquez' portraits of Pope Innocent X (above, from 1650) and Felipe IV (below, from 1644).



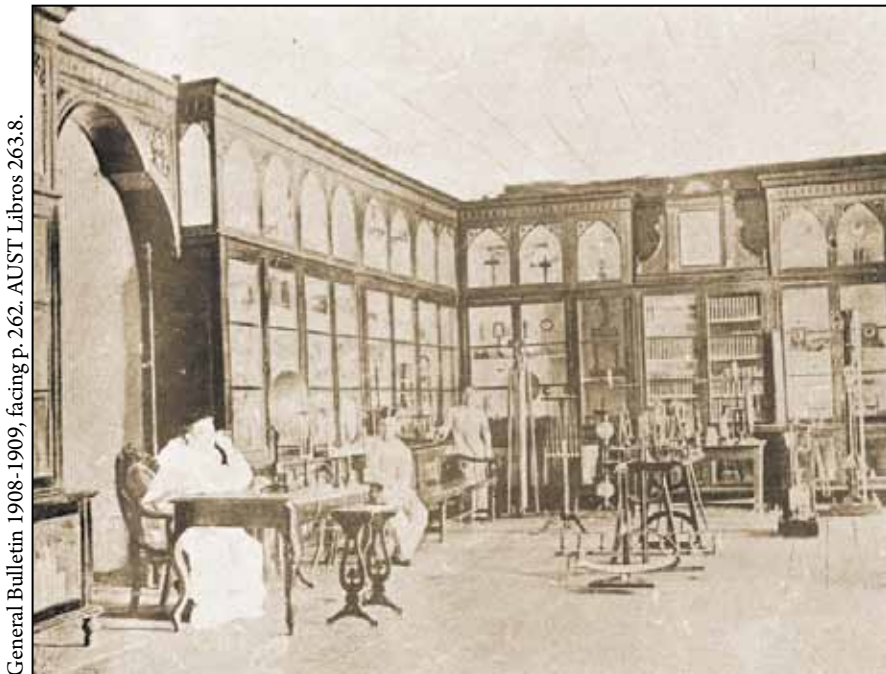
AUST Photos, Box 11.

The Faculty of Law posed for a family portrait in the newly inaugurated "Fine Arts Gallery".



Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.

The Studio for Drawing and Design, on the ground floor.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 262. AUST Libros 263.8.

The Gabinete de Física, immortalized in Jose Rizal's *Noli Me Tangere* (1886). This room adjoined the Library on the second floor. It was a few doors away from the Museum of Natural History.

Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.



With the renovation of the old building to house the Faculty of Medicine in 1940, the hall before the Paraninfo was converted into the offices of the Regent, Dean, and clerks. The huge doors at the back used to lead directly to the Paraninfo.

General Bulletin 1908-1909. AUST Libros 263.8.



The Paraninfo or Paranympus, the Academic Assembly Room, occupied the wing directly to the left as one entered the main entrance. Its windows on the left gave views of Plaza Benavides.

Presidential table in the center of the Paraninfo.



Sinopsis Historica 1928, facing p. 40. AUST Libros



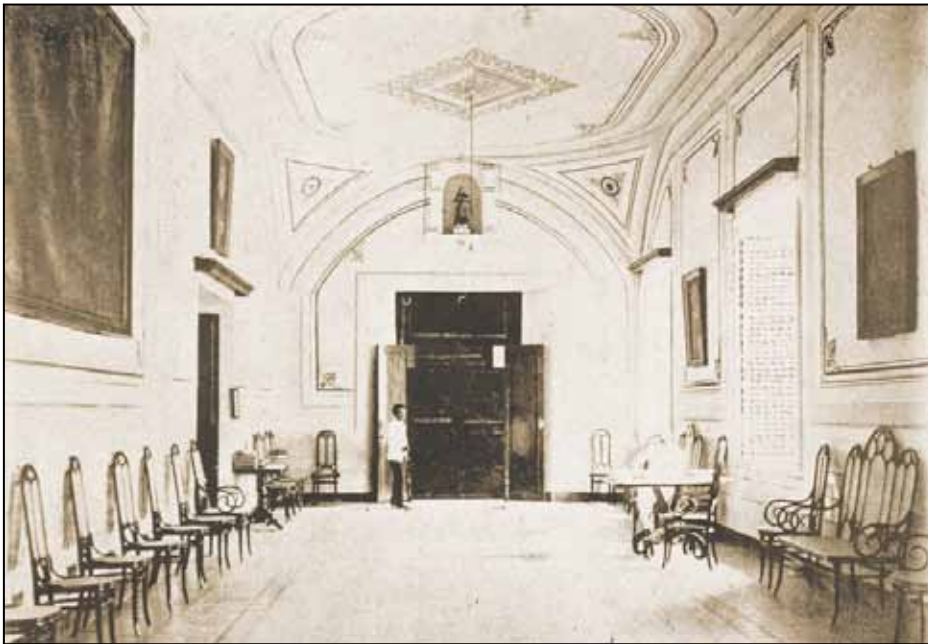
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The two large silver jars in the previous photo are now exhibited in the UST Museum in the Sampaloc campus.

