The University of Chicago

Office of the President

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If inserted, needs revision to agree with present form of Plan II.

E.D.B.

Li I

APPENDIX A

DETAILS OF THE PLAN FOR TWO MAIN LIBRARIES

BY E. A. HENRY

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DETAILS OF THE PLAN FOR TWO MAIN LIBRARIES

BY E. A. HENRY

First Stage of Development

1. Build the west wing of Harper, connecting it with Classics. Figuring that building as three and a half stories and a single basement, with approximate dimensions of 130' x 70' x 70' high, we have a capacity of 600,000 cubic feet. In this building, a Public Catalogue room and other enlargement of W.31 can be provided for. Additional elevators for the public and service elevators for the staff can be provided. The latter would practically forever keep book trucks and carts off the passenger elevators. Our original plan involved making this a Modern Language building and providing there faculty studies and individual cubicles for the Modern Language faculty and students. Roughly, that building should provide space for 500,000 volumes, some 50 or 60 faculty studies, and 150 to 200 graduate students' stalls. The exact arrangement of this building cannot be determined until the fundamental question, reading room versus cubicles, is settled. In any case, this building would provide a large extension of stack space and also connect up with that now available in Classics, so that the three buildings could be administered as one.

2. The new Law School building, should be constructed on some other part of the University property, so that the undergraduate reserves could be moved to the present Law School building and the reading room used for undergraduate students until the individual colleges are constructed on the south side of the Midway.

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2. The new Law School building, should be constructed on some other part of the University property, so that the undergraduate reserves could be moved to the present Law School building and the reading room used for undergraduate students until the individual colleges are constructed on the south side of the Midway.

3. When this amount of relief has been provided, the first floor of Harper can be vacated and the stacks continued up to the second floor line. Here I have made fairly accurate analysis of the space. The capacity of the first floor of the middle section of Harper is about 126,000 cubic feet. Allowing for a row of faculty studies, each 10 feet square, on each of the two decks of that stack along the south wall, with a 3' aisle between the rooms and the stacks themselves, and allowing a 10' space along the north wall for graduate cubicles, this floor will provide space for 200,000 additional books, 28 individual faculty studies 10' x 10' x 7'6", and 56 cubicles, each accommodating two students, or if tables similar to those now used in Classics were installed, 112 graduate students could be provided for.

4. In the court between Kent Theatre and Ryerson Annex, there should be built a general Science Library. Planning the north line of this building at the south side of the driveway just south of the iron fence and allowing the building to extend south to within 20 feet of Kent and Ryerson and lapping onto the corners of those buildings enough to construct bridges, we have a building roughly 80' x 110' x 70' high, giving a capacity of about 600,000 cubic feet. I drew fairly complete plans for this building several years ago. As then drawn, it provides for a five-deck stack with space for 300,000 volumes, 48 individual faculty studies, 84 graduate cubicles which could easily accommodate 168 students, and a reading room which could seat

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400 people, though this should probably be divided, seating about 200 people on one side and the other side serving as space for a periodical room, public catalogue, etc. With this building constructed and all the books on Mathematics, Astronomy, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Psychology included in it, we could deliver something approximating Crerar service on our campus. I wish that it might be possible to move the Rosenwald libraries into that group, unless, as I think would be a better plan, Geography should join the Social Science Group. One very important feature of this building should be a tunnel connecting it with Harper, through which book trucks might be wheeled from one building to the other and along the sides of which there should be pneumatic tubes and book conveyers. With this building constructed with the tunnel connection, it would be possible to deliver over the desk in W.31 to any inquirer, within ten minutes, any book the University owned except those in Education and Rosenwald. In other words, this general Science Library would become practically a wing of Harper, the tunnel being the connecting link.

5. Construct the Social Science building immediately east of Harper, in order to provide the urgently needed space for the development of offices, drafting rooms, etc., of that department. Probably the basement should be an

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extension of the Harper stacks. But I am inclined to think that the entire balance of the building may rightly be used for offices, classrooms and other similar use. It would be connected on all floors with Harper, in which would be most of the book resources, the faculty studies, cubicles, etc., for this department.

Second Stage of Building

1. Move Haskell to a position north of Beecher Hall. Fortunately, if Haskell were set squarely against Beecher, thus sacrificing only the two corner abutments on one end, the center of Haskell would be exactly in line with the center of Walker, so that Haskell could be connected by a 20' bridge with Walker, and all our museums could be administered as a unit. There will be considerable space north of the new location of Haskell for the very much needed enlargement of that museum, a condition which does not exist in the present location. Very much could be said for the enlargement of Haskell which this plan would make possible, but that is not a part of a library report.

2. In the space thus vacated, construct a quadrilateral building for stacks, cubicles and seminar rooms only. The ground area should be about 170' x 60', with a height from basement floor to eave of about 70', giving a capacity of 714,000 cubic feet. I have not analyzed this figure for

extension of the Harper stacks. But I am inclined to think that the entire balance of the building may rightly be used for offices, classrooms and other similar use. It would be connected on all floors with Harper, in which would be most of the book resources, the faculty studies, cubicles, etc., for this department.

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possible arrangement. But a comparison with the figures given above for the general Science Library of 600,000 cubic feet will indicate the possibilities.

3. Perhaps in this stage should come the remodeling of the Law building, making it a stack building with cubicles and studies on both sides. Below the present stack floor there are about 400,000 cubic feet, so that a very considerable addition to the number of cubicles and the shelving capacity could be secured. Further, the Law building could easily be enlarged to the east to almost any desired capacity.

Third Stage of Building

1. Construct across the north end of Harper Court another building about 170' x 60' x 70' high, which will give a capacity of about 700,000 cubic feet. This building could be either connected directly with the stack building on the present Haskell site and with the Law building or with bridges. It would again very largely increase the amount of stack space and the number of offices and cubicles available.

2. A further possible stage of development, though there are some objections to this, would be to move the library administration from the second floor of Harper to the towers and extend the Harper stacks to the reading room floor. A few figures here will show the possibilities. The

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fourth, fifth, and sixth floors of the West Tower of Harper have about 2500 square feet of floor space each. The present Cataloguing Room has 2100 square feet, the Acquisition Room 1100, the Shelflisting Room 648, the Classification, Duplicates and Binding Rooms 480 each, a total of a little over 5000 square feet, to be disposed over three floors which would total 7500 square feet. A possible arrangement would be the Cataloguing Department on the sixth floor; the Official Catalogue, Depository Catalogue, Shelflisting and Classification Departments on the fifth floor; the Acquisition, Binding and Duplicates sections on the fourth floor with possible extension into the fourth floor of the proposed west wing of Harper. Two or three small, quick-moving automatic elevators could be installed, connecting these floors with each other, so that it would take no more time for a cataloguer on the sixth floor to run a truck of books into an elevator and drop it to the fifth floor, or lower, than it now takes to run the truck through the doors and across the hall in the present building. The time required to use these elevators to go to the fifth floor for consultation of the Official and Depository Catalogues would not be longer than that now required to consult the first part of the Official Catalogue or any part of the Depository Catalogue. Further, the Acquisition Room on the fourth

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floor would be connected by the service elevators with the freight entrance and departments further down. Possibly the Director and Associate Director might be either where the Acquisition Department now is or in the rooms occupied by the President. Another possible use of the latter rooms would be for a new Delivery Room and Public Catalogue Room.

To summarize: The final result of the plan I am proposing would be a hollow square building similar to Widener but very much larger, the approximate stack and cubicle capacity of which would be as follows:

Basement, first and second floors of Harper . .	378,000 cu. ft.
West wing of Harper	600,000 cu. ft.
Northwest wing of Harper (Haskell site)	714,000 cu. ft.
Law building (stacks only)	400,000 cu. ft.
North building, connecting Northwest building and Law	700,000 cu. ft.
or a total of	2,792,000 cu. ft.

Notice that this does not include the library space in Classics, for which I have not figures at hand, nor any library space in the Social Science building. Compare this with the approximate capacity of the building proposed by the Commission, which would be about 3,000,000 cubic feet. To my figure there should also be added the capacity of the general Science building, 600,000 cubic feet, which, by the way, is more by several thousands than the space needed by these departments by 1950 according to the table on Mr. Wilkins' pages 22A, 22B, and 22C.

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The University of Chicago

The Oriental Institute

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

335930

December 27, 1923.

President E.D. Burton,
University of Chicago.

Dear Mr. Burton:

In view of the fact that the future of library development in the University seriously involves Haskell Oriental Museum, may I take occasion to express my own conviction, which I know is also that of the entire Department of Oriental Languages, that the present system of departmental libraries is the only system which is practically workable? We are convinced that the idea of a centralized library building containing all the books in the University is based on an outworn tradition, and practically unworkable. It would, in our case, involve disastrous consequences. Our materials are both books and monuments and the two must be used in continual conjunction. They cannot be separated without serious loss not only of convenience, but of time and efficiency.

