



McGill Faculty Club Newsletter

Faculty Club Newsletter April 2013 Edition

Mystery solved Biography of Dr. William T. Leach



Have you ever wondered about the identity of the scholarly-looking older gentleman in academic attire whose portrait hangs on the right-hand side in the lounge, just as you enter the ballroom. The University has always known who this was, but for some reason the portrait was never labelled with an identity plaque. Perhaps it was deemed unnecessary because he was already well-known at the time of his death. After all, he was McGill University's Vice Principal for nearly forty years until his death in 1886 at the age of eighty-one as well as Dean of the Faculty of Arts for the previous thirty years.

His great-grandson, Robert Cowling, B.A. (1957), B.C.L. (1960), recently offered to rescue the Venerable William Turnbull Leach, M.A. (Edinburgh), D.D. (Bishop's), D.C.L., LL.D. (McGill) from anonymity by donating a plaque which has since been affixed to the portrait. If the portrait disappears for a while, it's because the canvas requires a bit of cleaning.

As his long tenure might suggest, Dr. Leach was a highly respected member of the academic community as well as the first rector of St. George's Church in Montreal and Archdeacon of Montreal (positions held concurrently with those of the religious community at McGill). In addition to his administrative duties at McGill University, he was the Molson Professor of English Literature and Professor of Logic.

Daring in love, Dr. Leach was 65 years old when he married his third and last wife, Louisa Gwilt, who was one of his students and... 19 years old! This was a behaviour that may be considered scandalous today, but seemed to have drawn no attention in Victorian times. The couple's daughter, Milda Emilie, married Albert Jessup Day, Cowling's grandparents.

A man of character and principle, Leach started out as a Presbyterian minister when he arrived in York (present-day Toronto) from Berwick-on-Tweed, England but left the Church in disagreement with one of its basic tenets. In fact, he was tried (ecclesiastically) for heresy and deposed. The Toronto Herald warmly defended him and he then began his distinguished career with the Anglican Church and at McGill.

Following his death, the Executive Committee of the Diocese of Montreal adopted a resolution which reads in part: “We desire to record our deep sense of the great loss which the Diocese sustains by the removal of a Dignitary so justly eminent in various fields of Christian labour and of educational usefulness, as the late lamented Archdeacon. We hold in lasting and loving remembrance his high intelligence, his uniform urbanity and his constant willingness to serve.”

The Board of Governors and the Corporation at McGill recorded similar sentiments in their minutes, noting the important role Dr. Leach played at the University and in “the cause of Education in this Province.” However, the tribute that best combines both appreciation and respect for his work with some insight into his personal character and humanity was recorded as follows by the Faculty of Arts, in the quaint language of the era:

“Resolved: That the members of the Faculty of Arts in receiving the report of the death of their late honoured colleague, the Venerable Archdeacon Leach, place on record their deep sense of the loss which, personally and collectively, they have sustained by the removal of one with whom many of their number had enjoyed a friendship extending over well-nigh a generation of men. The Faculty further desire to express their high appreciation of those qualities of heart and intellect, which made the work and influence of Dr. Leach so potent for good, not to this Faculty alone but also to the University at large. He was a man of very varied culture, so that, while specially devoted to the study of literature, and exhibiting in his style of thought the peculiar refinement of his literary studies, he was ever ready to take a generous interest in all departments of intellectual work. That interest retained a remarkable freshness even amid the advances of age, and in his latest years he was wont to exhibit an almost youthful enthusiasm over any new discovery of science or any important production of literature. The refinement of Dr. Leach’s culture manifested itself also in the singular kindness of his relations to his fellowmen; and his colleagues reflect with unmingled pleasure on the uniform courtesy which characterized all his intercourse with them.”

Thanks to Prof. Peter McNally and Theresa Rowat, McGill Archivist, for their assistance with the foregoing.

Bridge

Tuesdays, April 2nd, 16th and 30th -- Maude Abbott Room. 1:30 to 3:30 pm

This popular event carries on throughout the school year and never ceases to attract participants. Newbies are always welcome to play bridge at the Faculty Club! Twice a month or sometimes three, the McGill Committee for Retired Professors welcomes players of all levels to this social event. Challenge a friend to a match over a refreshing drink.

For more information, contact: [Dorothy Thomas Edding](#) and/ or 514-932-8478.



