

The Oxford Club  
University of Chicago

Payne

February 2" - 96.

To Pres. W.R. Harper -

(11)

Dear Sir:-

Recognizing our inability to properly appreciate the works of our great painters & sculptors, and realizing the insufficiency of the opportunities afforded by our University for the development of this side of our nature, and being further conscious of the possibilities in this great city, (under wise direction), for this aesthetic development, - opportunities impossible to one who does not live where great art galleries & studios are accessible, we, the undersigned, most earnestly petition you to arrange for the Spring Quarter, if possible, a regular course in the University on General Art under the direction of Mr. Lorado Taft, the course to consist of such lectures, readings &

Topic

February 2, 1922

Mr. J. M. H. H. H.

(11)

The first thing I noticed when I stepped out of the car was the cold. It was a sharp contrast to the warm blanket I had been sitting under. I looked up at the sky, which was a pale, hazy blue. The air was crisp and clear, and I could see the distant hills in the background. I took a deep breath and felt a sense of peace. The world seemed so quiet and still. I walked slowly, savoring the moment. The sun was just beginning to rise, and the light was soft and golden. I felt a sense of hope and optimism. The future seemed so bright and full of possibilities. I smiled and continued on my way. The world was so beautiful and so full of life. I felt like I was part of something great. I was going to make a difference. I was going to change the world. I was going to be a hero. I was going to be a legend. I was going to be a legend.

The Oxford Club  
University of Chicago

visits to accessible art galleries & studios  
as Mr. Taft may think most essen-  
tial for the cultivation of an apprecia-  
tion of true art. We further pledge our-  
selves to take such course if it can be  
provided.

Names

Walter A. Payne

W. P. Looch

F. D. Nichols.

A. Bowers

James Scott Brown

M. P. Fritchey

H. D. Abell.

Edith Burnham Foster

Katharine Agnes Livingstone

Evelyn Matz

Harriet C. Agutter

Alelaide M. Ide.

Sarah Minson.

Susan G. Harding.

If a larger class is desired we  
can secure the names very easily.

Yours,

W. A. Payne,

3718 Winthrop Ave.



East.  
Bass Lake Ind. July 20<sup>th</sup> /97

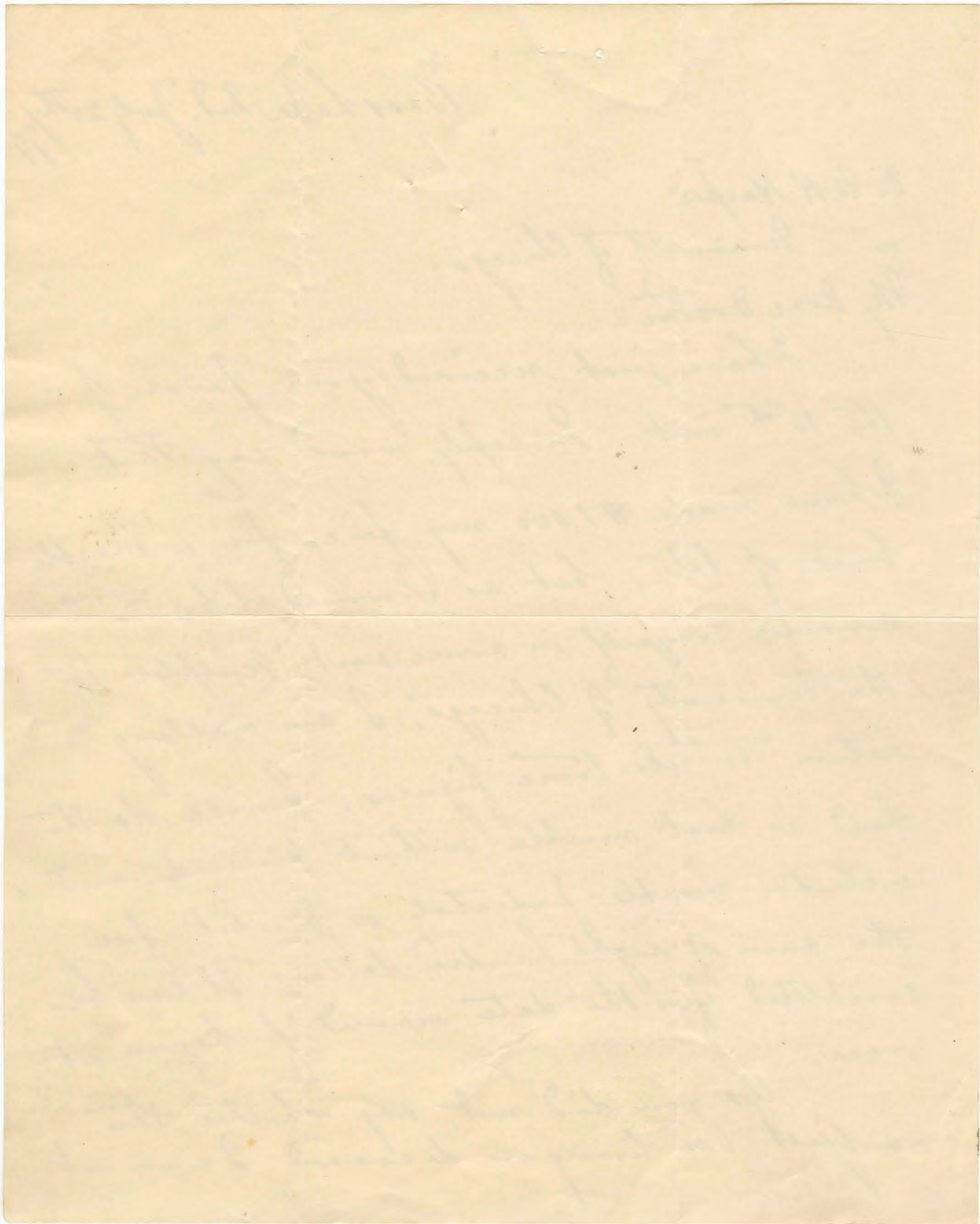
Dr W. H. Harper.

