Rice Statue Unveiled

By ROGER GLADE

Amid the festivities surrounding the fourteenth commencement, a statue of William Marsh Rice was unveiled in the main quadrangle. The Thresher took no notice.

Perhaps this was because the last Thresher of the 1929-'30 year had already been published. However, even the next September, the statue was left unmentioned.

NEVER LET it be said that the Thresher does not attempt to rectify its mistakes — so here, thirty-three years too late, is an account of the statue of William Marsh Rice.

The statue grew out of a decision by the trustees, then represented by Dr. Edgar Odell Lovett, to find a sculptor who could do justice to the founder. Dr. Ralph Cram, an architect, was given the order to find one of such caliber.

The search ended with the decision to award the commission to John Angel, an Englishman turned American, who was famous for his ecclesiastical sculpture in Europe. Immediately there was some opposition to allowing a “foreign” sculptor to build the monument, but with Dr. Cram’s recommendation, calling Angel “the best available man,” the statue was begun in 1927.

ON JUNE 8, 1930, the statue was unveiled atop a pink Texas granite pedestal and dedicated at the baccalaureate exercises.

In the time that the statue has been sitting there, various and, at times, devious, things have been done to “improve” its appearance. Chief within memory (although nobody knows exactly the number) are the coats of maroon paint which certain members of another university have seen fit to daub on the statue.

ALSO NOTED by present students was a yellow stripe which appeared mysteriously last year down the back of the bronze. But despite these and even worse attacks of vandals, the statue has remained much the same as it was at the unveiling.

People who remember it then said that everybody thought it was a fine statue — only that it might have cost just a little too much money.

Next time you cross the main quadrangle — look at it.