When the Paraninfo was transferred to the Sulucan campus in Sampaloc in 1927, the site was taken over by the Moot Court of the Faculty of Civil Law.



Thomastian 1934. AUST Libros 308.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 16. AUST Libros 263.8.

The Professors' Reception Room, possibly in the ground floor.



Thomasian 1934. AUST Libros 308.

The Professors' Reception Room was converted into the Law Library in the late 1920s.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 268. AUST Libros 263.8.



The UST Printing Press was housed in a number of large sections in the ground floor. This is the typesetters' room. When, after more than 300 years, the printing establishment was transferred to the Sampaloc campus in 1940, much of the materials here were lost. Sample types are conserved at the UST Museum.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 266. AUST Libros 263.8.

The printing machinery housed in the long corridor built over the Calle Magallanes property acquired in 1860.

Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.

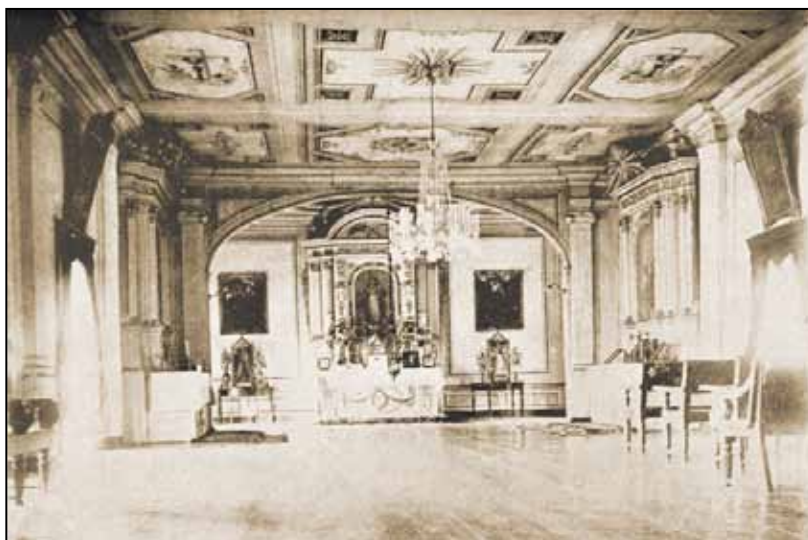


When the press was transferred to Sampaloc in 1940, its place was converted into a Dissection Room with plans by architect Julio Victor Rocha. The old *aljibe* or cistern in this section was demolished to give way to the new constructions. The Dissection Room and laboratories were inaugurated on July 3, 1940 (feastday of St. Thomas the Apostle).

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 48. AUST Libros 263.8.



The seminarians' dormitory was above the Dissection Room. It seems the windows to the left opened onto the patio, while those behind the "cells" to the right opened onto the Ayuntamiento.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 104. AUST Libros 263.8.



Hispanidad 1940, vol. 1 no. 4, p. 26. AUST Libros

The chapel in the old building was located above the Paraninfo.

The image of Our Lady of the Rosary in the old chapel was transferred to the Sampaloc campus, where it is venerated until today.

A section of the Museum of Natural History. The windows opened onto wrought-iron balconies that looked over the central patio.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 260. AUST Libros 263.8.

Thomasian 1934. AUST Libros 308.



The same section a few years later.

Another section of the Museum. The Museum was relocated to the Sampaloc campus in the 1930s.



