



PRECEDENT, PREFERENCE, AND PROPER NOUNS: THE FOUNDING AND NAMING OF YALE'S RESIDENTIAL COLLEGES

Modeled after the Oxford-Cambridge system, the residential college housing system is a distinctive element of Yale's identity. Taking us back in time, Paul Styslinger '17 methodically chronicles the process of determining the original nomenclature of the 12 colleges. Examining correspondence and detailing alternative names considered, Styslinger suggests that a tight circle of top Yale administrators played a key role in this process and that Yale used naming to honor history and tradition in the brand new college system.

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When Yale decided to transition to the residential college system, its administration immediately set about forming its preferred instrument for effecting change: the committee. The Yale Corporation selected Provost Charles Seymour to chair a committee overseeing the development of the residential college system, the Committee on Quadrangles. Seymour attended Cambridge as an undergraduate, making him a particularly suitable choice to head Yale's selective importation of Oxbridge life. The Committee on Quadrangles was central in researching all aspects of the new system and formed recommendations to advance to the Yale Corporation for final review. Along with questions of architecture, dining halls, and leadership of the residential colleges, one topic garnered considerable attention from this committee: nomenclature. The first substantial discussions surrounding the naming of colleges began in 1929 when President James Rowland Angell assigned Secretary Carl Lohmann and Dean Clarence Mendell to chair a subcommittee dedicated to college nomenclature, deeming the process "an extremely important matter" that involved many "delicate problems."¹

Ultimately, however, nomenclature proved secondary in importance to the logistical questions surrounding the funding, operation, and social impact of the new residential colleges. This is unsurprising, considering the extent to which Yale and Harvard's House plans proved an overall untested experiment in American higher education; the naming of colleges, while important, would become insignificant if the system itself did not function.² Instead, the first priority was ensuring that the new system would revitalize, not undermine, the "Yale democracy" that, in college lore, allowed students from all walks of life to succeed within the most prestigious academic, athletic, and social groups on campus. Some administrators and faculty members voiced legitimate concerns that students would avoid resurrecting the "Yale Spirit" by selecting themselves into certain colleges based upon academic or extracurricular interests.³ Architecture, number of students per class, financial independence, payment for meals, and even the sizes of sidewalks were all seen as important issues as well – nomenclature was just one of many considerations in the development of Yale's new system.

With this in mind, two major themes emerge from the decisions behind the naming of the residential colleges. First, the vast majority of the influential recommendations and discussions surrounding college nomenclature came only from within a tight circle of top Yale administrators that included President Angell, Dean Mendell, Secretary Lohmann, Provost Seymour, and members of the Yale Corporation. Second, Yale used naming as a means of infusing the perception of history and tradition into a system that had none at the time.

President Angell's influence over the naming process appears early in a letter to Frederick Vanderbilt, a major donor. Angell writes that the Corporation had "gone back two or three generations in order to forego the possible embarrassment which might at-

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tach to the use of the names of persons recently associated with the University.”⁴ Angell also states that “so far as possible eighteenth century names [would] be used” to adorn the colleges, confirming a prioritization of demonstrating Yale’s lengthy history in these naming choices.⁵ The Corporation also rejected the terms “Quadrangle” (associated with Princeton) and “House” (associated with Harvard) to agree upon the term “College” as the proper designation for each unit of student life.⁶ Aside from distinguishing its system from that of Yale’s rivals, the word “College” brought to mind the names of Durfee College and Farnam College from previous decades while also recalling the even older North and South Colleges of the university’s earliest days.⁷ This decision marked the beginning of a pattern in which Yale opted for the most historically distant name available, likely with the intention of infusing a sense of longevity and tradition in a newly-formed entity on its campus.

