

Modern Language Bldg.

The University of Chicago
The University Libraries

May 14th

1925

Tw 8c

Memorandum to President Burton:

Your note attached to the copy of your letter to Mr. Hodgdon seems to ask for my frank opinion of the proposed plan.

I fully agree with you in the feeling that properly constructed and ventilated basement stacks are perfectly satisfactory and adequate from any scientific point of view. Harper was not properly constructed due to the fact that it was an experiment in that type of construction. Further, the collapse of an exhaust duct seemingly before the building was dedicated improperly ventilated the basement. Since that exhaust duct was repaired, in spite of the leakage of our lower floor, we have had no trouble with humidity or mildew. Classics always has been and is perfectly satisfactory.

However as I have several times said to you there is a psychological prejudice which it will at least be very difficult to overcome. Your plan is a direct attack upon that prejudice and an effort to overcome it. I admire your spirit in the matter and am very sure that there is nothing "radically wrong" about it. But I am wondering if it is worth while to spend the extra money necessary to properly equip this room and to again stir up that old and bitter controversy. I am sure one prominent member of our library staff simply will not be convinced. I am equally dubious about some faculty men whom you and I know very well.

If I may introduce another matter into this letter it may give you food for thought along another line. Tuesday evening I met Dean Filbey down at the University College. He stopped me with the following information and request. In looking about

The University of Chicago

The University Libraries

May 1935

1935

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The University of Chicago

The University Libraries

for the most satisfactory location for a downtown building Mr. Fairweather has asked Mr. Filbey what he thought of the possibility of buying the air-rights of the Public Library building and extending that up to the height of Crerar or higher, the top portions being used for University purposes. Mr. Filbey asked me if I would approach Mr. Roden on the subject. I was downtown yesterday and dropped in to see Mr. Roden. Somewhat to my surprise he was very much interested in the proposition and as we talked it over became almost enthusiastic about it. He said such a plan was proposed by the Board of Education some years ago but turned down as impracticable by the city engineer, I believe. He stated that he had always felt that there was something else back of this opinion. It seems that the architects for the Public Library are Coolidge and Hodgdon and Mr. Hodgdon has expressed himself as confident that he could remove the cornice and extend that building to any height without marring its architectural beauty. Mr. Roden is quite sure that with the development of the regional branchbuildings the collections of the Public Library will be decentralized so that filling in the present area-way on the west side of the building with stack will provide amply for at least twenty-five years of growth. The library itself will quite certainly need no additional stories for many years to come. Mr. Roden asked me to talk over the matter, quite informally of course, with Mr. Hodgdon at the first opportunity which presented itself.

Cordially yours,

Edward A. Henry
Head of the Readers' Department.

EAH LS

The University of Chicago

The University Libraries

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Cordially yours,

Edward A. Rouse
Head of the Roden's Department

EAH 12

COPY FOR MR. WILLIAM E. SCOTT

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Office of the President.

May 15, 1925.

My dear Mr. Hodgdon:

President Burton requested me to write you that before you show any one else your plans for the underground stacks of the Modern Language Building, he would like, if possible, to look them over himself. If this proves to be impossible because of his illness, he would be glad to have you consult with Mr. Henry who is familiar with his ideas.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) (Mrs.) Caroline Bender.

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

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Office of the President.

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134 S. La Salle Street,
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The building to follow up

The University of Chicago

Department of English

April 24, 1925

President E.D. Burton
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. Burton:

I have been thinking over our recent conversation about the plans for the Modern Language Building, and have talked with other members of the Modern Language Departments--Mr. Nitze, Mr. Cross, Mr. Allen, and Mr. Baskervill. We all feel that the problem of making a building of the size planned serve the best interests of research work in the University is a very difficult one, and that its solution will require the best thought and experience of all concerned--the architects, representatives of the Library, and representatives of the Modern Language Departments. We understand from your recent conversation that it is your intention to present for the consideration of the departments the new plans which are soon to be drawn by the architects, but we feel that some time may be saved by presenting for your consideration and eventual transmission to the architects such general ideas as seem to us of fundamental importance. We realize that some of these ideas may be difficult to work out in detail, but for that very reason we think they should be presented now.

First of all, it is our understanding that the building is intended primarily for the research work of the departments. In view of the limited space, it seems imperative that we shall exclude from our plans for the building, not merely classrooms for undergraduates, but even classrooms for ordinary graduate courses--that is, lecture courses and others of an informal character and purpose. The building must, in our opinion, house the following fundamental things: the modern language library, seminar rooms and rooms for research projects, offices for those professors who are conducting specifically research work, cubicles in the stacks for candidates working on doctor's theses, a reading room for other graduate students seating not less than 250 or 300 workers, and a common room where the graduate students may gather for informal discussions of their work among themselves and with instructors and where meetings of graduate organizations of students and instructors may be held. This room should be provided with a kitchenette, for the service of tea and like refreshments.

The University of Chicago

Department of English

April 24, 1925

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Faculty Exchange

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The University of Chicago

Department of English

2.

With regard to the seminar rooms--perhaps six in number--it seems imperative that they should be so located that any book in the stacks required for use in a seminar can be procured without delay. This means that the seminar rooms should be located very near the stacks, preferably separated from them only by a corridor.

The main administrative offices of the Department, it seems to us, should remain in Cobb Hall until such a readjustment of space can be made as will provide room for them elsewhere.

