

This copy has been provided by the UBC Archives [or UBC Rare Books and Special Collections] and is to be used solely for research or private study.

WILLIS W. ALLEN AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

PLEASE RETAIN
ORIGINAL ORDER

Glenn McPherson Fords
Correspondence, memorandums, and other textual records related to
Vancouver Port Authority and Port Canada, 1936-1984

FOLDER NO. 4-1



Ports Canada

Chairman
of the Board

Président du
conseil d'administration

320 Queen Street
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0N6

320, rue Queen
Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0N6

March 17, 1983

Mrs. P. Astley

Flat 15
161 Fulham Road
London, England
SW3 6SN

4580 Marine Drive
West Vancouver, B.C.
V7W 2N9

not sent to Mrs. Astley
01-584-4876

Heckle

Dear Joan:

I have been intending to reply to your letter of January 2, 1982 that you wrote from Bermuda while visiting Sir William Stephenson, but I never got around to it because I have been so involved working on a Special Committee developing new legislation to administer the major ports in Canada. This has required a great deal of time both in Vancouver as Chairman of the Port Authority and in Ottawa as a member of the Port Legislation Committee.

Together, with Chairman of other Port Authorities we have been pressing the federal government for about 10 years to restructure port administration, decentralizing it from Ottawa and giving the major ports a high degree of local autonomy.

Last August the Bill was passed by parliament and then I became involved as a member of the Implementation Team to set up the new Canada Ports Corporation with a Board of Directors of 17 from across Canada. Following that to arrange for major ports to have their own local port corporations with their own Board of Directors.

The Canada Ports Corporation is now in place and I have been appointed Chairman of the Board, so I am again involved spending one week out of three in Ottawa. All of this has affected my retirement plans, but my wife Mercia and myself are still hoping to revisit the United Kingdom this fall. She is anxious to see her relatives in Wales and I would like to re-visit my favourite city, London and of course Scotland.

If I can get the Board organization and the local Port Corporations set up, we may be over and would certainly let you know as we would like to see you.

Canada

McPherson Fonds
Correspondence, memorandums, and other textual records related to
Vancouver Port Authority and Port Canada, 1976-1984

I note in your letter from Bermuda that you ask if I knew Sir William. It was only recently when books started to be published about him that I admitted to my friends that I had worked for him during the war. In actual fact he was worried about the possibility of something happening to him and wanted someone he felt he could trust to look after his affairs for Lady Stephen-son.

He appointed me his sole executor, and this appointment continued throughout the war. I haven't seen him for many years and I realize he is in bad health, and while we used to correspond we just seemed to have lost contact.

Your letter brings old times to mind and I will take advantage of your visit to him to write and tell him that I knew the "Bright Miss Bright" as you were known to we Canadians during the Quebec Conference.

It is too bad that Richard was unable to get to Vancouver and now he is a much married man with three children I expect a trip to Vancouver is out of the question.

I note you are making progress with the biography "GUBBINS" and I am sure it will be more factual than some of the other books such as "INTREPID". I think the best book about Bill Stephenson was the "QUIET CANADIAN" written by Montgomery Hyde, which Bill presented to me with an interesting autograph.

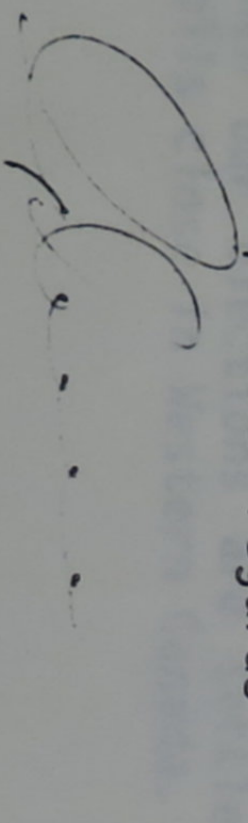
I did not know you had written your own book called "INNER CIRCLE" and I haven't been able to find it here, but I will keep trying.

During my work in Ottawa I have run in to a Mr. Cedrick Jennings, an Englishman who is the public relations man for the Canada Ports Corporation. He was born somewhere in the far east, and the story I have heard is that he was a writer for Mr. Churchill. Perhaps you ran into him during the war and if so I would be interested in hearing what he actually did.

The three girls and our son Glenn are all married and we have 5 grandchildren. As we used to say in my flying days and "one in the hanger". Glenn was married last summer to a girl from Houston and I am counting on him to see that the McPherson name continues.

I hope this reaches you in good health and as you say in your letter, I too am too busy to get old.

Kindest personal regards



Correspondence, memorandums, and other textual records related to
Vancouver Port Authority and Port Canada, 1936-1984

McPherson Fonds

FLAT 15,
161, FULHAM ROAD,
LONDON SW3 6SN
01-584 4876

May 7th 1982

My dear Glenn,

You'll laugh, but I've had this envelope stamped and addressed since before I went to Bermuda for Christmas. I can't bear to look at it any more so will send it even if the news in it isn't particularly exciting. You see, I wrote it to send my Christmas greetings in from England; then I went to Bermuda and sent them to you from there.

