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SCHOLARSHIPS: PETERSON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS, 1921- 1930

FILE 608

PETERSON MEMORIAL

*Original Peterson letter in
Comptroller's vault*

MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 27, 1930.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,
Principal, McGill University.

My dear Principal:

I am returning herewith all correspondence with Professor W.G. Peterson of St. Andrews, which you handed to me, and I need scarcely mention how highly this Faculty and especially the Departments of Classics and English appreciate Mr. Peterson's kindly offer to old McGill.

I have consulted with Dr. W.D. Woodhead, Chairman of the Department of Classics, and with Professor Cyrus MacMillan, Chairman of the Department of English Language and Literature, and we have agreed to offer the following suggestions.

1. That the interest on the \$10,000 which Professor Peterson purposes to bequeath by his will shall be applied to the payment of a scholarship of \$500, to be awarded each year to the most promising student in Classics, and to be known as the "Peterson Memorial Scholarship".

2. That the cost value of the proposed Peterson Gold Medal be used to found a prize of books to be given annually to the most promising student in English Literature, and to be known as the "Peterson Memorial Prize in Literature".

The Department of Classics and the Department of English Literature each have a gold medal at present, the Department of Classics the Chapman Gold Medal, and the Department of English the Shakespeare Gold Medal. We have also, as you know, several other medals offered annually

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

but in recent years I should think that the students do not seem to have attached as much value to these medals as to other more distinctive scholarships or prizes. Dr. Woodhead, Dr. MacMillan and I all think, therefore, that a prize of books would, at present, be more distinctive than another medal.

Yours very truly,

Ira H. Mackay

Dean.

Encl.

March 29th, 1930.

Professor W. G. Petersen,
St. Andrews' University,
Scotland.

My dear Major,

I am thoroughly ashamed of myself in that I have not written you personally with reference to your very kind letter of January 23rd. Let me assure you that your offer is most gratefully accepted by the Board of Governors of McGill and will give much pleasure to all those interested in the progress of this University, and particularly to those who knew your late distinguished father personally.

With reference to the advisability of having one scholarship of \$500 per annum or two of \$250, it is my opinion that one of \$500 is the better arrangement, and I suggest to you that it be awarded each year to the most promising student in Classics and that it be known as "The Peterson Memorial Scholarship".

Now as to the Gold Medal, let me make the suggestion that the cost value of this proposed medal be used to found a prize of books to be given annually to the most promising student in English Literature, and to be known as "The Petersen Memorial Prize in Literature". As you have pointed out, the Department of Classics and the Department of English Literature each have a gold medal. In the Department of Classics they have the Chapman Gold Medal and in the Department of English the Shakespeare Gold Medal. We have the impression that the students do not attach as much value to

medals as to other more distinctive scholarships of prizes. This view is concurred in by Dean MacKay of the Faculty of Arts and by Professor Woodhead, Chairman of the Department of Classics and Professor McMillan, Chairman of the Department of English Literature.

I would be very pleased to hear what you think of these suggestions.

Let me once more express our sincere appreciation of your generosity and kindness.

Please remember me to kindly to Principal Irvine.

With all good wishes to you,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

P.S. May I thank you, too, for your kindness in writing to your brother, who was very kind to me when I was in Cairo just over a year ago. I have not heard whether he is still there or not.

TELEGRAMS: "ANCIENT"
TELEPHONE No 13



13/April/'30.

THE ROYAL & ANCIENT
GOLF CLUB OF
ST ANDREWS,
FIFE.

Dear Mr Principal,
Very many thanks
to you letter of 29/March/'30.

If I may say so
— I think that what you
suggest is just what is
needed.

I have accordingly
instructed my lawyers
Messrs Free Cholmeley
& Co, 28 Lincoln Inn
Fields London W.C.

to insert a clause
in my will — whereby
after my death the
capital sum of \$10,000

(a such other sum, as may
be required in Canadian
Government stock to
pay \$500 p. a.) —
be paid over to
the University.

This for the purpose
of founding, after my
death, the "Peterson
Memorial Scholarship".

This to be in
Classics and to follow
the lines you suggest.