University of Chicago.

My dear Doctor -

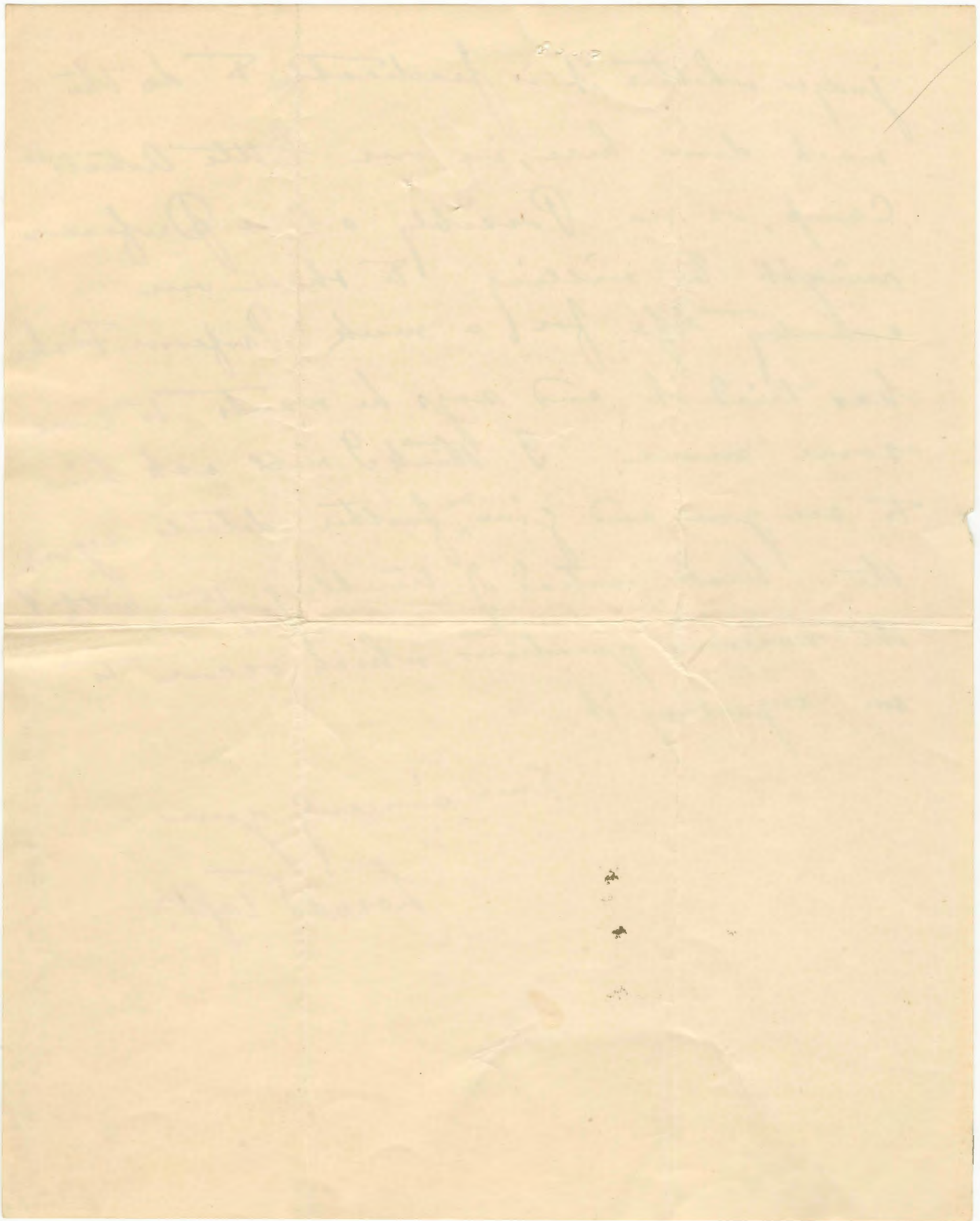
I have just received your favor of the 15<sup>th</sup> inst. In reply would say that I have made \$1,000 my price for a marble bust, of late, but as I would like to consider myself in some sort "sculptor to the University of Chicago," I am willing to return to old-time figures. I will do the head in best marble - without blemish - and include marble pedestal or bracket, for the sum of eight hundred dollars. It can be completed for the date named if begun at once.

