

May 13th, 1930.

Professor Waugh,
Department of History,
McGill University.

I have considered the suggestion that you attend the International Congress of Historical Geography August 11th to 14th next as the representative of McGill. In view of the financial considerations involved, I regret very much that I cannot promise any assistance.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

February 8th, 1928.

Sir Arthur Currie,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I have received your letter of February 6th. Will you please accept for yourself and also convey to the Finance Committee my thanks for the very generous contribution towards my expenses in connection with the forthcoming Historical Conference at Oslo. So far as I can tell at present, it will be possible for me to attend; and I will do my best to uphold the reputation of McGill and, for that matter, of Canada, of which I may be the sole representative.

Yours faithfully,

N. T. Naughton

February 6th, 1928

Professor W. T. Waugh,
Department of History,
McGill University.

Dear Professor Waugh:-

At the meeting of the Finance Committee last Thursday I was authorized to say to you that the Board would grant \$500.00 towards your expenses to the Historical Conference at Oslo this summer.

I hope this will encourage you to go as I would like very much to see McGill represented there.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

The
Graduates' Society of McGill University
Publishers of "The McGill News"



November 2, 1932.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal.

Dear Sir :

Recently the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society held their annual meeting, which we are informed was quite a successful one, and they enjoyed hearing from Doctor Simpson, who went there as their Guest-of-Honour.

During the course of the meeting the following resolution was proposed by Mr. R. T. Bowman, seconded by Miss Jean Matheson, and unanimously carried:

"That this Society expresses its regret to the University authorities in connection with the recent death of Professor Waugh."

I was asked to advise you in regard to this resolution.

Faithfully yours,

GBG/W

Executive Secretary

November 7th, 1932.

G. B. Glassco, Esq.,
Executive Secretary,
The Graduates Society,

Dear Mr. Glassco,

Let me thank you for your letter of the 2nd November, in which you convey to me the resolution passed at the recent annual meeting of the Ottawa Valley Graduates' Society expressing their regret at the untimely death of the late Professor Waugh.

Will you please convey to the Ottawa Valley Graduates the appreciation of the University of this expression of sympathy?

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

The late Professor William Templeton Waugh, M.A., B.D., F.R.S.C.

Professor W. T. Waugh died suddenly of heart failure at his home in Montreal on the 16th October of this year. He died at a moment early in the best years of his life, when much achievement yet lay before him. None the less he leaves at the age of 48 a record, which most men would be proud to leave as the record of a whole life. This is not solely in published works and scholarly reputation, of which he leaves much, but also in the influence upon his fellows of a great heart, a fine mind -- a wise, strong and beneficent humanity. There can be no consolation for the loss of this man.

Professor Waugh was born at Fairfield, Manchester, England, in 1884. He went to the Fulneck Moravian School, Yorkshire, and then to Manchester University, which was at that time building up the greatest school of mediaeval history in Great Britain under the leadership of Professors Tout and Tait. He became Assistant Lecturer in History at Manchester, and in 1915 went to Queens University, Belfast, as Acting Professor of History. Very shortly, however, he joined the staff of the War Trade Intelligence Department and there rendered most valuable service.

When Professor Waugh came to McGill in 1922 as Associate Professor of History a new epoch was opening here in that study. His introduction of the critical standards of the best school of mediaeval history in England gave McGill students an advantage superior to that offered by many far larger institutions. At McGill the History Honours School, for this and other reasons, came in a remarkably short space of time, to rank with the best schools in the Arts Faculty. Few men combine successful teaching with successful writing and research: Professor Waugh was one of those few, and excelled among them. Stimulating, broad and crystal-clear as a writer, he shewed identical qualities as a lecturer. But he was far more than a successful lecturer: more intimate association with him gave those, who had the good fortune to have it, the opportunity of observing the innermost process of sound judgment. Waugh had a unique gift of shewing to the educable the very substance of sane, mature thinking -- his own thinking. Here, at the core of his intellect, flourished those qualities whose solid manifestation is to be seen throughout his career, whose ultimate possibilities were reaching fulfilment at McGill when he died. He was, in a word, wise.