A properly developed system of messengers will certainly remove the inconvenience felt by students of general literature who may need to combine on one table books from a number of different departmental libraries. We are convinced that the number of people who range thus from department to department is a very small minority, and that the system of departmental libraries is based on the modern development of departments and demanded by the requirements of departmental organization. Hence we believe it would be a great mistake to return to the traditional system which may be very attractive to librarians, but not to the actual users of the books.

It is perhaps superfluous to call attention to the obvious financial advantages of the present plans of departmental library development which include the erection of a library on the present site of Haskell Museum, the absorption of the Law School by the General Library, the erection of a new library building along the north side of Harper Court, and of new buildings to fill the vacancies on the East and West of Harper Library itself. While it may be almost a financial impossibility to finance a vast centralized library building, a plan of gradual expansion such as you yourself have so skilfully devised is a perfectly feasible financial operation which can be carried forward step by step, and building by building.

We, of the Department of Oriental Languages, therefore earnestly hope and urge that the present system of departmental libraries, to be developed as planned, is not to be abandoned in favor of a central library building.

Very truly yours,

James H. Breasted
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JHB:KS

The University of Chicago
The American Journal of
Semitic Languages and Literatures

EDITORIAL OFFICE

Lib. Com.

Li 2
335910

December 27, 1923

President E. D. Burton
Faculty Exchange

My dear President Burton:

I understand that the whole future policy of the library system of the University is under consideration. I therefore take the liberty to write you my judgment as to the value of the present system. I have grown up, as you know, under the present system, starting in here as student and so knowing it from the student's side, and continuing as a member of the faculty. I sincerely hope that the present system will be retained, and that no radical change will be adopted.

The advantages of the departmental library system as over against the one central library seem to me quite clear. It is of immense value to have the books needed by the students and faculty of any department within easy access of the members of the department. It is not, of course, necessary that each department shouldbe isolated, but after the manner of the Haskell and Classical groups, it is advisable to ~~follow~~ modify the departmental system to the extent of putting closely related collections of books together, having a common library of the group easily accessible to all the departments interested in the group. This facilitates and encourages the use of books tremendously. It is likewise of great educational value to have the students brought into direct contact with the books by having as many as possible of the books in their field out in the open shelves, rather than buried in the stack.

I have, of course, used both the general and the Haskell libraries now for many years, and also the classical library. It is my experience that books are obtained with much more ease and celerity in the two departmental libraries than they are in the general library. The immensity of the latter necessarily involves some delay and difficulty. It is unavoidable. I am quite sure that practically all the people using the Haskell libraries would share this opinion to which I have given expression. Pardon me for inflicting this upon you, but I have done so in the thought that it might bring some reinforcement of your own position with reference to the library question.

Yours sincerely

J. M. P. Smith

JMPS F

The University of Chicago
The American Journal of
Semitic Languages and Literatures
EDITORIAL OFFICE

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JMPS:

Lib 2

Lib. 2

December 28,
1923

Mr. Ernest H. Wilkins,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Mr. Wilkins:

Thank you for yours of December 22 bringing the tentative report of the Library Commission up to date and outlining your recommendations for further procedure.

There are three points I should like to bring to your attention. If they can be changed without serious loss of time, I recommend doing so.

1. Paragraph 96 seems to me too strongly expressed in indicating that it is bad faith to abandon Harper. I recommend, if the paragraph is included at all, emphasizing the inadvisability of change for sentimental reasons and eliminating the suggestion of bad faith. Besides, the new building could be the Harper Library and I question whether the mere fact of more subscribers would make the new Harper as proposed under Plan I any more a question of bad faith than the new Haskell as proposed under Plan II.

2. I dislike reopening the argument in favor of Plan I as begun in paragraph 97, but should prefer to have all the arguments in one place rather than seesawing back and forth or giving the proponents of Plan I a rebuttal.

3. Think it would be very helpful if there could be some statement as to the cost of administering Plan I or Plan II. This seems to me to be a pertinent factor to consider and doesn't seem to be very well covered. Whether the proponents of Plan I and Plan II could agree upon some definite statement as to the relative cost of administering, I don't know. If they could, it would be valuable.

If you find it practical to incorporate the above suggestions, I recommend doing so.

I approve your plan of sending out the tentative report for study and report by Faculty members and others. Understand you have Mr. Burton's approval and this letter gives you Mr. Gilkey's and mine. Mr. Ryerson is out of the country so we shouldn't wait for his. This covers the approval then of the Trustees. Assume you will secure the approval of the Faculty members of the Commission.

Am sending copy of this letter to Mr. Burton.

Yours cordially, HAROLD H. SWIFT

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cc - EDB

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HHS:GB
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Li 2

January 15, 1924

My dear Mr. Wilkins:

I find myself unable to agree with you and Mr. White as to the proper arrangement of Part II of the Report. The attached manuscript will show what I supposed we had agreed to.

The effect of your plan is to divide the argument of those who favor Plan II and to reverse the order of their statement.

It has the effect also of putting the last three of their four points under the head of objections to Plan I.

I think those who favor Plan II will have to claim their right to have their argument printed as it was prefaced.

If you do not feel able to agree to this, we might submit the matter to Mr. Small for his opinion. I have not discussed it with him.

Very truly yours,

Dean Ernest H. Wilkins
The University of Chicago

EDB/R

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EDB\R

Li 2

The University of Chicago

The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 15, 1924

President E.D. Burton
Harper Library

Dear President Burton:

I am exceedingly sorry that the arrangement of the material in Part II is not what you wanted. We had thought that it met exactly the plan suggested in your letter of December 26, which was as follows:

> "The restoration of the omitted pages which contain the criticism of the plan seems to me to require a return to the arrangement which I some time ago recommended but abandoned in deference to Mr. Butler's judgment, viz., following the statement of Plan I by the statement of Plan II, this by the Argument for Plan I, and this finally by Argument for Plan II. This has the effect of presenting the argument for Plan I continuously instead of breaking it into two parts."

This statement of yours did not specify the location desired by you for the argument against Plan I and the argument against Plan II. It never occurred to Mr. White or to myself that your intention was to dissociate the arguments against Plan I from those for Plan I, or the arguments against Plan II from those for Plan II.

The transfer of Paragraphs 86-87, which are statement and not argument, to a position immediately after 59 is clearly an improvement, and that transfer we have now made.

You are of course perfectly right in saying that as the other paragraphs were set up the order is bad, in that Section 88 follows Sections 80, 81, and 82, which it announces.

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The University of Chicago
The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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I am exceedingly sorry that the arrangement of the material in Part II is not what you wanted. We had thought that it met exactly the plan suggested in your letter of December 26, which was as follows:

> "The restoration of the omitted pages which contain the criticism of the plan seems to me to require a return to the arrangement which a some time ago recommended but abandoned in deference to Mr. Butler's judgment, viz., following the statement of Plan I by the statement of Plan II, this by the argument for Plan I, and this finally by argument for Plan II. This has the effect of presenting the argument for Plan I continuously instead of breaking it into two parts."

This statement of yours did not specify the location desired by you for the argument against Plan I and the argument against Plan II. It never occurred to Mr. White or to myself that your intention was to dissociate the arguments against Plan I from those for Plan I, or the arguments against Plan II from those for Plan II.

The transfer of Paragraphs 86-87, which are statement and not argument, to a position immediately after 89 is clearly an improvement, and that transfer we have now made.

You are of course perfectly right in saying that as the other paragraphs were set up the order is bad, in that Section 88 follows Sections 80, 81, and 82, which it announces.

This situation we had corrected prior to the receipt of your letter of this morning, by cancelling Section 88 together with the corresponding italicized headings. This cancellation removes entirely the hysteron proteron effect to which you refer, and with it, I hope, anything that is fundamental with regard to your dissatisfaction with the present arrangement.

For Mr. White and I both feel very strongly that the present arrangement (Arguments for Plan I, Arguments against Plan I, Arguments for Plan II, Arguments against Plan II) is far more logical and more effective than the order now proposed (Arguments for Plan I, Arguments against Plan II, Arguments for Plan II, Arguments against Plan I). This proposed order seems to us illogical and very confusing in its separation of the arguments against Plan I from those for Plan I, and in its placing of the arguments against Plan II before the arguments for Plan II.

We are therefore hoping very much that you will consent to the retention of the present order (except for the transfer of 86 and 87 and the cancellation of 88). We will hold the proof (now otherwise ready to return to press) in order that you may have a chance for reply, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, unless before that time you authorize its release.

We have corrected Section XIII, which was badly set up.

In accordance with the point raised by Mr. Swift, we have inserted the following sentences just before the last sentence in Section 96:

> "Those who favor Plan I believe that the administration of the library upon this plan would be much less expensive than upon Plan II. This opinion appears to be shared unanimously by a number of librarians to whom the matter has been informally presented in general terms."