While the nomenclature committee remained open to the recommendations of faculty and alumni, they understandably rejected many of the proposals. Political Science Professor Milton Conover recommended the name Jeremiah Atwater, Jr., a Yale graduate who became the first President of Middlebury College and the third President of Conover’s own alma mater Dickinson College.⁸ Yale’s eminent architect James Gamble Rogers, designer of eight of the ten original colleges, wrote Angell suggesting “South Yale College” and “North Yale College” (after two of Yale’s earliest buildings) for the converted spaces that would reside in Harkness Memorial Quadrangle.⁹ One of the more unusual proposals involved naming a college after Julian Wheeler Curtiss, a Yale graduate who was president of the Spalding sports equipment company and would later become known for spreading the game of golf in the United States.¹⁰ The names discussed below, however, were ultimately the ones presented to and decided upon by the Yale Corporation.¹¹

PIERSON & DAVENPORT

The name “Pierson College” was not a difficult first selection for the Corporation. Reverend Abraham Pierson served as Yale’s first Rector, and the name brought to mind the earliest days of Yale history. Additionally, Harvard had already named one of its two existing houses after its own first president, Henry Dunster. Given Yale’s close tracking of Harvard’s House system in its early days, it is not unlikely that the Committee on Quadrangles drew inspiration from Harvard in naming the college after Abraham Pierson.¹²

The name “Davenport,” on the other hand, distinguished Yale’s system from Harvard’s by avoiding contemporary names. The Corporation initially considered naming the college after President Angell’s predecessor Arthur Twining Hadley, a move that would have mirrored the honoree of Harvard’s Lowell House (named after the family of Harvard’s president at the time).¹³ Following President Angell’s distaste for contemporary names, however, John Davenport was selected for his being “one of the founders of the New Haven Colony” and “among the first to propose the establishment of a college in the colony.”¹⁴ In

addition, Davenport was educated at Oxford, providing a link to the system from which Yale's new plan drew inspiration. Thus, when the Corporation decided to name a college after John Davenport, the Corporation affirmed the precedent of avoiding contemporary figures.

BERKELEY

Berkeley College was purportedly named after “Reverend George Berkeley, Dean of Derry and later Bishop of Cloyne” and to recognize “the assistance in land and books which he gave to Yale in the 18th century.”¹⁵ Berkeley arrived in America – although never in New Haven – with the purpose of creating a college in Bermuda for Native Americans and the uneducated. A friend in Connecticut, Samuel Johnson, convinced Berkeley to donate his plantation “Whitehall” to Yale in 1733 before setting sail for home.¹⁶ However, the name “Berkeley” appears to have evolved as an option without the explicit recommendation of any one person.

The use of Berkeley's name was, at least in part, an accident of evolution in edifice identity. Standing in contrast to the publicly announced reasoning behind the decision, the Corporation meeting minutes only claim to name the college after Berkeley “in honor of Yale's early benefactor whose name has long been associated with the group of buildings on this site.”¹⁷ The location upon which Berkeley College is built previously contained a set of dormitories nicknamed the “Berkeley Oval” by students for two reasons: first, the set of buildings happened to contain a dormitory named Berkeley Hall, and second, the circular pathway surrounding the area's courtyard resembled a running track called the Berkeley Oval where the track team would compete in New York.¹⁸ Perhaps due to the organic nature of the name's development and its acceptance among the student body, “Berkeley” never seems to have been reconsidered or opposed. Additionally, the English heritage of the “Dean of Derry” and “Bishop of Cloyne” must have been appealing to a university attempting to emulate both the structure and history of the Oxbridge system.

BRANFORD & SAYBROOK

The Harkness Memorial Quadrangle was the gift of Mrs. Stephen V. Harkness given in memory of her son, Charles Harkness, and was completed in 1921. Because dormitories had already been constructed when the residential college system was announced, Angell called upon James Gamble Rogers to implement the difficult conversion of the structure into autonomous units. The resulting colleges were, rather unusually, named after locations rather than people. Branford was the town in Connecticut where, according to Yale legend, ten Connecticut Congregational ministers founded the Collegiate School with a donation of books. Similarly, Saybrook College honored the location of “Saybrook, Connecticut, where the College was situated until 1716.”¹⁹ The choice to name two of the

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colleges after places rather than people was likely a result of the Corporation's desire to absorb the connotations of Oxbridge tradition without the inconvenience of waiting several centuries. The town of Branford was itself English, named after Brentford, England, while the town of Saybrook was named after two men who oversaw the land at the mouth of the Connecticut River, "Lord Saye and Sele" and "Lord Brook."²⁰ Again, a preference for English history on the part of the Yale administration appears to have motivated the naming of residential colleges.