As his mind was, so was his spirit. Those who were inspired by him intellectually -- and they were very many, far more probably than came within his more intimate circle -- were bound in allegiance to him also as a person. He was a man who inspired immediate confidence, followed readily and often by devotion. Those who loved him were of all kinds, reflecting the breadth of

his own character. His students knew his rare qualities: his patience, his tolerance, his utter integrity, his wit, his originality. A man whose time could easily have been entirely consumed upon his own studies, he never denied it to his students: he had indeed a peculiar facility in welcoming even the humblest -- even the delinquents. His personal interest was readily aroused: he was ever ready to champion the unfortunate, to bear the cares of others: he never failed to appreciate a student's abilities, and readily understood the vagaries of youth. When he succeeded Professor Basil Williams as Kingsford Professor in 1925, additional cares might have been expected to force him to withdraw somewhat from his students. Far from this occurring, the number of those who had recourse to him was increased.

Continue
Same
paragraph.

In 1928 the late Professor T. F. Tout, Professor Waugh's old master, visited McGill. He was brought to the McGill History Club and there met Professor Waugh's students. He had himself been the leader of a great school of history, and was greatly impressed with Professor Waugh's achievement.

But Professor Waugh's influence extended far beyond the History School. He was beloved of all the students and of the staff. He was interested in student literary ventures: the Players' Club, from its foundation till his death counted him a wise counsellor. And the same is true in many other spheres.

personally

In 1930 he even took part in the Red and White Revue. With his colleagues too he was very popular. Sir Arthur Currie has said "I found in him a very valuable adviser. One knew that he had a fund of common sense, and one always felt he advised in a most unselfish way." His influence throughout the University was an admirable one. He was the champion of sanity, dignity and uncompromising fair play.

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In Montreal at large he was a popular and influential figure. [The writer recalls a public lecture by him a good many years ago on Mediaeval life, and the great interest he was able to evoke in that rather remote subject. Not least attractive was its whimsical presentation: it included a song of the period, "Sumer is icumen in" rendered by Professor Waugh himself.] He was a great success as Chairman of the Forum Club, where his broad culture was highly valued. [He is indeed remembered widely for his services there: the writer recently received a communication from a prominent English journalist who lectured at the Forum and was deeply impressed with Professor Waugh.] Recently too his activities were being extended to embrace all Canada with his lecture tour across the continent in 1925, and the publication of his ~~book~~ "James Wolfe: Man and Soldier."

As a scholar Professor Waugh was known wherever history is studied. He was a great mediaevalist even at the age of 48, and it is sad to think of what he might have achieved and now cannot.

He was one of the few Manchester men, who made the immense critical system of that school wholly his instrument, and in no sense his master. His character shewed clearly in his works. Most of his energies naturally were given to mediaeval history, but he could write a general history of Germany, the story of the British conquest of Canada, or again a history of his old school. His patience and exactitude appeared both in an extreme care for truth in the simple rhythm of his style, and in his unerring choice of phrasing. He shewed the same judgment in analysis and synthesis. Flights of imaginative theory were not an attainment of his, although he could make the shrewd guess on occasion. It is characteristic of him that, though a master of method, he scorned "methodology". He said that historical method was just common-sense.

If this notice deals much in superlatives -- which I rather fear Waugh might have deprecated -- it is the weakness of the writer himself. But apology is out of place: Professor Waugh cannot truly be described otherwise. His death at 48 must cause unrelieved bitterness to all who loved him. It is a tragic loss to McGill and to Canada. To the study of mediaeval history it is a calamity.



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

July 25, 1933.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I have just heard from Mrs. Waugh, and for various reasons she would prefer to pay for the tablet on her husband's grave wholly herself, although she greatly appreciates the kindness of her friends.

Will you, therefore, forgive me if I return to you the dollar which you so kindly contributed.

Yours very truly,

A.S. Eve,
Director, Department of Physics.

TIMES.