We have noted all the minor changes indicated in your set of the proof, which I am returning to you herewith for your reference.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins

EHW/ES Dean of the Colleges

This situation we had corrected prior to the receipt of your letter of this morning, by cancelling Section 89 together with the corresponding italicized headings. This cancellation removes entirely the Hysteron proteron effect to which you refer, and with it, I hope, anything that is fundamental with regard to your dissatisfaction with the present arrangement.

For Mr. White and I both feel very strongly that the present arrangement (Arguments for Plan I, Arguments against Plan I, Arguments for Plan II, Arguments against Plan II) is far more logical and more effective than the order now proposed (Arguments for Plan I, Arguments against Plan II, Arguments for Plan II, Arguments against Plan II). This proposed order seems to us illogical and very confusing in its separation of the arguments against Plan I from those for Plan I, and in its placing of the arguments against Plan II before the arguments for Plan II.

We are therefore hoping very much that you will consent to the retention of the present order (except for the transfer of 6-6 and 67 and the cancellation of 89). We will hold the proof (now otherwise ready to return to press) in order that you may have a chance for reply, until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning, unless before that time you authorize its release.

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We have noted all the minor changes indicated in your set of the proof, which I am returning to you herewith for your reference.

Very truly yours,

Edward H. Wilkins

EHW/MS Dean of the College

Li 2

The University of Chicago
The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 16, 1924

President E.D. Burton
Faculty Exchange

Dear President Burton:

We have gladly arranged the material in the order which you desire. I am asking for a second galley proof of the five galleys concerned; and a copy of this proof will be sent to you as soon as possible.

May I endeavor to make two or three matters perfectly clear, in order to prevent any possible misunderstanding?

The arrangement of the material in the order in which it was printed was determined by our effort to meet the desire expressed by you in your letter of December 26. That we failed to meet your desire was due to the coincidence of the fact that you did not specify the position you wished for the arguments against Plan I and the arguments against Plan II, and the fact that it simply did not occur to us to dissociate the arguments against Plan I from the arguments for Plan I, or the arguments against Plan II from the arguments for Plan II.

The argument in favor of the printed order of the report contained in my letter of yesterday was based solely upon the desire for clarity and effectiveness in the presentation of the report as a whole; and was not related to the preference of Mr. White and myself for Plan I.

We certainly agree with you heartily in thinking that those who favor Plan II are entitled to have their argument printed as it was prepared.

After a long study of the whole question last night, I find myself much less confident than previously of the superiority of the printed order to the order proposed by you, and now adopted; and I am looking forward with interest and with diminishing regret to the outcome of the resetting of the material concerned.

I am returning herewith your copy of the manuscript.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins
Dean of the Colleges

EHW/ES

The University of Chicago

The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

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January 16, 1920

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May I endeavor to make two or three matters perfectly clear, in order to prevent any possible misunderstanding?

The arrangement of the material in the order in which it was printed was determined by our effort to meet the desire expressed by you in your letter of December 16. That we failed to meet your desire was due to the coincidence of the fact that you did not specify the condition you wished for the arguments against Plan I and the arguments against Plan II, and the fact that it simply did not occur to us to dissociate the arguments against Plan I from the arguments for Plan I, or the arguments against Plan II from the arguments for Plan II.

The argument in favor of the printed order of the report contained in my letter of yesterday was based solely upon the desire for clarity and effectiveness in the presentation of the report as a whole; and was not related to the preference of Mr. White and myself for Plan I.

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Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins

EHW/ZS

Dean of the Colleges

Wilkins Li 2
336122

The University of Chicago
The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

January 18, 1924

Ans'd
My Jan 22

President E.D. Burton,
Harper Library

Dear President Burton:

This is first of all to wish you the happy and restful vacation you so richly deserve--with sunlit days, and nights of peaceful sleep.

And may I take this occasion to thank you heartily for the kindness of your references, both earlier and recently, to my share in the preparation of the tentative report of the Library Commission? They have served to give encouragement during the hardest period of the labor; and serve now both as reward and as encouragement for whatever work still lies ahead.

I have been very glad to do all that I could in this study; and share your hope that the outcome, whatever it may be, will prove to be for the ultimate welfare of the University.

There has been satisfaction in the feeling that I was fundamentally working with you--even while there has been regret that it has not been possible for us actually to work to a greater extent in conference, and regret that my opinion so soon diverged from yours.

I have sometimes feared that you felt that I was not without prejudice with regard to the editorial treatment of Plan II, and I can readily see that some circumstances might have tended to lead you toward such a feeling. Yet the truth is that I have honestly and at all times sought to do it justice--though it is now quite clear that at the start, at least, I failed actually to do so.

You will perhaps be glad to know that Mr. Norton, who is still undecided, I think, as between the two plans, said of his own accord, after reading the report as first printed, that it seemed to him that the presentation of the second plan was absolutely adequate.

And I desire also to express my great appreciation of the generous spirit both of your original charge and of your attitude toward the presentation of the plan in which I have come to believe.

Page proof of the report will be ready next week. Do you care to have a copy sent to you? And if so, shall I hold my copy of the page proof until I hear from you?

With renewed wishes for the best of vacations, I am

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins

Dean of the Colleges

EHW/ES

XX

The University of Chicago

Department of Chemistry

Wilkins

February 13, 1924

President E. D. Burton
University of Chicago

Dear President Burton:

The inclosed copy of a report to Dean Wilkins, commenting on the Tentative Report of the Library Commission, explains itself. I think you must be interested in the needs of the Department of Chemistry.

We wish to cooperate with the Library Commission, but naturally feel that it is our duty to protect the research interests of the Department, and that the Library Commission would want to know what the real needs of the research interests would be.

I am

Yours sincerely,

Julius Stieglitz

JS/MS

XX

February 8, 1924

Dean Ernest H. Wilkins
Vice-Chairman, Commission on the
Future Policy of the University
Libraries

Dear Dean Wilkins:

Your note of the 4th inst. in explanation of the Tentative Report of the Library Commission has been received. Careful consideration has been given to Plan I and Plan II by Drs. Harkins and Schlesinger and myself. The following report has been submitted to our whole staff and unanimously and emphatically approved.

Plan I would be acceptable to the department only on the basis of an explicit provision for a working departmental library in the chemistry laboratory itself. Such a department working library would include the principal current journals with complete sets going back to say 1870, and all the more commonly used general books of reference and up to date treatises. The list would include perhaps half of our present total number of books. All the other books and journals could be spared to the general library, and if the latter's shelves in chemistry should be complete, duplicate sets would be necessary.

This arrangement is followed at Stanford University and the University of California (without duplication, I believe) where I have worked: both have strong research interests.

The arrangement represents the minimum need of the chemistry laboratory for a working library housed in the laboratory itself within

February 6, 1964

Dean Ernest R. Hilgard
Vice-Chairman, Committee on the
Future Policy of the University
Libraries

Dear Dean Hilgard:

Your note of the 4th inst. in explanation of the Tentative Report of the Library Committee has been received. Careful consideration has been given to Plan I and Plan II by Mrs. Hutchins and Mr. Lingquist and myself. The following report has been submitted to our whole staff and unanimously and enthusiastically approved.

Plan I would be acceptable to the department only on the basis of an explicit provision for a working departmental library in the chemistry laboratory itself. Such a departmental working library would include the principal current journals with complete sets going back to say 1870, and all the more commonly used general books of reference and up to date treatises. The list would include perhaps half of our present total number of books. All the other books and journals could be spared to the general library, and if the latter's shelves in chemistry should be complete, duplicate sets would be necessary.

This arrangement is followed at Stanford University and the University of California (without duplication, I believe) where I have worked: both have strong research interests.

The arrangement represents the minimum need of the chemistry laboratory for a working library housed in the laboratory itself within

immediate reach of every investigator. Anything less would be a tremendous and unnecessary handicap on the development of research in chemistry. The main reason for the need of such closest physical proximity of library and laboratory is aptly put on page five of the report itself, if you will keep in mind the fact that the passages apply with equal force to the laboratory investigator in relation to books as to the investigator in the humanistic departments:

> "Whenever his research develops a new suggestion, he can pursue it from volume to volume....." "Similarly, when his work demands the verification of a reference or a series of references, he can make the verification at once. No barrier, material or human, intervenes between him and his world of books. It is a joy and a stimulation to work in such a place."

In other words, the laboratory investigator must have his books near his own "cubicle", his laboratory, for a reference here, another there--for continuous work just as the library worker. When I confer with my research students at their laboratory desks--to see their results--questions constantly arise which lead us to step into the library in the next room to consult the original literature connected with our problems. That opportunity is part of the life-blood in a chemical research laboratory.