Anyway we are all well here in England and trying not to be worried over the Falklands. At least Mrs. Thatcher is consistent in everything she does - consistent and brave.

I have been invited to a wedding in Sydney Australia and my hosts, whose son (my godson) is getting married there on 3rd July, have presented me with a first class return air ticket. So, I am of course going out with them on 25th June and then I am converting into economy and using the nice balance of profit left to stop off on way back and see places I would never otherwise see.

I have three weeks in Australia, three nights in Bali and three in Bangkok; then 3 weeks in India when I shall hope to go to Kashmir; a week in Greece staying with friends, and a final five days

people and the country.

I continue to watch with interest and dismay the drift to the left of our government, the gradual deterioration of our economy and the disunity created to a large extent by federal politics and politicians, who are only interested in winning seats in Ontario and Quebec. Out here in the Colonies we wonder why they bother to distribute the ballot boxes west of the Great Lakes when our elections are settled in Ontario and Quebec before the polls close in Western Canada.

ine Drive
ancouver, B.C.

16, 1981.

just before
with another
pe you have
ry Christmas

's, and not
ouse and our
ia.

iation "two

er and after
wa have yet
rather than

legislation
Commons at
breath and

unity to go
rth America
s Spring we
impressed by the

in Paris seeing other friends. Can you imagine a more wonderful and long-lasting present? I only hope you are not electing to come over while I'm away. But I'm sure you're not. It is as far for you to come over here as it is for me to go to Australia.

I hope you are all well and ~~as~~ I send you all my love - and I'm sure you'll be surprised to get a letter half way through the year!

John

Dear Glenn,
New

Mrs. Philip Astley
Flat 15
161 Fulham Road
London SW3 6SN
01-584 4876

to present
ago but
work men
real
address
to thought
better

January 2nd
1982

Dear Glen,
New address please note:-

Mrs Philip Astley
Flat 15
161 Fulham Road
London SW3 6SN
01-584 4876

I thought I'd rent it to you but I see your letter was addressed to Gosport Place. I moved 18 months ago but had such a long delay over work now 180 or that last Christmas a real mess, some people leaving from me, others not. Anyway we can now come out into the straight! Thanks so much for your lovely long letter. I moved it to answer till I got out here where I'm spending a week's holiday at the guest of William Stephenson. And you ever come across him in the war? He's head of British Intelligence in Government's and in fact received you years ago. He is highest award a couple of years ago. This a long-standing friend and this is the second time I've come out to Bermuda as his guest. He's nearly 86. moved to live in the country just at the same time that I decided to move from a house into a flat, so they were also to take all the goods & chattels that I didn't need - a good & tidy way of disposing myself of the many possessions. So I now have a small flat of a bedroom & a lovely view over west London & over happy me it, while they are settled into a nice converted farmhouse in Kent. I spent a month in Japan and were considerably impressed by the people and the country.

I continue to watch with interest and dismay the drift to the left of our government, the gradual deterioration of our economy and the disunity created to a large extent by federal politics and politicians, who are only interested in winning seats in Ontario and Quebec. Out here in the Colonies we wonder why they bother to distribute the ballot boxes west of the Great Lakes when our elections are settled in Ontario and Quebec before the polls close in Western Canada.

Prine Drive
ncouver, B.C.

16, 1981.

just before
ith another
e you have
y Christmas

s, and not
se and our

ation "two

and after
a have yet
ather than

egislation
commons at
breath and

ity to go
h America
This Spring we

4580 Marine Drive
West Vancouver, B.C.
V7W 2N9

October 16, 1981.

Mrs. Joan Astley
11 Crescent Place
London, England
SW3 2EA

Dear Joan:

It has been a long time, in fact, I wrote you just before Christ- mas in 1978 and you replied early in '79. With another year ending I thought I would write and say "I hope you have enjoyed good health and that you will have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year".

Two years have passed in the life of the McPherson's, and not too much has happened. We still live in the same house and our four children are all still resident in British Columbia.

We have three grandchildren and as they say in aviation "two more in the hanger".

I continue to be involved with the Port of Vancouver and after many years of struggling with the bureaucracy in Ottawa have yet to see the Port re-organized and administered here rather than by bureaucrats 3,000 miles away in Ottawa.

Hope springs eternal and we are now working on new legislation which may or may not be introduced into the House of Commons at the end of this year. At my age I am not holding my breath and have become slightly discouraged.

During the past two years we haven't had the opportunity to go to England, but have done considerable travel in North America and spent some holidays in Mexico and Hawaii. This Spring we spent a month in Japan and were considerably impressed by the people and the country.

I continue to watch with interest and dismay the drift to the left of our government, the gradual deterioration of our economy and the disunity created to a large extent by federal politics and politicians, who are only interested in winning seats in Ontario and Quebec. Out here in the Colonies we wonder why they bother to distribute the ballot boxes west of the Great Lakes when our elections are settled in Ontario and Quebec before the polls close in Western Canada.

