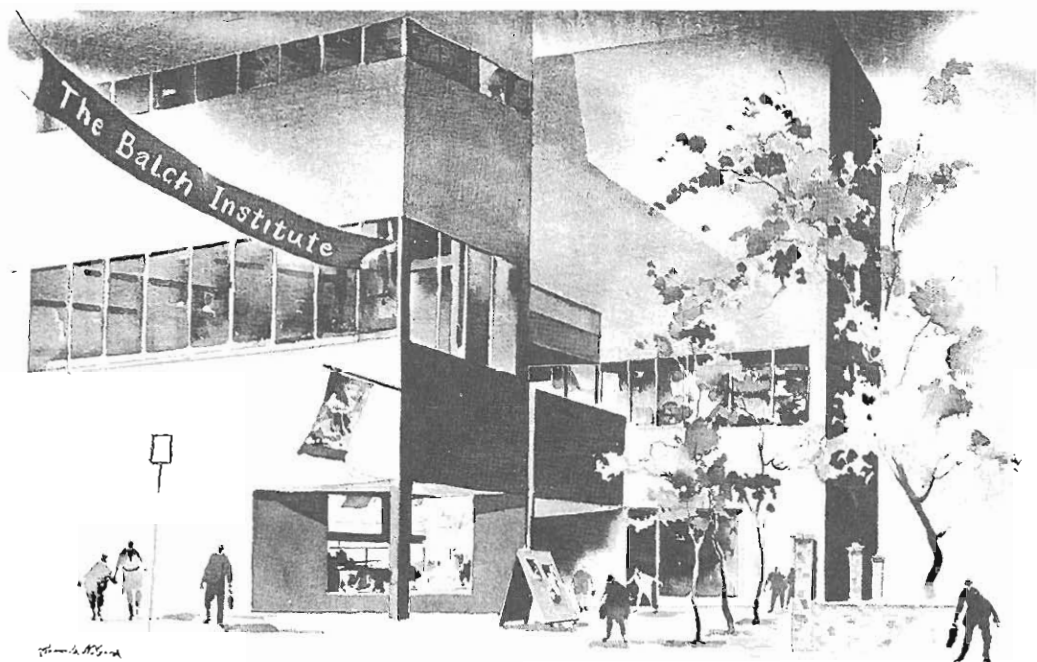


The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies

Philadelphia, PA., USA



The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies perustettiin v. 1971 Balch-perheen 1926 jättämän perinnön turvin. Vuonna 1976 valmistui 5 milj. dollaria maksanut 6-kerroksinen toimitalo, joka sisältää näyttely-, arkisto-, kirjasto- ym. tilat. Laitoksen johtajana toimii toht. Mark Stolarik. Balch Institute on valmis yhteistyöhön Siirtolaisuusinstituutin kanssa suomalaisten siirtolaisten dokumentoinnissa.

The Balch Institute opened to the public in 1976 - during the nation's Bicentennial year. The Institute's beginnings start with Emily Swift Balch (c. 1835-1917), whose will provided that, should her sons die without heirs, the family estate would be used to establish a library in the Philadelphia area. The Institution would be named for the family, whose ancestor John Balch had originally come to America from Somerset, England in 1658.

The two sons of Emily Swift Balch, Thomas Willing Balch and Edwin Swift Balch, further provided in their wills in 1922, that an "auxiliary museum" be established, and that "such things as pictures, sculptures, etchings... ethnographic specimens, especially American" be acquired through donations or purchase.

Both sons died in 1927 without heirs. In 1957 Fidelity Bank, the trustee of the Balch estates, requested guidance from the Orphan's Court of Philadelphia in the use of the funds. Since Philadelphia

was amply provided with general purpose libraries, it was eventually decided that the Balch funds should be used to create a specialized library and museum devoted to the history of immigration and the significance of ethnicity in American society.

The Institute was incorporated in 1971. Its building was completed and opened to the public in 1976.

Support from the Balch estates paid for the construction of the building and still provides about one-third of the budget of the Institute. The balance comes from public and private contributions from institutions and individuals who want to help support the documentation and interpretation of the history of immigration and of America's multicultural heritage.

In addition to private foundations and government agencies, over eight-hundred Members currently support the work of the Balch Institute. Information on membership will be supplied upon request.