Before discussing Plan II, let me bring the following to your attention: The land west of Kent is absolutely necessary for a new chemistry laboratory for research and graduate work, and it has been reserved for that purpose as far back as I can remember. The laboratory will form an L on Ellis Avenue, leaving space for a further building between Snell and the new laboratory. Kent, with its large laboratories occupying its east and west wings, unfortunately is not suited for up to date research laboratories requiring many small rooms, and many special

rooms. Kent is admirably suited for the instruction of large groups of undergraduates. This has been explained to President Burton and Vice-President Arnett, and detailed plans for the new laboratory building were prepared for President Judson, and are now in the hands of Vice-President Tufts. You may wish to refer to the plans. I believe any effort to use the land in question for a science library would permanently cripple the graduate and research work of this department, the field of whose work represents one of the greatest in modern science.

Now, Plan II providing for a special Science Library housing the libraries of the Department of Chemistry, the Biological Departments, and the Medical School will work very well, provided (1) this Science Library is erected in the space between Snell Hall and the north end of the L on Ellis Avenue of the proposed new chemical laboratory, and provided (2) the present chemistry library is not moved to the new Science Library before the new chemical laboratory is completed and ready to be occupied. There would have to be direct connections between the new laboratory and the chemistry stacks of the new library on the main research floors of the laboratory. Such a plan would be identical with one proposed by me some years ago to Dr. Burton in a conference concerning the housing of the biological libraries, and I still think, with the restrictions indicated, it would prove an admirable solution of our problem.

Any other location and arrangements for a new Science Library housing chemistry with the Biological Sciences, etc. would be absolutely fatal to the development of research in chemistry, unless special provision for a working departmental library in the Chemistry Laboratory

rooms, but is admirably suited for the instruction of large groups of undergraduates. This has been explained to President Gordon and Vice-President Arnett, and detailed plans for the new laboratory building were prepared for President Gordon, and are now in the hands of Vice-President Watts. You may wish to refer to the plans. I believe any effort to use the land in question for a science library would permanently cripple the graduate and research work of this department, the field of which work represents one of the greatest in modern science.

Thus, than it would be for a greater Science Library and the Libraries of the Department of Chemistry, the Biological Departments, and the Medical School will work very well, provided (1) this Science Library is erected in the space between Snell Hall and the north end of the L on Hills Avenue of the proposed new chemical laboratory, and provided (2) the present chemistry library is not moved to the new Science Library before the new chemical laboratory is completed and ready to be occupied. There would have to be direct connections between the new laboratory and the chemistry stacks of the new library on the main research floors of the laboratory. Such a plan would be identical with one proposed by me some years ago to Dr. Burton in a conference concerning the housing of the biological libraries, and I still think, with the restrictions indicated, it would prove an admirable solution of our problem.

Any other location and arrangements for a new Science Library housing chemistry with the Biological Sciences, etc., would be absolutely fatal to the development of research in chemistry, unless special provision for a working departmental library in the Chemistry laboratory

Building itself were made, as described under Plan I above. The ideal arrangement would be to have a large library in the proposed new laboratory building, of the size of the library in Rosenwald. The plans for the proposed new laboratory include provisions for such a library.

Attention should be called to the fact that we cannot accept the correctness of the assumption made by the Commission in "both plans assume that the libraries of the Department of Chemistry, the Biological Departments and the Medical School must (!) be housed together". This thought originated probably in the plan proposed by me to President Burton to house the three libraries in a single building connected with the proposed new chemical laboratory, south of Snell Hall. But biology and medicine are almost as dependent on physics as on chemistry. If the arrangement of a common library building south of Snell Hall and connected with a new chemical laboratory is put into effect, the union of the chemical, biological, and medical libraries would certainly be extremely desirable:-- but to effect the union at the cost of cutting off the chemical research laboratories from a working chemical library and of destroying chemical research would be disastrous. It would be no greater hardship for the biologists and medical men to cross over to the chemistry library in the chemical laboratory for reference to works on chemistry than our experience in stepping over to Ryerson to see a reference in the Physics Library-- which we very frequently do. It is quite another matter to have to leave our building to see our own books!

Summing up our views, I would say that unless provision is made in any new plans that "no barrier, material or human, should intervene

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Bearing up our views, I would say that unless provision is made in my new plans that "no barrier, material or human, should intervene

between the investigator in his chemical laboratory and his books" in one of the ways indicated above, it would be immeasurably better to continue the present arrangements: while serious congestion exists, the life-blood of the department is not cut off.

I am, Very truly yours,

JS/MS

HOLABIRD & ROCHE
ARCHITECTS

WILLIAM HOLABIRD
MARTIN ROCHE
EDWARD A. RENWICK
JOHN A. HOLABIRD
JOHN W. ROOT

MONROE BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

March 3, 1924.

7-eg

Subject: Library for the University of Chicago.

The University of Chicago,
Office of the Dean,
Chicago, Illinois.

Attention: Mr. Ernest H. Wilkins,
Dean of Colleges.

Gentlemen:

We have carefully considered the questions asked in your letter of February 25, the various angles of which are so clearly presented in the tentative report of the Library Commission.

We have had occasion to consider these questions several times in relation to projects that have been taken up in this office and we had come to the conclusion some time ago that the high university building is the coming and necessary type for the growing needs and expansion of our universities, most particularly those located in great cities.

We now have no hesitation, in answer to your question No. 1, in expressing the opinion that such a building as proposed in Plan 1, does not "offer an architectural problem of prohibitory difficulty". We believe that architecture must continue to meet new conditions, must grow with modern requirements. We believe its primary function is to adequately express and clothe spaces set apart for particular purposes and arranged with reference to each other to afford the greatest possible facilities and conveniences.

The University Club building is a marked departure from the accepted traditions. In its inseption there was much unfavorable criticism but as the design grew, the adaptability of the Collegiate Gothic Style to modern needs was recognized and a revival in its use of the style sprang up all over the country. We do not concede that because the English Collegiate theory of low buildings has thus far been adopted at the University of Chicago, that such a conception of the entire group is necessarily the only conception and that it cannot ever be broken away from. We believe that such a building as outlined in Plan 1 could well be placed in the midst of the group of low structures

HOLABIRD & ROCHE

ARCHITECTS

WILLIAM HOLABIRD
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so as to dominate the whole, assist in tying the group together and form a united mass.

It is conceivable even that the English Collegiate type of low building, when adopted to a terrain, such as at Cornell, would unavoidably place some structures in a dominating position. Advantage would be most certainly taken of such a situation with any comprehensive study of the plan. The dominating building in such a conception would, in a measure, be replaced by a high building on a level terrain. It is evident that in Oxford and Cambridge, the adoption of low buildings was due to the conditions of the time. It is probable that if the architects of the various colleges had been familiar with modern construction and elevators, they might have formed a different conception. We believe that, with present day equipment, the advantages of the vertical disposition of buildings, considering compactness and communications, should not be overlooked or sacrificed to tradition.

There are many famous examples of large structures forming the center of a group of low buildings. The Cathedrals of France, England and Italy, with the surrounding chapels, parish houses, cloisters and other buildings, force the conclusion that the architects and planners of old had no hesitation in meeting this problem. Nor did they feel that the attainment of perfection in the surrounding buildings would be rendered impossible by the main and dominationg mass. The beauty of some of the cloisters in Italy and the chapels adjoining the cathedrals of England and France, are well known examples of the successful development of these subordinate structures. We cannot feel that their beauty would be impaired in establishing a large library building in the center of one of the groups of the University of Chicago. They could be considered as wings and buttresses of a whole, beautiful in themselves and their detail.

The argument in favor of a large building dominating the mass, of course, requires most careful study of the situation itself. The design would naturally be governed by the relation to all surrounding buildings and the difficult problem of enlargement and growth of the building itself. That such a design in conception is feasible and

University of Chicago.

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University of Chicago.

far from unsurmountable, is our most earnest opinion.

In answer to question No. 2 "Does not the statement on page 35, that such a building might well be made one of the greatest buildings of the new world, seem a reasonable one"? We do not feel that this statement is necessarily impossible. As stated in paragraph 76, plan 1 offers an opportunity as well as a difficulty. With proper thought and careful study, such a conception may lead to a long step forward in modern architecture. The problem as submitted to the designer offers no difficulty unsurmountable in attaining this perfection.

In answer to question 3, as outlined in the report, we are most heartily in accord in the belief that this central structure, properly located and designed, would not only not be a serious detriment to the plan of the University, but is almost essential to your future needs. Such a building would be of value in accenting and focusing the plan. To build around such a structure, the sentiment of service and ideals of a great university, should afford a most inspiring problem.

Very truly yours,

Holabird & Roche

Architects.

University of Chicago.

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Architects.

Replies from Arch. Sec 2

The University of Chicago

The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 25, 1924

Same letter to
~~Graham,~~ Anderson, Probst, and White
Pond and Pond
Coolidge and Hodgdon
Howard Shaw
Ernest Graham

Holabird and Roche
Monroe Building
Chicago, Illinois

Gentlemen:

A Commission of the Faculty and Trustees of the University of Chicago is considering the problem of new library construction, and has proposed two plans, set forth in the Tentative Report of which a copy is inclosed herewith.