As you did not say whether the subject is living or deceased, I can not



judge whether it is practicable to do the  
work down here, in our little Artists'  
Camp, or no. Possibly a live Professor  
might be willing to share our  
country life for a week. Professor Fiske  
has tried it and says he wants to come  
"some more." I think I will ask him  
to see you and give <sup>me</sup> further details regarding  
the bust, instead of troubling you with  
the various questions which occur to  
me, regarding it.

Ever sincerely yours -  
Lorado Taft.



Dr Hewitt  
How many  
this  
dear Doctor Harper?  
M.H.

Fine Arts Building  
Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 98  
Lafayette  
Colorado

Dear Doctor Harper.

Those Italian marble cutters of mine are a gentle, broken-spirited folk, but they have begun to hint that they would like the other hundred dollars due them on the Northrup bust. It is a bad time to ask for money, I know, but I was a-thinking that if I should happen to have this sum I would call on these friends when I go east next week, and if do not have it, I shall avoid their atelier!

I wish that you and Mrs Harper would make our artist colony a visit some Saturday P.M.

Sincerely yours - Lorado Taft.

Pres. Harper:

Have been waiting to  
get \$50. to send to Mr. Tapp.

Have \$46 - have added \$4. &  
sent him check for \$50.

Have \$14. more in pledges  
and have a scheme to get  
the remaining \$40 wh. I  
hope will succeed.

C. E. D.

OK  
94  
Taft.

My dear Doctor Harper -

I wrote to inquire if it  
would be convenient for you to  
grant me a payment on the  
Northrup bust at this time.  
Sculptors elsewhere generally  
stipulate for a payment of one  
third upon acceptance of the model.  
As I seldom make contracts, and  
usually forget to speak of this  
custom, I know that I have  
no claim until completion  
of the work in marble. If  
however it should be convenient  
to allow me \$250<sup>00</sup> (or less)

at this time it would be an  
accommodation and there would  
be no risk to the Committee since  
the bust is now safely cast  
in plaster.

Very respectfully yours -  
Lorad Taft

Athenaeum Building.  
Dec 18<sup>th</sup> 1897.

