

**FILE 714**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE: ARTS BLDG.**

**& MOYSE HALL**

**1921 - 1926**

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

P e r s o n a l

MONTREAL January 6th, 1926.

My dear Sir Arthur:

I have gone over the tenders for the new Arts Building with Sir Herbert Holt and Mr. F.W. Molson. I have also discussed them with Mr. Saxe.

We are of the opinion that it would be impossible to obtain any assurances from Byers and Company which would justify our relying on the work being completed on time as they do not appear to have the organization for work of this character.

We are therefore of the opinion that the tender of Anglin Norcross and Company should be accepted, it being almost the same as that of Cape and Company and they being a particularly well organized firm.

We are in favour of stucco work instead of stone, providing we can get a guarantee from the architects that it will be sufficient for ten years. This will ensure the work being properly done in the first instance.

Anglin and Norcross should be asked to agree with the University that in the event of savings being effected making the ultimate cost less than their tender, the saving should be divided 75% to the University and 25% to the contractors.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY

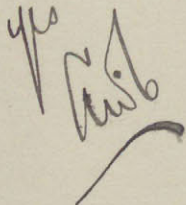
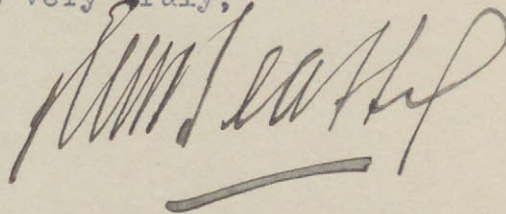
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN AND PRESIDENT

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MONTREAL

If you concur in the views of the other members of the Committee, will you be good enough to instruct Mr. Glassco, to whom I have returned the tenders today.

Yours very truly,



General Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

BASED ON LOWEST TENDER

		<u>Stucco in Place of Stone on New Work</u>
Building	\$609,000	\$577,500
Stone Portico	9,800	9,800
Furniture & Fittings, Etc.	65,000	65,000
Architects' Fees	31,800	30,115
Engineers' Fees	6,000	6,000
Associate Architect	4,641	4,405
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$726,241	\$692,820
	*****	*****

ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

Mc GILL UNIVERSITY

TENDER OF E.C.M. CAPE & COMPANY

		<u>Stucco in Place of Stone on New Work</u>
Building	633,000.00	599,500.00
Stone Portico,	9,000.00	9,000.00
Furniture & Fittings, etc.	65,000.00	65,000.00
Architect's Fees	32,950.00	31,275.00
Engineer's Fees	6,000.00	6,000.00
Associate Architect	4,815.00	4,564.00
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	\$750,765.00	\$715,339.00

ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

McGILL UNIVERSITY

TENDER OF ANGLIN NORCROSS LIMITED

Stucco in Place of  
Stone on New Work.

Building	\$632,800	\$597,800
Stone Portico	10,900	10,900
Furniture & Fittings, Etc.	65,000	65,000
Architects' Fees	33,035	31,285
Engineers' Fees	6,000	6,000
Associate Architect	4,828	4,565
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$752,563	\$715,550

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ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

TENDER OF ATLAS CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.

Stucco in Place of  
Stone on New Work

Building	\$651,578	\$619,853
Stone Portico	9,254	9,254
Furniture & Fittings, Etc.	65,000	65,000
Architects' Fees	33,892	32,305
Engineers' Fees	6,000	6,000
Associate Architect	4,956	4,718
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$770,680	\$737,130
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ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

McGILL UNIVERSITY

TENDER OF JAMES SHEARER CO. LIMITED

		<u>Stucco in Place of Stone on New Work.</u>
Building	675,637.00	646,109.00
Stone Portico	10,065.00	10,065.00
Furniture & Fittings, etc.	65,000.00	65,000.00
Architect's Fees	35,135.00	33,659.00
Engineer's Fees	6,000.00	6,000.00
Associate Architect	5,143.00	4,921.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$796,980.00	\$765,754.00



ESTIMATE OF COST OF ARTS BUILDING

McGILL UNIVERSITY

TENDER OF FOUNDATION COMPANY

Stucco in Place of  
Stone on New Work.

Building	677,621.00	646,683.00
Stone Portico,	10,813.00	10,813.00
Furniture & Fittings, etc.	65,000.00	65,000.00
Architect's Fees	35,272.00	32,725.00
Engineer's Fees	6,000.00	6,000.00
Associate Architect	5,163.00	4,931.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	\$799,869.00	\$766,152.00

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

May 30, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
Principal, McGill University.

My dear Principal,

I have always assumed that my interest in the plans for the new Arts Building are confined for the most part to the interior. There are, however, two features of the front view of the exterior which still interest me.

Although the consensus of opinion may be against me I still think that we should retain the door in the Molson Hall and also as much of the present appearance of this wing as may be made consistent with the plan to substitute a third story for the present gable roof. I am very much afraid that if the door were left out the front of this building might spoil very noticeably the present great view of the whole University from Sherbrooke Street opposite the Maxwellton Apartments and from other parts of the campus. After all, doors have their architectural value as well as their utility, and to close up a doorway where a doorway ought to be architecturally always spoils the aesthetic effect of a building. I do not appreciate the objection that this doorway if retained would involve the extra expense incident to keeping it guarded. With ample locker accommodation provided for every student in the building, I am hopeful that there

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

*will*  
~~would~~ be no necessity to guard the entrances in the new building as it is at present in the old one. If students are careless enough to leave their books or clothes about the halls they must be personally responsible. I see no reason, therefore, why the halls of the new building should not be as free and open to everybody as the campus itself.

I am also very much in favour of retaining the proportions of the present portico at the main entrance. After all, this is a portico and not a colonnade and I do not see, therefore, why it could not be retained without seriously spoiling the architectural result. Obviously, however, this part of the structure will have to be rebuilt and a proper pediment substituted for the present one, which is really only the remains of the original balcony which was torn down about 1876.

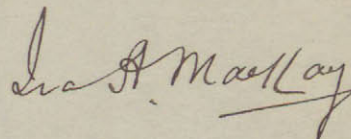
The interior of the present plans is, I think, entirely satisfactory. I explained the plans fully to the Faculty in full session at the last meeting and they were all very much pleased with them indeed. In any case I am convinced personally that the arrangement of space will provide the maximum of convenience and utility in a very minimum of cubic contents and, therefore, with the minimum of building costs. The only part of the plan which could in any way be called a luxury is the stage in the Moyse Hall, but I know that it would be a great disappointment to every one in the Faculty and many others interested if this feature were omitted.

I understand that the plans are to be brought

Sir Arthur Currie, 3.

before the Board on Monday next and should the Governors decide to proceed I shall set to work at once to see that all the apparatus, books and stuff in the present building are removed and that convenient quarters are found for the staff during next session.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Isaac A. Mackay". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Dean".

Dean

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

April 13, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
Principal, McGill University, Montreal.

My dear Principal,

A last word about the new Arts Building!