We should greatly appreciate a word of general advice from you in this matter while the discussion is still in a preliminary stage. Would you be so good as to read the portion of the Report immediately concerned (pages 27-44) and to let us know your opinion, from the architectural point of view, of the relative merits of Plan I and Plan II?

In particular, we should value an expression of your opinion on these three points: (1) Does such a building as is proposed in Plan I offer an architectural problem of prohibitory difficulty? (2) Does the statement on page 35 that "such a building might well be made one of the greatest buildings of the new world" seem to you a reasonable one? (3) If you are acquainted with our campus in its present state, would you tend to share the opinion expressed on page 35 that such a building "might well be treated as the dominant and unifying architectural member of the whole University design--as the towering center toward which the other buildings lead up, around which they cluster like supporting buttresses," or the opinion expressed on page 42 that the erection of such a building "would be an architectural disaster"?

We are to have on the evening of Monday, March 3, a general discussion of the plans by a large faculty group, and it would be doubly helpful to us if your opinion might reach us before that time.

Very truly yours,

EHW:EW

Dean of the Colleges

Robin from Geoffrey

The University of Chicago

The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

February 25, 1924

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In particular, we should value an expression of your opinion on these three points: (1) Does such a building as is proposed in Plan I offer an architectural problem of prohibitory difficulty? (2) Does the statement on page 35 that "such a building might well be made one of the greatest buildings of the new world" seem to you a reasonable one? (3) If you are acquainted with our campus in its present state, would you tend to share the opinion expressed on page 35 that such a building "might well be treated as the dominant and unifying architectural member of the whole University design--as the towering center toward which the other buildings lead up, around which they cluster like supporting buttresses," or the opinion expressed on page 42 that the erection of such a building "would be an architectural disaster"?

We are to have on the evening of Monday, March 3, a general discussion of the plans by a large faculty group, and it would be doubly helpful to us if your opinion might reach us before that time.

Very truly yours,

EHW:EW

Dean of the Colleges

HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW · ARCHITECT

GEORGE B. EICH
RALPH E. MILMAN
WM. ZIEGLER NOURSE
ARCHIBALD S. MORPHETT
ELMER J. FOX

39 S. STATE STREET
CHICAGO
CENTRAL 1945

March 1, 1924.

Library Committee,
The University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sirs:

Architecturally, the Library problem for The University of Chicago can only be approached by a thorough study of the needs of the existing campus. Any solution, however successful from an operating standpoint, which does not help the ensemble architecturally would be little short of a crime.

In spite of certain individually good buildings on the campus, the impression left on the casual observer is one of more or less sameness; it is hard to remember where one building ends and another begins, and yet the parts do not as yet coordinate into either an impressive or charming whole.

This sameness is due to a certain uniformity of story height and general size, as well as color; and the height selected for the original buildings, which still dominate the mass, was a most unfortunate one; too low to be impressive, too high to give the intimate charm of the English colleges or Princeton.

Tho in cross-section, the buildings of Oxford or Cambridge are much smaller than any of The University of Chicago, the unit in the English colleges is much larger, in that it is the entire quadrangle. You think of Magdalen or Merton as a satisfying quadrangle; a group, not a building.

Due allowance is made for the incomplete quadrangles, and yet, standing in the centre of the campus, trying to guess the general plan which governed the location of some of the buildings, one wonders whether, when more of the same closes the gaps, if the effect will be very different. In short, the result, so far, lacks distinction.

Two avenues of escape are available: The first, to add this desirable quality of charm, by skillfully completing the component quadrangles, giving each the scale and enclosing treatment needed to bring out the best in the existing buildings and adding the missing "something" which will make each quadrangle individually a joy, yet a part of the whole mass.

HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW - ARCHITECT

GEORGE R. ROCH
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This seems to be the architectural intention of Plan II of the Committee's report. Its successful completion would help give the old world atmosphere which one associates with "Collegiate Gothic" and which most of us love. As a gambling proposition, it is probably the safer alternative, as there are six or more quadrangles, and the failure in one or two might be forgotten in the success of the rest.

The second method, (Plan I of the report, where you risk all on one big chance), is to throw the present buildings into a relatively intimate scale, and obtain unity and impressiveness for the campus as a whole by a towering central feature.

With the chapel located elsewhere, the library is the only motif left big enough to weld the dissonant parts of unfinished quadrangles, into a whole.

Incidentally, neither plan is easy; the danger is perhaps greater of harm being done by a coarse solution of Plan I than by an equally weak solution of Plan II; but, on the other hand, the success of the right unifying central feature would be the more marvelous and popular, and possibly more in the spirit of Chicago, who set a pace for doing a big thing well in her World's Fair.

Every architect would prefer to try Plan I, knowing that almost any solution would be blazoned on the front page of the Tribune, et al; while the success of Plan II, requiring perhaps more study, would only be appreciated by the discerning.

No early plan is at hand, but recollection has it that Mr. Cobb's original plan placed the chapel in the centre of the campus, and, if so, would seem to show that he felt the need of the overtopping central feature.

The new chapel, with its massive tower, will be too far away to be injured by a tall central structure on the campus, but if there is no dominant mass on the campus, the architectural centre of the University may shift to the chapel square. Perhaps this is as it should be.

It may not be known to your Committee, but by the generosity of a woman who felt that Yale sadly needed a plan, John Russell Pope, a New York architect, made an interesting study, in which he placed a huge library building as the central feature of the New Yale, uniting the old campus with the recent Hillhouse gift of many acres. A copy of this report is in the possession of Mr. John V. Farwell, a member of the Yale Corporation, and is well worth study.

The use of Collegiate Gothic for many-storied buildings is no longer an experiment, and if the problem were only to successfully house a ten-story library in a Gothic structure, a happy solution would be reasonably certain. But it is to do this, and at the same time, force the unity of the straggling campus; to make an impressive building and yet not paralyze the scale of existing structures.

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To operate a hugh library, economically and smoothly, through tunnels between half a dozen buildings, as a problem approaches the design of the Gothic pile for difficulty; and perhaps the advantages to be gained by the co-relating of the various libraries through pneumatic arteries into one mechanical whole, might be at the expense of the joy of living in the room with accessible books.

The architectural choice between Plan I and Plan II is as intricate as the rest of the problem, and should not be entered into "unadvisedly", to quote a well-known ceremony.

Yours very truly,

Howard Shaw

HS:R

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Arnold Hall

HS:R

POND & POND ARCHITECTS
64 EAST VAN BUREN STREET CHICAGO
IRVING K. POND F.A.I.A.
ALLEN B. POND F.A.I.A.
ALBERT LAWRENCE LLOYD.

IN RE:

TELEPHONE HARRISON 2927 March 3rd, 1924.

Mr. Ernest H. Wilkins, Vice-Chairman,
Commission on the Future Policy of the University Libraries,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Wilkins:-

In response to your request of a few days since we have read the report of the library commission, studied the campus plans, and have digested the matter in so far as was possible in the short time placed at our disposal.

This does not mean that we had to familiarize ourselves with the elements of the problem bearing on the relation of the library building to the other campus buildings, nor clear our minds upon the subject of a centralized library; for our minds were already sufficiently determined as to the virtue, in general, of that program. It remained only to study your own special problem and its ramifications as set forth in the report.

A central library building was contemplated in the original campus plan; located just to the south of the site selected in plan no. 1 of the present library commission's report. That original conception was a happy one for the plan as then contemplated. That plan however was changed and the library tower and the chapel tower which were to divide honors on the north and south axis of the campus were sent into limbo. The library was sidetracked at the south end of the axis while the chapel was eliminated. The commission plan no. 1 contemplates restoring the library to much the original site in a building which shall merge the two originally contemplated towers in one grand dominating structure.

This we conceive to be a valuable suggestion and is functionally and aesthetically possible.

That the effect would be architecturally all that is expected of it by the sponsors of plan no. 1 with the limitations with which they have surrounded it, is problematical.

They speak of a great tower like building dominating the campus and leading the existing and future buildings into a harmonious composition - a delightful "Consummation devoutly to be wished" and striven for, - but hardly to be effected in a building whose extreme height must of necessity be considerably less than the minimum outside dimension of the plan and not much more than half the length of the building along the major axis. Such a building would be apt to remain an undigested "block" in the center of the campus and it is difficult to conceive how any "architectural" treatment of the exterior could serve to ameliorate the condition.

However, this is no criticism of the idea embodied in plan no. 1 - the idea of a central and centralized library on the site proposed. That is eminently possible and practicable, and can be made architecturally pleasing and compelling. A great tower which shall be the central and dominating feature of a future library composition - a tower which shall serve adequately all library purposes for decades to come and then can be enlarged at its base to serve centuries - can be placed in the center of the campus as it now exists, and be made a thing of strength and beauty - but its height should exceed the length of the major axis and too must (at least, should,) greatly exceed in

height any neighboring tower. There should be no chance of rivalry between the modern working library, "the heart of the modern University" and the archaic chapel, however symbolic it may be, and however well adapted to the purposes of mediaeval pageantry.