1038 Fine Arts Building  
Chicago Oct 16. 1922

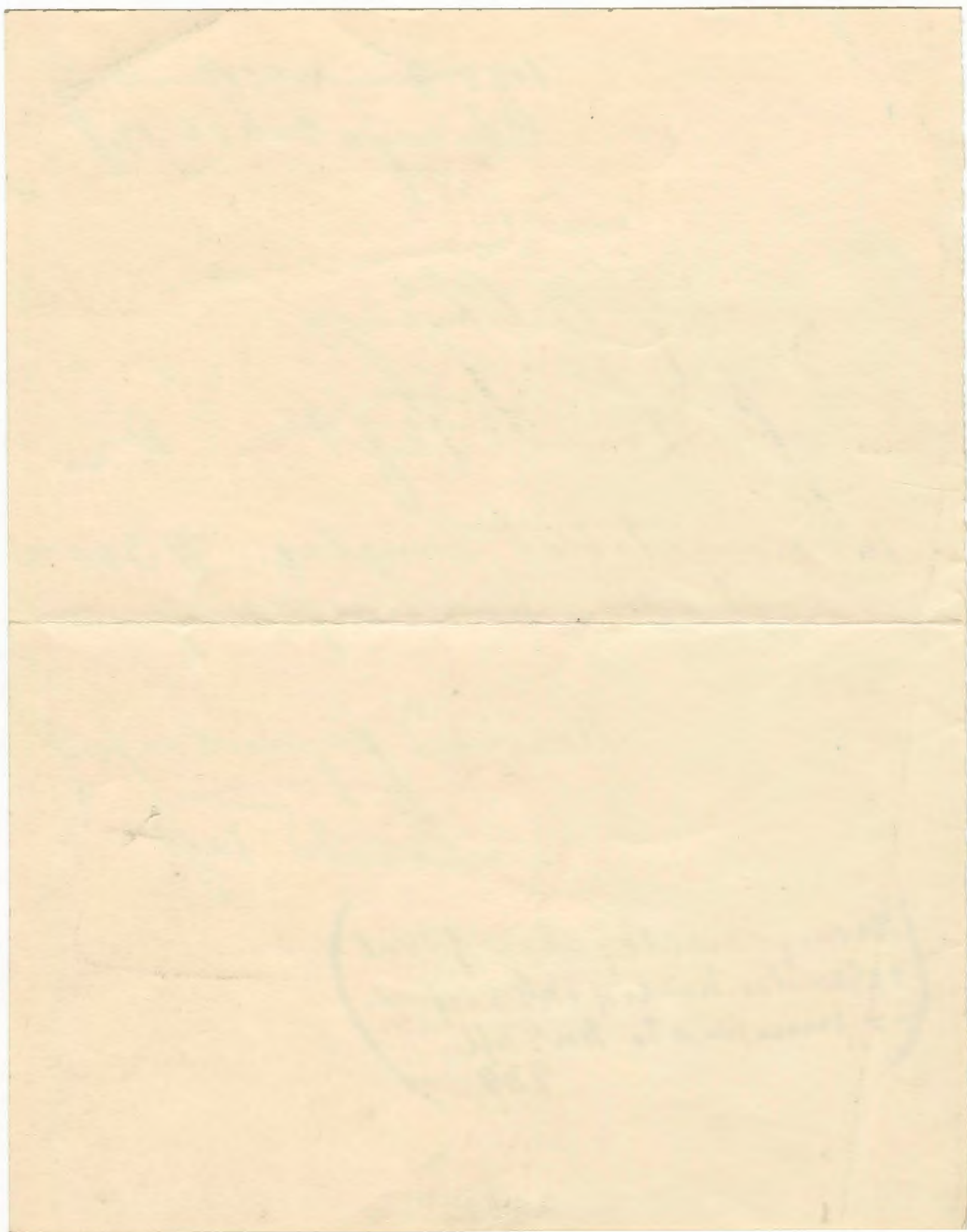
University of Chicago

To Lorado Taft Dr

To bronze tablet, Douglas. \$300<sup>00</sup>  
(as per agreement with J. F. Horne)

Received payment in full  
Lorado Taft.

(Money raised by class of 1901  
I placed in hands of T. H. Horne  
A by him paid to Mr Taft.  
T. H. H.)



Taft

Athenæum Building  
Oct. 22/-1897

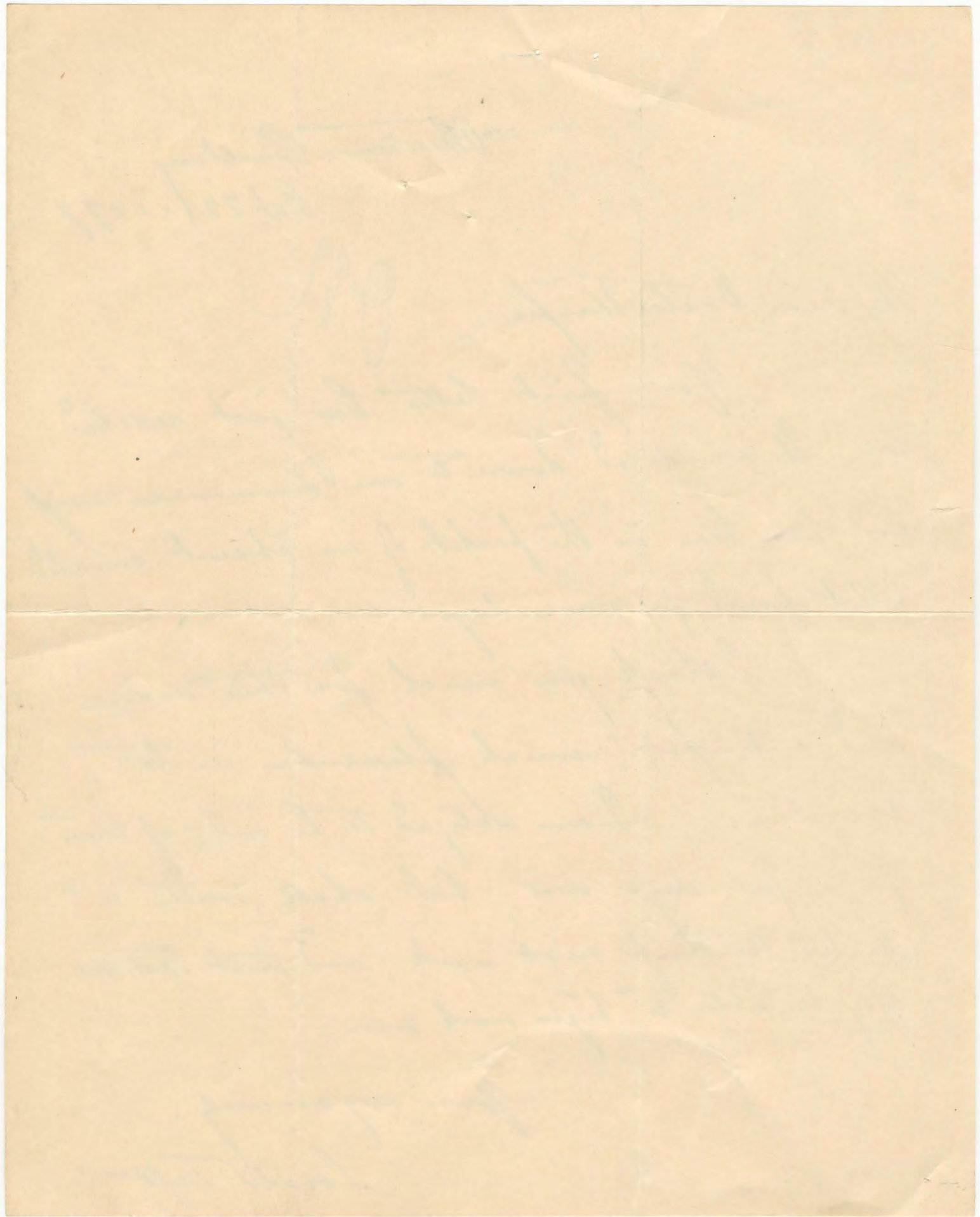
My dear Doctor Harper -

Your first letter has just reached me. It wandered down to our summer camp and has been in the pocket of an absent-minded artist friend for some days.