After visualising the prospect for weeks I have finally come to the rock bottom conclusion that we cannot obtain a more becoming front view than the present one without the unnecessary expenditure of a large amount of money. I am loth to invest a single penny in unnecessary building costs which may be ultimately saved for salaries and scholarships. The monument most needed at McGill at present is an admittedly best University Arts Faculty in Canada or on the continent. There is more money wasted in futile architecture on this continent than in any other way. No one would be dissatisfied or disappointed if we substantially maintain the present front view while, on the other hand, if we destroy it there is bound to be a large amount of dissatisfaction and fault finding.

I, therefore, suggest that the following repairs may be made in the present front view:-

1. The Molson Hall should be raised a story by converting the present gable roof into a flat roof. The doorway memorial tablet and ensemble would remain substantially as at present. The Molson Hall would be still the Molson Hall.
2. The roof of the Molson Hall and the roof of the east wing

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

should be made to correspond. Plans of the front view should be drawn, therefore, for the whole building including the east wing.

3. The present sham wooden pillars at the main entrance should be replaced by stone pillars of slightly smaller dimensions and crowned by a neat entablature and pediment with simple and correct decorations.

4. The cupola might be finished and refined a little so as not to be quite so wooden and plain as at present.

5. The whole of the lower story of the front view should be of heavy dark material as at present in the main building and the upper story of lighter finish. This always gives a distinct flare to any front view as it preserves the impression of firmness and lightness always essential to any well constructed building.

The internal plans are, however, of even greater significance to the Faculty than the plans for the exterior. The objects to be aimed at in an interior plan are:-

- (a) Seating capacity;
- (b) Convenience; and
- (c) Close personal contacts;
- (d) A minimum of cubic contents and, therefore,
- (e) The minimum capital construction costs.

I annex a table showing the redistribution of our present space and the consequent saving in class room cubic contents which may be effected by proper planning. This table only serves to show what internal economies and saving in cost of construction may be effected in any building by always keeping a

Sir Arthur Currie, 3.

single eye on the purpose for which the building is intended. This table shows that the present total seating capacity, not including the large hall in the Biological Building, is 1034 and the <sup>actual</sup> ~~maximum~~ number that can be seated at any one lecture hour 566, and that by merely rearranging the cubic contents the total capacity may be reduced to 920, thus allowing for additional breathing and elbow room, and the maximum seating capacity at any one lecture hour, nevertheless, increased to 760. In other words, without adding anything to our present cubic contents, the total number of students accommodated in the Faculty might be raised ~~from~~ 1071 to 1350. The simple reason for this paradox is that a very large number of small classes are at present being accommodated in unnecessarily large class rooms. Or, to put it simply, the division of space at present does not fit the division of students in classes. The number of class rooms really needed, therefore, are as follows:-

	<u>Number of Rooms</u>	<u>Capacity</u>
	1	450 (Moyses Hall)
	1	150
	1	100
	2	50 - 70
	7	30 - 50
	<u>9 (departmental suites)</u>	<u>20</u>
Total	21	1370

In order to meet these requirements, I suggest the following changes in the small blue prints by Fetherstonhaugh & McDougall which I am returning to you herewith.

Basement. As at present except that the site of the Molson Hall might also be excavated so as to provide more locker room, storage room and other accommodation when necessary.

Sir Arthur Currie, 4.

Main Floor. (1) The Moyse Hall should be reduced to a seating capacity of 400 in the pit and 50 in the rear balcony, and the entire Hall fitted up for a model lecture and demonstration theatre in the way already suggested. The whole of the \$50,000 donated by Lord Atholstan ought in trust to be dedicated to the furnishing and finishing of this Hall.

(2) The Faculty Room should be changed into a Council Room neatly finished for Faculty meetings in the day and student study clubs in the evening.

(3) The small lecture hall opposite the Faculty Room should be divided into offices for the Dean and the secretary and the adjoining office, at present assigned to the Dean, be ~~used~~ used as a store room for stationery, examination books etc.

(4) The reading room and small class room of 30 adjoining the Molson Hall should be changed into a department suite for the Department of Sociology.

(5) A departmental suite for the Department of Commerce should be laid out at the entrance to Molson Hall at present occupied by an office and a class room with a seating capacity of 60.

Second Floor. (1) The class room of 150 at the east end should be changed into two class rooms of 70 each, and the class room of 100 in the Molson Hall changed into two class rooms of 40 or 50 each.

(2) The Professors' Lounge and the row of class rooms, offices and Faculty Room at the front should be changed into three departmental suites for the Departments of History, Economics and English Literature respectively.



Sir Arthur Currie, 5.

Third Floor. The Psychological Laboratory should be moved to the third story of the Molson Hall to be laid out by this department exclusively for its own use and the present space designed for the Department of Psychology changed into five departmental suites for the Departments of Mathematics, French, German, Philosophy and Classics respectively. This redistribution would allow an extra class room of 80 over and above the requirements mentioned above and would, therefore, be capable of accommodating comfortably about 1300 students.

These departmental suites are a special feature of the suggested plans and are worthy of careful notice. Each suite would consist of:-

(a) two small offices;

(b) a conference room with a seating capacity of 20 to be fitted with tables or desks at the option of the department;

and (c) a small departmental library.

Each of them would, therefore, provide a general head-quarters for the staff, honour students and graduate students of the department and would in this way provide suitable accommodations for the Arts students in the Graduate Faculty, a feature of the plans which has not hitherto been sufficiently taken into account.

I submit, therefore, with deference, Mr. Principal, that these plans come pretty nearly to effecting the maximum utility at the minimum capital cost, and if the architects will draw the plans and prepare specifications accordingly I see no reason why the contract should not be let at an early date, provided always that the Board of Governors finally decide to proceed with the work. All of which is respectfully submitted.

Encl.

Yours very sincerely,

*Ira A. Mackay*  
Acting Dean

Sir Arthur Currie, 6.

Table Showing Redistribution of Space and Consequent Saving  
in Class Room Cubic Contents

No. in Class	No. of Classes at Present	No. of Classes at One Hour	No. of Class Rooms Needed	No. of Class Rooms Now
200 +	2	1	1 (cap. 450)	0
100 - 150	2	1	1 (cap. 150)	0
70 - 100	6	1	1 (cap. 100)	2
50 - 70	17	3	2 (cap. 70 )	5
30 - 50	50	8	7 (cap. 50 )	8
20 -	69		<u>9 (cap. 20 )</u>	1
			21 (cap. 1370)	

Total number of seats at present not including Biological Hall,	1034
Maximum number seated at any one hour at present,	566
Total number of seats in proposed plans not including Moyse Hall,	920
Total seating capacity in proposed plans at any one hour,	760
Total number of students registered at present,	1071
Total number who could be accommodated by proposed plans,	1350

April 9, 1925.

G.H. Fletcher, Esq.,  
Secretary, Students Council,  
McGill Union.

Dear Mr. Fletcher:-

Reference your letter of the 3rd inst.  
The question of the Moyse Hall is now being discussed  
and the principal wants me to let you know that every  
consideration is being given to all the representations made  
in connection with it.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.