Mr. Hanson tells me that the use of basements for stacks is discountenanced, not only by our own experience, but by the combined experience and judgment of all librarians. As we seem committed by present conditions to beginning our stacks below ground, I have wondered whether the most serious objections could not be removed by allowing the stacks to run from the basement floor straight through to upper floors in such a way as to secure better ventilation and dryer air. But this is only a suggestion. The main points that I am commissioned to place before you are those which precede this paragraph.

We should appreciate it greatly if you could arrange at an early date for a dinner or other evening meeting at which the problems involved could be informally discussed by the architects and representatives of the Library and of the Modern Language Departments. We believe that such an informal discussion before the plans have been drawn will be of greater value than any amount of later discussion.

Yours very truly,

JMM:JB

John M. Manly

The University of Chicago

Department of English

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Yours very truly,

John M. Mandel

JMM:js

April 28, 1925.

My dear Mr. Manly:

In the absence of President Burton, Mr. Tufts will attempt to follow up the suggestion you have made to the President regarding the plans for the Modern Language Building. I shall ascertain whether Mr. Coolidge is in the City, and if possible arrange an informal meeting, as you suggest, with him or his representative.

Very truly yours,

William E. Scott (signed)

Mr. John M. Manly.

WES:S

April 22, 1944

My dear Mr. [Name]:

In the absence of [Name]

[Name] who is out of town, I am writing to you

in connection with the [Name]

regarding the [Name] for the [Name]

of [Name]. I shall [Name] [Name]

because it is in the [Name] and it [Name]

because an [Name] meeting, as you [Name]

with him on his [Name]

Very truly yours,

[Name]

Mr. John M. [Name]

[Name]

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Office of the President

April 24, 1925

President E. D. Burton
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. Burton:

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The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

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The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Office of the President

2

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Yours very truly,

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1MM:12

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Office of the President

April 28, 1925

My dear Mr. Manly:

In the absence of President Burton, Mr. Tufts will attempt to follow up the suggestion you have made to the President regarding the plans for the Modern Language Building. I shall ascertain whether Mr. Coolidge is in the City, and if possible arrange an informal meeting, as you suggest, with him or his representative.

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William E. Scott (signed)

Mr. John M. Manly.

WES:2

April 18, 1925.

My dear Mr. Wieboldt:

May I, on behalf of the University of Chicago, and for myself, express deep appreciation of the generous gift which you and Mrs. Wieboldt have just made to the University?

Aside from the intrinsic value of the building which you are giving, it will, I am sure, gratify you to recognize that its donation comes at a stage of our building program when we need just such stimulus and impetus as will surely result from it. We are hopeful that other public spirited citizens of Chicago will be impelled to emulate the interest and generosity of the donors of Wieboldt Hall.

To me it adds also to the value of the gift that we are indebted for it to friends who in the whole period of their residence in Chicago have exemplified a spirit of public service which has made them ideal citizens.

I am sure that as the years go by and our dreams for the betterment of the University are realized, you and Mrs. Wieboldt will be happy in the consciousness that you have played so large a part in bringing about their fulfillment.

Permit me again to express the hearty thanks of the University, and my own, for this very generous contribution to our plans for development.

Cordially yours,

Mr. William A. Wieboldt,
The Belden-Stratford,
2300 Lincoln Parkway,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

April 18, 1925.

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2300 Lincoln Parkway,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

The University of Chicago

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Office of the President

June 1, 1925.

Memorandum for Mr. Scott:

Dr. Aitchison called at 4:50 P.M. and asked that all material we have on the MODERN LANGUAGE BUILDING since Mr. Wieboldt's letter of April 16th, be sent to him by the morning messenger. If the President made a reply to Mr. Wieboldt's letter of April 16th, Dr. Aitchison would also like a copy of that. However he thinks it quite unlikely that a reply was made. This letter refers to Mr. Wieboldt's gift of \$500,000. Dr. Aitchison is to have a conference with Mr. Wieboldt very shortly, and therefore wants all the material in hand. He would like to know if any suggestions regarding the Building, contracts or uses, have been made by Mr. Tufts, or perhaps by the President.

J. A. S.

The University of Chicago
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
Office of the President

June 1, 1933.

Memorandum for Mr. Becker:

Dr. Nicholson called at 4:30 P.M. and asked that we have on the morning messenger. If the President made a reply to Mr. Wisniewski's letter of April 18th, Dr. Nicholson would also like a copy of that. However, he thinks it quite unlikely that a reply was made. This letter refers to Mr. Wisniewski's gift of \$500.00. Dr. Nicholson is to have a conference with Mr. Wisniewski very shortly, and therefore wants all the material in hand. He would like to know if any suggestions regarding the building, contracts or uses, have been made by Mr. Twiss, or perhaps by the President.

J. A. S.

[Handwritten signature]

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION



TELEGRAM

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Telegram	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
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If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a telegram. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

HOTEL COMMODORE, N. Y.