Oct 20/32

PROFESSOR WAUGH

APPRECIATIONS

Professor Powicke, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, writes of Professor Waugh, of whom an obituary notice appeared in *The Times* on Tuesday:—

The news of the death of Professor W. T. Waugh is a great shock to his friends. Waugh was a very fine scholar and teacher, and a man of real intellectual integrity. His early papers on difficult and technical matters in English ecclesiastical history were as mature and finished as anything he wrote, and, although his range steadily widened, he never allowed a slipshod sentence or unconsidered judgment to pass his pen. He was an authority on German medieval history and on the ecclesiastical history of the Conciliar period. His last published work appeared in the latest volume of the "Cambridge Medieval History," and he had in hand a volume on the later Middle Ages which, it is to be hoped, was left ready for publication. Yet perhaps his most remarkable work was the continuation and completion of the late J. H. Wylie's *History of King Henry V.* He pulled Wylie's discursive material together, added generously of his own, and made a permanent contribution to our history.

England has not had a sounder or more reliable scholar, and the Manchester History School is rightly proud of him. Waugh was a devoted and indefatigable teacher, and only his pupils and colleagues in Montreal can realize to the full the loss which the academic world has suffered by his death. He was a clear and capable public lecturer and a good debater. His pungent interventions in the Anglo-American historical conferences and elsewhere added reality to discussion. He was a sensitive, affectionate, modest man, and a delightful companion. Now and then he was inclined to take pleasure in his own austerity and to give play to a caustic tongue, but, while he might embarrass his friends, he could never shake their appreciation of his goodness and his learning.

Professor E. F. Jacob, Professor of Medieval History at Manchester, writes:—

The death of Professor Waugh is a serious loss to medieval history, and to fifteenth-century studies in particular. Though he worked at a great distance from record sources, and was only able to pay occasional visits to the great English libraries and collections, there were few men more to be trusted in the sphere of medieval political and diplomatic history. His continuation and completion of Dr. J. H. Wylie's "Henry V." was a most successful piece of work; he caught Wylie's spirit without Wylie's attractive, if sometimes exasperating, diffuseness. There was a fine tenseness, a nervous strength about his writing which is specially to be seen in his recently published book on Europe, from 1378-1494. He had a scrupulous and accurate mind, which never, however, fussed over irrelevant detail; he was critical without being destructive, and he could draw a broad outline without a misplaced or over-stated generalization. Perhaps his great care and nicety of judgment prevented him from launching out at times into the deep. He may occasionally have carried critical caution to its limits, but this was in the true and salutary tradition of the school of history in which he was brought up. He will be sorely missed by all workers in the last period of the Middle Ages, and by his Manchester friends in particular. Fortunately he had completed his work for the "Cambridge Medieval History," part of which will be forthcoming in the next volume. His reviews of Conciliar publications show us what we may expect from his survey of the General Councils of the fifteenth century.

Professor Basil Williams, Professor of History at Edinburgh, writes:—

In Professor Waugh McGill University has lost a teacher of history she could ill spare. A pupil of Tout's at Manchester and with subsequent experience in teaching, he had broadened his outlook on life by his work in the notable department of War Trade Intelligence, the resort of so many distinguished scholars, before he went to McGill 10 years ago. From the first he contributed greatly to the improvement of history teaching there, by his helpful sympathy with his pupils' difficulties and the genial sense of humour which illuminated his lectures. It is to be feared that his death may be partly due to his unremitting devotion to this work. In term-time he did not spare himself with his classes or in spreading a love of history outside the university; and every summer vacation save one, he came to England to study materials for his books at the Record Office or the British Museum. For he always believed that in the interests of McGill and to maintain his high standard of teaching, it was essential for him to keep the stimulus of original work of his own.

34, DRUMMOND PLACE,
EDINBURGH.

22 Oct. 1932

Dear Sir Arthur,

I must write you a line to condole with you & Mr Gill in the great loss you have had in Waugh's sudden death. We saw him & Mrs. Waugh & his daughter in London only a few days before he sailed back to Canada. It will be difficult for you to fill the place of such a first class historian & one so devoted to his work both of teaching & writing. You may perhaps have seen the high tributes paid to his scholarship by Bowdler & Jacobs & my little paragraph more particularly about his work at Mr Gill in the Times of 20th Oct.