I thank you much for this order and anticipate much pleasure in its execution. I am obliged to be out of town for a few days now, but shall write to Doctor Northrup next week, and trust that we may be able to begin work soon.

Yours very sincerely -

Lorado Taft.



Taft

Athenaeum Building, City

Oct. 14. 1897

Dr W. R. Harper.

University of Chicago

My dear Doctor Harper.

(91)

I hear from so many sides that I am to do the bust of Dr Northrup, that I trust I may not appear too "assured" in writing you regarding it.

From the work coming in and the various propositions being considered, I am led to think that I shall have a busy season. Just now however I am not fairly started, and could give considerable time to sitters. It has occurred to me that if this matter is definitely determined upon, there might be no time more favorable for the doctor and myself, than these pleasant autumn days.

No contract need be signed until the money is raised - I would gladly venture the work

of modeling the bust in order to make sure  
of him at a time when we can work comfortably  
and without haste.

Very sincerely yours -

Lorado Taft

Laft

Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. 74

(B)

My dear Doctor -

I have recently received the marble of my bust of Silas Cobb, a work of which I feel rather pleased.

If you should chance to be in the neighborhood of the Athenæum Building (26 E. Van Buren St.) and could spare the time to look into my studio, it would afford pleasure both to myself and to Mr Cobb.

Very sincerely yours

Lorado Taft



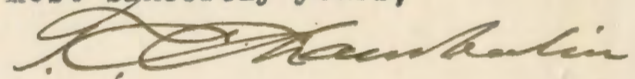
The University of Chicago,  
Chicago, June 22, 1915.

My dear Mr. Hutchinson:

I trust that you will permit me to tell you how deeply I appreciate the very generous part you took in engaging Mr. Lorado Taft to retouch and transform into bronze the bust presented to the University some years ago by my professional colleagues. In this thoughtful act you have helped to carry into completion what I am sure was a part of the original wish of my co-workers but which lay beyond their limited means. Both their action and yours is so unusual that it touches me with peculiar tenderness. You might naturally have waited till retirement or death suggested the transformation of the portrait bust into an enduring form, but without such stimulus of circumstance and with a delicate hint that such circumstance is a thing

of the distant future--for which I sincerely thank you--you permit me to enjoy an unusual honor before I have earned it. It will give me great inspiration and strength in trying to round up the work I hope yet to do. The field seems only just whitening to the harvest, and this most gracious act of yours will add new zest to my desire to gather in so much of matured fruitage as may fall to my lot. I cannot tell you adequately how much I appreciate so delicate and touching an expression of your goodwill.

Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. C. Hutchinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr. L. C. Hutchinson,  
Treasurer, Board of Trustees,  
The University of Chicago.

March 30, 1909

The Daily Maroon,  
The University of Chicago.

During the Spring Quarter, while Dr. Charles R. Henderson is in Europe studying occupational diseases, a matter on which he is to report to the State of Illinois, Dr. A. K. Parker will act as Chaplain. Dr. and Mr. Henderson sailed from New York on the Adriatic, the boat on which President Roosevelt and his party are going to Naples.

*Safe*

Mr. Lorado Taft will deliver in Mandel Assembly Hall on Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock the first of a series of lectures on "American Sculpture". This first lecture will be illustrated by Mr. Taft and his assistants, who will upon the stage in Mandel model in clay. The lecture is one of unusual interest, always attracting crowds wherever delivered as a University extension lecture. Mr. Taft's relation to the University is very close. In addition to living in our community, he has a studio in one of the University buildings--the barn in the rear of the Alpha Delta Phi house. Here most of his large work is carried on. The studio in the Fine Arts building which he also maintains, is less of a "work room" than the one

subject  
Mr. Telford  
on the Midway.

U. S. R.

March 30, 1909

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4

D. M.

on the Midway.

Mr. Taft, before the series is concluded is likely to discuss a subject of much interest to all members of the University--his project for the decoration of the Midway Plaisance, when Mr. Burnham's plans for its development have been accomplished. Mr. Taft already has modelled figures for the great fountains which he will place at either end of the long basin; and for the beautiful bridges which he believes will some day span the Midway. All members of the University will be greatly interested in the vision of the future development of the University and its environment which Mr. Taft's lectures are likely to form.

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The new Head of Hitchcock Hall will be Dr. Charles P. Hall, University Physician. Dr. and Mrs. Small will take up their residence at Hitchcock Hall in a few days.

March 30, 1909

-2-

Dr. M. T. Telford,  
The University of Chicago.

on the Midway.

