File with Naturalists letters —

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McGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL

THE MACDONALD PHYSICS LABORATORY

1936 January 9.

Dr. Casey Wood
Rome.

Dear Dr. Wood,

It was a very great surprise and pleasure to receive your letter of Dec. 15, and a day later the very valuable book: Al Biruni's Astrology as translated by the late Dr Ramsay Wright.

You will receive an official letter from the Director of the Physics Department, and one from Dr Lomer in due course; but I want to tell you how much I personally appreciate this gift. While my chief interest is in the very modern development of astrophysics - stellar spectroscopy - I have for many years delved slightly into the historical development of astronomical knowledge and in my lecture courses on astrophysics I always like to give students some appreciation of the historical background

of the great quest down through the centuries.
Last year I came across, for the first
time, the non canonical, non apocryphal
Book of Enoch with its extraordinarily
interesting account of astronomical ideas
about 100 B.C. And now comes your
gift with its careful summary of geometrical,
arithmetical and astronomical knowledge
of 1000 A.D. The hunger & thirst after
learning in the arab world at that time
is very remarkable - I only realized this
vividly when I visited Cordova in 1927.

Please accept my very warmest
thanks for this gift to our Physics
Library, and believe me,

With very sincere regards.

Yours truly,

Albert Dougall.