88N ATA 50 BLUE

LI CHICAGO ILL 1112A APR 6 1925

PRESIDENT ERNEST D BURTON

HOTEL COMMODORE NEWYORK NY

SATISFACTORY INTERVIEW WITH PARTIES LAST NIGHT ATTITUDE FRIENDLY BOTH
 PROMISED TO GIVE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION PROPOSITION WHICH HOWEVER
 IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT HELP FROM FOUNDATION BOTH PARTIES MEET FOUNDATION
 BOARD THIS WEEK AND PRESENT MATTER FOR PRELIMINARY CONSIDERATION HOPING
 TO MEET BOARD WITH THEM LATER BEFORE FINAL DECISION SPECIAL DELIVERY
 LETTER CENTURY TODAY

J Y AITCHINSON

205P

Chelboldt

WESTERN UNION

TELEGRAM

TO
FROM
DATE
TIME

NO. 100

TO CHICAGO

URGENT

URGENT 10-10-1918

TO CHICAGO

URGENT 10-10-1918

URGENT 10-10-1918

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The University of Chicago

Office of the President

1703 LYTTON BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

JOHN Y. AITCHISON
ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT

Wieboldt

April 6, 1925

My dear President Burton:

My interview last night was fairly satisfactory. Both Mr. and Mrs. Wieboldt were very cordial. Their interest in the University is apparent. Both of them manifested an interest in the proposition I submitted, though Mr. Wieboldt told me frankly that it would be impossible for him to make a gift of such an amount without the help of the Foundation and that there was some question as to whether the Foundation would approve this particular project. The Foundation is to hold a meeting this week and Mr. Wieboldt said he would take the matter up with the members of the Board.

Mrs. Wieboldt remarked to me somewhat playfully as I was standing at the door about to leave, "I am afraid, Dr. Aitchison, that you will have a pretty hard time to convince our ^{youngest} son, who is a member of the Wieboldt Board and an alumnus of Madison and most enthusiastic for Madison, that he should vote to give such a large sum to the University of Chicago." She made several other remarks along this line but Mr. Wieboldt seemed to feel that I might be taking her suggestion too seriously, and said that he guessed his son would fall in with the wishes of the majority.

I told Mr. Wieboldt that when the time came to present this matter to the Trustees of the Foundation I would appreciate an opportunity of appearing in person, for, said I, "I think I could say some things which your modesty might not permit you to say." Mr. Wieboldt said, "I would be glad to let you have that opportunity later." Whereupon Mrs. Wieboldt remarked that she would attend the meeting of the Trustees this week with her husband.

Our hopes ought not to be raised too high in this case but there are three things that were apparent to me last night: first, the very cordial attitude on the part of both Mr. and Mrs. Wieboldt; second, a feeling that the amount of the gift requested was perhaps more than they and the Foundation would be able to swing; third, such a deep interest in the project

The University of Chicago

Office of the President

1100 EAST 58TH STREET

CHICAGO, ILL. 60637

JOHN Y. ALLEN
PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

April 5, 1955

My dear President:

On Tuesday last night was fairly
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was perhaps more than they and the Foundation would be
able to swing; third, such a deep interest in the project

that they promised to give it careful thought and let us know at a somewhat early date what their decision would be.

Mr. and Mrs. Wieboldt both agreed with me most heartily in the statements I made to the effect that it would not do to let the interest awakened thus far among the few representatives of the Germanic groups center in a program which would fail to make adequate provision for the strongest possible Germanic Department, or which might establish a financial objective so low as to imperil the success of the \$17,500,000 program this year. If nothing else should come from the interview last night I am sure it was worth while in order to show Mr. Wieboldt the importance of having the representatives of the Germanic groups, after careful study, accept a worthy financial objective as their share of this year's program.

If I mistake not Mrs. Wieboldt was quite completely sold to the project which I presented. I am debating in my mind the advisability of seeing her alone within a few days, and in case I can think out some new facts to present which I think would be of use to her and her husband, I think now that both Mr. and Mrs. Wieboldt would not misunderstand me if I should talk with her alone. It may seem best after I think things through to see them both again. Mr. Wieboldt promised to attend the meeting this afternoon at 4:30 at the office so that I may have an opportunity of an additional word with him, or he may volunteer something as to the thinking they have done so far. I will keep you advised as to any new developments.

I am inclosing a statement regarding David T. Layman, Jr., and the Phipps' estate. It would be well for you to get in touch with Mr. Layman if possible. You will find him most friendly and helpful. If you see him please give him my greetings.

I am hoping to send you a night letter tonight regarding the result of further investigation as to the present wealth of Miss Spofford. This information has been promised to us by four o'clock this afternoon.

Cordially yours,

President E. D. Burton
Hotel Commodore
New York, New York

J. J. Atchison

that they promised to give it careful thought and let us know at a somewhat early date what their decision would be.

Mr. and Mrs. Wicboldt both agreed with me most heartily in the statement I made to the effect that it would not do to let the interest awakened thus far among the few representatives of the Germanic Group in a program which would fail to make adequate provision for the attention of the Germanic Department, or which might establish a financial objective as low as to impair the success of the \$100,000 program this year. It nothing else should come from this interview but that I am sure it was a most interesting one to me. Wicboldt the importance of having the representatives of the Germanic Group, after careful study, accept a worthy financial objective as their share of this year's program.

If I mistake not Mrs. Wicboldt was quite completely sold to the project which I presented. I am debating in my mind the advisability of seeing her alone within a few days, and in case I can think out some new facts to present which I think would be of use to her and her husband, I think now that both Mr. and Mrs. Wicboldt would not misunderstand me if I should talk with her alone. It may seem best after I think things through to see them both again. Mr. Wicboldt promised to attend the meeting this afternoon at 4:30 at the office so that I may have an opportunity of an additional word with him, or he may volunteer something as to the thinking they have done so far. I will keep you advised as to any new developments.

I am interested in a statement regarding David T. Layman, Jr., and the Lippa estate. It would be well for you to get in touch with Mr. Layman if possible. You will find him most friendly and helpful. If you see him please give him my greetings.

