February 2, 1896,

To Pres. U.R. Harper:

Dear Sir:

Recognizing our inability to properly appreciate the work of our great painters, sculptors, and realizing the insufficiency of the opportunities afforded by our university for the development of this side of our interests, and being further conscious of the possibilities in this great city (under our direction), for this aesthetic development, opportunities unapproachable to one who does not live where great art galleries, studios, etc., are accessible, we most respectfully, across canvas petition you to arrange for the spring semester, if possible, a regular course in the university on General Art under the direction of Mrs. Lorado Taft, the course to consist of such lectures, readings, etc.
visits to successful art galleries and studios as far as they may think essential for the cultivation of an appreciation of true art. We further pledge ourselves to take such course if it can be provided.

Names

Walter A. Payne
W. L. Lovett
J. L. Nichols
A. Browne
James Scott Brown
M. P. Hume

Ida Abell

Hettie Burcham Foster
Katharine Ayres Livingston
Emily Knapp
Harriet C. Agster
Adelaide White.
Sarah Simpkins
Susan S. Harding.

As a matter of course we are now receiving very gladly:

Veledge, 3718 Kimbark Ave.
Dr. M. H. Harper

University of Chicago.

My dear Doctor,

I have just received your favor of the 16th inst. In reply, I 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 work "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 me further details regarding
the bust, instead of troubling you with
the various questions which occur to
me, regarding it.

Ever sincerely yours,

[Signature: Lucius Taft]
My 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 Nortouth Bust. It is a bad time to ask for money, I know, but I was a-thinking that I should happen to have this firm I would call on these friends when I go east next week, and if I 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, Lord Jeff.
My dear Doctor Harper,

I write to inquire if it would be convenient for you to grant me a payment on the Northrup bust at this time. Ten percent elsewhere generally stipulate for a payment of one third upon acceptance of the model. As seldom make contracts, and usually forget to speak of this custom, I know that I have no claim until completion of the work in marbles. If however it should be convenient to allow me $250 (or less)
At this time it would be an accommodation and there would be no risk to the Committee since the book is now safely cast in plaster.

Very respectfully yours,

[Signature]

Athenæum Building.
Dec. 18th, 1877.
University of Chicago

To: Lorado Taft Dr.

To bronze tablet, Douglas. $300.00
(as per agreement with J.F. Hinric)

Received payment in full

Lorado Taft

Money raised by Class of 1891
(funds in hand of Trustee
with him paid to him Taft.)

T.M.S.
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 more, but shall write to Doctor Northrup next week, and trust that me may be able to begin work soon.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

Taft

[Address: Mcmuren Building
Oct. 22 - 1897]
Dr. W. R. Harper,
University of Chicago
My dear Doctor Harper,

I hear from so many sides that I am to do the best I can doing some work 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 others. 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 best in order to make sure of him (at a time when we can work comfortably and without haste).

Very sincerely yours,

Z Leonidas Taft
My dear doctor,

I have recently received the manuscript of my bust of Elias 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 should spare the time to look into my studio, it would afford pleasure both to myself and to the Cobb.

Very yours,

L. D. 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,

[Signature]

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 Mrs. Henderson sailed from New York on the Adriatic, the boat on which President Roosevelt and his party are going to Naples.

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
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.

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.
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,

President H. P. Judson,
The University of Chicago.
Chicago, November 17, 1916

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.

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,

[Signature]

President H. P. Judson,
The University of Chicago.
G. F. Smith

April 14, 1914

My dear Professor Smith:

I trust the letter you will be able to send the enclosed letter

before the 18th, when I am going to London to get information for my book.

I have just written a letter to L. T. to tell about this and ask

your advice.

R. G. Smith

The University of Chicago
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.
March 20
1952

Mr. Alfred Weimer
City Office
Dear Mr. Weimer:

You will receive that recently

You notice that recent announcement or that recent
at the time to make a return of estimates of

You notice that recent announcement or that recent
make a return of estimates of

I think you ought to know a little more about what

Mr. Talf's offer means. The original offer is

Important that you to the house in 1929, as that is

wants assistance in writing to make a return to

be placed in a momentary situation and what is actually

not allowed to put the return in market.

This would seem to imply without

If it is not due to contact, that Mr. Talf's the offer

reception to cover the reception of a return, and not

is indicated in return or return or process.

want necessary to due experience.

Another question which would seem to

be determined. I would think palace might to the

Mather family would be the site for new a station.
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,

[Signature]

Secretary.
Presidential 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:

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 reproduction 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
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
Dear Mr. President,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the recent developments at the University of Chicago. I have been closely following the situation and believe it is important to address the potential issues that may arise in the future.

As an alumni of the University, I have fond memories of its tradition of excellence and innovation. However, recent events have raised serious concerns about the direction the University is taking.

I understand that the current administration is facing challenges and may need to make difficult decisions. However, I urge you to consider the long-term implications of these actions.

I believe that the University's reputation and legacy are at stake. It is crucial that the University continues to uphold its commitment to academic freedom and excellence.

I am aware of the financial challenges facing the University, but I believe that these issues can be addressed through strategic planning and resourcefulness.

I hope that you will take my concerns into account and work towards a solution that is beneficial for all stakeholders.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
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,

[Signature]

Secretary.
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
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:IS

COPY SENT TO MR. H.H. SWIFT
July 20, 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. Lorado Taft,
Oregon, Illinois.
Dear Mr. [Last Name],

I have just returned from my visit to [City]. I am writing to formally express my gratitude for your kind hospitality and the pleasant time I had during my stay. Your recommendations for places to visit and activities to engage in were invaluable, and I found them to be both informative and insightful. Your personal touch in arranging the itinerary and providing local insights greatly enhanced the experience.

I was particularly impressed by [mention specific highlights or events]. Your knowledge of the local culture and history was truly enlightening. I am now more appreciative of the rich heritage and diversity that [City] offers. I am also grateful for the opportunity to meet with some of the local officials and business leaders, which provided me with valuable insights into the current state of affairs in the region.

I have enclosed a small token of my gratitude for your kindness and generosity. I hope it will serve as a reminder of the wonderful time I spent in [City]. If there is anything else I can do to assist you or your organization, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you once again for your warm hospitality and the meaningful conversations we shared. I look forward to the opportunity of returning to [City] in the future and extending my stay to further explore the area.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]
1038 FINE ARTS BUILDING
CHICAGO

Oregon St.
July 8, '98

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 least from engagement.

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

Your love,