

School Spirit



Vintage Dallin castings of *Great Spirit* today sell for upwards of \$10,000.

You've seen this statue before. Here's the story behind it. BY LEE MICHAELIDES

APPEAL TO THE GREAT SPIRIT BY CYRUS DALLIN has stood as the cast bronze centerpiece of Baker Library's Tower Room since Leslie Snow, class of 1886, gave it to the College in 1928. If the statue seems familiar, even long after your College days, it should. Copies are abundant. One of Dallin's three 10-foot-high castings dominates the grounds of Boston's Museum of Fine Arts. A 40-inch replica, the same size as the Tower Room version, stands at a street intersection in Muncie, Indiana. Bill Clinton displayed a 21-inch version in the Oval Office. The variety of tchotchkes

inspired by *Great Spirit* seems endless: It appears on postcards, wall hangings, prints and cast-metal toys. The Beach Boys even got into the act, using the image as the logo for their recording company, Brother Records, in 1966.

Great Spirit, the final piece in Dallin's four-part series called *Epic of the Indian*, won a gold medal at the 1909 Paris Salon. It symbolizes a final gesture of hope of a subjugated people—and has stood guardian over scores of studying and procrastinating students with academic hopes of their own. ■