JONATHAN EDWARDS, CALHOUN, & SAYBROOK

Jonathan Edwards College was named "to honor the theologian, philosopher, and naturalist, who graduated from Yale in 1720."²¹ While the Corporation confirmed the name in February of 1931, it was not released to the larger Yale community (along with those of Trumbull and Calhoun) until October that year. While the reasons behind this delay remain unclear, it is possible that Angell wished to pair religious connotations of Jonathan Edwards with one of the more politically focused names still under consideration at the time including James Kent, Noah Webster, Jonathan Trumbull, and John Calhoun.²² Ultimately, the only difficult choice regarding the name of Jonathan Edwards College was whether to call it "Jonathan Edwards" or simply "Edwards."

Calhoun College was named, according to the official Yale release, "in honor of an illustrious alumnus, John Caldwell Calhoun," the political figure who "influenced the political history of the United States more deeply than any other graduate."²³ While the Corporation minutes on the decision simply named the college "in honor of John Caldwell Calhoun, Yale 1804, statesman," his lengthy list of political titles (Vice President, Secretary of War, Secretary of State, Senator, and Congressman) along with his status as a graduate of Yale College made his selection as uncontroversial as Jonathan Edward's.²⁴ As with the majority of college name proposals, the Corporation minutes surrounding the choice Calhoun remain frustratingly terse, and no archive suggests there was controversy surrounding the name, at least in response to its official announcement.²⁵ Interestingly, William Howard Taft, the only Yale graduate at the time to surpass Calhoun's list of political accomplishments by serving as both President of the United States and Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, had just died in 1930, the year prior to the naming of the college. However, the Corporation maintained its commitment to honoring only the oldest Yale figures – the name "Taft" would not appear among the lists of candidates considered until the building of new residential colleges in subsequent decades.

Trumbull College was named for Jonathan Trumbull, "governor of the Colony and later of the State of Connecticut."²⁶ Trumbull's closest direct link to Yale was receiving an honorary degree in 1779, but his name nonetheless beat out those of Yale graduates James Kent and Noah Webster.²⁷ While he possessed only a tangential relationship to

Yale, Trumbull was similar to Davenport in providing a significant link to the past of New Haven and Connecticut, again demonstrating the Corporation's prioritization of history over direct connection to the university. Because the building was part of the Sterling bequest, there seems to have been some desire to use the name "Sterling College" for a time. Ultimately, however, the official release proclaimed the naming of the college in honor of "Jonathan Trumbull, Governor of Connecticut, Revolutionary Patriot, the 'Brother Jonathan' of tradition."²⁸

SILLIMAN

Of the residential college names, "Silliman" was the most vigorously debated. The building upon which the college was to be located, the Vanderbilt-Sheffield ("Van-Sheff") dormitories, honored the names of two Yale benefactors. For some members of the nomenclature committee, it was assumed that one of these two names would be used. Of course, Angell's insistence upon naming the building after past Yalies kept a "Vanderbilt College" largely out of the picture. However, the additional complication of potentially removing the name "Sheffield" put Angell in the awkward position of trying to satisfy both Yale College and Sheffield School alumni.

Understandably, some alumni believed that a "Sheffield College" might be confused with the Sheffield Scientific School, but others worried that Scientific School alumni would feel spurned if the Sheffield name were removed from a building. President Angell felt strongly that Sheffield was the best name for a college, arguing that objections to the idea "apply only to the present and will disappear when the present generation passes from the scene."²⁹ Fortunately for the rest of the committee, Angell's second choice was Silliman College "despite the ease with which [the name] lends itself to adolescent punning."³⁰ Over the course of several letters, Professor Charles Warren attempted to convince Angell that Silliman was in fact the best choice, arguing that it had both great significance in the history of Yale and "the advantage of sounding well."³¹