Centraide Trivia Quiz

WIN GREAT PRIZES

Monday, April 8th, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm
Team signups: 5:30 pm
Faculty Club
3450
McTavish Street
Register a team of 2-4 people
Players without a team will be grouped into teams after registration
\$5 minimum donation per person
Food and alcoholic beverages will be available for purchase.

register early online!

Quizmaster
Prof. David Harpp
More info: Kimberly Stephenson 398-8350

Centraide Trivia Night Round 5
Monday, April 8th, Faculty Club Ballroom, Registration at 5:30 pm, Quiz at 6:00 pm

Hosted by Faculty Club President David N. Harpp, it's the 5th round of Centraide Trivia Night competitions. Only two rounds left before a champion is crowned. It will be an exciting race to the finish as many teams are in contention to take the championship. Come cheer on your favourite team... but don't whisper any answers!

To check your standings and updates, visit:
www.mcgill.ca/facultyclub/trivia

Latin Night
Wednesday April 17th Faculty club Ballroom at 6:00 pm

The warm weather is now upon us, so come and feel the heat during our Latin evening where food, music and dancing will wake up your senses. Our featured act, "The Taylor Donaldson Quartet," will delight you with tango, bossa nova, cha cha, rhumba, samba and Latin styles of music. This musical presentation will surely entice you to get up and dance with that special someone in your life.



Taylor Donaldson is a trombonist, arranger, composer in Montreal and a recent McGill University graduate (class of 2011). A writer of a variety of styles, including jazz, classical and popular music, he will be joined by three other musicians from McGill, Matt MacEachern (drums), Charly Vilmart (bass) and Maxime Tremblay (guitar) to bring you Spanish-influenced music at the Faculty Club. All musicians in this quartet were members of the McGill Jazz Orchestra I, under the direction of Gordon Foote. They recently performed in a concert tour representing McGill University in France and Switzerland.

Latin Night @ \$34.00 per person plus applicable taxes.
[Click for menu and reservation](#)



St. James Literary Society
"Us and How We Got There"
Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:30 p.m.

The St. James Literary Society is a non-profit organization founded in Montreal in 1898 and is one of the oldest learned societies in North America. The Society presents Abicumaran Uthamacumaran.

"Us and How We Got There." This is the story of a gifted teenager and a compassionate mentor. The former is Abicumaran (Abi) Uthamacumaran and the latter is Dr. Phil Gold, a pioneer in cancer research with nearly 50 years experience. Dr. Gold's early lab work resulted in the discovery of CEA, a carcinoembryonic antigen, which is a blood test frequently employed in the diagnosis and management of cancer patients.

Bypassing CEGEP, Abi is currently enrolled at McGill University where he delves into lab research under the tutelage of Dr. Gold and four other doctors. Recently, he was the recipient of a Harvard University Medical School scholarship.

Tuesday, April 16th at 7:30 p.m.
"The Future of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts".

Ms. Nathalie Bondil, Director and Chief Curator of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts, will bring us an update on recent changes that have taken place at the museum and will share her vision of where the organization is headed.

Tuesday, April 30th at 7:30 p.m.
"Medical Hypnosis and its Applications".

Dr. Amir Raz has graciously accepted to return to the Faculty Club and offer an entertaining and informative evening on how he uses hypnosis in treating some of his patients.

For information and reservations, please contact Mr. Sam Browman at (514) 484-0146 or info@stjamesliterarysociety.com

Indonesian Week: April 8th to 12th

A culinary field trip right in your own hometown! In mid-April, head towards the McGill Faculty Club for a taste of authentic Indonesian cuisine. Chef Majois and his team will be concocting succulent dishes like Nasi Goreng, Soto Ayam, Sates, among other tasty tidbits. Lots of spices included for the daring kind...





Middle East Week: April 22th to 26th

Visit an exotic part of the world by tasting foreign flavours. Explore the Mediterranean region where meat, fish, vegetables and other mouthwatering dishes are adorned with a dash of fancy spices. Discover scrumptious menu items prepared by the Faculty Club's talented chefs

[Upcoming Events]

- Mother's Day Brunch: Sunday May 12th, 2013
- Centraide Trivia Quiz: Round 6 – Thursday May 9th, 2013
- Food Festival: Lobster Week May 6th to 10th, 2013

David N. Harpp
President, Faculty Club

Nicolas Zrihen
General Manager