

FILE 707

BUILDING COMMITTEE: LIBRARY

1921

March
Seventeenth
1921.

Dr. G. R. Lomer,
Librarian, McGill University.

Dear Dr. Lomer:-

Replying to your letter of March 11th, I wish to state that the Board of Governors have approved of the appointment of Professor Percy E. Nobbs as the Architect of the extension to the Library. The Special Library Committee are, therefore, authorized to consult with him regarding plans, etc.

I may say that Mr. Nobbs will be consulted only as regards new work directly in connection with the extension. Some of the other changes you consider necessary can be very well undertaken by our own staff.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

March 11, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

At a meeting of the Special Library Committee held yesterday afternoon a thorough inspection of the building was made and the enclosed memorandum of proposed changes was approved. I was directed to communicate this to you and to ask for your authority to take up the matter immediately with the architect designated by you.

It is to be noted that the proposed re-arrangement of the rooms in the present building will provide a much needed periodical room, a students' room, and seminar rooms, and that these changes will not involve any expensive remodelling. Indeed, in most cases it will involve merely a shifting of furniture.

Faithfully yours,

G. R. Lomer

Enc.

University Librarian.

DOCKET STARTS:

March 10, 1921.

SPECIAL LIBRARY COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM OF PROPOSED CHANGES

A. RE-ARRANGEMENT OF ROOMS IN PRESENT BUILDING

- ✓ I Old Law Library Room to be cleared and books placed in top floor of Old Stack, access to which will be obtained by cutting a staircase through the floor of the present New Law Reading Room. This portion of the Stack to be separated from the rest by a grating. Additional table space to be provided in the New Law Reading Room, and current law periodicals to be moved to the southern side of the adjoining gallery over Main Reading Room.
- ✓ II Books on the top floor of the Old Stack will be provided for by construction of new extension.
- ✓ III Cataloguing Department to be placed in Old Law Library.
- ✓ IV Material in Blue Book Room to be moved to top floor of Old Stack.
- ✓ V Order Department and Library of Congress Catalogue to be placed in present Blue Book Room.
- ✓ VI Old Classical Room to be assigned to Librarian's Secretary and University Papers.
- ✗ VII Cataloguing Room to be made into a Periodical Room.
- ✓ VIII Librarian's former office (now housing Order Department) to be assigned to the University Book Club.
- ✓ IX Professors' Room to remain Librarian's Office, as at present.
- ✗ X Present Periodical Room to house the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology and office of Travelling Libraries, as at present.
- ✗ XI North side of Gallery over Main Reading Room to contain steel filing cases for pamphlets at present stored in Room No. 4 in Basement.
- ✓ XII Present Pamphlet Room in Basement to be cleared and used, as formerly, as a seminar room.
- ✓ XIII Room No. 5 to be cleared as soon as seismograph is removed and made available as a seminar room.
- ✓ XIV Room No. 3 to remain as special library of the Department of Commerce.

- ✓ XIV Books in present Travelling Library Room to be removed to half-floor of Old Stack contiguous to present Shipping Room, entrance to this Stack being made by a door through the present wall. This half-section of the Stack to be separated by a grating in a manner similar to the top floor assigned to the Law Library.
- ✓ XVI Present Travelling Libraries Room to become Students Common Room and to be made fireproof.
- ✓ XVII Adequate electric wiring for present Stack.

B. NEW CONSTRUCTION

- I A wing to be added at the south end of the present building, running east and west, with a ground floor entrance on McTavish Street.
- II Small lobby and staircases at McTavish Street end.
- III Portion of ground floor, or, basement, to be arranged as a fireproof Exhibition Room reached from the lobby.
- IV Underground Stack, or, the remainder of Exhibition Room floor, to be storage for valuable books, etc.
N.B. This space is absolutely necessary to house the Mussen and Morgan Collections, and to provide space for the public Library exhibitions.
- V Next three floors to be so arranged that
 - (a) McTavish Street end contains a special reading room with stack storage immediately connected.
 - (b) Two storeys of stacks to each reading room.
 - (c) These special libraries and stacks to be allotted to the Blackader Library of Architecture, the Blacker Library of Zoology, and, possibly, the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology.
- VI If the new construction runs far enough to the east the remaining portion of the stack at the eastern end should be connected with floors of the present Stack in each case to provide for expansion.
- VII Upper portion of new construction to provide additional stack room.

DOCKET STARTS:

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

February 5, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I am directed by Mr. William M. Birks, Chairman of the Special Library Committee appointed by you, to report that this Committee held its first meeting, with a full attendance (Mr. William M. Birks, Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan, Dr. W. G. M. Byers, Professor H. A. Smith, and Dr. G. R. Lomer), on February 4th, and considered in detail the recommendations of the Library Committee as expressed in the letter of January 4th to the Finance Committee, a copy of which is attached for reference.