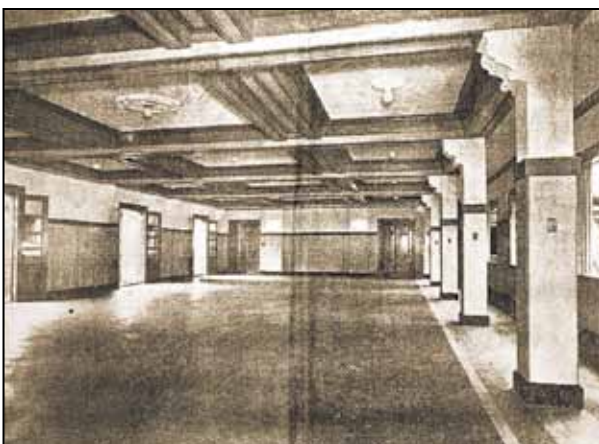
General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 258. AUST Libros 263.8.

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Some of the gothic-arched shelf frames were retained for the new museum in Sampaloc.

AUST UST War Claims Box.



The space vacated by the Museum was converted into a spacious Auditorium, according to designs by Julio Victor Rocha, later dean of the College of Architecture.

Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.



A large crowd enjoying the oratorical contest organized by the College of Law, and held in the Auditorium in 1941.



AUST UST War Claims Box.

The new dining room of the Dominican fathers was also inaugurated in 1940. It occupied the corner of the second floor of the building, overlooking the meeting of Aduana and Solana Streets.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 288. AUST Libros 263.8.



The Library was on the second floor, on a wing parallel to the chapel. Under it on the ground floor was the large dining room.

The table partly visible in the center in the above picture seems to be one of the tables now in the entrance lobby of the Miguel de Benavides Library in the Sampaloc campus.



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The low benches seen in the sides of the library are those now in use in the UST Museum in the Sampaloc campus.



Thomasian 1935. AUST Libros 309.

Many long tables possibly from the late 17th or early 18th century were transferred from Intramuros to the Sampaloc campus. One of these is shown with the pioneer students of the Library Science Department.



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The table in the above photo still survives in the entrance lobby of the Miguel de Benavides Library in Sampaloc. In fact, there are two of them, almost exactly alike.

This small table, also from the same provenance and period, was used by the editor of the Varsitarian, Mr. Osmundo O. Sta. Romana.



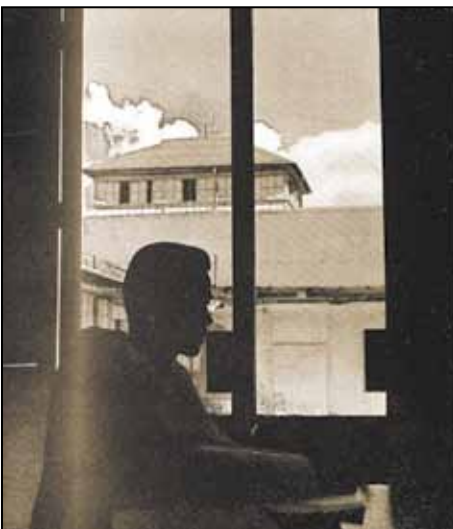
Thomasian 1936. AUST Libros 310.

Undated Spanish newspaper.



At the wing of the building fronting Calle Aduana, close to the corner with Calle Solana, stood a bulky tower. This was constructed in the late 1690s and concluded in the early 1700s.

Thomasian 1941. AUST Libros 315.



A seminarian studies with the massive tower in the background. The section behind the seminarian would roughly correspond to the area of the Gabinete de Física.

AUST Photos Box 1.



The UST Feminine Debating Club poses with Fr. Silvestre Sancho in Plaza Benavides, with the eponymous statue in the background. To the right is the Universidad de Santo Tomas; to the left is the Colegio de Santa Rosa. Late 1920s photograph.

Thomsonian 1934. AUST Libros 308.



Although plans for the pedestal were drawn in 1888, the monument to the founder of the UST was inaugurated only on July 2, 1891, coinciding with the opening of the first semester that year.

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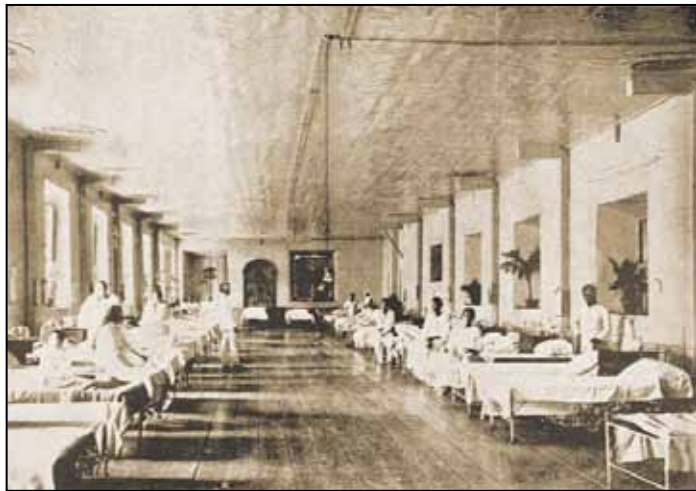
One of the surviving bronze seals that used to adorn the Benavides monument. It bears the name of the artist, Tony Noel; he was a prize-winning sculptor in Paris in the late 1800s. This seal is now displayed in the entrance lobby of the Miguel de Benavides Library.

