

✿ University of Chicago's Oriental Institute nominated by INSPEC Inc.

Company: When Mark A. Cronin became the 40th president of NRCA in 1921, Knickerbocker Roofing, founded by Mark's father-in-law Bernard Kelly, already was a successful 35-year-old business. Mark was succeeded by his three sons—Jim, Bob and Mark Jr.—who developed Knickerbocker into a pre-eminent Midwest roofing and sheet-metal



company. Now Mark's grandsons—Chris, Bob, Paul and Mark III—enhance and maintain Knickerbocker's position in the increasingly demanding and competitive marketplace of the 21st century. For more than 100 years, the company's goal has remained the same—to offer quality roof system installations in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

Project: The Oriental Institute contains a world-class collection of ancient Greek and Egyptian artifacts. The institute's occupied space includes exhibit halls, research offices and a library that features an intricately hand-painted plaster ceiling. With the exception of a few small low-slope roof areas, the institute's roof system consisted of nailable lightweight concrete over a precast concrete plank roof deck covered by a clay tile roof system.

Plans and specifications for an entirely new deck, insulation and roof system were developed by INSPEC Inc., Milwaukee.

Knickerbocker's approach required the removal of the existing clay tile and underlayment within prescribed work areas. Field-cut metal deck material was inserted into the opening, and a layer of Dens Deck then was mechanically fastened to the deck followed by a layer of ¾-inch plywood and new underlayment. This process was repeated numerous times before installation of Ludowici tile.

The new gutters and dormers required particular attention to detail. Copper gutters were fabricated and inlaid on steel support brackets framed with wood. A stamped, lead-coated copper gutter fascia then

was installed to match the original design. The dormer sidewalls were covered with tile, and the dormer roofs were finished with a flat-locked copper. All exposed wood was covered with copper—special attention was given to the dormer and gutter interface.

Work for the phase one contract was completed during the fall of 2000 with no leakage or construction-related accidents. Knickerbocker Roofing's commitment to quality workmanship and communication resulted in a highly successful project, a happy owner and a roof system that should last for at least 80 years.