The Special Committee unanimously and emphatically endorsed the proposals contained therein, and recommended to the Special Committee of the Governors on Buildings the following appropriations for the Library, it being understood from your instructions to the Chairman that the three items proposed by the general Library Committee should come within the scope of this Committee:

- | | |
|---|------------|
| I. Total annual salaries for three new assistants to begin work on September 1, 1921. | \$3,600.00 |
|---|------------|

Sir Arthur Currie.

- II. Increased funds for books, periodicals, and binding. \$17,000.00
(\$14,000. added to present General Fund of \$3,000. for books and periodicals: \$3,000. added to present fund of \$3,000. for binding).


After careful consideration of the present condition of the Library and the state of the book market abroad, it is the earnest recommendation of this Committee that their wishes in this connection be met immediately, so that the funds become available without delay, and any postponement of action in this connection would be markedly detrimental to the interests of the Library and the University as a whole.

- III. Appropriation for addition to the Library building, construction to begin in the spring of 1922. \$135,000.00

Your Committee will now concern itself with a detailed survey of the Library building, and will report separately on this point at a later date.

In conclusion, the Committee wishes to express its conviction that the immediate increase in the Library funds and the appointment of three assistants in September, 1921, are particularly urgent, and that not less than \$135,000.00 should be designated for Library construction at the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



Enc.

Secretary, Special Committee.

DOCKET ENDS:

DOCKET STARTS:

COPY

THE LIBRARY, MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL, P.Q.

January 4. 1921

The Finance Committee
McGill University
Montreal, P.Q.

Gentlemen:-

The Library Committee unanimously and urgently recommends for your approval the following appropriations for the Library from the funds raised in the Centennial Campaign:

1. Three additional library assistants	\$3,600
2. Increased funds for books, binding, and periodicals	17,000
3. Addition to library building	135,000
	<hr/> \$ 155,600

#14000

This recommendation is based upon the following considerations:

1. McGill Library statistics for the past twenty years show a steady rate of growth and recently a marked increase in the number of readers.

2. McGill expenditures for assistance and purchases, when compared with those of some thirty representative American college libraries, show that McGill is behind institutions of its size ~~far~~ in funds for books and in number of assistants.

3. The present overcrowded condition of the Library makes it necessary to place books on the floor or on shelves out of reach, has used up for storage purposes the study rooms formerly available, including even the janitor's quarters and the basement hall, and makes it impossible to unpack some donations or to shelve special libraries in accordance with the terms of the gifts.

The Library was originally built in 1893 and was enlarged seven years later. No additional space has been provided for the last twenty years. The limit of efficient operation was passed several years ago; and no successful business could tolerate the conditions under which library work has to be carried on. The present congestion not only reacts upon the University itself but upon possible donors, and in conjunction with scarcity of funds, upon the public, who are more and more coming to look upon McGill as providing a general reference library. It would be fatal for McGill to get the reputation of being ill equipped for this important service to the community.

It is obvious that, in asking for further funds, the Library stands in a different position from other departments of the University. Any increase in its efficiency is directly

in the interests of McGill as a whole. The Library therefore is not asking for itself, but that the Finance Committee will bear in mind the imperative needs of the one department without which no university has been able to exist or flourish.

I therefore beg that the Finance Committee will not be content with a compromise, but will see fit to approve the urgent recommendations of the Library Committee as proposed above.

Respectfully yours,

(Sgd) G.R. Lomer.

Secretary of the Library Committee

~~Enclosure~~

DOCKET ENDS:

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

February 2, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

As a memorandum of our conversation this morning regarding the scope of the Special Library Committee, may I ask you to send to Mr. William M. Birks, the Chairman, a note authorizing him to include with the question of an addition to the building the recommendation of the Library Committee for three additional assistants, and an annual increase of \$17,000.00 in the funds for books, periodicals, and binding? Will you also be so good as to intimate to him whether the Finance Committee approved these two items as they were proposed in the letter from the Library Committee? This Special Committee is to meet in the Library at five o'clock on Friday, February 4th.

Faithfully yours,

G. R. Lomer.

University Librarian.

February
Second
1921.

Wm. M. Birks, Esq.,
Phillips Square,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Birks:-

I am sending you herewith two enclosures, one being the recommendations of the Library Committee to the Finance Committee, and the second being a copy of a letter from Messrs. Nobbs & Hyde to the Librarian.

When I laid these matters before the Finance Committee they were referred to the Special Committee of the Board of Governors appointed to advise as to the distribution of the funds raised in the campaign. I have asked you to serve as Convener of a Committee to consider proposed extensions to the Library. As these extensions when completed will involve additional Library assistants and a larger appropriation for the purchase of books, I think it would be in keeping with the functions of your special Committee to mention in your report to the Governors' Special Committee that the increased Library accommodation will involve the setting aside of a certain sum of money to provide the additional books and the additional Library assistants.