A tower such as suggested should be austere though not barren in design, immaginative in its masses, and atmospheric in its lines; while the units at its base should form a transition from the picturesque buildings of the campus to the austerity and simplicity of the dominant structure.

This is all architecturally possible, all eminently practicable, and all in consonance with the idea which underlies plan no. 1 as advanced by the commission.

But beware of "blocs" even though spelled "blocks". They do not induce to harmony and concord in Architectural ensembles any more than in legislative assemblies!

Respectfully yours,

Pond and Pond

POND & POND.

Li 2

The University of Chicago

The University Libraries

May 12, 1924.

Memorandum to President Burton:

Re: The possible distribution of material in a stack building located on the present site of Haskell Museum.

As the plans are now drawn (blue-prints of which I have in my office; the originals of both these and the provisional drawings of plan I will reach you soon if they have not already done so) they provide a gross capacity of 155,120 books on each deck of stacks except the basement deck which is somewhat larger. In addition, there is a possibility of a smaller tenth deck in the ridge of the roof, though this space may be needed for machinery, etc. Certainly it will not be needed for stacks for a number of years.

In view of the insistance of the Library Commission upon comfortable studies for faculty members, I rather strongly recommend the arrangement of studies and stack decks as shown on the sheet attached. This is very similar to the arrangement at Harvard and that in Mr. Wilkin's drawings for plan I where the stack decks are 7'6 high and the studies are 10' high.

Just as a provisional layout, I suggest the following which would bring all the books now owned by the University into this building except the Law Library, the School of Education Library, the Rosenwald Library, the Philosophy and Classics books in the Classics Building, the A section now in the east tower of Harper, and reference and reserve books. I am proposing to bring the music and art books back from Classics to this new building. With a single exception the suggested layout starts with A on the ground floor deck and runs straight up through the building, that one exception being the sections J, K, and L, which, because they are somwwhat less used, I am putting on the first floor mezzanine in order to bring the much more used D, E, F, H, and P sections as close as possible to the delivery-room floor.

Deck No.	Classification	Present total of books.	No. of faculty members according to report.	No. of faculty rooms nearby.	No. of graduate students according to report.	No. of Cubicles
1(basement)	vacant	-------	---------	------	-------	------
2(firstfloor)	AN (newspapers)	-------	----------	------	-----	~~20~~ --
3(1st floor mezzanine)	J to LZ	77,500	4	16(A ser.)	9	20
4(2nd floor)	C to GF	68,000	13	16(B ser.)	52	20
5(2nd mezz.)	GN to HX	66,000	12	16(C ser.)	34	20
6(3rd floor)	M to PZ	59,000	37	15(D ser.)	86	20
7(3rd Mezz.)	Q to QL	62,000	12 plus	16(E ser.)	45 plus	20
8(4th floor)	QM through S	41,000	0	16(F ser.)	0	20
9(4th mezz.)	T through Z	26,000	0	0	0	20
Totals		399,500	78	95	226	~~160~~

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6(3rd floor)	M to PZ	59,000	37	16(D ser.)	86	20
7(3rd Mezz.)	Q to QL	62,000	12 plus	16(E ser.)	45 plus	20
8(4th floor)	QM through S	41,000	0	16(F ser.)	0	20
9(4th mezz.)	T through Z	26,000	0	0	0	20
Totals		395,500	78	95	226	140

The plus signs on the number of faculty and graduate students in the Science field are intended to indicate that probably a few of those people would actually work in this building consecutively. Several of the studies could be reserved for such occasional use, and the others assigned to faculty in departments which overflow a single deck. The figures actually given in that group are for the faculty and students in Mathematics and Astronomy who conceivably might come to this building with their books.

Each cubicle could be occupied by two students if necessary, and of course unused studies might be assigned to the use of at least four or possibly six graduate students.

It must be understood at the beginning that these studies are studies and not offices. The ordinary undergraduate student would not be permitted access to the stack building and hence to these studies. It is probable that a number of the faculty men now occupying offices in the east tower of Harper might prefer to move to these studies where they could carry on their research work undisturbed by callers. Some of the rooms in the east tower of Harper could be designated as departmental rooms with a secretary in charge in which various faculty men would keep announced office hours for conference with students. This ought to give considerable relief to the Social Science departments now in the east tower of Harper.

There is ample space to bring the Philosophy books and also the Learned Society books onto the second deck of stack if that seemed desirable. As will be seen from the figures above, no deck of the whole will be more than half full of books and most of them less than 40% filled. This might indicate to some that the whole stack need not be built at once, but I feel very strongly that that would be a mistake. The shifting of books is very expensive both in actual time consumed and much more in wear and tear on bindings. Hence I argue strongly for the entire stack at one installation. This will then give ample growth until every section of the library is double its present size, and then by moving newspapers and documents back to the Harper stacks provide space for another four or five years growth. At a low estimate, the construction of this building as drawn will provide space for ten years of growth at the end of which we will not be as seriously crowded as we are at the present moment. Long before that time of course future building plans can be decided.

One further word. I have discussed this building with the architects from the standpoint of adaptation to other uses. They feel that the building as designed would not be difficult to adapt to whatever use seemed best. That adaptation would provide for a center corridor running north and south with the east line of the corridor on the west line of the longer portion of the building, thus having stairways and elevators at both ends of this corridor. The rooms on either side of this corridor would be of a reasonable depth for museum or other purposes.

Very truly yours,

Edward A. Henry

Head of the Readers' Department.