In the widening
extent of the study
of Classics during

TELEGRAMS: "ANCIENT"
TELEPHONE No 13



THE ROYAL & ANCIENT
GOLF CLUB OF
ST ANDREWS,
FIFE.

out at No 81 I ask
that the Board of Govern-
ment have power to attack
the scholarship to some
other subject.

I only wish that
I were "financially fit"
to start it now!

Sincerely I
respectfully concur in
your advice as to
the "Peterson Memorial
Prize in Literature" in-
stead of a medal.

To this end - I
have had lawyers
to embody this in
law.

As you know I
wish to start this
as soon as convenient
to the University.

See I think -
the value of this
project will be sent
by me annually to
the Secretary of
the University.

Possibly the
Secretary will let

TELEGRAMS "ANCIENT"
TELEPHONE No 13



THE ROYAL & ANCIENT
GOLF CLUB OF
ST ANDREWS,
FIFE.

we know at what
date to send it to
the amount.

I suggest \$50. p.a.
for books for the "Peterson
Memorial Prize in Literature"

— and shall be most
happy to send this
as soon as the University
can afford the prize
— and annually thereafter.

I would ask
you to accept my

Thanks for your own
kindness in this matter
— and to convey my
gratitude to the Governor
and to the Dean of
Arts and the Heads
of the Departments of
Classics and English

I am,

Sir Arthur,

Sincerely Yours
Wm Peterson.

P.S. I have given ^{you} remembrances
to Principal Irvine.

My brother, now in Aedid,
was honoured by meeting
you in Cairo.

St. Andrews, Fie-

13th of April 1930.

Dear Mr. Principal:

Very many thanks for your letter of 29th March 1930. If I may say so - I think that what you suggest is just what is needed.

I have accordingly instructed my lawyers, Messrs Frere, Cholmeley & Co., 28 Lincoln Inn, Fields, London, W.C., to insert a clause in my will - whereby after my death the capital sum of \$10,000. (or such other sum as may be required in Canadian Government stock to give \$500. p.a.) be paid over to the University. This for the purpose of founding, after my death, the "Peterson Memorial Scholarship". This to be in Classics and to follow the lines you suggest. In the unlikely event of the study of Classics dying out at McGill, I ask that the Board of Governors have power to allocate the scholarship to some other subject. I only wish that I were "financially fit" to start it now.

Secondly, I respectfully concur in your advice as to the "Peterson Memorial Prize in Literature" instead of a medal. To this end I have told lawyers to embody this in will. As you know I wish to start this as soon as convenient to the University. Till I die the value of this prize will be sent by me annually to the Secretary of the University. Possibly the Secretary will let me know at what date to send it and the amount. I suggest \$50. p.a. for books for the "Peterson Memorial Prize in Literature" - and shall be most happy to send this as soon as the University can award the prize - and annually thereafter.

I would ask you to accept my thanks for your own kindness in this matter - and to convey my gratitude to the Governors and

to the Dean of Arts and the Heads of the Departments of Classics and English.

I am,

Sir Arthur,

Sincerely yours,

(signed) W.E. Peterson

P.S. I have given your remembrances to Principal Irvine. My brother,
now in Madrid, was honoured by meeting you in Cairo.

TELEGRAMS: "ANCIENT"
TELEPHONE No 13



21 / Feb / '29

THE ROYAL & ANCIENT
GOLF CLUB OF
ST ANDREWS,
FIFE.

Dear Dr Martin,

Thank you so
much for the cable
which you sent in your
own name and that of
McGill.

My mother died on
12th Feb. of broncho-
pneumonia.

She was buried
on 15th Feb. at
Newlyehouse London,

- beside Father.

She had not really been
well for the last two years
: nervous depression, what
the doctor has call "auto-
intoxication".

I shall miss her
dearly

Very sincerely yours
W. Peterman

20th February, 1929.

John T. Ross, Esq.
Quebec City, P. Q.


Dear Mr. Ross,

We were so very grieved to hear about the death of Lady Petersen. It only came to us quite indirectly, but I cabled to Willie our message of sympathy - both from the University and ourselves.

On the other hand, I do feel we ought to make some mention of it, with an appreciative note, in the Press, and I wondered if that were being done, or, perhaps, if it should not be. So many people here among our friends appreciated Lady Petersen so much, and yet they have no means of knowing what has transpired.