The University of Santo Tomas for many years held its medicine classes in the Hospital de San Juan de Dios, on no. 214 Calle Real. It is now the site of the Lyceum of the Philippines.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 6. AUST Libros 263.8.

The Women's Ward, Department of Medical Clinics, at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios.



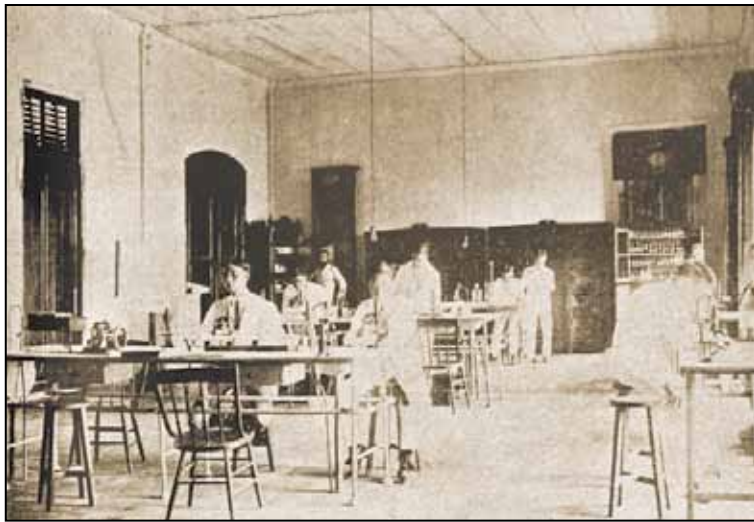
General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 172. AUST Libros 263.8.

The Men's Ward, Department of Medical Clinics, at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios.



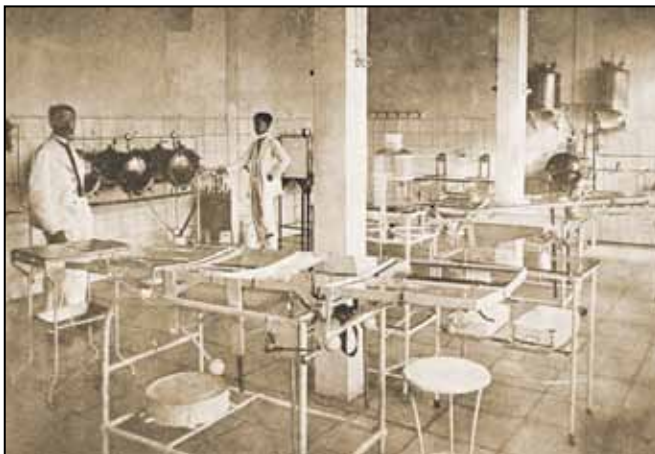
General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 174. AUST Libros 263.8.

Students at work in the Laboratory of Histology, Hospital de San Juan de Dios.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 240. AUST Libros 263.8.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 174. AUST Libros 263.8.



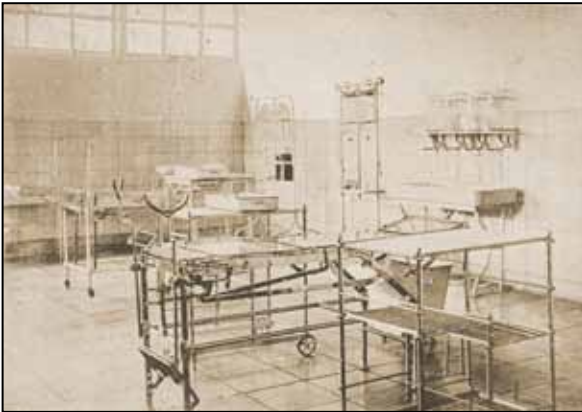
Sterilizing and dressing room, Hospital de San Juan de Dios.

A section of the Department of Practical Anatomy at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 236. AUST Libros 263.8.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 174. AUST Libros 263.8.



The operating room at the Hospital de San Juan de Dios.