STUDENT'S COUNCIL OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY



## SECRETARY'S OFFICE

MONTREAL, April 3, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir:

At a meeting of the Students' Council held on Saturday afternoon last the question of the Moyse Memorial Hall in the new Arts building was discussed with reference to the possibility of making some arrangements so that this Hall could be used by such organizations as the Players' Club and the Alumnae Society, who produce the Diminutive Dramas. The Council did not know how far plans or contracts had been made with reference to this Hall and they requested me to write to you asking that, if possible, consideration be given to meet the requirements of such organizations.

We feel that it is not necessary to call to your attention the great advantage to such clubs if this arrangement could be made and we feel certain that you will not overlook the interests of these organizations.

Yours very truly,

*A. H. Glitcher*

Secretary.

GF/MH

March 31st, 1925.

Professor F. E. Lloyd,  
Biological Building,  
McGill University.

Dear Professor Lloyd:-

I am to-day in receipt of an unsigned letter written on the paper apparently used by The Community Players of Montreal.

I appreciate very much the interest they are taking in what we have been pleased to call the "Moyses Theatre" and will be very glad to let them know exactly what our plans are when a decision has been reached.

I hope that no misunderstanding will arise concerning this theatre. Its primary purpose is to commemorate Dean Moyses's association with the University by providing all facilities required for the Department of English. Besides serving as a small theatre it will have to serve as a classroom and will be used by other departments than the English Department. I am quite sure that Professor du Roure will use it for the teaching of French drama, and the Department of History will likely use it for their large classes.

We aim to have a small, compact and complete theatre, but there must be a limit to its size. I shall be very glad to discuss the matter further with you.

Yours faithfully,

# THE COMMUNITY PLAYERS OF MONTREAL

INCORPORATED

COMMITTEE:

—  
PROF. B. K. SANDWELL  
PROF. F. E. LLOYD  
P. S. STEVENSON  
CECIL T. GORDON



COMMITTEE:

—  
T. T. MCG. STOKER  
BROOKE CLAXTON  
LT.-COL. E. G. M. CAPE,  
O. R. SHARP D. S. O.

DIRECTOR:  
LEONARD YOUNG

P. O. Box 181, STATION H.

MONTREAL, March 25, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D.,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

Dear Sir Arthur,

The Executive Committee of the Community Players of Montreal Inc. has instructed me to convey to you its gratification at learning of the proposal to build a theatre in McGill University in memory of the late Dean Moyse.

Dean Moyse was an ardent friend of the drama, as he was of all art and literature; and he was a particularly constant and loyal patron of the Community Players. While his health allowed of it, he attended every performance as well as a great number of the meetings and rehearsals, where he did what he could to improve the diction of our players. We therefore view with especial interest this move to recognize what he has done, and to provide the University with a hall that can be used for the presentation of plays and that may fill a long-felt want of McGill and of the community.

We would consider it a very great privilege to be allowed to assist in this work by placing our experience at

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the disposal of the University. So that a hall might be provided of the greatest possible general use at no greater cost, and with proper dressing and work room accomodation, back stage facilities and arrangements for lighting. If such practical advice as we might be able to give would be welcome, we would be very glad to appoint a committee to make specific recommendations to you, or to go over any plans that you may have from the peculiar point of view of people who have been, on successive evenings, stage carpenters, actors and audience.

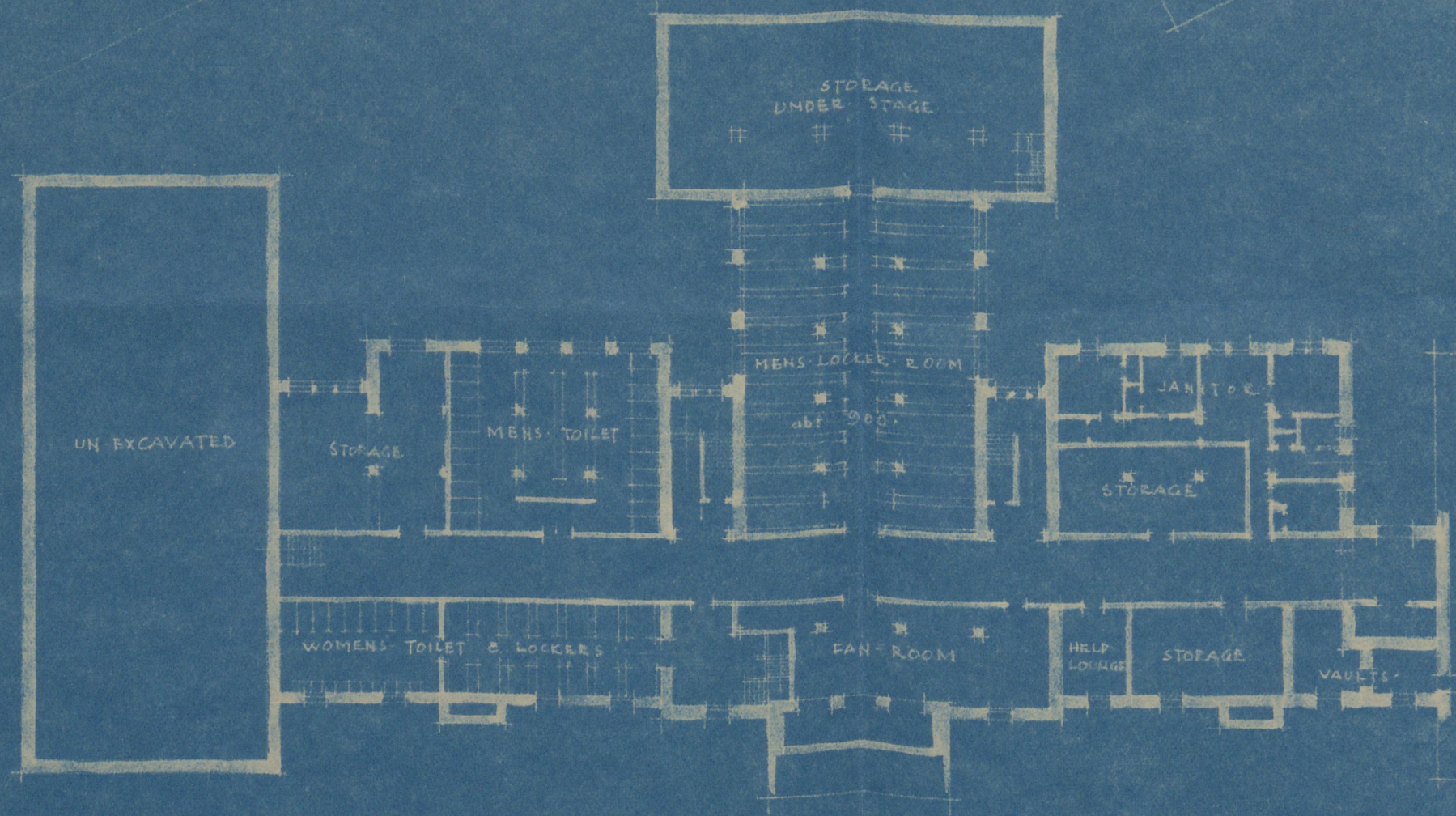
The Executive Committee would also be glad, provided the required consent of the members be obtained, to present such lighting, scenery and stage equipment as we now have to the new theatre for its use.

