

Mrs MacGregor-Whyte,
An Buighe,
Ardconnel Road,
OBAN.

17th May 1982.

Dear Mrs MacGregor-Whyte,

I arrived safely back on Tiree at the end of the week from my travels on the mainland. It was very nice that we had the chance to meet and I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to you. I am very grateful to you for the kind gift you are making to the school on Tiree and its pupils. Not only is it very kind of you, but the sum involved is most generous.

Let me confirm the proposals for you -

1. The capital sum will be invested in the name of the MacGregor-Whyte Bequest. I am consulting our Divisional Office about the correct procedures here.
2. The interest accrued, and possible occasional amounts from the capital sum, will be used at the headteacher's discretion to purchase and fund 'extras' for the school along the lines of library books, musical instruments, items of equipment not obtainable in any other way and other similar means of enriching the educational environment here.
3. A short explanation of the bequest and those involved will be drawn up and displayed.
4. All books and items obtained through the bequest will be known to have this origin and will state this.

I think these ideas are in line with our discussion and hope they meet your requirements. Please amend any detail to suit. While the first sum from interest will not be available for some time, I think it would be a good idea to have of the money available for immediate use when the bequest is established in order to launch it then.

This is a magnificent gift for us to receive and a wonderful thing for the children here for some years to come. Thank you very much once again.

I hope you are well and look forward to hearing from you.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

C. M. O'Brien,
Headmaster

THE MACGREGOR-WHYTE BEQUEST

The MacGregor-Whyte Bequest was gifted to Tiree High School in the Autumn of 1982 by Mrs E. MacGregor-Whyte of Oban in memory of her late husband Tearlach (1904-1981) and his father, the artist Duncan MacGregor-Whyte (1866-1953).

The Bequest takes the form of a sum of money, to be used as required for the purchase of items of equipment for the school's departments and library, and two paintings by D. MacGregor-Whyte - a self portrait and "Kate" who first brought him to Tiree.

Mrs MacGregor-Whyte's generosity and kindness is most gratefully acknowledged.

D. MACGREGOR-WHYTE (1866-1953)

Born in Oban a son of the Manse, D. MacGregor-Whyte went at an early age to Glasgow to study art. From there he went to Antwerp to the State School under Van Havermaet and thereafter continued his studies in Paris under Delecluse Caillot and Delance.

Although his work was varied he was at one time mainly a portrait painter. Commissions for portraits took him to Canada in 1911 and when in Vancouver in 1913 his four brothers in Australia persuaded him to come and visit them. He did so and in course of time painted many Australian landscapes and portraits - among the latter being Throssle the first Australian V.C. of the 1914-1918 war and Archbishop Riley, Anglican Archbishop of Western Australia, whose portrait hangs in the Perth Art Gallery.

He exhibited at the R.A., R.S.A., Paris Salon and the Royal Glasgow Institute. At the latter in 1947 his seascape "The Last Rays of Day" won the James Torrance Memorial Prize and his pictures hang in several Public Galleries.

He built a Studio in Tiree at the beginning of the century and there he and his wife, Mary Barnard, painted every summer mainly figure subjects of the local children on the shores and on the machair of that beautiful island.

After his return from Australia he was soon painting again in Lorn and Tiree and while he still painted many portraits he was best known latterly for his seascapes and Highland landscapes.

He was painting in Tiree in his 86th year and died on 3rd December 1953. He was a true and fervent Gael who wore the kilt and spoke Gaelic. He found beauty in simple things and loved his Highland hills and lochs and shores.

MARY BAYLIS BARNARD (MRS MACGREGOR-WHYTE) (1870-1946)

Born in Holt Troubridge Wiltshire - an Artist whose work was known and loved universally - particularly her pastel work. She studied in Paris under Caillot and Delance, and was gold medallist of l'Ecole Delacluse. She was a member of the Pastel Society, and exhibited at the R.A., the R.S.A., the Royal Glasgow Institute, and the Paris Salon. Shared Duncan's love of Tiree. Two sons - Tearlach and John (Bunty).

TEARLACH MACGREGOR-WHYTE (1904-1981)

Older son of Artists Duncan MacGregor-Whyte and Mary Barnard. A Civil Engineer, MICE, who took part in the construction of many bridges and roads - with particular interest in the Glencoe road. During Second World War served as a Major with the R.E.

JOHN BAYLIS BARNARD (1909-1942)

Younger son, always known as "Bunty" who inherited his parents artistic qualities. Studied at the Glasgow School of Art. In the Second World War, he joined the R.N. as an O.S. and, sadly was killed in action. Cutting short what promised to be a brilliant career

25 MAY 1982

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

Thank you for your
letter of 17th May 1982.

I think your proposals are
along the lines I was thinking
about, and agree to have
these arrangements made.

I hope you are all well.

Yours sincerely

Christina Ragno

28th Sep 1982.

Dear Mr. O'Brien,

In the first place may I say how much I enjoyed your School magazine. Thank you for sending it to me -

Further to your letter of 17th May 82 I now enclose a cheque for £3,000, as I want you to get it invested as soon as possible.

I think it would be a good idea if you could call on me when convenient, and I will give you some notes on the

individuals concerned. I think
I should like to give a picture
to.

I have been extremely busy
and it looks as though I shall
be for some time to come!

I hope you and your
family are well

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

Eric Praeger Wyle.

Mrs MacGregor Whyte,
An Ruighe,
Ardconnel Road,
OBAN.

6th October 1982.

Dear Mrs MacGregor Whyte,

I arrived back yesterday from St Andrews where I had been attending a conference and found your letter with its enclosure awaiting my return. This is most generous of you and on behalf of the school I am very grateful.

The money is being invested today, so nothing should be lost.

I will be very pleased to come in to see you again and will telephone you when this is possible. The offer of a picture will be very welcome for our library.

I hope you continue to keep well and look forward to seeing you again.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely,

C. M. O'Brien,
Headmaster