I don't know whether Mrs. Waugh is left well enough off. But if any fund is being raised for her at Mr Gill I should be grateful to be told of it & have the chance of making a little contribution.

I hope you have been keeping better. I expect you have had a good deal of anxiety about resources for M'Jill in these hard times; & Wm's told me that salaries had been cut down.

We were very interested to see about your daughter's marriage: you will miss her.

With our best remembrances to you &

Lady Curries,

Yours very truly,

Basil Williams

PROFESSOR WAUGH

His Work at McGill University

To the Editor of the Manchester Guardian.

Sir,—There must be in England few people who have had the privilege of studying under the late Professor W. T. Waugh at McGill University. As one of those few, may I ask the opportunity of communicating through your columns to his many friends in Manchester some feelings about his days at McGill?

The appointment of Professor Basil Williams and Professor Waugh to the Department of History shortly after the war opened a new era in the study of history at McGill. In a short space of time the History Honours School ranked with the best schools in the Arts Faculty, with a clear claim to be considered the best among them. It became not only possible, but easy, for a keen student to obtain a first-rate undergraduate training, fitting him to rank with those coming from the best history schools in England.

In mediæval history this was due entirely to Professor Waugh. His introduction of the critical standards of the best school of mediæval history in England was of great value. As one who has been inspired to follow in his footsteps academically, I may be permitted to suggest that he was one of the few Manchester mediævalists who succeeded in making the immense critical system of the Manchester school absolutely his instrument and permitted it in no degree to be his master.

It is a commonplace that it is difficult for a man to excel in teaching as well as in writing upon an academic subject. Professor Waugh achieved this distinction. Stimulating, broad, and crystal clear as a writer, he showed identical qualities as a lecturer. And one of the best features of his work at McGill was that he was always personally accessible to his students. His time was never denied to those whom he thought could benefit by it: when he succeeded Professor Williams in the Kingsford Chair in 1925 there was no difference. And this personal association with a master, so valuable always to a student, was enhanced by Professor Waugh's personality.

In your obituary notice yesterday Professor Fiddes well described that personality. Its possibilities reached fulfilment at McGill. He was not only a great success as the central figure in the History School, but also an admirable influence throughout the university, the champion of sanity, dignity, and uncompromising honesty and fair play. In addition to this he took an important part in the intellectual and social life of Montreal, where his broad culture was of the greatest value. This part of his work was being extended of recent years throughout Canada, with the publication of his "Wolfe and Montcalm" and his lecture tour across the continent.

Professor Waugh's premature death must cause unrelieved bitterness to his friends and all who knew him. To the study of mediæval history it is a calamity.—Yours, &c.,

RUSHTON COULBORN.

5, Sussex Place, Hyde Park, London, W. 2, October 19.

5 Essex Place,
Hyde Park,
London W2, England.

15/11/32.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

It was most kind of you to reply to my letter about Professor Waugh: it had not occurred to me that you would take the trouble to do so. He was a great friend, and his death is to me a great blow — greater perhaps than I told you in my first letter. I used to see him often when he was over here. I owe an immense amount to him academically: if I found myself in any perplexity, he was always the man who could and would help. I was very glad that I was able from time to time to do little jobs for him here in the British Museum.

I write now to know if you will allow me to quote some words from your letter to me in my obituary of Waugh in the "McMill News". I enclose a copy of the article with the passage marked (p.2.), and have asked the editor

to telephone you for your permission,
since there is so little time before
publication.

I send you also a copy of a
letter I wrote to the Manchester
Guardian when I heard of his death.
It is a sort of epitome of the obituary.
Perhaps you will like to have this. It
aroused some interest here among
his friends, and I have received
several letters asking for details
& so on. I expect you have the
similar tributes written by Prof.
Beril Williams and others in the
Times.