It is unnecessary for me to add that the Community Players would keenly appreciate the privilege of being allowed to present their regular productions in this theatre.

With kindest regards.

Yours faithfully,

*Brook Clegg Fox*  
*(per F. E. L.)*  
*Secretary*  
*F. E. Lloyd*  
*President*



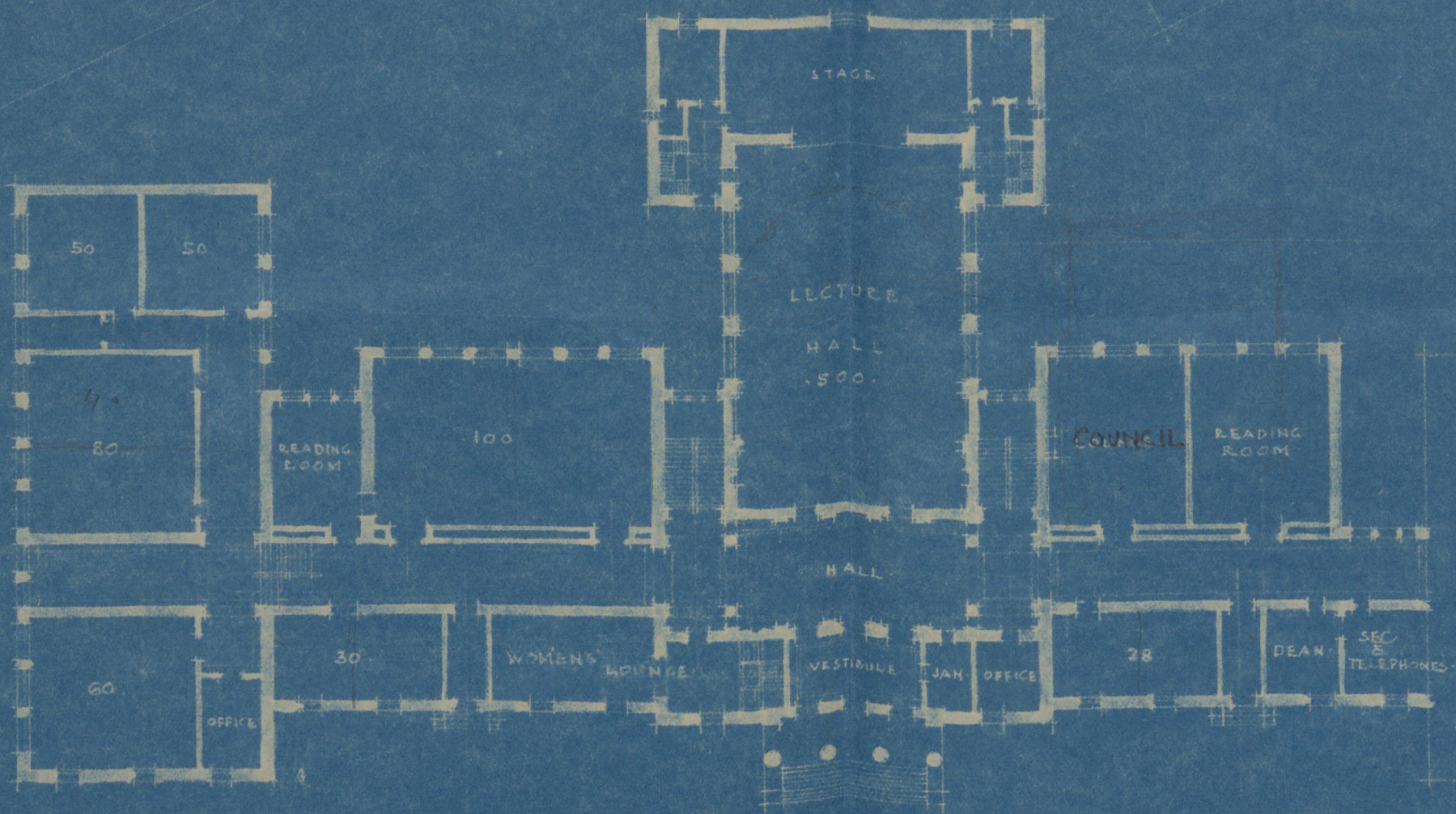
BASEMENT PLAN.

FETHERSTONHAUGH & McDUGALL  
 A.A. R.I.B.A. ARCHITECTS  
 CHAS. J. SAXE CONSULTING ARCHITECT  
 E.C.A.