The University had to rent the Hotel Leal for extra laboratory classes. The Hotel was close to the Hospital and on the same street, no. 239, Calle Real.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 8. AUST Libros 263.8.

A class in Bacteriology at the Hotel Leal.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 158. AUST Libros 263.8.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 10. AUST Libros 263.8.



The Faculty of Medicine also conducted classes and laboratories at the Colegio de San Jose, which was located on No. 100, Calle de Anda.

Entrance to the laboratories of the Colegio de San Jose.



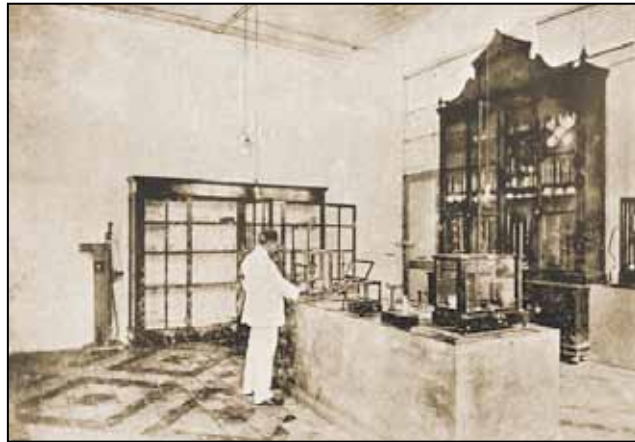
General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 252. AUST Libros 263.8.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 250. AUST Libros 263.8.



Exterior view of the laboratories, San Jose.

A section of the Department of Weights and Measures at the Colegio de San Jose.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 254. AUST Libros 263.8.

General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 182. AUST Libros 263.8.



A section of the Laboratory of Organic and Inorganic Chemistry, San Jose.

A class in Chemistry at San Jose.



General Bulletin 1908-1909, facing p. 154. AUST Libros 263.8.

AUST Photos Box 1.



A victim of the Liberation of Manila from the Japanese in 1945, the old building was a total ruin. The Benavides monument was transferred to the Sampaloc campus and inaugurated there on November 13, 1946.



AUST Photos Box 1.

The once glorious central façade of the old building. A Dominican in the patio ponders what to do.

Ruins of the side of the University on Calle Solana.



AUST Photos Box 1.

AUST Photos Box 1.



Ruins of the main stairway.

Ruins of the central patio.



AUST Photos Box 1.

RTJ 2016



The Intramuros lot of UST was sold on December 6, 1949 to the Phil-Am Life Insurance Co. The edifice erected on it was eventually known as the Banco Filipino Building. This is the view today, where once stood the main façade of UST, along Calle Santo Tomas. This view corresponds to the uppermost photo on page 504.

RTJ 2016



Present-day view of where the façade of UST along Calle Solana previously stood. This photo corresponds to that on the top of page 506.

RTJ 2016



View taken from the approximate angle as one emerged from the main entrance, looking to what was once Santo Domingo church. This photo corresponds to that on the bottom of page 505.

RTJ 2016



Calle Aduana between what was the UST (on the left) and the Hospital Militar (on the right).

The Hospital de San Juan de Dios is now the site of the Lyceum of the Philippines. This is the view from Calle Real, looking from the Parian Gate. This photo corresponds with that on the top of page 525.



RTJ 2016

Vicinity of the Hotel Leal, near the San Juan de Dios Hospital along Calle Real.



RTJ 2016

Vicinity of the Colegio de San Jose, along Calle Anda. The structure is a modern-day version of a colonial period house.



RTJ 2016

Approximate site of the three-floor property with a tower on Calle Muralla, just before Letran College.



RTJ 2016

AUST Photos Box 1.



The central lower section of the main façade was taken stone by stone and re-assembled in the Sampaloc campus in 1954. The original stone façade now faces the Main Building and the afternoon sun. The replica in concrete faces España Boulevard (and the morning sun, just as the original structure did in Intramuros). The crowning entablature with a seated statue of St. Thomas Aquinas, and bas-reliefs of scenes of his life, were inaugurated on December 21, 1955. The replica of the façade, the statue and bas-reliefs were done by Carmelo Flavio Pablo.

AUST Photo Section



Photo of the Benavides monument with a floral offering on the fourth centenary of the death of the founder of the University of Santo Tomas, July 26, 2005. Behind may be partially seen the Main Building of the Sampaloc campus, erected in 1927.

RTJ 2016



A bullet hole and other damage may be seen on the back of the statue, sustained during the Liberation of Manila from the Japanese in February, 1945.

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