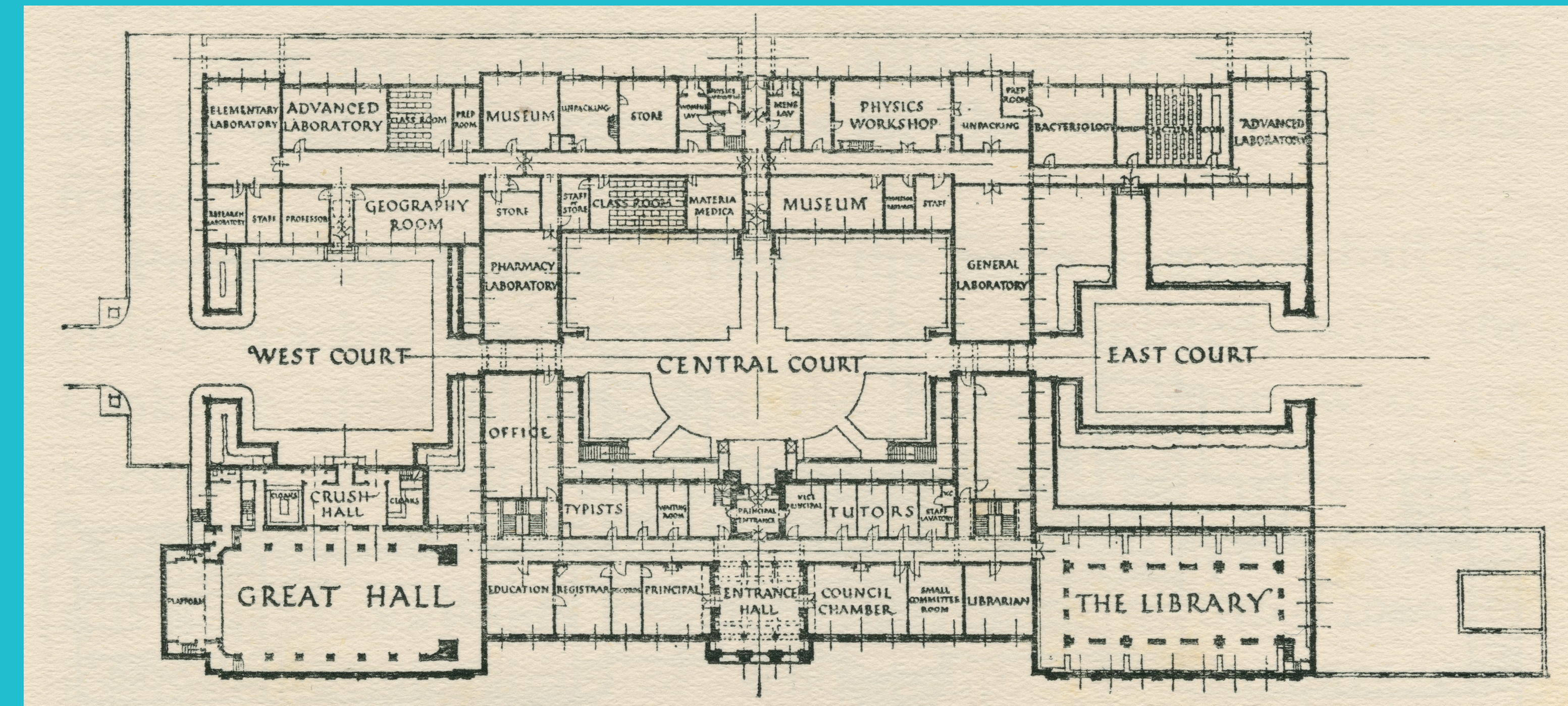




King George V and Queen Mary arriving for the opening of the Trent Building, 10 July 1928. The view of the lake and old pavilion to the right is now obscured by trees. From University Collection, UMP/2/1/4/1