THE ARTS BUILDING MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL

WORK NO. 158 DRAWING NO. 14  
 Scale 1" = 32 Feet  
 DATE JAN. 1925



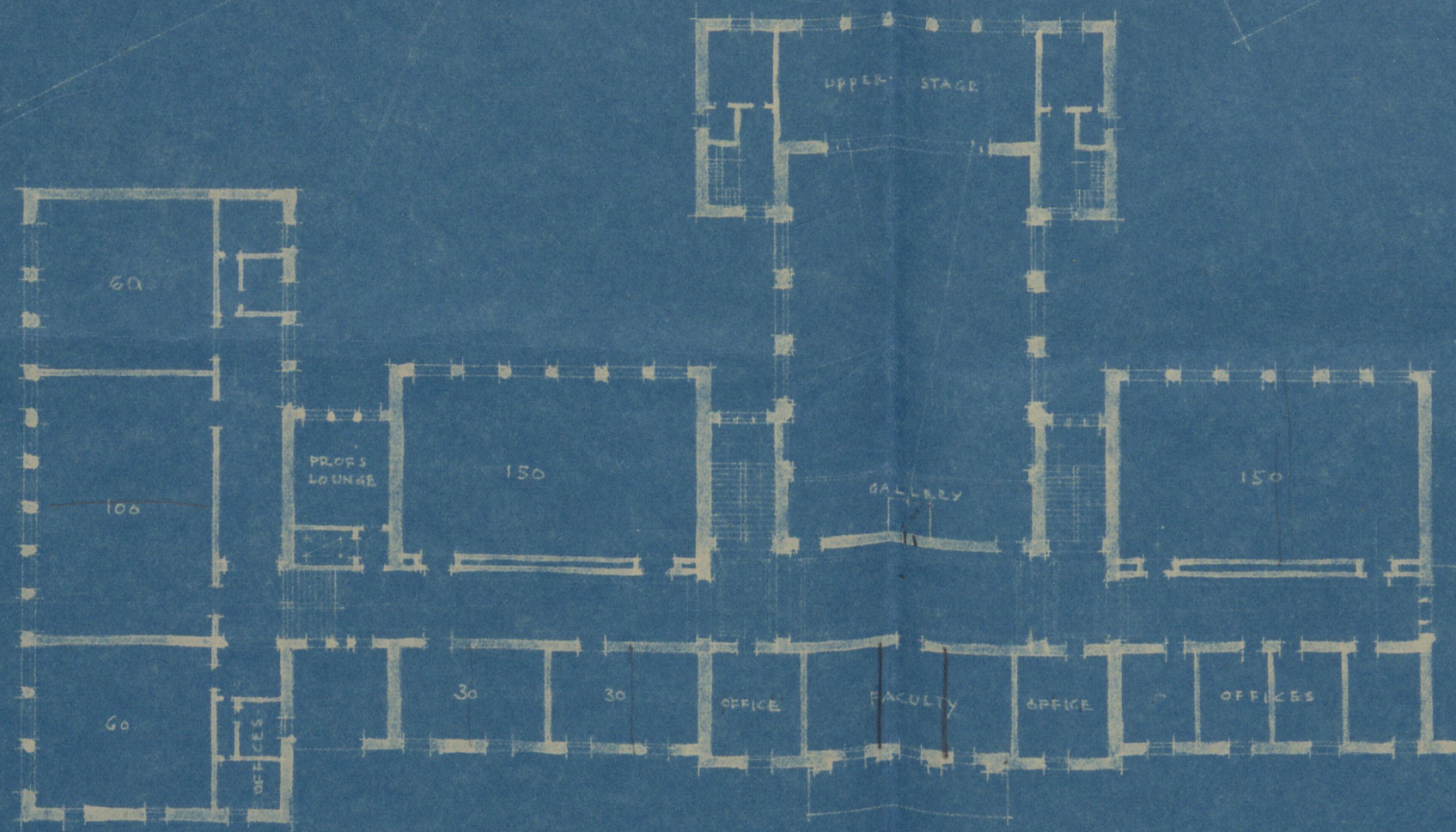


FIRST FLOOR PLAN

FETHERSTONHAUGH & McDUGALL  
 ARCHITECTS  
 R.C.A.  
 CHAS. J. SAXE  
 CONSULTING ARCHITECT

THE ARTS BUILDING - MCGILL UNIVERSITY - MONTREAL

WORK NO. 158 DRAWING NO. 15  
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 DATE JAN. 1925

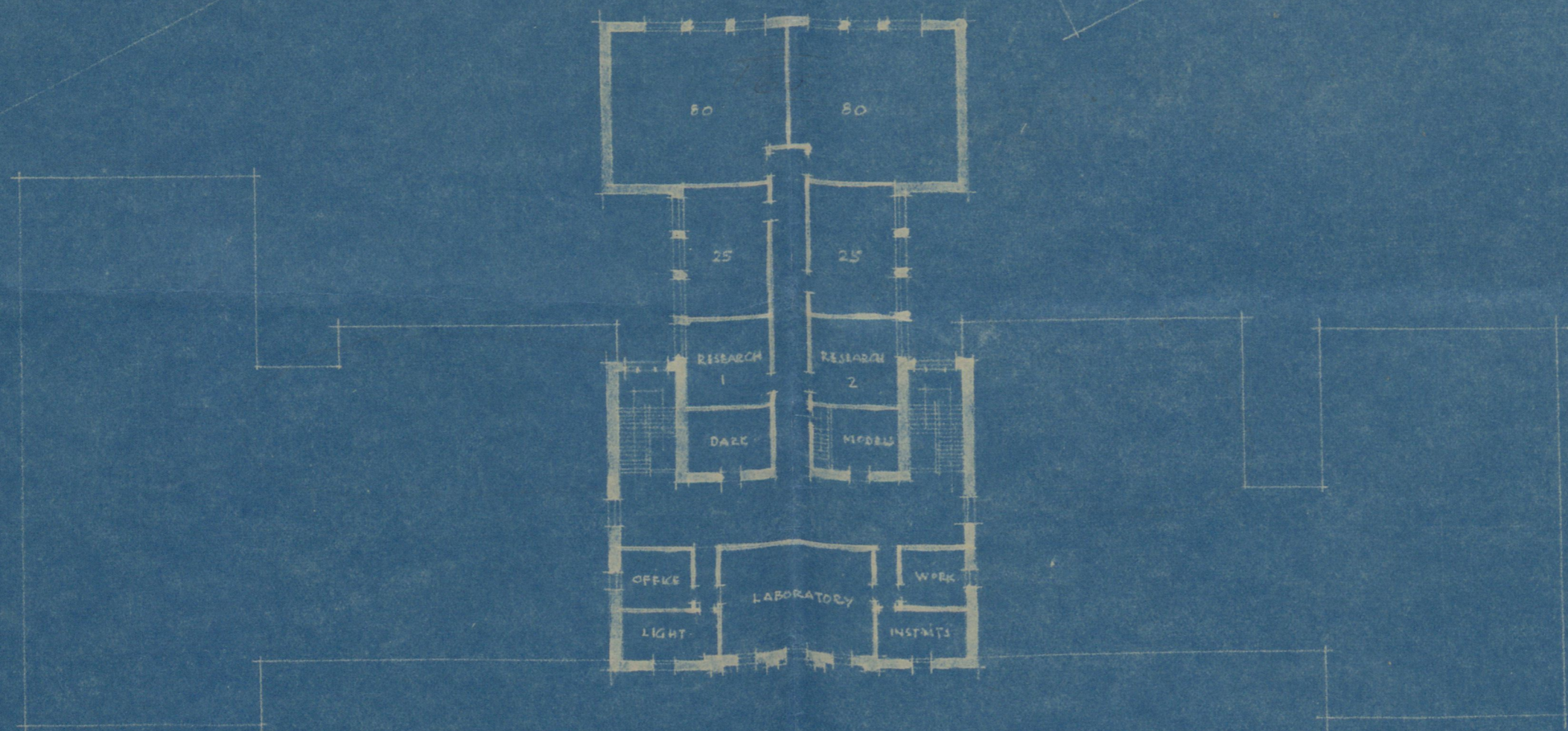


SECOND FLOOR PLAN

FETHERSTONHAUGH & McDUGALL  
 A.A.R. I.B.A. ARCHITECTS  
 CHAS. J. SAXE CONSULTING ARCHITECT R.C.A.

THE ARTS BUILDING MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL

WORK NO 158 DRAWING No 16  
 SCALE 1" = 32 Feet  
 DATE JAN. 1925



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

FETHERSTONHAUGH & McDougall  
 A.R.I.B.A. ARCHITECTS  
 CHAS. J. SAXE B.C.A.  
 CONSULTING ARCHITECTS

THE ARTS BUILDING MCGILL UNIVERSITY MONTREAL

WORK NO 158 DRAWING NO 17  
 scale 1" = 32 feet  
 DATE JAN 1925

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS.  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN.

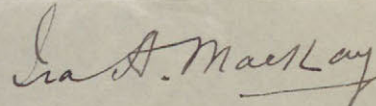
April 2, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
Principal, McGill University.

My dear Principal,

I enclose a very suggestive and  
careful letter from Dr. Cyrus Macmillan, and I have also  
kept a copy for the files in this office.

Yours very truly,



Acting Dean

Encl.

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

March  
Twenty-eighth  
1925.

Dr. Ira Mackay,  
Acting-Dean,  
Faculty of Arts.

Dear Dr. Mackay:

The Department of English wishes to make a few suggestions with reference to the proposed alterations in the Arts Building.

