The Weeders
Annual Report of the Historian/Archivist
June 11, 2013

I

Last year your historian was in demand because of the anticipated GCA centennial. But this year was all about living in the present, so I languished by the phone. That said, I again urge submission of our minutes, flower show records, garden documentation, photos of our civic projects and other activities to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. Our 2009 donation covered the period 1912-2004 and we anticipated deposits on a five year basis, which means we are post due.

II

It has become customary for me the share some gem from the past and to that end I looked through my notes from 1963 – the 50th anniversary of the founding of the GCA. Mrs. Bayard Roberts was our president and the Weeders year coincided with the calendar. It was slim pickins' in the note department and the only thing I recorded was that the annual meeting reports were given in verse. That is not happening now.

III

What I will share is a bit of a gosh thing – wearing another hat, I served on the executive committee of the Philadelphia Antiques Show and in that capacity came across a piece in *The Magazine Antiques* (March/April 2013) by PMA curator David Barquist featuring Olaf Skoogfors. Any other time I would have flipped the page, but Skoogfors was commissioned to produce a "Weeders Trophy" in 1958 in honor of Mrs. W. Chattin Wetherill and the first recipient was the daughter of the honoree – our beloved Cynthia Wetherill Wallace, whose daughter Isabel Wister, namesake of the honoree is also a Weeder. A poem accompanied presentation of the sterling silver "oblong box shaped like an Elizabethan jewel casket." (Minutes, November 19, 1959)

The President's Cup
November 17, 1959

There's many a tycoon is business today,
Who owes to his wife his life and his pay!
She goes to the dinners, and shares the ovation
When Management dictates that last long vacation.

Now the men of the Weeders are largely alright;
Some come to the shows, some work late at night
On polishing grammar of gardening reports
Or setting the brick work for gardens of sorts!

On Weeders events, the final last voice
Is usually left to the spouse of their choice.
But on this great occasion my number comes up,
To express a few thoughts on the <u>President's Cup</u>.

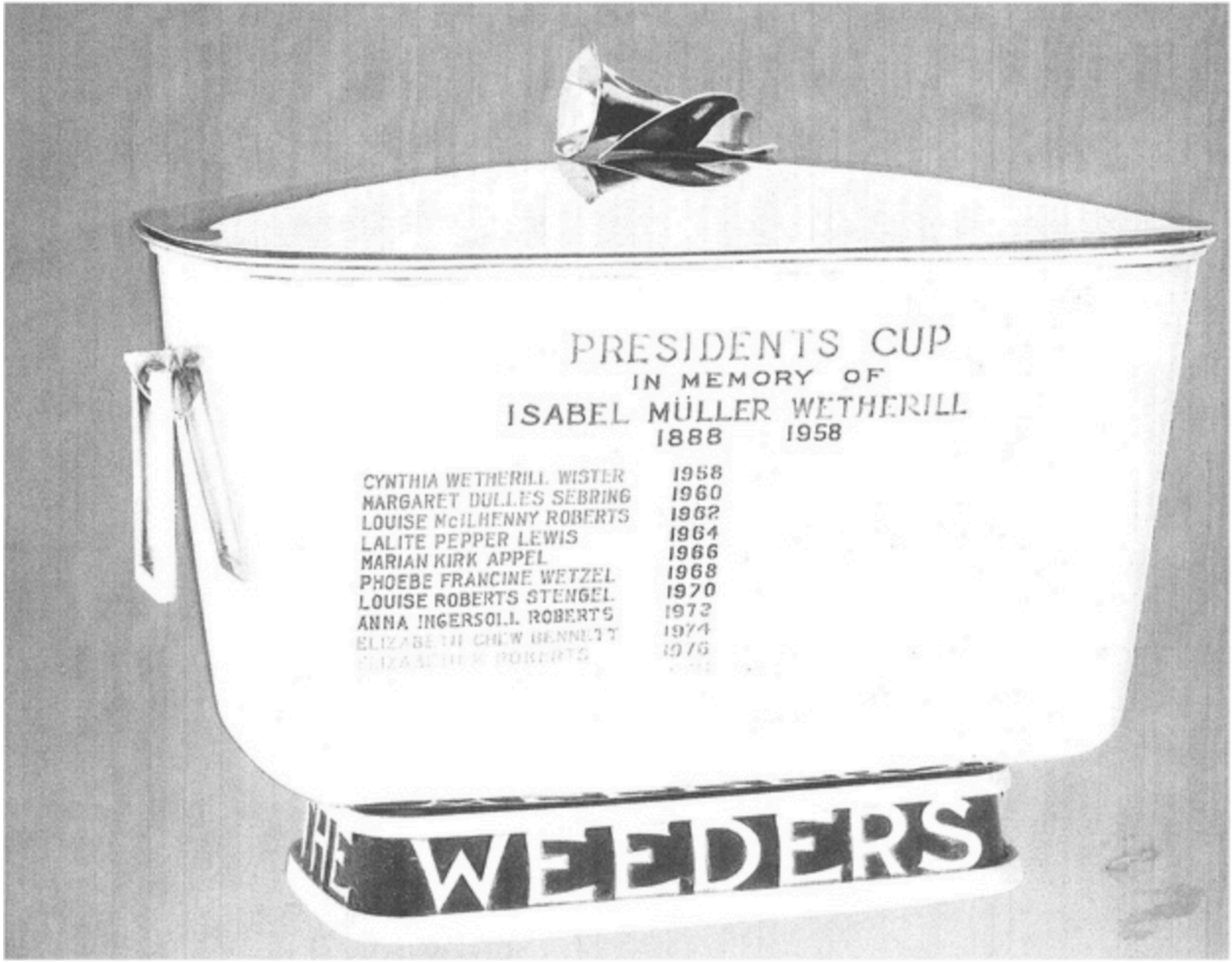
Silver and wood in beauty
Shaped with loving touch,
Olaf Skoogfors, the artist,
Caught and held so much.
Symbol of love and kindness
Glowing through the years,
Heartfelt appreciation,
Joy in work, and tears;
Blazoned with names in sequence
Honoring the present last,
Tracing in memory the Weeders
Down through their glorious past;
Useful, a joy forever,
Lovely, a work of art,
Perfect in sheer perfection –
This Cup is from the heart.

And so be it mentioned in passing, today,
That the President's Cup will cheer on her way
The present incumbent, and serve to inspire
Her successors in office to strive ever higher.

The President's Cup is now in the collection of the Philadelphia Museum of Art and, from time to time, is exhibited with other silver objects in the American Wing. I think I'll ask David if we may come and visit it.

Respectfully submitted,

Maria M. Thompson


PRESIDENTS CUP
IN MEMORY OF
ISABEL MÜLLER WETHERILL
1888 1958
CYNTHIA WETHERILL WISTER 1958
MARGARET DULLES SEBRING 1960
LOUISE McILHENNY ROBERTS 1962
LALITE PEPPER LEWIS 1964
MARIAN KIRK APPEL 1966
PHOEBE FRANCINE WETZEL 1968
LOUISE ROBERTS STENGEL 1970
ANNA INGERSOLL ROBERTS 1972
ELIZABETH CHEW BENNETT 1974
ELIZABETH ROBERTS 1976
WEEDERS