I am watching with a great deal of interest to see what Mrs. Thatcher does with "Trudeau's Constitution". As a lawyer I object most strongly to the Bill of Rights being included in the Constitution and to be interrupted by the Supreme Court, this being a complete switch of the British system of common law.

I feel our confederation is going through very critical times, but as Mercia tells me it is too late to worry about it.

I have rambled on enough about the McPhersons and would be interested to hear news of you and your family and how many grandchildren you now have since in '79 Richard and Rosie had Thomas and Harry.

How is the book coming and did you ever think of doing your own autobiography?

I know if you ever come to Canada you will let us know, and if you run in to Sir Douglas and Joan Bader, give them our regards and tell them we haven't changed the sheets on the bed and hope they will visit us in '82.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Rose

11, CRESCENT PLACE
LONDON SW3 2EA
01-589 6662

28th February 1979
6th MAY 1979

My dear Glenn,

(Well, at any rate the year
is the same.)

This is as far as I got; can you really believe it. I can, and I am ashamed. It is fatal in life to put aside letters to answer; if only one did it right away. I think I shall try! And I was so thrilled to get your letter, I really was. You must by now have decided I ~~was~~ dead and buried. But I am not. I am in good health and spirits, and running behind myself most assiduously which, you can imagine, doesn't get me very far!

So here goes to answer your letter in detail.

Your questions go back a long way. I remember the last time I saw you was in Old Church Street. I will do a brief re-cap:

Richard went to Dartmouth College, U.S., for a year, then returned to London University and took his degree in English Literature, and then a year's Teacher Training. Just at this time he got married to such a nice girl, Rosanna Quayle, elder daughter of one of our best actors, Anthony Quayle. She and Richard had been inseparable for a long time, and I was simply delighted when they decided to marry. I have known her and her family for many years, and I can't tell you how nice it is to have in-laws who not only know you and your background but also they knew Philip in the past years. Now Richard and Rosy have two attractive small sons, aged $3\frac{1}{2}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$, called Thomas and Harry (Rosy says she has her 'Tom, Dick and Harry's'. They live not far from here.

Richard did three years teaching at the St. Marylebone Grammar School, and now is about to do a two-year stint to get his M.Phil. or Ph.D., the first anyway and the second if he and his tutor find he can manage it. Then he will be completely qualified to teach senior students, which is what he wants.

Both he and Rosy have highly developed senses of humour, by the way, which is, you will agree, of supreme importance.

As for me, when Richard married, I moved out of Old Church Street into this smaller house, where I am very happily settled with a little garden, a garage, and enough rooms to limit my house-guests and my house-pride but at the same time allow me to entertain my friends! Since three years I have been working on a biography of Colin Gubbins (Major-General Sir Colin Mc Vean Gubbins) who ended up the last war as head of Special Operations Executive (remember?) MAN CALLED INTREPID has a lot about him, ditto BODYGUARD OF LIES. I might say that both these books are compulsive reading BUT extremely inaccurate. In MAN

CALLED INTREPID, Bill Stevenson mentions me (as also BODYGUARD) and both of them manage to state things that simply are not true! I never knew Bill Donovan, and I never in my life hurried into all good clean fun and so long as governments hang on to secrets we must expect all sorts of inaccuracies to be published. Unfortunately I am too honest a researcher, so am being extremely very distinguishing over Gubbins' biography. He lived 82 years, was a the general public, the most interesting part will be the last war and S.O.E., to his family, his widow, to historians, the things that made up the life of this man are what are interesting. So I plug on. Hoping to have it done by the end of this year - in fact, I MUST.

Funny to read of you as Chairman of the Vancouver Ports Authority. My great grandfather had a very great deal indeed to do with the Port of Bristol; we had a lot of family papers about it which we passed on to the Bristol Museum.

It is sad that Trudeau's election should depend on the book of his young wife; just as terrible as any other of the many disclosures we read about in connection with public figures all over the world - some of them true, many untrue, all doing harm to authority.

All you write me about Canada and especially about British Columbia makes me want to visit you. Perhaps, when I finish Gubbins, I shall have some spare cash and will do a trip across the Atlantic and renew my friendships. So stay alive, please. I will do my best.

What old friends do I see from the past? Ian Jacob, regularly. He is remarkable, he really is, and stays young, alert and active. So many of the others are dead. I have done at long last all my war-time scrap-books and have put in, with the photographs and letters, the lists of delegations, the admin. instructions and on, and, as I read them, I re-live those very great and enjoyable days.

Are you ever likely to come over to London again? You will, I know, tell me if you do. Probably, like me, it is distance, money and time, which stops one. However, here is hoping... and actually I am determined to give myself a travel round before I get too long in the tooth.

Dear Glenn, it was really good to hear from you. And, besides resolution to finish Gubbins this year, I will also resolve to rays answer letters by return.

Much love to you

Bill