I am hoping to send you a night letter tonight regarding the result of further investigation as to the present wealth of Miss Spofford. This information has been promised to us by four o'clock this afternoon.

Cordially yours,

W. D. Burton

President E. D. Burton
Hotel Commodore
New York, New York

April 24,
1925

Mr. William A. Wieboldt,
The Wieboldt Foundation,
3166 Lincoln Avenue,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Wieboldt:

To the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago there was presented at its meeting held on April 20, 1925, the letter of the Wieboldt Foundation dated April 16, 1925, in which the Foundation offers the munificent contribution of \$500,000 toward the erection and equipment of a building to house the Departments of Modern Languages.

The Trustees voted most heartily to accept this offer to provide such a useful and much-needed addition to the equipment of the University, upon the conditions set forth in your letter.

On behalf of the Trustees and under their instructions I convey to you and your associates of the Foundation their hearty thanks.

In this great city of Chicago, with its teeming populations drawn from many countries, such a building must prove of decided benefit and notably add not only to the facilities of the University, but

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In this great city of Chicago, with its
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of Chicago there was presented at its meeting held on
To the Board of Trustees of the University

Dear Mr. Wieboldt:

Chicago, Illinois.
3166 Lincoln Avenue,
The Wieboldt Foundation,
Mr. William A. Wieboldt,

April 24,
1925

Mr. W. A. Wieboldt - #2.
April 24, 1925

significantly aid in the enlightenment and stimulation
of hosts of youth for generations yet to come.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

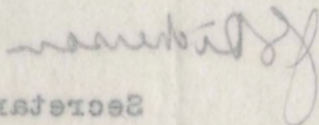
J. S. Richardson

Secretary.

Mr. W. A. Wieboldt - \$2.
April 24, 1925

significantly aid in the enlightenment and stimulation
of hosts of youth for generations yet to come.
On behalf of the Board of Trustees,

Secretary.



*Copy sent to
Mr. Howells.*

April 10, 1925.

My dear Mr. Wieboldt:

I have advised Mr. Swift of the good news that you gave me over the telephone this morning, that the Wieboldt Foundation was disposed to contribute \$450,000 to the University of Chicago for the erection of the Wieboldt Modern Language Building, provided an arrangement could be made to spread payments over a period of six years at the rate of \$75,000 a year.

I am confident that your proposal will be very gladly received by the Board of Trustees, but in order that I may be sure that I understand your wishes correctly, will you kindly write me whether the statement I have made above is in accordance with the facts as you understand them?

Permit me to express my very grateful appreciation to you and Mrs. Wieboldt, and to the members of the Board for the gracious response you have made to our request. We shall, of course, make no announcement of the intention of your Board, until details are adjusted to the satisfaction of both Boards.

I am sending this by personal messenger, who will explain the reason I am unable to come and see you myself.

Cordially yours,

signed by J. Y. A.

Mr. William A. Wieboldt
Belden Stratford Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

Copy sent to
Mr. W. A. W. W.

April 10, 1922.

My dear Mr. W. A. W. W.

I have advised Mr. Swift of the Good News that you gave me over the telephone this morning, that the W. A. W. Foundation was disposed to contribute \$450,000 to the University of Chicago for the erection of the W. A. W. Modern Language Building, provided an arrangement could be made to spread payments over a period of six years at the rate of \$75,000 a year.

I am confident that your proposal will be very gladly received by the Board of Trustees, but in order that I may be sure that I understand your wishes correctly, will you kindly write me whether the statement I have made above is in accordance with the facts as you understand them?

Permit me to express my very grateful appreciation to you and Mrs. W. A. W. W. and to the members of the Board for the gracious response you have made to our request. We shall, of course, make no announcement of the intention of your Board, until details are adjusted to the satisfaction of both Boards.

I am sending this by personal messenger, who will explain the reason I am unable to come and see you myself.

Cordially yours,

W. A. W. W.

Mr. William A. W. W.
Belden Stratford Hotel
Chicago, Illinois

Fu 8c

COOLIDGE AND HODGDON
ARCHITECTS,

134 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

May 11, 1925.

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HODGDON

Mr. Ernest D. Burton,
President, The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Burton:

I have just received your letter of May 8th with the recommendations about the reading rooms in the basement of the Modern Language Building and we will draw this up in the sketch plans we are making.

In connection with this it occurs to us that it is possible to do away with a structural floor at the first floor level, that the stacks could be run up from the sub-basement floor to the under side of the second floor without a structural floor intervening, the same as the book stacks are built in the New York Public Library. We save money by omitting this floor, we gain the thickness of the floor for the use of book shelving, and we can plan the building so a structural floor could be put in at some future time if you want to pull the book stacks out and convert the building to some other use than the storage of books. As far as I can see this would be a wise thing to do. You may see some obstacles that would make it undesirable.

We are sending the study of the elevations to Mr. Coolidge to get his criticism and as soon as we receive this we will be in a position to show them to you, and also the floor plans. We feel that it would be better to hold the plans until we get the final word on the elevations. They are ready with that exception.

I was very sorry to hear that you were laid up and I hope that you will soon be out and about.

Faithfully yours,

C. Hodgdon

File 80

COOLIDGE AND HOBBS
ARCHITECTS

May 11, 1925

134 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HOBBS

Mr. Ernest D. Burton,
President, The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Burton:

I have just received your letter of May 8th with the recommendations about the reading rooms in the basement of the Modern Language Building and we will draw this up in the sketch plans we are making.

