



The gold Omega pocket watch was given to the First U.P. President Murray S. Bartlett (1911-1915) by the U.P. faculty upon his retirement. In 1982 the Rev. Henry Bartlett handed the watch to Jose D. Peczon, M.D. UPCM Class 1957, in the presence of the Rev. Federico Agnir, A.B., U.P. 1959. This event occurred in the home of the Rev. Henry Bartlett in Old Deerfield, MA. Both Rev. Bartlett and Rev. Agnir were United Church of Christ ministers. Both men were patients in my private ophthalmology practice in Greenfield, MA. They were also my good friends.

The first time I saw the Rev. Henry Bartlett as a patient, he remarked that he had noticed and read my UPCM diploma which was displayed in the waiting room of my office. He told me that he had a close affinity to the university. Indeed he had! He was a nephew of Murray Bartlett, first president of U.P., when the university campus was still in Padre Faura. Murray Bartlett was married but did not have any children. When he and his wife died, their estate was inherited by Henry, their closest relative. While sorting out papers and other mementos of his uncle Murray, Henry found a gold Omega watch with the U.P. logo and dedication on the inside of the pocket watch. He wondered how he could return the watch to the University. After he met me and Rev. Agnir, both

U.P. alumni, he knew that the gold watch would now be able to -
his exact phrase - “return home”.

I enthusiastically encouraged him and his wife to fly to the Philippines themselves to deliver the watch to then U.P. president Edgardo J. Angara in Diliman. I offered to buy airline tickets for them to make a sentimental journey with the watch to U.P. Alas, this did not happen. Shortly after he showed Rev. Aguir and me the watch, his wife died. He, himself, then developed a serious illness from which he never recovered. Knowing that he would never be able to make the long plane trip to the Philippines, he entrusted the watch to my care with my solemn promise that his intention would be fulfilled.

The watch stayed in my home, safely awaiting the proper time to deliver it to U.P. That opportunity came during the Annual UPMAS Reunion in 1995, held at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel. At that event I announced that I had a special surprise gift for the college. Beforehand I had informed UP Manila Chancellor Perla Santos-Ocampo and UPCM Dean Amelia Reyes-Fernandez (who graduated in my class of 1957) of my planned announcement. Both enthusiastically endorsed it. That night the historically significant watch came “home.”

Later, another special celebration was arranged by the Chancellor at the PGH Science Hall. In addition to U.P. Chancellor Perla Santos-Ocampo, President Emil Javier and former president Edgardo J. Angara were present. I made a short speech describing how I came to possess the watch, adding that I was just fulfilling the wishes of the first U.P. President Murray Bartlett’s nephew, the Rev. Henry Bartlett. It was an honor for me to do so, made possible only because of my M.D. degree, earned at UPCM.

Subsequently, the watch was displayed inside a Plexiglas box in the University Library at the UPCM campus. It was placed there

during the 88th UP Manila Foundation celebration in 1996. I took great pride in showing it to my classmates, relatives and friends whenever I made my annual visits. Last year I was shocked to discover that it was no longer there. I dreaded the possibility that it had been stolen, but I was relieved to learn that it had been transferred to another place on campus.

According to Daphnie Demetria, MD, Support Staff for the UPM-MHI UP Manila Museum University of the Philippines, and Gina Canceran, UPCM University Librarian, the watch is now located at the recently inaugurated University of the Philippines Manila - Museum of a History of Ideas (formerly the College of Dentistry Building)

With certainty I can say that both the late first U.P. President Murray Bartlett and his nephew, the Rev. Henry Bartlett, would be happy to know that this gold Omega pocket watch has returned “home.” The Rev. Federico Agnir and I are proud U.P. Alumni who helped to make it happen.



Presentation of the Bartlett Watch was made in the Deerfield, MA home of the Rev. Henry Bartlett standing on the left. To his left are: Mr. Roman Ordinario, Mrs. Henry Bartlett, Mrs. Tereza Ordinario, Donna V. Peczon, Mrs. Ruby Agnir and the Rev. Federico Agnir. The Ordinarios are Ruby Agnir's parents.



Murray Bartlett Watch



Watch display in the University Library.

JOSE D. PECZON, MD
UPCM CLASS 1957

68 FOXTAIL LANE
DOVE CANYON, CA 92679
EMAIL ADDRESS: jpeczon@juno.com