



My own background in offering this support is that I was Clerk of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan for twenty years, Clerk of the Parliaments and Clerk of the Senate for five. As a historian, researcher and writer, I have some appreciation of what goes into creating busts and statues, having worked both in the Legislative Building in Regina and the Centre Block in Ottawa. I would be happy to speak with the selection committee to give further details about Hans Holtkamp or his work if needed.

August 16, 2001

To Whom It May Concern

I am writing this letter in support of Mr. Hans Holtkamp. I first met Hans Holtkamp approximately two years ago when he was commissioned to prepare a bronze bust of T. Walter Scott, first Premier of Saskatchewan. The Province commissioned the bust for display in the rotunda of the Legislative Building in Regina. The bust was unveiled in June. Since I had published the biography of Scott, he asked me to assist him in "seeing inside" Walter Scott and discovering who he really was. I have met with Hans on many occasions and we have formed a close friendship based on our common interest in Walter Scott and our desire to show the public Scott's true self through my book and Hans' bronze bust.

Based on my two year experience of working with Hans on the Scott project, I can say that I have come to greatly admire Hans' ability to capture the essence of the subject of his bust. Hans did extensive research on Scott, not just the historical details of this life, but also the minute details of his personality and his inner being. Hans read my written work, reviewed the photograph collection at the provincial archives and studied the Scott death mask before starting on his project. I met with Hans from time to time as he was creating the bust to give him feedback as to the whether he was capturing the essence of the man.

Now that the bust is finished, I can affirm that Hans did capture the essence of Walter Scott as I see him and he was able to put life into the bust. Hans is a man of detail and perfection. He is not satisfied with "good enough" but continues to work until he has the bust "just right."

Hans Holtkamp has created various other pieces that are on display in Saskatoon and although I did not work with him on any of the other projects, I do feel that he has created some beautiful busts and statues for our city. I would strongly recommend Hans Holtkamp for consideration in the competition to produce some of the statues of Canadian military leaders. If chosen, I know that he would devote his entire being to the project and would capture the true spirit of the subjects.

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**University Secretary, University of Saskatchewan**

E203 Administration Building, 105 Administration Place, Saskatoon SK S7N 5A2 Canada

Telephone: (306) 966-4632 Facsimile: (306) 975-1026



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All best wishes.

Sincerely,

Gordon Barnhart PhD  
University Secretary