In connection with this it occurs to us that it is possible to do away with a structural floor at the first floor level, that the stacks could be run up from the sub-basement floor to the under side of the second floor without a structural floor intervening, the same as the book stacks are built in the New York Public Library. We save money by omitting this floor, we gain the thickness of the floor for the use of book shelving, and we can plan the building so a structural floor could be put in at some future time if you want to put the book stacks out and convert the building to some other use than the storage of books. As far as I can see this would be a wise thing to do. You may see some obstacles that would make it undesirable.

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I was very sorry to hear that you were laid up and I hope that you will soon be out and about.

Faithfully yours,

C. Coolidge

May 14, 1925.

My dear Mr. Hodgdon:

I thank you for your letter
of May 11th with its information and
good wishes. I shall be glad to see the
sketches when they are ready.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

May 14, 1935.

My dear Mr. Hodgdon:

I thank you for your letter

of May 11th with its information and

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Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

Fu Sc

May 8, 1925.

My dear Mr. Hodgdon:

I think I may have spoken to you once before about the desirability of a room in the basement stack which should be so finished and lighted as to be a really attractive place to work, but in my recent memorandum about the Modern Language Building forgot to mention it.

My thought is that if we should take either on the lower deck or on both decks of the basement a space something like 16 ft. square and finish it somewhat in the fashion in which basement rooms in bank buildings, or basement barber shops in a hotel, making the walls, ceiling and furnishing white, and then provide abundant light, users of the room would lose their sense of its being under ground. In the end this might largely overcome the prejudice against underground stacks.

I am not prepared to work out the details, especially without any drawings before me. But I wish you would give a little study to it, and I venture the following suggestions.

1) I think the room would better be at the east end so as to serve as a convenient place of consulting books for users both of the Harper stack and of the Modern Language stack.

May 8, 1928.

My dear Mr. Hodgson:

I think I may have spoken to you once before about the desirability of a room in the basement stack which should be so finished and lighted as to be a really attractive place to work, but in my recent memorandum about the Modern Language Building forgot to mention it. My thought is that if we should take either on the lower deck or on both decks of the basement a space something like 16 ft. square and finish it somewhat in the fashion in which basement rooms in bank buildings, or basement barber shops in a hotel, making the walls, ceiling and furnishing white, and then provide abundant light, users of the room would lose their sense of its being under ground. In the end this might largely overcome the prejudice against underground stacks.

I am not prepared to work out the details, especially without any drawings before me. But I wish you would give a little study to it, and I venture the following suggestions.

1) I think the room would better be at the east end so as to serve as a convenient place of consulting books for users both of the Harper stack and of the Modern Language stack.

2) I am quite sure it should be on the lower deck, but not quite sure whether it should be made two decks high, or in two separate rooms, one on each deck. The latter would doubtless be more practically convenient; the former give more of an air of spaciousness.

3) It ought to be close to the elevator, and possibly the elevator should open directly into it.

4) It should, of course, be well ventilated as well as well lighted.

5) In addition to this room for the use of readers, I think a similar space might be taken immediately adjoining on the west for general sorting purposes. I mean a room to which collections of books might be sent for their preliminary sorting over. How large this room ought to be made Mr. Henry and Mr. Teisberg can judge better than I.

The assignment of space in this lower basement to purposes of this kind rather than to the regular shelving of books would I think at the same time obviate the objections that some people will feel toward a lower basement in this building, and will release upper air space that would otherwise have to be employed for purposes of this kind. What the finish of this latter room should be, I am not clear, but but I am strong in my opinion that the room I first mentioned

but I am quite sure it should be on the lower deck.
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should be made so bright, airy and attractive as to overcome any feeling of reluctance on the part of people who work in it.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
c/o Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

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Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
c/o Gooding and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

HDB:CB

Fw 8c

May 8, 1925.

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My thought is that if we should take either on the lower deck or on both decks of the basement a space something like 16 ft. square and finish it somewhat in the fashion in which basement rooms in bank buildings, or basement barber shops in a hotel, making the walls, ceiling and furnishing white, and then provide abundant light, users of the room would lose their sense of its being under ground. In the end this might largely overcome the prejudice against underground stacks.

I am not prepared to work out the details, especially without any drawings before me. But I wish you would give a little study to it, and I venture the following suggestions.

1) I think the room would better be at the east end so as to serve as a convenient place of consulting books for users both of the Harper stack and of the Modern Language stack.

Fw 82

May 8, 1935.

My dear Mr. Hodgson:

I think I may have spoken to you once before about the desirability of a room in the basement at which should be so finished and lighted as to be a really attractive place to work, but in my recent memorandum about the Modern Language Building forgot to mention it. My thought is that if we should take either on the lower deck or on both decks of the basement a space something like 15 ft. square and finish it somewhat in the fashion in which basement rooms in bank buildings, or basement barber shops in a hotel, making the walls, ceiling and furnishing white, and then provide abundant light, users of the room would lose their sense of its being under ground. In the end this might largely overcome the prejudice against underground stacks.

I am not prepared to work out the details, especially without any drawings before me. But I wish you would give a little study to it, and I venture the following suggestions. 1) I think the room would better be at the east end so as to serve as a convenient place of consulting books for users both of the Harper stack and of the Modern Language stack.

2) I am quite sure it should be on the lower deck, but not quite sure whether it should be made two decks high, or in two separate rooms, one on each deck. The latter would doubtless be more practically convenient; the former give more of an air of spaciousness.

