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Lehigh Student Research: The Early Days

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Lehigh student research: the early days

In 1893, Lehigh senior C.L. McKenzie prepared a thorough study of the Hill-to-Hill bridge between Bethlehem and South Bethlehem while it was still a covered wooden bridge. The thesis includes four photographs of the structure; it is a detailed primary source document of this important structure, and has been used by historians. [See p. 2 for photograph.]

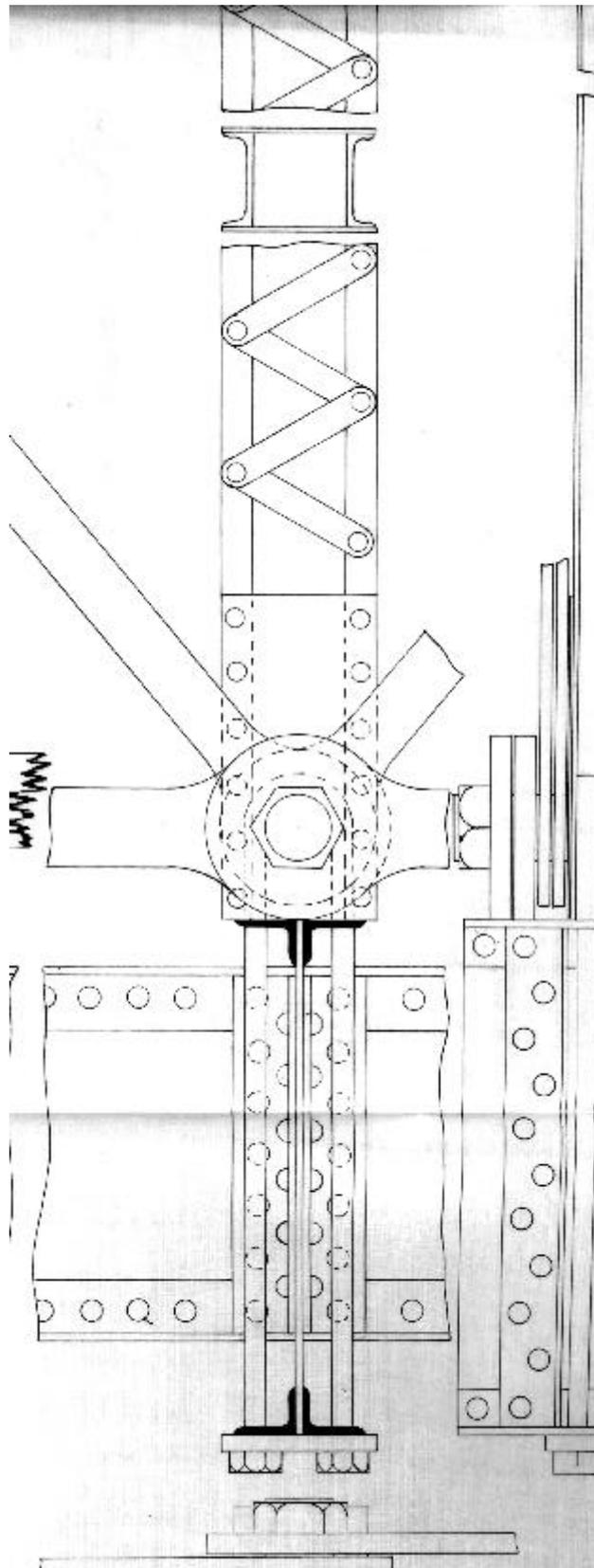
The reason for this project is explained in a notice quoted here from a Lehigh register of the 1870s, only a few years after the establishment of the University.

Graduating Theses. Every student, in each of the Schools [The School of General Literature and the School of Technology] will be required to present a thesis upon some topic connected with his special School, as a necessary portion of the exercises for his final examination for a diploma. These theses shall be accompanied by drawings and diagrams when the subjects need such illustration. . . .

What this meant was that each graduating senior had to sit himself down and write something reasonably original relating to his course of study in order to earn the right to a Lehigh diploma.

In fact, most of these bachelors' theses remain in Special Collections today, not only forming a part of the

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students' records, and the record of teaching and research at the University, but also constituting a body of material worthy of consultation today.

Granted, many have small value except as examples of

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