The majority of the Board of Trustees of the Sheffield Scientific School preferred the name Silliman, but several wanted Hillhouse (honoring James Hillhouse) as the first choice. Josiah Willard Gibbs was perhaps the only name rejected because it was deemed too qualified for the occasion. Warren wrote that "there is no more distinguished name at Yale than Gibbs," and that the name would be "more appropriate for some use in connection with the Graduate School than for an undergraduate college."³² The debate over Gibbs would return in later months over the naming of the tenth residential college. Another interesting choice, James Dana College, was rejected because a "Dana Hall" already existed. Other names under consideration included that of mineralogist George Brush — a name rejected because it was "not euphonious" and might "lend itself to undesirable nicknames" — as well as Noah Webster.³³ Ultimately, however, the college was named for "Benjamin Silli-

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man, a member of the faculty from 1802 to 1853,” the first professor of chemistry at Yale and “the father of American scientific education.”³⁴

TIMOTHY DWIGHT

Mystery surrounds the discussions that resulted in the naming of the tenth residential college, Timothy Dwight, which honors two Yale presidents from the same family. Angell, still believing that the name “Sheffield” should adorn a college, seems to have changed his mind to support Timothy Dwight because just one President of Yale – Abraham Pierson – had been honored at that time.³⁵ Although members of the nomenclature committee raised concerns that a “Dwight Hall” already existed and that might it be difficult to distinguish between the two buildings, Angell rejected this logic, arguing that Cambridge had two Trinity Colleges that were not often confused. Names such as Cooper (after author James Fenimore Cooper), Sumner (after Yale professor and sociologist Charles Graham Sumner), Killingworth (after the location of Abraham Pierson’s congregation), and Webster (of Webster’s Dictionary fame) did not make the Corporation’s short list. Timothy Dwight was ultimately chosen over Samuel F.B. Morse and Josiah Willard Gibbs despite several informal votes that demonstrated a preference for Morse or Gibbs over Dwight.³⁶ In fact, the Committee on Educational Policy – yet another subcommittee that contained the nomenclature committee – forwarded their recommendation of “Gibbs College” to the Corporation. Upon reaching the Corporation, however, the decision was tabled because the vote was too close to call. The reasons behind the ultimate decision remain unknown, but likely spurn from President Angell’s personal preference for the Dwight name.

The presence of a transcript of Dwight’s advice in the Provost’s Office records offers another potential – if only partial – explanation for the decision. This transcript records a conversation between Thomas Jefferson and Timothy Dwight IV – the elder of the two namesakes – in which Jefferson purportedly requested the advice of Dwight on establishing a system of smaller colleges the University of Virginia. On this occasion, Dwight is believed to have praised the advantages of the Oxbridge college system, offering a link between the name of the college and the inspiration for the residential college system.³⁷ Outside of this tenuous piece of evidence, however, little is known about the final decision to name the tenth college after both Timothy Dwights.

MORSE & STILES

In 1956, Yale was again in need of expanding its housing offerings to undergraduates. The gift of art collector Paul Mellon enabled the construction of two additional residential colleges, which were much needed after the rapid increase in student population after the GI Bill. Ezra Stiles College appears to have been an uncontested and uncontroversial choice, honoring “the memory of the theologian, lawyer, scientist, and philosopher who

graduated from Yale in 1746 and served as her seventh President.”³⁸ For the other college, President Alfred Whitney Griswold appears to have requested a list of famous literary figures to consider, including James Fenimore Cooper, Sinclair Lewis, and Thornton Wilder.³⁹ Proposals for Noah Webster College and two Taft Colleges – after William Howard and his lesser-known son Robert – also emerged, but received little actual consideration.

