

Eigil Pedersen

## Wayne Hall: A Tribute

On May 31, 1975, Dean C. Wayne Hall retired officially from McGill University. Then, characteristically, he set aside his personal plans to serve the Faculty of Education for another two months, while awaiting the arrival of his successor, Dr. George Flower.

When Dean Hall accepted an appointment to the School for Teachers at Macdonald College in 1949, he had already established himself as a leading educator in Quebec. During the previous seventeen years, he had held the posts of classroom teacher, school principal, school inspector and finally, Supervisor of English for the Protestant Schools of Quebec. It is especially in these last two roles that he gained an outstanding reputation as one who came not to criticize, but to demonstrate sound procedures in education and to disseminate the successful practices that he saw in his daily visits to schools. He brought this constructive orientation with him to McGill, and it has served us all well in the past twenty-six years.

The list of Dean Hall's honors is a long and particularly distinguished one, illustrating the fact that his efforts have always gone beyond the immediate requirements of the job at hand. He has been examiner in English for the Province of Quebec, President of the Provincial Association of Protestant Teachers,\* Director of the National Council of Teachers of English (a U.S.-based professional group), President of the Canadian Association of Professors of Education, and has held many other such positions too numerous to list here. However, worth mentioning is that, in 1960-61, he served as Technical Advisor on Teacher Education to the Federal Government of Nigeria and, in 1961, was Secretary to the UNESCO Commission on the founding of the University of Lagos.

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\*I can't resist adding a footnote here. Wayne Hall held this important post while not even a teacher. When teachers elect a *supervisor* to their highest position of professional leadership, we have some measure of his ability to break the traditional barriers.

As Dean, Professor Hall's service has been exemplary and unique at McGill in recent times in the extent to which the development and coming-of-age of his Faculty has coincided with his incumbency. When he began in 1949 as Associate Professor in the School for Teachers at Macdonald College, there was essentially a single one-year program leading to low-level certificates. As he steps down as first Dean, the institution has grown from School, through Institute within the Faculty of Arts and Science, to a Faculty in its own right; it has increased its enrolment and staff at least tenfold; it has broadened the scope and quality of its many certificates, bachelor's and graduate programs; it has achieved an amalgamation with the St. Joseph Teachers' College, resulting in a single major center for English-language teacher education in Quebec; and it has established itself as one of McGill's large and successful Faculties in a new building on the downtown campus.

Undoubtedly, some of these developments would have taken place had someone else been at the helm. But, having lived through most of them as a member of the Faculty myself, I can't imagine them happening so effectively and with so little fanfare. Wayne has made it all seem so inevitable and almost automatic. Without his quiet leadership within the Faculty, his tact in the larger educational community, and his forceful advocacy for his Faculty within the University, these advances would not have come about so smoothly and successfully.

Wayne Hall doesn't look much different from the way he did in 1949 when I first met him — a bit greyer, perhaps, but no less trim or physically active. He plans to spend his well-deserved retirement in Lennoxville, Quebec, where he was born and educated and, if he accepts any responsibility for the development of his home town, I am sure that Lennoxville will benefit from his presence as we have done at McGill.