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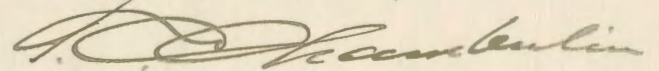
7  
The University of Chicago,  
June 22, 1915.

My dear President Judson:

I trust that you will permit me to tell you how deeply I appreciate the very generous part you took in engaging Mr. Lorado Taft to retouch and transform into bronze the bust presented to the University some years ago by my professional colleagues. In this thoughtful act you have helped to carry into completion what I am sure was a part of the original wish of my co-workers but which lay beyond their limited means. Both their action and yours is so unusual that it touches me with peculiar tenderness. You might naturally have waited till retirement or death suggested the transformation of the portrait bust into an enduring form, but without such stimulus of circumstance and with a delicate hint that such circumstance is a thing of the

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Most sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. P. Judson".

President H. P. Judson,  
The University of Chicago.

Chicago, November 17, 1914

My dear Mr. Chamberlin:-

President Judson asks me to notify you that a meeting of the Committee on the Development and Relations of the University is called for 10:30 A.M. Saturday, November 21st, in the President's Office.

Yours very truly,

Private Secretary

Mr. T. C. Chamberlin,  
The University of Chicago.

Chicago, November 17, 1914

My dear Mr. Chamberlain:-

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notify you that a meeting of the Committee on the  
Development and Relations of the University is called  
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Yours very truly,

Private Secretary

Mr. T. G. Chamberlain,  
The University of Chicago.

**The University of Chicago**

46a

Chicago, Ill., Oct., 27, 1914.

My dear President Judson:

I think perhaps you will be glad to see the enclosed letter before it becomes my duty to respond to it by introducing the party mentioned, whose work lies in a field so far apart from my own that I can only be an intermediary in the matter.

Very truly yours,

*L. C. Mumford*

President H. P. Judson,  
The University of Chicago.

The University of Chicago

Chicago, Ill., Oct. 27, 1914.

My dear President Jackson:

I think perhaps you will be glad to see the enclosed letter before it becomes my duty to respond to it by introducing the party mentioned, whose work lies in a field so far apart from my own that I can only be an intermediary in the matter.