3) It ought to be close to the elevator, and possibly the elevator should open directly into it.

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The assignment of space in this lower basement to purposes of this kind rather than to the regular shelving of books would I think at the same time obviate the objections that some people will feel toward a lower basement in this building, and will release upper air space that would otherwise have to be employed for purposes of this kind. What the finish of this latter room should be, I am not clear, but but I am strong in my opinion that the room I first mentioned

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Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
c/o Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

EDB:CB

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work in it.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Charles Hodgdon,
c/o Goodidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

KDB:CB

7u 8e

May 8, 1925.

My dear Mr. Henry:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have just written to Mr. Hodgdon. I should be glad to have you talk with him about any of the practical points. Of course if you think my ideas are radically wrong I should be glad if you would let me know before the architects get under way.

But I think you may find me difficult to convince.

Very truly yours,

Mr. E. A. Henry,
Harper Library.

EDB:CB

fw 82

May 8, 1925.

My dear Mr. Henry:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have just written to Mr. Hodgdon. I should be glad to have you talk with him about any of the practical points. Of course if you think my ideas are radically wrong I should be glad if you would let me know before the architects get under way.

But I think you may find me difficult to

convince.

Very truly yours,

Mr. E. A. Henry,
Harper Library.

EDB:CB

Fm 8c

May 15, 1925.

My dear Mr. Henry:

I appreciate very much your comment on my suggestions about the provision of consulting and sorting rooms in the basement of the Modern Language Building. I recognize the force of the considerations which you suggest, but on the other hand am disposed to feel that we ought not to allow our expectation of criticisms to prevent our giving fair consideration to a plan which promises to be of advantage to the Libraries through a long period of time.

In view of what you say, however, I think it would be well to work out the plan a little more modestly perhaps than I had in mind doing, and in bringing it forward treat it almost as a matter of course and not as a thing involving radical opinions. If, for example, we should take a space about 15 ft. square near the service elevator on the bottom deck for a sorting room, and the space immediately above it with the same dimensions on the upper deck for a consulting room, with the suggestion that all these have outside air, I hardly see how anybody could raise an objection to it. It is so obvious that sorting on the lower deck would be often convenient, and that a place where books could be assembled for consultation would be useful on the upper deck, that I scarcely think it could be seriously objected to. Finishing the room

File

May 15, 1935.

My dear Mr. Henry:

I appreciate very much your comment on my suggestions about the provision of consulting and sorting rooms in the basement of the Modern Language Building. I recognize the force of the considerations which you suggest, but on the other hand am disposed to feel that we ought not to allow our expectation of criticisms to prevent our giving fair consideration to a plan which promises to be of advantage to the libraries through a long period of time.

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in white and providing ample light is a detail that could come up at the last minute. This plan would probably be less expensive than filling the same amount of space with stacks. Of course, in view of what you say it would be unwise to suggest this as a measure for overcoming dislike for underground stacks. That, if it happened, would be an effect, but need not be brought forward as an argument.

Very truly yours,

Mr. E. A. Henry,
Harper Library.

EDB:CB

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Mr. E. A. Henry.
Harper Library.

EDB:CB

file
CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HODGDON

COOLIDGE AND HODGDON
ARCHITECTS.

134 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

File 8c
April 22, 1925.

President Ernest D. Burton,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Burton:

We are in receipt of your letter of April 21st giving us the requirements of the Modern Language Building and will proceed with this work and report to you at the earliest day possible.

Very truly yours,

Ernest D. Hodgdon

for 82

April 22, 1925.

COOLIDGE AND HOBEDON
ARCHITECTS
124 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

✓

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HOBEDON

President Ernest D. Burton,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Burton:

We are in receipt of your letter of April 21st giving us
the requirements of the Modern Language Building and will proceed
with this work and report to you at the earliest day possible.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Coolidge

7u8c

April 21, 1925.

Coolidge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I am handing you herewith certain suggestions respecting the plans for the Modern Language Building. According to my conversation with Mr. Coolidge I beg to suggest further that a one-eighth scale of drafting be made embodying these suggestions, after which I shall be glad to take up the matter with the representatives of the Departments concerned, and see if they will have any modifications to suggest. I assume that you have the originals of Plan C, and copies of the more recent zinc plate plans of the whole group. If not, I should be glad to furnish them.

Very truly yours,

EDB:CB

for 8c

April 21, 1935.

Goodridge and Hodgdon,
134 S. La Salle St.,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I am handing you herewith certain suggestions
respecting the plans for the Modern Language Building.
According to my conversation with Mr. Goodridge I beg
to suggest further that a one-eighth scale of drafting
be made embodying these suggestions, after which I
shall be glad to take up the matter with the representatives
of the Department concerned, and see if they will have
any modifications to suggest. I assume that you have the
originals of Plan G, and copies of the more recent and
plate plans of the whole group. If not, I should be glad
to furnish them.

Very truly yours,

EDB:CB

7 with carb

MEMORANDUM REGARDING PROVISIONAL BLUE-PRINTS FOR THE MODERN LANGUAGE BUILDING.

BASEMENT.

Two levels both following the lay-out in the Library Court plan of May 1, 1924 except that only the mezzanine floor will have area-ways and windows. This immediately raises the question of fan chambers. In view of the fact that this building permanently obstructs the freight entrance to Harper, I am wondering if the heating fans and mixing chambers for this building might be constructed in the section of Harper basement where the freight elevator is now located. Otherwise of course some area in the Modern language basement will have to be reserved for fans. This should be kept at a minimum. On the mezzanine level the Ellis Avenue freight entrance into Goodspeed Hall is a necessary part of this plan in as much as there will be no other way to deliver heavy boxes to the libraries.