During the past four years the average attendance in English 2, the First Year Course in English Literature, has been 350. The enrolment at the commencement of the present session was 402. It is probable that the attendance will increase to 450 in the coming session; indeed I think it should be limited to that number by excluding, if necessary, partial students. The room in which this class meets at present is not satisfactory, particularly from a speaking standpoint. It would therefore seem essential that a hall with a seating capacity of 450 be provided for this class. It should have small desks and comfortable chairs and the floor should be slightly raised towards the back of the room.

We wish also to emphasize the desirability of providing in this hall a stage for demonstrations in our Drama Courses as well as for Miracle or Mystery Plays in our Freshmen class. At present we offer four courses in the Drama and a fifth will be added next year. The attendance in these Drama Courses numbers at present over 200, and 15 graduate students are taking special work in the Drama. One of the needs of our Department at present is a course in the technique of the Drama, in theory and practice, but with our present stage facilities it is impossible to provide instruction in such a course, although at least two members of our department have had training in Professor Baker's famous 47 Workshop at Harvard. It is desirable, too, that students who are going to teach after graduation should have some instruction in the simple staging of plays so that in the schools to which they go they can produce the maximum of effect with the minimum of cost. For it is in the schools that interest in the Drama in Canada must first of all be created and developed. The School of Physical Education, Dr. Lamb informs me, also desires a course in Pageantry and in the staging of childrens' plays,- a course which we are unable to give at present because of the lack of a workshop. We receive every week letters from our graduates who are teaching in small towns and villages and in remote places asking us for advice in the staging of plays in their schools, all of which indicates that this side of our work has been

Dr. Ira Mackay.

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somewhat neglected through no fault of ours.

May we suggest, then, that the Moyses Hall, or the hall provided for English 2, be furnished with an adequate stage, not elaborate or extravagant, with six or eight dressing rooms, a basement room for storing simple properties, a curtain, lighting facilities, a few "flats" and other simple accessories to which the Department can add from year to year. The dressing rooms could be used as conference rooms for the weekly conferences with Freshmen in English 1 and 2. A moveable "Apron Stage" could be provided at a very small cost, thus making with the curtain down a small Elizabethan stage, or with the curtain raised a Restoration stage. For purposes of demonstration and for revivals of plays actually studied in our courses such an arrangement will be invaluable. Professor du Roure agrees with us in these suggestions, and he states that such a hall would be of inestimable value to him in connection with his Drama Courses and in the staging of his French Plays for illustration purposes. It would also be of great value to the Physical Education students who are taking courses in the Department of English. It might well contain, at very small cost, miniature models of the English Theatres from Shakespeare to Sheridan.

These suggestions do not at all mean that we are advocating the establishment of a Little Theatre at McGill, a movement with which we have frankly no sympathy. We do not suggest the establishment of a theatre which will become the plaything of students and the general public who are not definitely connected with our Drama courses, or which will be a superficial haven for the acting of incomprehensible foreign drivel. We merely suggest the inclusion in the new Arts Building of a hall large enough to seat the Freshman Class and sufficiently well equipped to provide adequate instruction and demonstration in our Drama Courses, a place of definite value to honest students of the drama. In short we desire a dramatic workshop or dramatic laboratory for exclusively academic purposes the influence of which will be felt in Canadian schools.

The late Dean Moyses was Head of the English Department for over 40 years. His favourite courses, I can testify as one of his former students, were his Freshman Class and his Drama Classes, for the latter of which he always stated he had inadequate facilities. It would seem fitting that a hall providing for these courses the adequate equipment he wished for but never enjoyed should now be dedicated to his memory.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

*Cyrus Macmillan*

Chairman, Department of English.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

A. S. LAMB, B. P. E., M. D., DIRECTOR

March 20th, 1925.

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

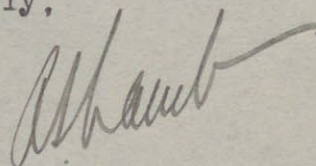
Dear Sir Arthur:

It is unnecessary for me to elaborate upon the problem of accommodation which this Department is facing at the present time. The situation is very acute, our students are forced to dress in corridors and in very unhygienic locker rooms, and the time table for all phases of our work is extremely complex, adding a great deal of time and attention to the problem of adequate supervision.

I am given to understand that there is a possibility of the Arts Building being remodelled this spring. As you know this will seriously affect this Department and as far as my Budget is concerned for the coming session I can merely go ahead on the assumption that approximately the same expenditure will be required next year as in the current session.

The attached resolution is forwarded to you, it having been unanimously passed by the Executive Committee of the School of Physical Education at its last meeting held on March 17th, 1925.

Yours faithfully,



ASL:R

# THE LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

REDPATH LIBRARY - MEDICAL LIBRARY - BIBLIOTHECA OSLERIANA - LAW LIBRARY  
ROYAL VICTORIA COLLEGE LIBRARY - BLACKADER LIBRARY OF ARCHITECTURE  
EMMA SHEARER WOOD LIBRARY OF ORNITHOLOGY - BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY  
BAILLIE LIBRARY OF CHEMISTRY - TRAVELING LIBRARY DEPARTMENT

MONTREAL

4

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

March 21, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University.

## Buildings

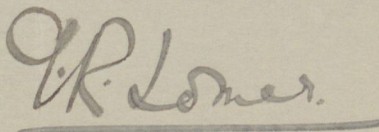
Dear Sir Arthur,

In order that proper provision may be made in building plans for the accommodation of the Law Library I take this opportunity of reminding you that there are at present in the Redpath Building 2,000 feet of Law books which could not be transferred to the East Wing on account of the condition of the floors.

This space is urgently needed, owing to the growth of the General Library and, if the Law Library is being placed elsewhere when the Arts Building is remodelled, provision should be made for including the books still in the Redpath Building.

The normal growth of the Library and the unforeseen additions to the Blacker Library of Zoology, as well as the Natural History Society collection, are making demands for space that we cannot at present meet.

Faithfully yours,



University Librarian.

Address reply to:



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 26, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal, McGill University.

My dear Principal,

Since our conversation with the consulting architect a day or two ago I have interviewed some members of the Faculty about the proposed new Arts Building and, as a result of these conversations, I am convinced that any proposal to erect a large theatre for general public entertainment purposes would meet with unanimous and decided opposition from the Faculty. I know, too, from many other conversations and from a great deal of Faculty discussion that all the members of the Faculty have their hearts fixed on a commodious, becoming building all their own. Those whom I have talked to recently are all of the opinion at present that a hall with a seating capacity of 450 would be ample for all legitimate Faculty uses. A larger hall would obviously not be suitable for lecture and examination uses, and the members of the Faculty naturally think that these activities are of much more importance than any kind of amateur dramatic entertainments, however interesting they may be. Professor Macmillan and Professor du Roure, who are mainly interested in teaching the drama, tell me that what they most need is a hall suitable for dramatic illustration and demonstration rather than for large public entertainments.