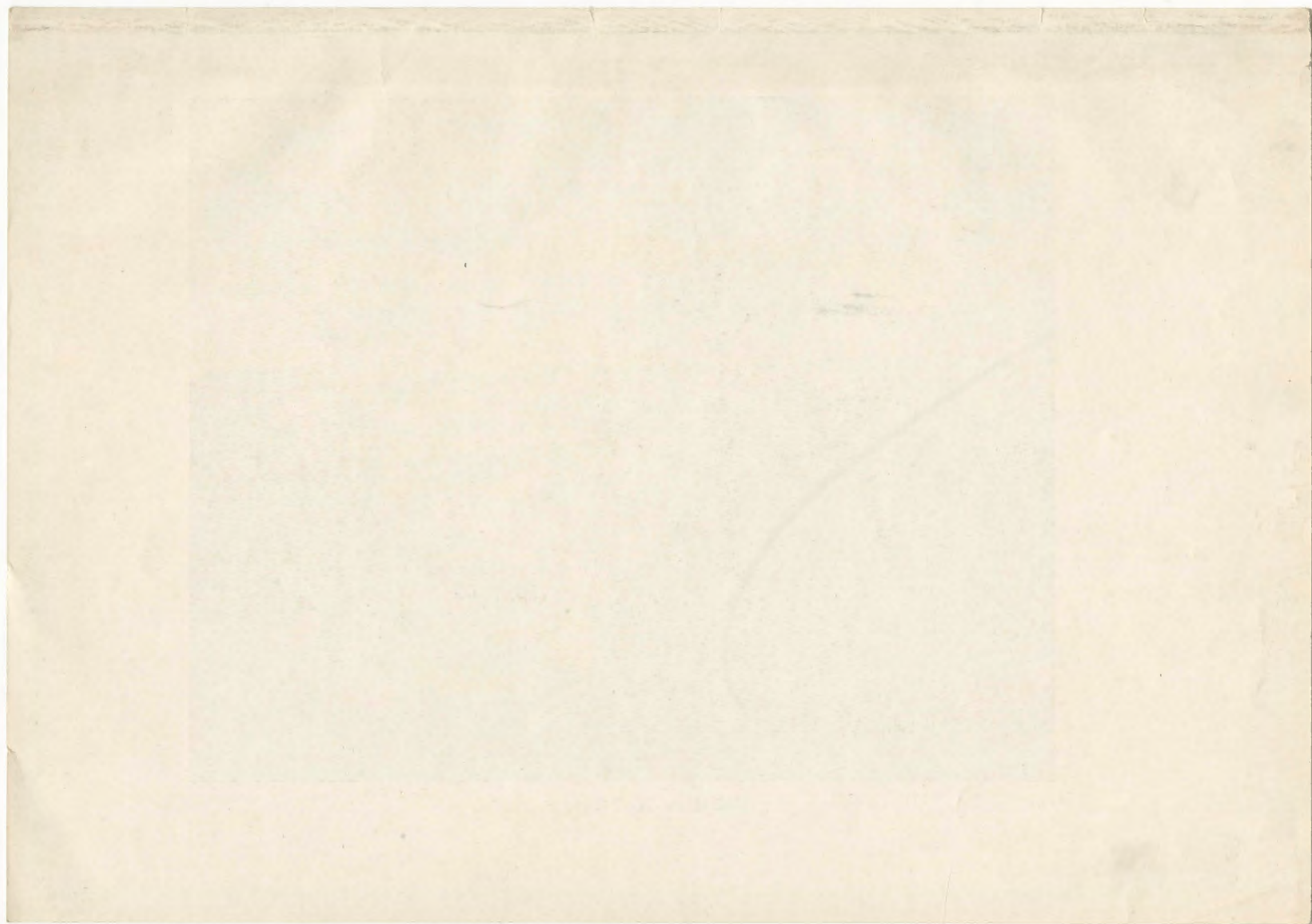
Very truly yours,

President R. P. Jackson,  
The University of Chicago.



THE MIDWAY STUDIOS FAMILY

*Lorado Taft*



7u3

March 20,  
1925

Mr. Wallace Heckman,  
City Office.

Dear Mr. Heckman:

You will recall that recently you notified President Burton of Mr. Taft's renewal of his promise to make a statue of President Harper. President Burton has asked me to communicate with the Harper family with reference to securing approval of Mr. Taft's very generous offer. Before doing so I think we ought to know a little more about what Mr. Taft's offer means. His original offer, as reported by you to the Board in 1908, was that he would contribute his services in making a statue to be placed in a memorial building but that he could not afford to put the statue in marble.

This would seem to imply, although it is not quite certain, that Mr. Taft's fine offer intended to cover the modeling of a statue, but not its reproduction in marble or bronze. The reproduction would necessarily be quite expensive.

Another question which would need to be determined I should think before writing to the Harper family would be the site for such a statue.

FW 3

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1925

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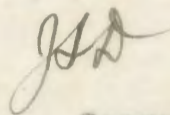
be determined I should think before writing to the Harper family would be the site for such a statue.

Mr. W. Heckman - #2.

There is no desirable place for it in Harper Library. At one time it was expected that there would be some place available there, but the plans were subsequently changed as I recall it. The natural place, at present, I suppose is the center of the Harper quadrangle and in event that site is chosen, I am wondering if a fountain with a symbolical figure, which kind of figure Mr. Taft does with remarkable success, would not be better than the conventional statue.

Will you let me have some further information on this subject so that I may report to President Burton before writing to the Harper family?

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. S. D.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Secretary.

FW 3

Letter 30  
1925

Mr. W. Heckmann - 42.

There is no desirable place for it in Harper  
Library. At one time it was expected that there  
would be some place available there, but the plans  
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I am wondering if a fountain with a symmetrical  
figure, which kind of figure Mr. Telf does with  
remarkable success, would not be better than the  
conventional statue.  
Will you let me have some further  
information on this subject so that I may report  
to President Burton before writing to the Harper  
family?  
Yours very truly,  
J. H. Telf  
Secretary.

Harold H. Swift  
Union Stock Yards  
Chicago

*Swift*

March 7, 1925.

*File 3*

President Ernest D. Burton,  
The University of Chicago,  
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Burton:

Answering your query in conversation on Sunday,  
March 1, and returning herewith Mr. Heckman's letter to you  
of February 13 and Mr. Dickerson's of February 24 in reference  
to Mr. Lorado Taft's offer to make a statue of President Harper  
for Harper Quadrangle:

*on*  
*GPB* | I recommend that Mr. Dickerson be asked officially to  
write the family and get their approval in writing to such a  
procedure and that the matter then be presented to the Board for  
approval to say to Mr. Taft that we would greatly appreciate his  
going on with it.

I am clear that I favor your suggestion of a reproduc-  
tion of President Harper rather than Mr. Dickerson's idea of  
something symbolic.

I am inclined to think I should leave it to Mr. Taft's  
judgment whether it should be marble or bronze. I think he would  
have a long-time vision and would favor leaving it to him.

Yours cordially,

*Harold H. Swift*

1. The first of these is the fact that the  
2. second is the fact that the  
3. third is the fact that the  
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# The University of Chicago

The Board of Trustees

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
ELLIS AVENUE AND FIFTY-EIGHTH STREET

February 24, 1925.

President Burton,  
Faculty Exchange.

Dear President Burton:

Mr. Taft's offer is on record in the minutes of the Board of Trustees but nothing has ever been done with reference to it so far as I know. I should think a statue of the first president of the University might well be placed in the center of Harper Court, and might well be modeled by Mr. Taft who is Chicago's foremost sculptor and one whose reputation is known over the entire United States. It is high time that something of this was done to adorn the quadrangles. I should hope that the figure would be cast in bronze rather than reproduced in marble which is far from enduring and would be stained either by smoke or the ravages of our climate. It would have to be boxed in winter if made of marble, while bronze would stand the elements, and in some respects, improves with exposure.