FIRST FLOOR.

Follow the Library Court plan except that the service entrance should be through the window space into the southeastern-most study instead of directly on to the elevator as there drawn. This study then becomes a package receiving room. There will be a double deck stack on this floor.

SECOND FLOOR.

Follow Library Court plan with two exceptions. The southeastern-most room will be a classroom out of which enough space shall be partitioned off to permit the delivery of freight from the service elevator into W 21 Harper (marked Treasure Room on this plan). At the northeast corner the classroom may extend to the Harper wall as no corridor to a stack building will be needed.

THIRD FLOOR.

Follow scheme C except as to locations of elevators and stairs and also note that at the southwest corner of the building there is additional space in the tower which may be added to the reading room. The catalog room in the southeast corner of this building will be of mutual advantage to both the Modern Language people and the General Library as the general public catalog will be extended from Harper into this room, thus giving the Modern language students and faculty direct access to the main catalog instead of requiring them to use a much smaller and less satisfactory author finding list.

FOURTH FLOOR.

Follow scheme A October 1, 1919 except as to location of stairways and elevators and possible space in the proposed tower at the southwest corner which may be added to the room in that corner.

As noted above, the construction of this building immediately closes the freight and package delivery door to Harper. This of course will have to be protected in some way during the construction period. I suggest that arrangements be made to leave that freight entrance door accessible from Harper court as far along in the construction period as possible, if possible until the Ellis Avenue freight entrance can be constructed and traffic opened on the lower basement level from Classics to Harper.

BASEMENT.

Two levels both following the lay-out in the Library Court plan of May 1, 1934 except that only the mezzanine floor will have arc-ways and windows. This immediately raises the question of fan chambers. In view of the fact that this building permanently obstructs the freight entrance to Harper, I am wondering if the heating fans and mixing chambers for this building might be constructed in the section of Harper basement where the freight elevator is now located. Otherwise of course some area in the Modern Language basement will have to be reserved for fans. This should be kept at a minimum. On the mezzanine level the Ellis Avenue freight entrance into Goodspeed Hall is a necessary part of this plan in as much as there will be no other way to deliver heavy boxes to the libraries.

FIRST FLOOR.

Follow the Library Court plan except that the service entrance should be through the window space into the southeastern-most study instead of directly on to the elevator as there drawn. This study then becomes a package receiving room. There will be a double deck stack on this floor.

SECOND FLOOR.

Follow Library Court plan with two exceptions. The southeastern-most room will be a classroom out of which enough space shall be partitioned off to permit the delivery of freight from the service elevator into W. S. Harper (marked Treasure Room on this plan). At the northeast corner the classroom may extend to the Harper wall as no corridor to a stack building will be needed.

THIRD FLOOR.

Follow scheme C except as to locations of elevators and stairs and also note that at the southwest corner of the building there is additional space in the tower which may be added to the reading room. The catalog room in the southeast corner of this building will be of mutual advantage to both the Modern Language people and the General Library as the General public catalog will be extended from Harper into this room, thus giving the Modern Language students and faculty direct access to the main catalog instead of reporting them to use a much smaller and less satisfactory author finding list.

FOURTH FLOOR.

Follow scheme A October 1, 1919 except as to location of stairways and elevators and possible space in the proposed tower at the southwest corner which may be added to the room in that corner.

As noted above, the construction of this building immediately closes the freight and package delivery door to Harper. This of course will have to be protected in some way during the construction period. I suggest that arrangements be made to leave that freight entrance door accessible from Harper court as far along in the construction period as possible, if possible until the Ellis Avenue freight entrance can be constructed and finally opened on the lower basement level from classes to Harper.

A second passenger elevator from the first floor to the third floor is very urgently needed. If, by any change, the building ordinances make it impossible to provide the elevator and inside stairs at the point shown in the Library Court plan, the elevator might be moved to the north side of this corridor, though this should be done only in case of absolute necessity. This elevator should operate to carry passengers as far as the fourth floor.

The service elevator should probably be an automatic elevator for the use of employees only. It should operate so as to deliver on all floor levels including the fourth floor of Harper which will be on a considerably higher ~~floor~~ level than the fourth floor of Modern Language. This is a problem which will require some study, but at present it seems necessary to place on this fourth floor a library work room which must be connected with the service elevator.

There are several reasons why it might be desirable to have the third floor landing of the main stairway in this building in the north west corner of this building where it could be better controlled by the assistant in charge of the Classics Library. I am wondering if the alignment of this stairwell might be changed at the second floor line so that the stairs would come up over the corridor below and so deliver readers a little further west. On the third floor line. This need not be done if it would sacrifice considerable cubic space.

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HL

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
EAST LANSING, MICH.

Fu 8c

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD

December 2, 1924.

President Ernest D. Burton,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear President Burton:

*Received
was*

I am returning under another cover the plans
of your Modern Language building which you so kindly
loaned me. They have served us a good purpose and I
wish to thank you for this favor.

Yours sincerely,

Kenyon L. Butterfield

L.

7u 7.8.0

COOLIDGE AND HODGDON
ARCHITECTS.

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HODGDON

134 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

November 14, 1924.