Theodore Sizer, a History of Art professor who would later design the college crests of both Morse and Stiles, seems to have influenced the ultimate decision to name the college after Samuel F.B. Morse. Sizer’s correspondence with Griswold demonstrates a close friendship that consisted of sharing art history articles, congratulating each other on academic accomplishments, and using the nicknames “Ted” and “Whit” to address one another. Griswold received several letters from Sizer outlining Morse’s accomplishments as an artist, inventor, New Haven resident, and Yale undergraduate.⁴⁰ At one point, Sizer drove the point home by sending Griswold a newspaper article with an attached note: “At the risk of belaboring the point let me ask this question: what other Yale man has there been whose name has become a noun?”⁴¹ Griswold later responded to Sizer confirming his commitment to naming a college after Morse, and the Corporation later agreed with Griswold’s recommendation. In addition, it seems possible that Yale’s desire to honor a donor may have influenced the corporation’s decision; Susan Morse, a descendant of Morse, endowed around twelve assistant professorships in humanities fields, a factor that Professor Gaddis Smith believed motivated the naming of Morse College.⁴² In the end, Morse College was named in honor of the “eminent American artist and inventor of the telegraph, Samuel F.B. Morse, of the Yale Class of 1810.”⁴³

CONCLUSION: THE NEW COLLEGES

The history of residential college nomenclature demonstrates that these types of decisions have long been a function of administrative power and respect for tradition – often in differing proportions with every round. With the 2016 announcement of Benjamin Franklin and Pauli Murray as the names for the newest residential colleges, and the 2017 renaming of Calhoun College as Grace Hopper College, the trend persists. While both the Corporation and President Peter Salovey requested far more feedback from students, alumni, and faculty than any previous iteration of the naming process, the Corporation’s final decision aligned with historical precedent in its apparent rejection of outside recommendations. However, it remains too soon to write a modern history of the new residential college naming process due to one important reason: for the first time in Yale history, student reaction will continue to play an important part in the acceptance of college names, both new and old. In this light, the naming of the new residential colleges is certainly unprecedented.

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NOTES

1. “James R. Angell to Clarence W. Mendell,” January 14, 1930, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library. For information on the establishment of the colleges see: Charles Seymour, “The Residential-Hall Plan for Yale College: Digest of an Address Before an Open Meeting Held in the Alpha Chi Rho House,” *Yale Alumni Weekly*, March 15, 1929; Charles Seymour, “Notes on Undergraduate Organization,” November 30, 1927, 3, Box 187, Folder 2028, James Rowland Angell, President of Yale University, Records, (RU 24), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library; “Copy of Yale Corporation Minutes,” February 7, 1931, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

2. Yale and Harvard’s new system was covered by both domestic and national publications, including *The New York Times* and *Manchester Guardian Weekly*. In addition, President Angell remained in touch with the presidents of other American universities building their own versions of the residential college system, including Swarthmore and the University of Chicago. At least one Yale alumni was so concerned with the potential social effects of the new system that he proposed a “test run” of the system with a faculty advisor and twenty hand-picked sophomores, who were supposedly a “representative cross section of the class.” (See “Proposing a Small Scale, Anticipatory Unit of the Quadrangle System,” William Henry van Benschoten, May 23, 1930, Box 184, Folder 1992, James Rowland Angell, President of Yale University, Records, Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.)

3. Thomas Goddard Bergin and A. Bartlett Giamatti, *Yale’s Residential Colleges: The First Fifty Years* (New Haven, Conn: Yale University, 1983), 35.

4. Richard Mooney, email to Paul Styslinger, May 4, 2016.

5. Ibid.

6. “Report of the Committee on Undergraduate Housing Part II,” March 22, 1929, Box 183, Folder 1987, James Rowland Angell, President of Yale University, Records, (RU 24), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

7. In a somewhat related choice, the decision between “Master” and “Head” proved far less explicit or important to Yale, with use of both titles being used interchangeably through the first few years of the residential college system’s planning.

8. “Milton Conover to James R. Angell,” December 6, 1930, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

9. “James Gamble Rogers to Charles Seymour,” February 17, 1930, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

10. “Newell H. Hargrave to James R. Angell,” February 24, 1930, Box 184, Folder 1989, James Rowland Angell, President of Yale University, Records, (RU 24), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

11. James Gamble Rogers referred to one college of undetermined identity – perhaps Davenport or Silliman prior to their naming – as “Unit X.” Alas, this label was never offered as a potential name for a residential college.