Thank you very much too for your
good wishes. Yes, I have had luck, &
a lot is due, I think to Waugh's training.
I got a little job at University College, London
the year I graduated from the pill. I am
now Senior Historian in the graduate
school for candidates for the Civil
Service, Diplomatic Service &c. - I am
married & have a son.

With kind regards, my sympathy
& many thanks again,

Yours, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Rushon Coulson.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

"DAVIES'S."

VERNON W. DAVIES.

5, SUSSEX PLACE,
HYDE PARK, W.2.

TEL. PADDINGTON 3352.

October 20th, 1932.

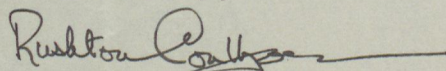
Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

I expect I am one of many who will write to you as principal officer of the university to record their deep sense of loss at the untimely death of Professor Waugh. In this McGill is indeed bereft, and, as a graduate, owing very much to him, I ask you to accept my sympathy for yourself and all other members of the university.

To Professor Waugh I owe the greatest benefits I received at McGill both in my studies and in much else besides. Since I left McGill he has been my staunch friend and wise adviser in all I have undertaken. It seems impossible that he is no longer here. Only two months ago I was with him here in London. His death is a source of unrelieved bitterness to me, far greater in that it is so sudden and utterly premature.

I am, Sir,

Yours sincerely,



Rushton Coulborn, B.A., Ph. D.

October 31st , 1932.

Rushton Coulborn, Esq., B.A., Ph.D.,
5 Sussex Place,
Hyde Park, W.2,
London, England.

My dear Mr. Coulborn,

I am grateful for your letter of October 20th, in which you express your sympathy with us at McGill in the loss of Professor Waugh. It is indeed a most unfortunate loss. Oftentimes, when such things occur, the only consolation one has is that it provides an opportunity for bettering the staff; but in this case we have no hope of finding anyone who is likely to make a better leader of our History Department.

Waugh was universally acknowledged as a great scholar and a great teacher, besides which he has made many notable contributions to History. He had begun to build up a very nice Honours Class, and we joined in his enthusiastic hopes for its future. He was very popular with his colleagues and with the students, while I found in him a very valuable adviser. One knew that he had a fund of common sense, and one always felt he advised in a most unselfish way.

Mrs. Waugh, too, is very popular; in fact I do not think we had in the University a more popular couple. They will be very greatly missed indeed.

I remember you when you graduated some five or six years ago, and I hope all goes well with you.

With every good wish,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Principal
and Vice Chancellor.

October 17, 1932.

The sudden and entirely unexpected death of Professor
our
Waugh, Chairman of ~~the~~ Department of History ~~at McGill~~, is a
tragic loss to ~~the~~ McGill University. For ten years he has been
a valued member of our staff, coming to McGill from Manchester,
England, in 1922. Three years later, on the resignation of
Professor Basil Williams, now of Edinburgh University, Professor
Waugh was appointed Kingsford Professor of History and Chairman
of the Department.

Professor Waugh was an inspiring and stimulating teacher,
and a brilliant scholar, not only in history but in the classics
as well. His especial interests lay in the field of Mediaeval
and Constitutional History, where he was universally regarded
as a world authority. He had, even when he came to us,
an established reputation as an able writer, and that reputation
has been greatly enhanced in recent years. Only this summer
he published several works of great merit and interest. All his
writings shewed great clearness of thought and an enviable
facility of expression. He was a tremendous worker, never
sparing himself, despite his somewhat frail constitution.
To the ~~thousands~~ hundreds of students who have sat at his feet
during his twenty-two years of teaching, his scholarship, his
devotion to duty, his literary ability, his high standards and
ideals must have left a lasting impression of a way of life worth
emulating.

Professor Waugh was very loyal to this University. Several
times he received flattering offers to accept Chairs in other well-
known universities on this Continent and in England, but he chose

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Office of the Principal
and Vice Chancellor.

to remain here, and we looked forward to many more years of his collaboration and friendship.

No one on our staff could be more sorely missed than he, for he had the respect, the admiration and the affection of all his colleagues and students.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to his wife and daughter.