How would it do to make the statue a memorial fountain of some sort, either symbolical or with some reproduction of President Harper. Statues of men in modern clothing are not especially inspiring, but a statue such as Learning or Knowledge or something of that sort could be made not only beautiful but would

The University of Chicago

The Board of Trustees

CHICAGO, ILL. FEBRUARY 24, 1925

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Faculty Exchange.

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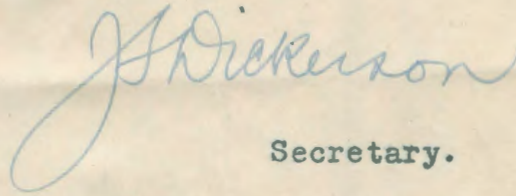
President E. D. Burton.

-2-

be most appropriate.

I think Mr. Taft has the ability, particularly  
if the symbolic figure is adopted.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. H. Dickerson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Secretary.

President E. D. Burton.

-2-

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I think Mr. Taff has the ability, particularly

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Yours very truly,

Secretary.

# The University of Chicago

Office of the Vice-President and Business Manager

ROOM 1838, 230 S. CLARK ST.  
TELEPHONE DEARBORN 9312

February Thirteen  
1 9 2 5

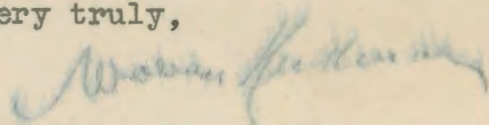
President Ernest DeWitt Burton  
The University of Chicago

My dear President Burton:

Perhaps you would like to have me recall, so that it may not be forgotten, that Lorado Taft, shortly after President Harper's death, offered to make a statue of President Harper for Harper Quadrangle. Not very long ago, in order that there might be no uncertainty about it, I inquired of him if that offer still stood. He stated that it does, but he desired to make sure that the family would not prefer any other sculptor. I later mentioned the subject to Davida and understood from her that they were in that respect a unit, desiring that Mr. Taft do this work. If it were done in this way there would be no expense to the University except the casting, if bronze and cutting, if marble.

This is merely for your information in case you desire to have it considered at this time.

Yours very truly,



Wallace Heckman

WH:JW

*Dr. Dickerson  
What do you think?  
WH*



March 14, 1925.

My dear Mr. Dickerson:

President Burton has approved a suggestion recently made to him by Mr. Swift, asking that you be directed officially to write to the family of Mr. Harper and get their approval in writing of Mr. Lorado Taft's offer to make a statue of President Harper for the Harper Quadrangle. That having been obtained, the matter might then be presented to the Board for approval and Mr. Taft be informed that the University would greatly appreciate his going ahead with the work. Mr. Swift further mentioned that he felt inclined to leave it to Mr. Taft's judgment as to whether the statue should be marble or bronze.

Very truly yours,

Mr. J. Spencer Dickerson.

WES:S

COPY SENT TO MR. H.H. SWIFT

March 1st 1871

My dear Mr. Brewster

I have just received your letter of the 27th

concerning the bird which you have sent me

It is a very fine specimen and I am glad to hear

that you have been successful in obtaining it

It is a very fine specimen and I am glad to hear

that you have been successful in obtaining it

It is a very fine specimen and I am glad to hear

that you have been successful in obtaining it

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that you have been successful in obtaining it

It is a very fine specimen and I am glad to hear

Very truly yours,

Wm. Brewster

1871

L. Taft

July 10, 1908

My dear Mr. Taft:-

Yours of the 8th inst. is at hand, and I note your suggestion as to the matter of your lectures. I shall wish to take this matter up with you early in the fall. I am glad to hear of the sunshine and air at Oregon. Next week I hope to be able to get away to Montana for a month, but shall try to be out at the Eagle's Nest before October.

With cordial regards to Mrs. Taft, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mr. Lerado Taft,  
Oregon, Illinois.

July 10, 1908

My dear Mr. Telfer:

Yours of the 8th inst. is at hand, and I note  
your suggestion as to the matter of your testimony. I shall wish  
to take this matter up with you early in the fall. I am glad to  
hear of the machine and air at Oregon. Next week I hope to be  
able to get away to Montana for a month, but shall try to be out  
at the Eagle's Nest before October.

With cordial regards to Mrs. Telfer, I am,

Very truly yours,

Mr. Lorenzo Telfer,  
Oregon, Illinois.

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1038 FINE ARTS BUILDING  
CHICAGO

Oregon Ills  
July 8 - '08

President Judson

University of Chicago.

My dear Doctor Judson -

I remember that  
you requested me to advise  
which quarter of the year  
would be most convenient  
for my lectures.

If satisfactory to you  
I would suggest the Spring  
quarter as the time when  
I am freest from engagements.  
The country is very

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CHICAGO

beautiful now and we  
are hoping that your  
thoughts may turn in  
this direction before the  
summer is over.

Ever yours -  
L. L. L.

to write me and  
tell me how you  
thought my son is  
the best of  
the world in  
the world in

Dear friend  
I would like  
to see you