12. While the establishment of the residential college system at Yale claims its roots in the storied history of the English higher education system, the ultimate decisions surrounding its implementation seem to deal more closely with tracking Harvard’s house system. Yale administrators followed the development of Harvard’s new plan – funded by a Harkness gift of its own from a few years prior – as a means of improving upon their rival’s test run. Yale gathered information regarding almost every aspect of Harvard’s house system, including student diversity within Harvard houses, student dissatisfaction with a Cambridge-style “high table” in dining halls, architectural plans, and the advantages of creating a separate campus for freshmen. By keeping track of their rival’s developing system, Yale was able to avoid some of the logistical and social issues Harvard’s houses faced in their early years.

13. The proposal for Hadley College, after Yale’s former president, was probably due to the fact

that an “Angell College” could not at all be considered – Angell was responsible for almost bungling the Harkness donation altogether in a series of poorly managed communications with the donor, and the president was hardly in the good graces of the alumni at this time. George Wilson Pierson, *Yale: The University College 1921-1937*, His Yale: College and University, 1871-1937, v. 2 (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955), 408.

14. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 132.
15. So much for not naming colleges after donors! Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 126.
16. Richard Mooney, email to Paul Styslinger, May 4, 2016.
17. “Copy of Yale Corporation Minutes,” February 7, 1931, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
18. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 126.
19. “Copy of Yale Corporation Minutes.”
20. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 143.
21. *Ibid.*, 136.
22. George Pierson’s Yale history adopts its wording of Jonathan Edwards and Calhoun as the most “eminent of Yale’s former graduates in Church and Civil State” (p. 408) from the Committee on Educational Policy records. It is possible that this Committee, responsible for forwarding name recommendations to the Corporation, enjoyed the sonorous nature of this phrasing, and thus waited until the more “political” name had been decided to announce its decision.
23. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 130.
24. “Yale University News Statement: Yale Names Three College Quadrangles and Assigns Masters,” October 16, 1931, Box 7, Folder 102, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38). Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
25. While I have not been able to track down this archive as of yet, Professor Jay Gitlin at one point found a copy of a poem read at an early ceremony in Calhoun College that makes a jest about Calhoun’s unlikable character. In this way, it is likely that Calhoun was recognized as a controversial figure at the time, but not to the extent that it garnered written opposition at the time of its naming (based upon the absence of archival information on the subject).
26. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 148.
27. Pierson, *Yale*, 408.
28. “Yale University News Statement: Yale Names Three College Quadrangles and Assigns Masters.” October 16, 1931, Box 7, Folder 102, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38). Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
29. “Charles Seymour to Charles H. Warren,” October 3, 1931, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38). Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
30. “James R. Angell to Charles H. Warren,” October 20, 1931, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
31. “Charles H. Warren to James R. Angell,” October 10, 1931, Box 7, Folder 103, Guide to the Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential College System (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
32. *Ibid.*
33. *Ibid.*
34. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 144.
35. “Committee on Educational Policy Minutes,” May 11, 1934, Box 70, Folder 715, James Rowland Angell, President of Yale University, Records, (RU 24), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.
36. *Ibid.*
37. Provost’s Office, Yale University, Records Concerning the Establishment of the Residential

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College System, Box 3, Folder 29, (RU 38), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

38. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 146.

39. The same list has a postscript that states: "Noah Webster' wouldn't be a bad idea!"

40. Paul Mellon's affinity for fine art may also have contributed to naming a college after one of Yale's most well-known artists, although there is little written evidence to support this possibility.

41. "Theodore Sizer to Alfred Whitney Griswold," September 17, 1958, Box 213, Folder 1963, Alfred Whitney Griswold, President of Yale University, Records (RU 22), Manuscripts & Archives, Yale University Library.

42. Richard Mooney, email to Paul Styslinger, May 4, 2016.

43. Bergin and Giamatti, *Yale's Residential Colleges*, 138

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TITLE IMAGE

Yankowitz, Emily, Photograph of Yale College Shields, August 25, 2016.