The Compendium*

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Shadow is not an umbrage only but the proof of our existence.

- Samar Sudha

^{*} Compendium... "giving the sense and substance of the topic within small compass." In dialing, a compendium is a single instrument incorporating a variety of dial types and ancillary tools.

Sighting... In A St. Louis Seminary Donald Snyder (St. Louis MO)

Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, is a small Lutheran-institution having 36 faculty members that provide theological education for a student body of about 575 students. A horizontal sundial is located on the campus at 38°38'16.25" N, 90°18'41.66" W. The pedestal has a plaque mounted at its base, as seen in Fig. 1. It indicates that the sundial is dedicated as a memorial to former seminary student Andrew Cihaj (1913-1937) by his classmates in the class of 1937.

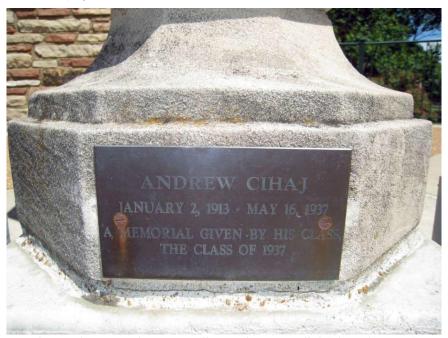


Fig 1. Plaque on the Concordia Seminary sundial (photo by DLS)



Fig 2. hexagonal dial plate (photo by DLS) octagonal

The sundial has a bronze dial-plate that is shaped as a hexagon measuring about 8 inches between opposing sides. Hour and half-hour time lines are marked from 4 AM to 8 PM; they are worn with effects of passing time. As seen in Fig. 2, the plate bears the inscription, "WORK FOR THE NIGHT COMETH."

The gnomon has been missing since 2009 when the sundial was vandalized. In June 2017, I was contacted by Mr. Darian Turner of C&W Services on behalf of the Seminary about replacing the gnomon. I designed a simple gnomon, which was made from bronze plate by Mr. William Turner of Turner & Associates, a metalworker living in St. Louis. With its new gnomon attached, we remounted the dial plate on the existing pedestal on Dec. 19, 2017. The restored sundial is displayed in Fig. 3. As time passes, the new gnomon will develop a patina so its color more closely matches that of the dial plate.



Fig 3. Concordia Seminary sundial with new gnomon (photo by DLS)

The campus of Concordia Seminary is open to the public, so anyone wishing to view the sundial can do so. It is located adjacent to the campus bookstore, with visitor parking available nearby.

Photographs taken during the machining of the new gnomon are in Figs. 4 and 5.

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Fig 4. use of a sine bar in milling the gnomon to the latitude of Concordia Seminary, 38.64° (photo by William Turner)



Fig 5. fitting the completed gnomon to the dial plate -- a chemical was subsequently applied to the bronze gnomon to initiate its oxidation in the process of patina formation that will bring its color closer to that of the bronze dial-plate (photo by William Turner)