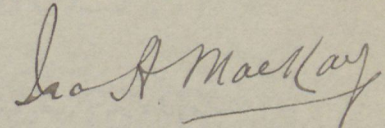
There is one other point, too, which should be

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

kept in mind. I doubt if it is now possible to divert any part of the \$50,000 donated by Lord Atholstan to any other purpose than the erection, finishing and furnishing of a hall for distinctly university purposes. Once a donation of this type is made the endowment becomes in a sense an asset in the donee's estate and must naturally follow the memory of the donee. It seems to me that a hall such as the one I described in my last letter is probably the type of hall which Lord Atholstan intended when he donated the money to the memory of his old friend Dean Moyse.

It seems to me, too, that the need of a gymnasium, even if it be a temporary gymnasium in the meantime, far exceeds the need for any public hall at present. I doubt, too, if a hall with a seating capacity of even 700 or 800, situated at the rear of the Arts Building would be in any way adequate for public functions of a university character. Much better, I suggest, that we should wait until we can build a real public assembly and convocation hall properly located near the entrance to the University campus.

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Leo A. Mackay".

Acting Dean

		BASEMENT	FIRST FLOOR	SECOND FLOOR	THIRD FLOOR	TOTAL SEATS
Lecture Hall	500		1			500 ✓
"						
Class Room	150			2 ✓		300 ✓
"	100		1 ✓	1 ✓		200 ✓
"	80		1		2	240
"	60		1	2		180
"	50 ✓		2 ✓			100 ✓
"	30		1	2		90
"	28		1			28
"	25				2	50
						1688
						=====

Toilet	Men		1			1	
"	Women		1			1	
"	Profs.			1		1	
Lockers	Men	900	1			1	
"	Women	200	1			1	
Lounge	Men			1		1	
"	Women			1		1	
"	Profs.				1	1	
Reading Rooms			2			2	
Faculty Room				1		1	
Dean's Office			1			1	
"	Sec.		1			1	
Professors' Offices			2	10	1	13	
Graduates' Room						1	
Janitor's	"		1			1	
"	House		1			1	
H.M. Closets			2	1	1	5	
Storage			3			3	
Vaults			2			2	
Fan Room			1			1	
Help Lounge			1			1	
Laboratory					1	1	
Light Room					1	1	
Work	"				1	1	
Instrument Room					2	2	
Research Room					1	1	
Models					1	1	
Dark					1	1	
Telephone Room			1			1	
Stores							
Storage							
			14	11	14	10	49

ARTS BUILDING - MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Proposed Remodelling - Accommodation - Scheme 3

February 12th, 1925

		BASEMENT	FIRST FLOOR	SECOND FLOOR	THIRD FLOOR	TOTAL SEATS
Lecture Hall	488		1			488
" " Gallery	46			1		<del>46</del>
Class Rooms	150 ✓			2 ✓		300 ✓
" "	120				1	120
" "	100 ✓		1 ✓	1 ✓		200 ✓
" "	98		1			98
" "	70		2	2		280
" "	54 ✓				2 ✓	108 ✓
" "	36			4		144 ✓
					Total	1784 ✓
Toilets - Men		1				1
" - Women		1				1
" - Profs.				1		1
" - Help		1				1
Locker Room - Men	750	1				1
" " - Women	200	1				1
Lounge - Men		1				1
" - Women			1			1
" - Profs.				1		1
" - Help		1				1
Reading Rooms			2			2
Faculty Room			1			1
Offices - Professors			9	9	1	19 ✓
" - Janitor			1			1
Cleaners' Closets		1	2	2	1	6
Storage (Models, etc.)		3			1	4
Vaults		2				2
Telephone Room			1			1
Laboratory					1	1
Light Room					1	1
Dark Room					1	1
Instrument Room					1	1
Work Shop					1	1
Research Room					2	2
Fan Room		1				1
Janitor's Apartment		1				1
		15	22	23	13	
					Total Rooms	73.

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL

FACULTY OF ARTS  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 23, 1925.

COPY

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal, McGill University.

My dear Principal,

There are some far-reaching principles of University policy and management which should not be overlooked in all deliberations leading up to the construction of the new Arts building.

The Faculty of Arts and Pure Science is not an extravagant Faculty. All unnecessary money invested in land and buildings or for the sake of show is virtually lost money. This Faculty is essentially a teaching Faculty through and through and all extra funds are, therefore, more profitably applied to personal account. I am convinced that the great thing needed most in McGill at present is a few salaries of sufficient amount to attract scholars of great reputation to come here. This is the only way, it seems to me, in which we can hope to build up an Arts Faculty within the next decade or two which shall be worthy of the traditions and the future of McGill. All this obviously means economy and modesty in our building investments. It is high time that one university at least on this continent should show some sense in this matter. Millions have been wasted by following the opposite policy. What is the use of a Hart House if we have not the

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

professors and students of fame to fill it?

All that the Arts Faculty really needs, all that any properly designed Arts Faculty really needs, is a sufficient, substantial, safe, sanitary building all its own. All that is needed in the interior is enough space for class and conference rooms and offices sufficient to bring instructors and students into the closest and most intimate and comfortable personal contact. The front view should be simple, conservative and classical, as becomes an institution devoted to high learning and humility. After all is said modern architecture at its best is really only an apartment block of maximum interior convenience with a splash of the antique in the front window.

After careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that the aims I have mentioned above can be best achieved with our present resources by reconstructing the present building in a way that will substantially maintain the present front view. My proposal is simply that the centre part should be elevated about three or four feet, the wings about one or two feet, and that a third story should be added to the Molson Hall. With the mountain at its back the whole building will stand some increase in elevation and Molson Hall is at present far too low and squatty when seen from Sherbrooke Street. These proposed changes would give us ample interior cubic contents and would, I believe, also improve the symmetry and proportions of the present facade. I am no artist but I venture to annex a rude pencil sketch which may serve to illustrate what I mean. I should like to have the architects prepare one really worth looking at.

Sir Arthur Currie, 3.

The only part of the interior calling for special consideration is the Moyse Hall. The provision made by the architects in their last plans is not suitable. In the first place the hall is larger than is really needed. Seating accommodation for 400 in the pit and for 50 in the rear gallery is ample. Adequate space should be allowed for dressing rooms and an entrance in the rear. The front of the Hall should be oval in effect and so designed as to provide the very best acoustic properties for conversational, scholarly lecturing to select audiences. The interior finishing and the seats and desks should be simple and dignified so that the whole interior might have some of the effect of a legislative chamber or council room. The stage should be specially designed for university uses. Dr. Cyrus Macmillan has some ideas on this subject. Suitable memorials should be placed on each side dedicated to the memory of the late Dean and to the munificence of the donor, Lord Atholstan. It may be difficult to design an interior suitable alike for university lectures, examinations and public entertainments, but I am convinced that it can be nicely done. I do not know of any hall anywhere of the kind I have in mind, but the need is obvious and I should like this interior to be really worth looking at.