With all kind regards, believe me

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund

McGILL UNIVERSITY, FACULTY OF MUSIC,
323 W. SHERBROOKE ST.,
MONTREAL, *February, 14th, 1921*

COMMITTEE:

Miss Dorothy Armstrong
Miss Ellen Ballon
Mrs. Boronow
Mr. R. S. Bryson
Miss Audrey Cook
Miss Renée D'Amour
Mr. H. Dansereau
Miss B. Donnelly

Miss Ruth Duncan
Miss E. Eager
Miss Jessie Hannah
Miss Edith Johnson
Miss Elise Kingman
Mr. Gordon Lewis
Miss D. Lutton
Mr. H. McEachran

Mrs. Ed. Mackay
Mr. C. J. G. Molson
Mrs. Mothersill
Mrs. M. A. Phelan
Miss D. Rothschild
~~Miss A. E. C. C.~~
Mr. E. Sherrard

DEAR

You are, doubtless, well aware of the strong personal interest which the late Principal, Sir William Peterson, took in the establishment and development of the Conservatorium of Music. The proposal to commemorate this connection by the establishment of a permanent scholarship fund, the interest of which would be available for annual scholarships at the Conservatorium, has the hearty approval of the present Principal of the University, General Sir Arthur Currie, and the University authorities as a whole. At present there is no permanent scholarship fund, the Conservatorium being dependent upon occasional donations.

A provisional Committee, consisting of past and present students whose names are given above, has been formed. This Committee is anxious not only that every student who has been or is at present connected with the Conservatorium should contribute according to his or her means but that the funds should be raised quickly so that scholarships may be available for competition at the beginning of next Session. It will also welcome assistance from members of the general public who are interested in matters musical and wish to co-operate with the students in furthering the object in view.

May I ask you to forward your contribution as soon as possible to me at the address given above. If a cheque is sent it should be made payable to "The Treasurer, Peterson Memorial Fund."

Yours truly,

Hugh W. A. McEachran
Honorary Secretary.

A fortnight's campaign to raise \$10,000 has been undertaken by a Committee consisting of past and present students of McGill University Conservatorium of Music. Of this Committee Miss Jessie Hannah has been appointed Chairman and Mr. Hugh McEachran Honorary Secretary.

The project had its origin in the desire of many students that the name of the late Sir William Peterson should be perpetuated in some way through the Conservatorium in which he always took a keen interest. The money subscribed will form the nucleus of a Peterson Memorial Scholarship Fund, and the interest on the capital sum will be devoted to scholarships which can be competed for annually. Those in charge of the Campaign are anxious that sufficient funds should be raised at once so that the Conservatorium may have at least one or two scholarships available for next winter session.

While making a vigorous appeal at the present time for subscriptions and while hoping that every ex-student of the Conservatorium will support them by contributing something, however small, besides relying on the kind help of all music-lovers among the general public whom it is obviously impossible directly to approach, the Committee would like to point out that the Fund will always be requiring augmentation if it is to serve the purpose expected of it, which will be that of providing means whereby talented students who would be unable otherwise to do so may be helped to study seriously.

General Sir Arthur Currie in a letter to the Committee writes-

"I approve most cordially of the desire of the Faculty of Music to give expression to its appreciation of the efforts of the late Sir William Peterson, in placing Music on a sound footing in this University by creating a fund from which Scholarships could be provided.

"I feel that such an effort on your part will receive the cordial approval and support of all those who have attended the Courses in Music at this University, while many other music-lovers, I believe, will gladly contribute to the fund.

"I would suggest that when you once begin to raise money for this purpose you carry on vigorously until a satisfactory amount is received."

For the information of the general public generally it may be added that through the generosity of the late Sir William Macdohald the University was put into a position to fully recognise the status of the Conservatorium without feeling anxiety as to the ways and means of efficiently carrying it on, but this freedom from anxiety can be but temporary, since the development following the War has meant increased expenditure and they realise that the present building is inadequate. It is evident that there are no funds at their disposal for scholarships, and this campaign of the students is an attempt to supply a need which could not be met in any other way.