EAH*LS

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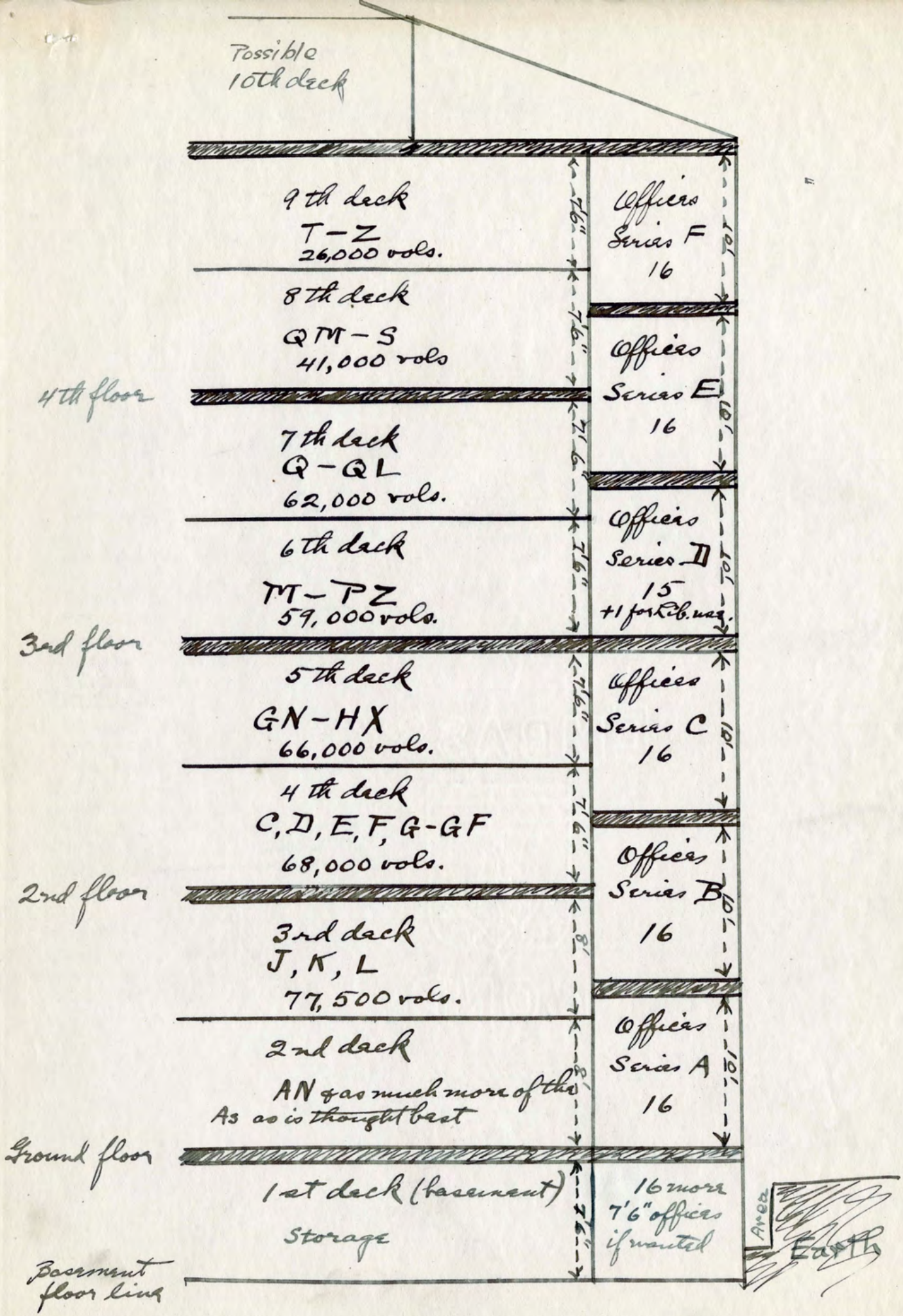
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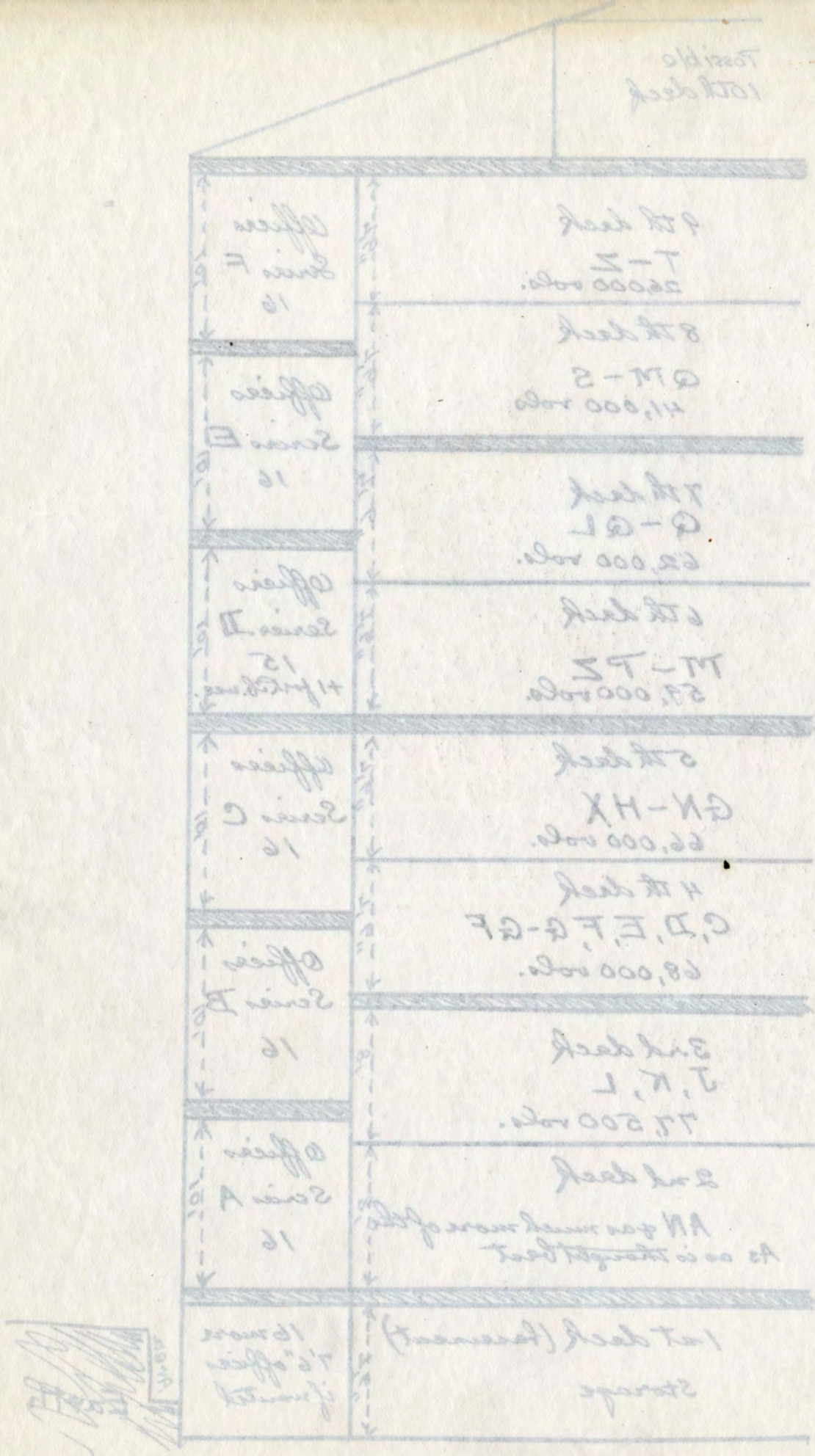
Basement floor line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7th floor
6th floor
5th floor
4th floor
3rd floor
2nd floor
1st floor
Basement floor line

The University of Chicago

The University Libraries

April 12, 1924.

Memorandum to President Burton:

Herewith I hand you a sheet rather roughly drawn to a one-sixteenth scale of the second floor center section of Harper as it is today, and as I am now quite firmly convinced that it should be, with one possible exception to be noted later.

I am convinced of two things, one that it will not be easy to make a direct connection between general stacks on this floor and the new stack building. Two, that we need more space for direct service to the public. Hence I am proposing to make the entire second floor public service.

M 20, the women's suite, will of course stay as it is.

M 22, the shelf-listing room, I propose to assign to the use originally planned for this room, namely a room to which students may take their typewriters and copy materials from books. There is a constant demand for this sort of service. At the present time we send the people to the stacks and Mr. McClusky stows them away in the bay-windows at each end of the building.

M 24, the classification room, I propose to make a room for photos, slides, etc. We might even make a dark room along the inner wall of this room where photographic work could be done. We might also install a photostat machine here.

M 21, will remain the duplicate room as at present.

M 28, now the binding office, I propose to make a room for maps, prints, etc.

Hence, as you see, on this side of the corridor, I am making no building changes except connecting 24, 26, and 28 together.

The present periodical room on the third floor has 1224 square feet of available space. There is some more room here inside the old square desk, but it is not available for readers' use. This room is seriously crowded, and as you know, open to the objection that all bound volumes are below it, at present on two decks, but before very long, we will have to extend the periodical sections to a third deck, hence the following suggestions.

I would remove all partitions between rooms on the south side of the corridor and build a new partition in line with the west wall of M 22. This will give a periodical reading room of 1920 square feet in size occupying what is now a part of the east end of M 21 and all of the present M 23, M 25, and M 27. I would cut a doorway from this room directly into the east tower stacks.

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Hence, as you see, on this side of the corridor, I am making no building changes except connecting 24, 26, and 28 together.

The present periodical room on the third floor has 1224 square feet of available space. There is some more room here inside the old square desk, but it is not available for readers' use. This room is seriously crowded, and as you know, open to the objection that all bound volumes are below it, at present on two decks, but before very long, we will have to extend the periodical sections to a third deck, hence the following suggestions.

I would remove all partitions between rooms on the south side of the corridor and build a new partition in line with the west wall of M 22. This will give a periodical reading room of 1920 square feet in size occupying what is now a part of the east end of M 21 and all of the present M 23, M 25, and M 27. I would cut a doorway from this room directly into the east tower stacks.

This will give us very much needed additional space for readers and put one entire deck of stacks on the same floor as the reading room with the remainder of the books at present one deck above that floor and the extension of the future one deck below that floor. Meanwhile, for the present, the attendant in this proposed periodical room could care for and serve the Learned Society sets now on the first floor mezzanine stacks and sadly neglected.

I think I mentioned to you the other day that it seems to me best to put the office of the Readers' Department in what is now the President's suite, putting here the collection of the fines, issuing of stack permits, complimentary privileges, assignment of student service, and the supervision of the various things for which I am responsible, and most of which involves direct dealing with the public, hence requires quick and easy access by the public.

Accordingly, I am putting the Treasure Room in W 21, now the Acquisition Room, thus making the vaults in that room directly available in the Treasure Room where they will be needed under the new plan. The entrance to this room will center on the stairway coming down from the third floor. I am indicating that the west end of what is now the cataloguing room should be devoted to a special stack for the Treasure Room. This will not be necessary at once, but will be needed later on. I am sure forty feet of space as indicated, double-decked when necessary, will give ample space for the Treasure Room and stack for many years to come. This leaves one room on that floor entirely unassigned. If the Administration Building south of the Midway is not built soon, the Rental Bureau might be moved to this room; using the Treasure Room stacks until they were needed for Rare Books by which time the Administration Building would certainly be here.

E 20, now Professor Small's office, is of course in the east tower. I would leave that available as a seminar room for such seminars as use large amounts of library material and so want to be close to the library, such as those now given by Professor Thompson and Professor Jernegan which have in the past used the manuscript room for the above-mentioned reasons.

I feel that this enlargement of public service space is very much needed and will prove very valuable to the university public. I am not proposing any use for the present periodical reading room. Some demand for that will appear in the near future. If not, it might be connected up as a part of the reading room of the Social Science Building which will be immdediately adjoining.

Very truly yours,

Edward A. Henry

EAH*LS

Head of the Readers' Department.

