

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers

From John Grier Hibben¹

[Princeton, N.J.] October 14, 1902

Dear Sir: Delegates and guests invited to take part in the procession on the occasion of the Inauguration of President Wilson are requested to appear in full academic costume.²

Should you not be provided I would suggest that you communicate with Messrs. Cotrell & Leonard, outfitters to the University, 472 Broadway, Albany, N.Y., who will give you any information you may desire. Sincerely yours,

John Grier Hibben
For the Committee

TLS Con. 230 BTW Papers DLC. On stationery of the Inauguration Committee of Princeton University.

¹ John Grier Hibben (1861–1933) taught logic and psychology at Princeton from 1891 to 1912. He was president of Princeton from 1912 to 1933.

² BTW marched in the academic procession on Oct. 25, 1902, when Woodrow Wilson was installed as president of Princeton. His hood lined with the colors of Harvard and Dartmouth, which had awarded him honorary degrees, BTW attended with about 150 delegates from universities, colleges, and learned societies. During the procession BTW was singled out by Mrs. Grover Cleveland, who shook his hand. Many years later one of Wilson's daughters recalled that BTW's presence so scandalized her unreconstructed aunt from Georgia that "she said if she had known he was to be there she wouldn't have gone (which scandalized us) and father said that Booker T's speech was the very best at the dinner afterwards bar none 'not than yours, Father.' 'Oh yes no comparison between them' — our incredulous 'oh's' and mother's sweet smile equally incredulous." (Jessie W. Sayre to Ray Stannard Baker, Apr. 25, 1927, Ray Stannard Baker Papers, DLC.) BTW was the only one of the visiting dignitaries not housed with a family of a Princeton faculty member, and he had to reside at a black boardinghouse in the town. The Wilsons did not invite him to either of the dinners they gave during the festivities, though it is remotely possible he attended the class of '79 dinner at the Princeton Inn the night of the inaugural. He did attend a luncheon held by the Henry Gurdon Marquands, donors of the Marquand Chapel at Princeton. (*Tuskegee Student*, 14 [Nov. 1, 1902], 2, 3.)