Will you, therefore, attach these letters to your report in order to keep the file complete and in order that the Governors' Special Committee may be able to make a recommendation as to the increased accommodation, increased number of assistants and increased appropriation for the purchase of books.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

DOCKET STARTS:

January
Twenty-sixth
1921.

Wm. M. Birks, Esq.,
Phillips Square,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Birks:-

I have considered it advisable to change the personnel of the Library Committee and have struck off Dr. Ruttan's name and have asked Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan and Dr. G. M. Byers to act.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

January
Twenty-sixth
1921.

Dear Sir:-

Special Library Committee.

Will you consent to serve on a
Committee composed as follows:-

Mr. Wm. M. Birks, representing the Governors,
Dr. G. R. Lomer,
Professor Smith,
Mr. F. Cleveland Morgan,
Dr. G. M. Byers.

This Committee has been constituted
for the purpose of considering plans for the extension
of the Library in order to provide accommodation
sufficient for the requirements of the next ten years,
at least.

As a result of your conclusions the
Architect chosen will be better able to make his plans.
It is, of course, to be understood that any conclusions
reached must be submitted to the Board of Governors
for their approval before any definite action as regards
alteration or construction can be taken. I mention this
because I do not want the general body of teachers,
students or public to get any wrong impressions as to
what may or may not be done in the matter of a building
programme.

Mr. Wm. M. Birks will call the
Committee together.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

29
MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Montreal, January 20/21.

Dear Sir:-

Special Library Committee.

Will you consent to serve on a
Committee composed as follows:-

Mr. Wm. M. Birks, representing the Governors,
Dr. G. R. Lomer,
Dr. Ruttan,
Professor Smith.

This Committee has been constituted
for the purpose of considering plans for the extension
of the Library in order to provide accommodation
sufficient for the requirements of the next ten years,
at least.

As a result of your conclusions the
Architect chosen will be better able to make his plans.
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students or public to get any wrong impressions as to
what may or may not be done in the matter of a building
programme.

Mr. Wm. M. Birks will call the
Committee together.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

January
Twentieth
1921.

Wm. M. Birks, Esq.,
Phillips Square,
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Birks:-

The attached is a copy of a letter sent to Dr. G. R. Lomer, Dr. Ruttan and Professor Smith.

As a result of our meeting last Monday night, I have, after consultation with Dean Adams, decided to ask Drs. Lomer and Ruttan and Professor Smith to serve on the Special Library Committee. I would like you to take the Chairmanship of that Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

DOCKET ENDS:

29

HENRY MORGAN & CO. LIMITED
COLONIAL HOUSE
MONTREAL

January 31, 1921.

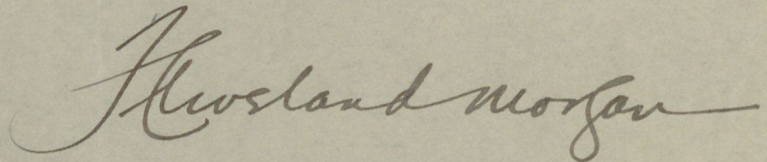
Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University,
M O N T R E A L.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I have been away in New York and only received your letter of January 26th, this morning.

I will be glad to act on the special Library Committee if I can be of service, but will be absent for about six (6) weeks in the near future. As, however, the Committee has been formed for the purpose of considering plans for the extension of the Library, I presume that there will be no immediate action taken and that I will be in time to be of service on my return.

Yours sincerely,



FCM/HEJ.

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

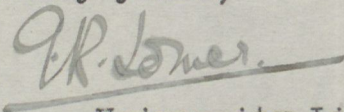
MONTREAL January 21, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:-

I shall be glad to serve on the special Library Committee referred to in your letter of January 20th, to consider plans for the extension of the Library.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "G. R. Lomer", written over a horizontal line.

University Librarian.

HENRY BIRKS & SONS
LIMITED
PHILLIPS SQUARE
MONTREAL

Montreal, Jan. 21st, 1921

Sir Arthur Currie,
McGill University,
C I T Y.

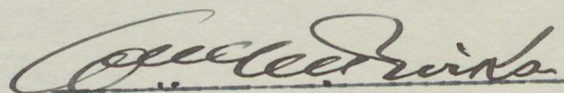
Dear Mr. Principal:-

May I acknowledge yours of
yesterday advising me of my appointment, with Dr. Lomer,
Dr. Ruttan and Prof. Smith, to a special Library Committee.

I will gladly serve to the best
of my ability and have already asked Dr. Lomer to call the
Committee together.

Yours faithfully,

WMB/HB.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. M. Birks", written in dark ink. The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with a horizontal line underneath the name.