



THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
AT CHATTANOOGA

615 McCallie Avenue Chattanooga Tennessee 37403

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS & ASTRONOMY
323 Grote Hall / (615) 755-4546

June 18 1987
RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT
JUN 23 '87

Dr. Henry King Stanford, President
The University of Georgia
Athens, Georgia 30602

Dear Dr. Stanford:

The Department of Mathematics of The University of Georgia has requested donations from graduates who majored in that subject for the support of the research and teaching programs of that outstanding department.

This brings to the writer's mind the question which has been raised before - "Why was the Charles F. McCay Fund not used - as originally bequeathed - for the promotion of teaching of mathematics" ?

A recent edition of the ATHENS BANNER-HERALD (May 31, 1987) notes that former president, Dr. Fred Davison, stated that "the new biological sciences program was funded from the resident instruction budget". It was noted, additionally, that "other areas of the University have become . . . underfunded".

Several years ago I addressed the question of the "disappearance of the CHARLES F. McCAY FUND" to President Davison. A brief and rather curt response was received from a "Mr. Robbins" at the University, who informed me that "The McCay Fund has been absorbed into the GENERAL FUND of the university".

That action was entirely contrary to the conditions stated in the bequest made by Professor and Mrs. Charles F. McCay. According to the late Dean of Arts and Sciences, Dr. John Eidson, the bequest document specifically stated that the fund was to be used for the support of "mathematics instruction". According to Daniel Walker Hollis, in Volume I of his HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, Charles F. McCay had served as "professor of mathematics at the University of Georgia from 1833 to 1853". Despite protests from the Savannah MORNING NEWS - due to Professor McCay's excellent record as a teacher of mathematics, and apparently physics, - "higher salaries paid at South Carolina College lured him from Athens in 1853"!

Mrs. McCay was a member of a fine old Athens family, named Williams. Dr. Dudley Williams, Regents Professor of Physics, Kansas State University, is a member of that family - who has often expressed interest in the benefits to the University of Georgia provided by the CHARLES F. McCAY FUND - for the improvement of instruction in mathematics.

According to the HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA, "Charles F. McCay was born in 1810 in Pennsylvania . . . graduated from

Jefferson College in 1827 . . . was the teacher who inspired the LeConte Brothers, John and Joseph, who later became leaders in the founding of the University of California at Berkeley.

When I met Dean John Eidson, at the time when I was offered the chance to succeed the late Dr. Ellis Dixon, as Physics Department Head, the question of "eligibility" for the CHARLES F. McCAY FUND arose. Dr. Eidson wondered if any of my relatives might be the descendants of Professor McCay, noted in his will. The fund, which then amounted to approximately \$ 500,000, could only be used after the deaths of certain descendants of his 4 or 5 brothers. Possibly the late Professor Clive M. McCay of Cornell University may have been one of those members of that family.

As Mayor Eugene McCay of McCaysville, Georgia often says - "All of us are cousins"! I am sure that members of my immediate family, over in the Clemson University area of South Carolina, feel similarly.


Regardless of "family interest" - it seems totally improper for the CHARLES F. McCAY FUND to be diverted to uses for which it was not intended.

Professor and Mrs. McCay saved diligently - for many decades - to provide the investment in railroad stock which generated that fund. As a leading professor of mathematics - and physics - he was elected to the Presidency of the University of South Carolina in 1855, against his own wishes. The resignation of President James H. Thornwell in that stormy period of "secessionism" precipitated a deadlock from which a compromise gave Professor that duty - in addition to mathematics instruction! After 18 months of more difficult administration Charles F. McCay resigned the presidency. Apparently that experience gave Professor and Mrs. McCay renewed interest in rewarding the University, in her hometown of Athens, and the Mathematics Department, where he had been a notable teacher for two decades, with the CHARLES F. McCAY FUND.

My father often said that the portrait of Professor Charles F. McCay was displayed in the University of Georgia library, in the period 1903-1907. Dean and Mrs. William Tate once noted that that portrait is still "in storage" in the University's Main Library, today. If the University should restore the CHARLES F. McCAY MATHEMATICS FUND, perhaps that portrait could be displayed again. Some of the McCay-Williams clans may have the means to add to that "teaching enhancement" bequest.

Thank you for your attention to this "complaint"! May you have more relaxation when you retire to Americus, in July!

Sincerely yours,


Myron S. McCay
Guerry Professor Emeritus
of Physics

Copies to -
Dr. Dudley Williams, Kansas State Univ.
Mayor Eugene McCay, McCaysville, Georgia
Mrs. William Garrison, Greenville, S.C.
Mrs. J. H. Couch, Clemson, South Carolina
Mr. Stan McCay, Baldwin, Mississippi
Dr. Ray Kunze, Head, Mathematics Dept., U.Ga.

McCAY

July 21, 1987

Professor Myron S. McCay
Guerry Professor Emeritus of Physics
The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
615 McCallie Avenue
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37403

Dear Professor McCay:

Your letter to Dr. Henry King Stanford arrived while I was out of the country. Since my return I have inquired into the various matters that you mentioned concerning the Charles F. McCay Fund and am happy to report to you.

The Charles F. McCay was not "originally bequeathed - for the promotion of teaching of mathematics" as you mentioned in your letter. According to the terms of the trust established by Charles F. McCay, the University "shall use the interest or dividends therefrom for the payments of salaries of professors or lecturers in The University of Georgia". There is no designation of mathematics or any other specific discipline. Income was first used in 1976-77 for salary supplements. Our record shows that four professors were paid funds from the McCay Trust income in

1978-79. Since that time several others have received supplements under the terms of the trust.

Professor Charles McCay, as you know, was a mathematician as reflected in the terms he set for the trust. He calculated growth of the fund for a certain period based on a certain interest rate with the intention that perhaps one hundred years would pass before the money could be used, thereby reaching a substantial endowment. The corpus had to compound for 21 years following the death of the last of 25 persons he named.

Mrs. Mark Sullivan (Mary M. Buchanan), who died prior to 1951, visited The University of Georgia in the 1940's and told Mr. T. W. Reed that her name was the last on the list of 25 persons. She wrote Comptroller J. D. Bolton in 1934 saying that she was the youngest person named in her grandfather's bequest, being only a few months old at the time the trust was established. The next youngest people were "four or five years older", according to Mrs. Sullivan.

The Trustees minutes for 1879, the year Professor McCay made the gift, reflect the stipulations and conditions. It is not the Charles C. McCay Mathematics Fund; therefore it is not "lost" ~~not~~ has it been absorbed into "the general fund," as alluded to in your letter. There is ample documentation in the files of the University indicating that

various officials were aware of the fact that the funds could not be used for any position until the University could reasonably ^{conclude} that the 21 years mentioned in the bequest had passed. The funds are held within the University Trust Division where the McCay Fund's income and corpus are meticulously accounted for.

Trust funds held by the University are under the authority of the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. The expenditure of such funds is approved by the Regents based on (1) trust instruments created by the donor specifying the purpose, and (2) the decision of the President and administration in terms of their responsibilities for setting priorities and determining needs of the educational program.

I hope that this letter answers the query that you raised in yours. You may rest assured that the funds bequeathed by Professor McCay to the institution he served so ably are being dispersed in a manner that is entirely consonant with his wishes. The University is proud to have the McCay Fund and very proud to reflect upon the contributions made by the originator of the fund to this institution.

Sincerely,

M. Louise McBee
Acting Vice President

bc: P. Shedd