Mr. E.D. Burton, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Burton:

As requested by Mr. Scott, we have forwarded
blue prints of the sketch plans for the Modern Language
Building to President Butterfield, Michigan Agricultural
College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Very truly yours,

Coolidge & Hodgdon

7.8.24

November 14, 1924.

COOLIDGE AND HOBEDON
ARCHITECTS

104 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET, CHICAGO

CHARLES A. COOLIDGE
CHARLES HOBEDON

Mr. R.D. Burton, President,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Burton:

As requested by Mr. Scott, we have forwarded
blue prints of the sketched plans for the Modern Language
Building to President Butterfield, Michigan Agricultural
College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Very truly yours,

Charles A. Coolidge

Office of the President

Referred to

WRS

1924

Please

1. Dispose of as you think best.
2. Answer and retain in your files.
3. Answer and return with carbon of reply for our files.
4. Return with answer on President's stationery for him to sign.
5. Return
 - a) With information called for in writing.
 - b) With suggestion of answer in writing.
 - c) Comment in writing.
6. Return and arrange for personal interview.
7. Follow through—and report.
8. Initial and return (sent for information only).
9. Accept_____Decline.
10. Send to _____ with covering letter.
11. File under _____
12. Make _____ copies.
Send to _____
13. Remarks.

Please ask C. H. Hogan
for a set of blue prints for
interfiled -
Return letter to me
for dictation of
answer

Referred to

W.C.

1934

Please

1. Dispose of as you think best.
2. Answer and retain in your files.
3. Answer and return with carbon of reply for our files.
4. Return with answer on President's stationery for him to sign.
5. Return
 - a) With information called for in writing.
 - b) With suggestion of answer in writing.
 - c) Comment in writing.
6. Return and arrange for personal interview.
7. Follow through—and report.
8. Initial and return (sent for information only).
9. Accept—Decline.
10. Send to _____ with covering letter.
11. File under _____
12. Make _____ copies.
13. Remarks.

*For information of the President
and the Secretary of the
Board of Trustees
of the University of
California*

MICHIGAN AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
EAST LANSING, MICH.

EWB

KENYON L. BUTTERFIELD

November 5, 1924.

President Ernest D. Burton,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear President Burton:

I am very glad to accept your suggestion that you could send me the plans of your new Modern Language building. We are right now engaged in making preliminary sketches of what we are calling a Humanities building and your plans will, I am sure, be very helpful.

You also told me that you could make some notations for me regarding ideas of what might be incorporated an Administration building. If you have time for this, I should be very much pleased.

I have another problem somewhat more formidable that I want to lay before you but I may or may not get a chance to do that immediately.

Very sincerely yours,

Kenyon L. Butterfield

L.

November 12, 1924.

My dear Mr. Hodgdon:

At President Burton's request, will you please send a set of blueprints of the proposed Modern Language Building to President Kenyon L. Butterfield, Michigan Agricultural College, East Lansing, Michigan? President Burton would greatly appreciate this service.

Truly yours,

Mr. Hodgdon,
Coolidge & Hodgdon,
134 S. LaSalle Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

WES:S

November 15, 1934.

Dear Mr. Hodgson:

As President Burton's request, will

you please send a set of blueprints of the

proposed Robert Langley Building to President

Kenyon L. Butterfield, Michigan Agricultural

College, East Lansing, Michigan. President Burton

would greatly appreciate this service.

Truly yours,

Mr. Hodgson,
College & Hospital,
125 E. Lenoir Street,
Chicago, Illinois.

WES:2

The University of Chicago

Office of the Vice-President and Business Manager

ROOM 1838, 230 S. CLARK ST.
TELEPHONE DEARBORN 9312

File 8c

*Presidents
folder*

November Five

1 9 2 4

My dear President Burton:

Corroborating my statement to you this morning, regarding the cost of the modern language building: I received from Mr. Hodgdon the following estimates as to the cost:

He states that the proposed building will contain 750,000 cubic feet and that he estimates it will cost 60¢ per cubic foot to build - a total of \$450,000.

He bases his estimate on the fact that the Theology Building, which is now in the course of construction, contains 707,059 cubic feet and will cost - - - - - \$456,000, which equals 64¢ per cubic foot.

He says that the modern language building will not have to build east and west walls and that coming as it does between two ornamented buildings it will not need very much decoration itself.

He hopes that the price of 55¢ might be obtained; but he thinks that 60¢ per cubic foot would be a safe one to use.

Very truly yours,

Trevor Arnett
Trevor Arnett

President Ernest D. Burton
The University of Chicago

TA:EB

The University of Chicago

Office of the Vice-President and Business Manager

ROOM 100, 520 S. CLARK ST.
CHICAGO, ILL. 60607

November five
1934

My dear President Burton:

Conceding my statement to you this morning, regarding the cost of the modern language building, I received from Mr. Hodgson the following estimate as to the cost:

He states that the proposed building will contain 750,000 cubic feet and that he estimates it will cost 80¢ per cubic foot to build - a total of \$600,000. He bases his estimate on the fact that the Theology Building, which is now in the course of construction, contains 707,000 cubic feet and will cost - \$450,000 - which equals 64¢ per cubic foot.

He says that the modern language building will not have so high east and west walls and that coming as it does between two ornamented buildings it will not need very much decoration itself.

He hopes that the price of 64¢ might be obtained; but he thinks that 80¢ per cubic foot would be a safe one to use.

Very truly yours,

Tracy A. Barrett

President Ernest D. Burton
The University of Chicago

TAB