

C O P Y

WARREN POWERS LAIRD

University of Pennsylvania

Philadelphia

2031 Locust Street  
May 31st, 1938.

Dear Mr. Kemper:

It was really inconsiderate of me to burden Ingham and you with my inquiry of March 5, as to John Stewardson when you both were snowed under with Convention preparations. But I was under stress too, trying to complete the Stewardson archives - which shows how frail a barrier mere friendship is when under pressure.

As to whether John Stewardson (deceased 1898) was a Fellow of the Institute (referring also to your letter of March 23, '38) I would say:

1. In 1917, I think it was, the Philadelphia Chapter placed in Blair Hall, Princeton, a tablet in memory of "Walter Cope, F.A.I.A." and "John Stewardson F.A.I.A."

2. This tablet (a beautiful thing!) was designed by Charles Klauder, under the direction of Frank Miles Day, Fellow, I believe, from 1903. Day, as Klauder rightly says, was meticulous about such things and doubtless believed this to be correct.

3. In the nineties one evidently could be a Chapter member (as was Stewardson) and not belong to the Institute. The Convention "Proceedings" of the latter, from 1888 to 1896 inclusive, publishes a "List of Members," in 1897 a "List of Fellows" and in 1899 obituary notices, in none of which Stewardson's name appears.

His partner, Cope, is named in 1901 as a Fellow and his colleagues Eyre and Day are on the list of "Fellows and Associates" as from 1893 and 1895 respectively.

4. The only resource now would seem to lie in Institute correspondence files of about 1917, when Day or the Philadelphia Chapter may have sought warrant for calling Stewardson a Fellow.

I have so recorded him in the Stewardson Scholarship archives on the authority of the Chapter tablet and its known authorship but as "tis never too late to mend" I would be glad of any evidence you can send me, to the above Locust Street Address.

Very sincerely yours,

(s) Warren P. Laird

Mr. Edward C. Kemper  
Exec. Secy. A.I.A.,  
The Octagon, Washington, D.C.

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THE OCTAGON, WASHINGTON, D. C.

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June 4, 1938

My dear Dr. Laird:

With further reference to your letter of May 31 and the question of whether or not Mr. John Stewardson was a fellow of The Institute:

We have made a close search of the correspondence files of The Institute, here at The Octagon, for 1916 and 1917, and find no inquiry from the Philadelphia Chapter or from Mr. Day as to the "Fellowship" of Mr. Stewardson, nor any reference to him.

We have also checked through the membership lists of The Institute from 1887 to 1896 and do not find Mr. Stewardson listed as either a member or fellow of The Institute.

We do find in several of the annual reports of the Philadelphia Chapter the name of John Stewardson under the heading of "Professional Member" of the Philadelphia Chapter.

I am sorry that we cannot report otherwise. Perhaps some of the older members of the chapter or its Executive Secretary, Mrs. McCoy, could be of some help.

If you find any clues which might justify further search here, please let us know.

Sincerely yours,

ECK:DC

Executive Secretary.

Dr. Warren Powers Laird, F.A.I.A.,  
2031 Locust Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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