There are some other considerations in line with what I have said which should be kept in mind. There are other departments of work in the university whose claims can not be overlooked. A gymnasium is necessary, and I am persuaded that the gymnasium should be in a building all its own. It would be much better to spend say \$350,000.00 on that than to sink it in a too

Sir Arthur Currie, 4.

expensive Arts building. A memorial convocation hall situated on the present site of the McCord Museum must also come in time. If only some millionaire would give us a million for that I know of no way in which the money could be more effectively invested.

Finally allow me to express the sincere hope that the Board may see its way clear to begin work on the Arts building as soon as classes close in May. It is clearly unsafe to remain in the present building for another year and if any accident should occur it might strike a paralyzing blow at the reputations of those of us who are responsible for the safe and sound management of the institution. As soon as the Board decides to proceed, we can easily settle all details with the architects. That is really a matter that concerns the staff, and I shall then call a special meeting of the Faculty and explain the interior arrangements so that all fair claims by the different departments may be heard and dealt with and the chances of faultfinding in the future reduced to a minimum consistent with our available resources.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) Ira A. MacKay

Acting Dean

Encl.



MCGILL UNIVERSITY

-----

Montreal, January 20/21.

Dear Sir:-

Special Arts Building Committee.

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

- Col. Herbert Molson, representing the Governors,
- Professor Harkness,
- Dr. A. S. Eve,
- Professor Sugars,
- Mr. Glasco.

This Committee has been constituted for the purpose of considering the way in which the Arts Building can best be altered and enlarged in order to provide accommodation for the Arts Faculty and the Commerce Department. It has been decided to transfer from this Building to the Old Medical Building the Departments of Botany and Zoology.

As the Administration offices are housed in the Arts Building it will be necessary to give consideration to a plan for the better provision of the requirements of that Department.

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.

Colonel Herbert Molson will act as Convener of the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

PRINCIPAL

January  
Twentieth  
1921.

Colonel Herbert Molson,  
61 Ontario Ave.,  
Montreal.

Dear Colonel Molson:-

The attached is a copy of a  
letter sent to Professor Harkness, Dr. Eve and  
Professor Sugars.

As a result of our meeting last  
Monday night, I have, after consultation with Dean  
Adams, decided to ask the above gentlemen to serve  
on the Special Arts Building Committee, with your-  
self and Mr. Glasco. I would like you to take the  
Chairmanship of that Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

29 Arts

McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS.  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN.

February 13th, 1922.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

The members of the Faculty of Arts have examined the plans of the remodelled building and have made various suggestions which I herewith pass on to you:-

Women Students' Lockers, etc.

Desirable to avoid any use of basement by women students. It would seem to be unnecessary that they should do so. Basement entrance to women's lockers should be for use for service (cleaning) only, and otherwise kept locked. Women students should approach lockers through lounge stairway.

N.B.- If possible provide another door to these stairs directly from the entrance corridor, so that it need not be always necessary for women to pass through the lounge.

Men Students' Lounge.

Not desirable opposite the entrance. Remove to space marked Students' Reading Room, entering by door near stairs. Remove Reading Room to space marked Lecture Room, opposite Dean's Office, entering by door opposite latter. Remove H.M.C. etc., if it is thought desirable to increase floor space of Lounge and Reading Room.

N.B.- Use space opposite entrance for a lecture room, which might be made in design and finish an attractive feature of the Arts Building, with the War Memorial outside in the corridor, between the doors.

Professors' Lounge.

Remove to Graduates' Room and small Lecture Room next to the Dean's Office, giving space for one to be used for small luncheon room, if desired, kitchenette, etc. This room and equipment could be used in the evening for clubs like the Political Economy Club, Philosophical Society, etc. The space now marked Professors' Lounge should be used as a class room.

*Noted  
AWB*

Sir Arthur Currie, 2.

Graduates' Room.

Assign for this purpose Commerce Reading Room upstairs, near Faculty Room, or one of the offices on the second floor.

Entrances and Exits.

There appears to be one only, by main entrance. (In old building there are three.) Does not City require more entrances? Could not doors be placed at each end of main corridor (old Molson Hall end and yard end near janitor's quarters)? This would seem desirable for emergency if not for regular use.

Would it be practicable to excavate a corner of Molson Hall site to make entrance in basement for men students, to give direct access to lockers?

Drinking Fountains.

Two at least on each landing desirable, as well as in each lounge or dressing-room.

Telephone Booths do not seem to be provided for on the plans.

There should be two booths for the students, in addition to the telephones in the Professors' Lounge and the Dean's Office.

Miss Hurlbatt, who has devoted much time to this matter, thinks the suggestion in regard to the women students' lockers is of especial importance.

The suggestion that the professors' lounge be used for students' clubs is made in response to requests that have come to me from the officers of the Political Economy Club and other organizations. These clubs are a very important part of college life and at present there is no suitable place for them to meet. They are using the smoking room in the Arts Building, but it is in the highest degree unsatisfactory. There is no comfort in it. They must have a room with a kitchenette

Sir Arthur Currie, 3.

so that they can provide something to eat for their meetings. I do not see any objection to using the professors' lounge for this purpose. The club meetings seem to be held in the evening and not many of the professors would be there at that time. If, however, there is any valid objection against the double use of the space, I think that a special room for the clubs (with kitchenette) should be provided.

I return the plans herewith.

Sincerely yours,

*Gordon Lang*

Dean

P.S. I met Mr. Fetherstonhaugh, the architect, at dinner on Saturday night and I asked him whether he did not think that it would be possible to add a third storey and at the same time keep the general appearance of the building. He said he thought that it might be done. Is not this the solution of the problem? We could have a number of class rooms and offices and would not be continually confronted by lack of space. Without that third storey it is quite possible that within a few years we shall be in as much need of class rooms as we are now.

*Gif*

29

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL.

FACULTY OF ARTS.  
OFFICE OF THE DEAN.

January 21, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

I shall be glad to serve on the Special Arts Building Committee of which Col. Herbert Molson is the Convenor. I quite understand that this Committee does not imply any definite action as regards alteration or construction.

Would it be possible to have Dr. Walter on the Committee? He is the senior member of the Faculty and intimately acquainted with all details of the building. As the Committee stands, I am really the only Arts representative, as Dr. Eve's work lies in the Physics Building.

Yours faithfully,

*James Harkness*  
Acting Dean

McGill University.

MACDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING.

MEMORANDUM

TO Sir Arthur Currie FROM

21.1.21.  
A. S. Poe

Special Arts Building Committee

I shall serve on this Committee  
with great pleasure.

A. S. Poe



Montreal, January 22nd, 1921.

Dear Sir Arthur;-

I beg to acknowledge  
yours of the 20th and I will be glad  
to act on the special Arts Building  
Committee with the gentlemen you  
mention.

Yours sincerely,

*Herbert Kholon*

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G.  
Principal  
McGill University  
Montreal.



McGILL UNIVERSITY  
MONTREAL.

SCHOOL OF COMMERCE,  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 21st, 1921.

Sir Arthur Currie,  
Principal, McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Principal:-

I have received your letter of  
yesterday asking me to serve on a special buildings  
committee. I shall, of course, be delighted to so  
so, and to help in any other way I can.

Yours very truly,

*Robert F. Sugar*

Director-Secretary.