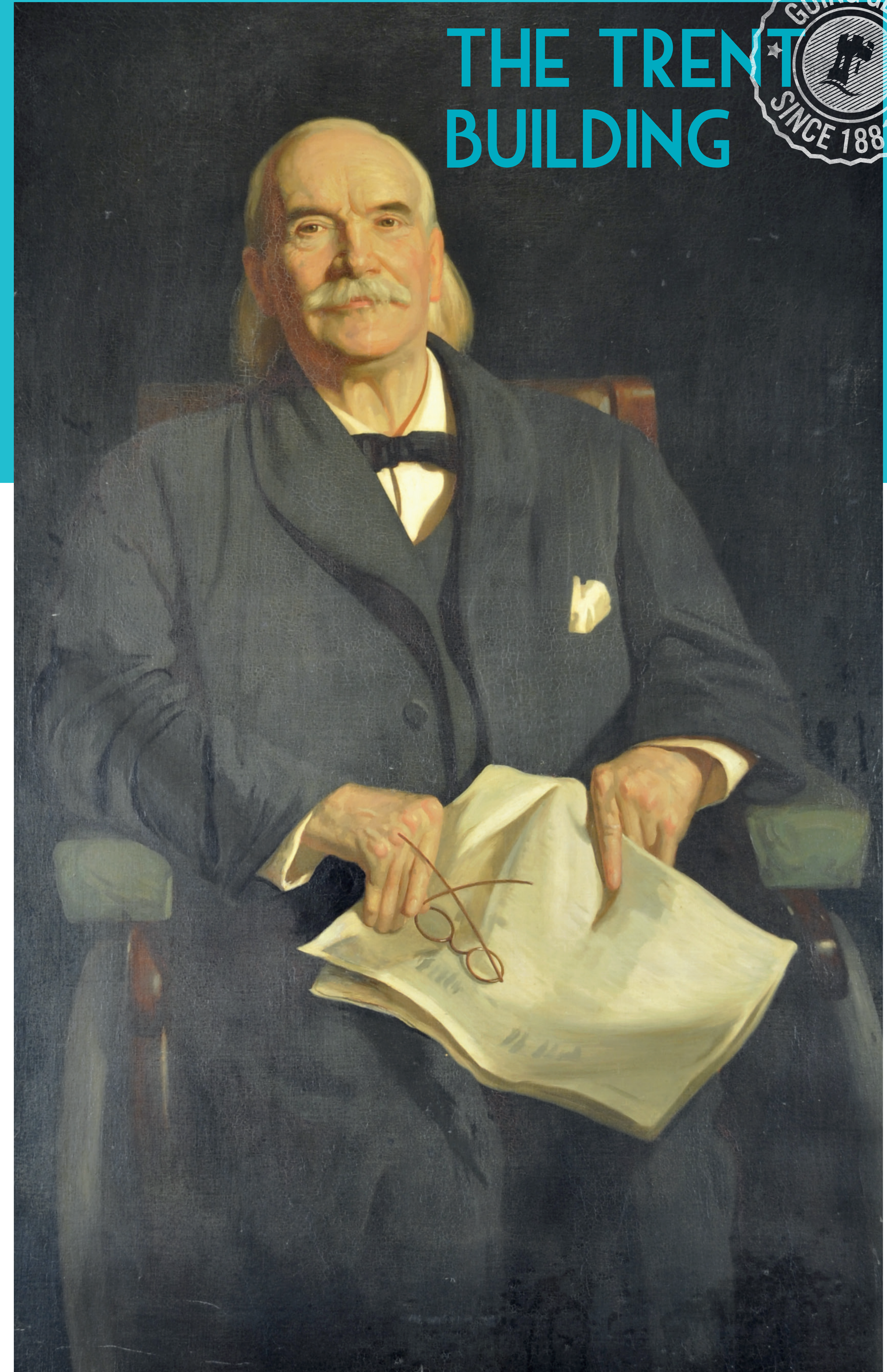


Ground floor plan of the Trent Building, c.1928. Virtually all the departments, together with the library, administration and catering, transferred to the new building in autumn 1928. From Nottingham University College by B.S. Townroe (1928). From East Midlands Collection Oversize, Not 5.E2 TOW.



Nottingham University College, c.1928. From University Collection, UR 1393

# THE TRENT BUILDING



## By the 1920s the University College buildings on Shakespeare Street were no longer sufficient for the number of students attending courses.

New buildings were required, but no land was available in the town centre. The pharmaceuticals entrepreneur Jesse Boot provided the solution to this problem, gifting the College 30 acres from his estate at Highfields on the western border of Nottingham.

Boot was a great benefactor of University College and was committed to helping it become a full university. Aside from giving the land, he also funded the new College building which we know as the Trent Building.

The Foundation Stone was laid on 14 June 1922. Massive stabilizing foundations had to be sunk to counter any tendency for the building

to slip forward towards the lake. This partly explains the time taken to complete the building.

King George V and Queen Mary opened the building on 10 July 1928, and most of the academic departments, the library and the laboratories transferred from the city for the academic session beginning in October.

Most commentators were favourable, highlighting the reserved dignity of the new building, and the way in which it blended in with the surrounding landscape. D.H. Lawrence was less appreciative, describing it as built in a 'grand and cakey style'.

Sir Jesse Boot, later Lord Trent, shown here in a portrait by Noel Denholm Davis from the 1920s. This portrait is owned by the University and hangs in the Council Chamber. From University Collection, UMP/2/4/1/1