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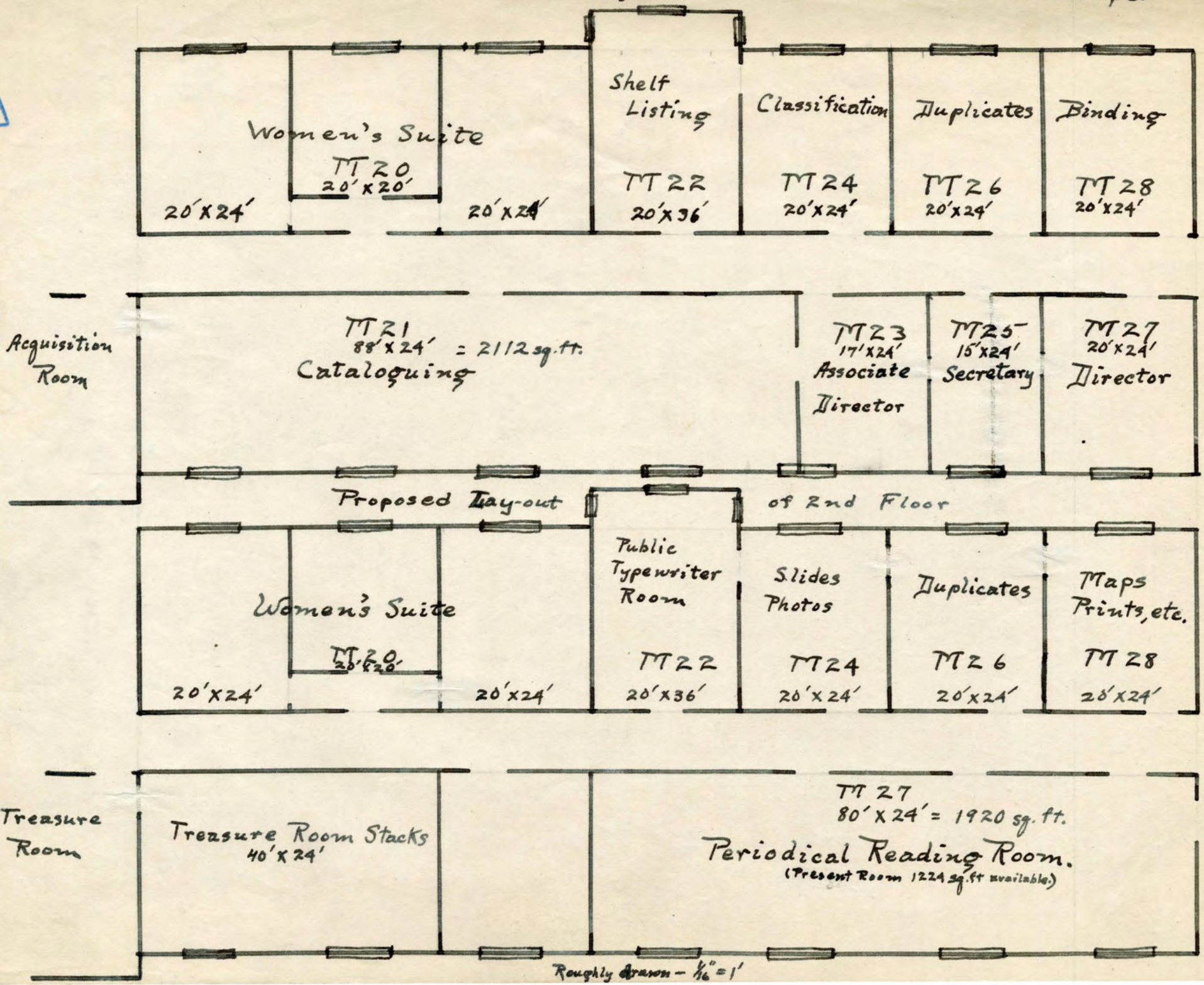
Very truly yours,

Edward A. Henry

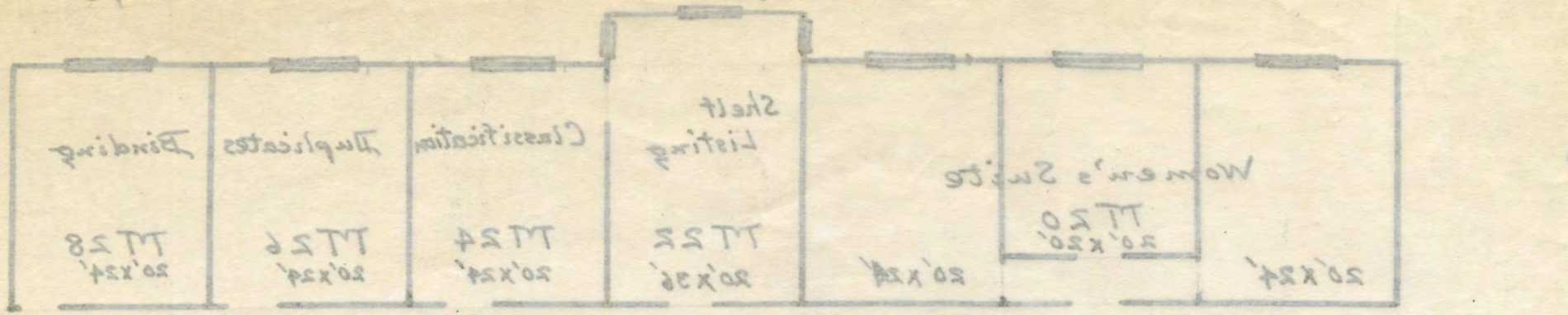
Head of the Readers' Department.

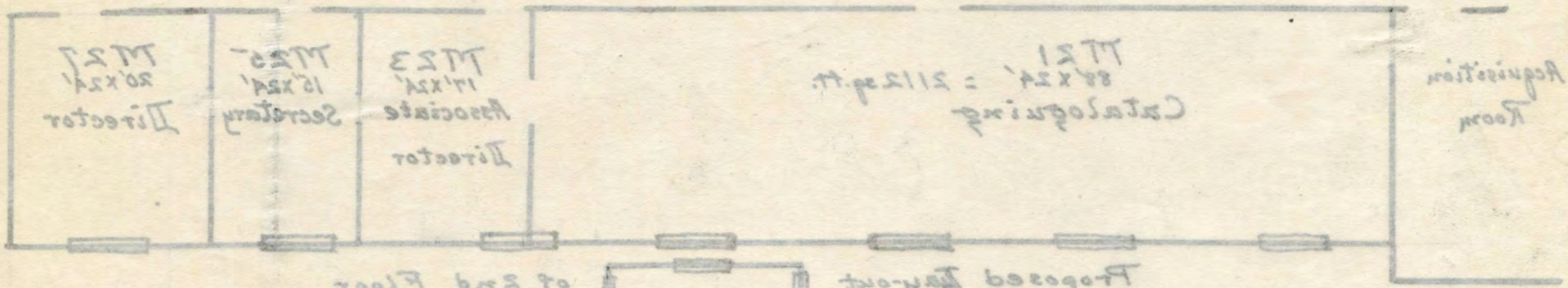
EAH*ls

Present Layout of 2nd floor - centre section Harper

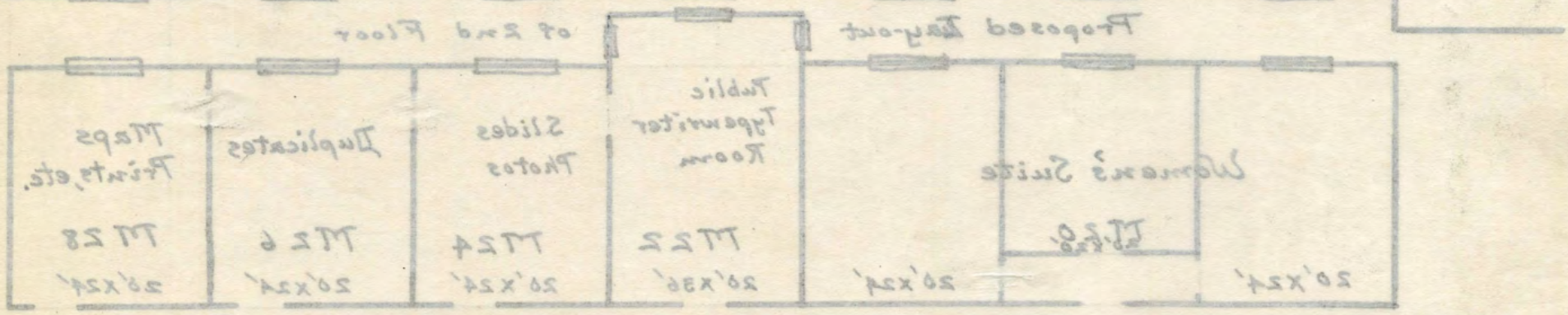


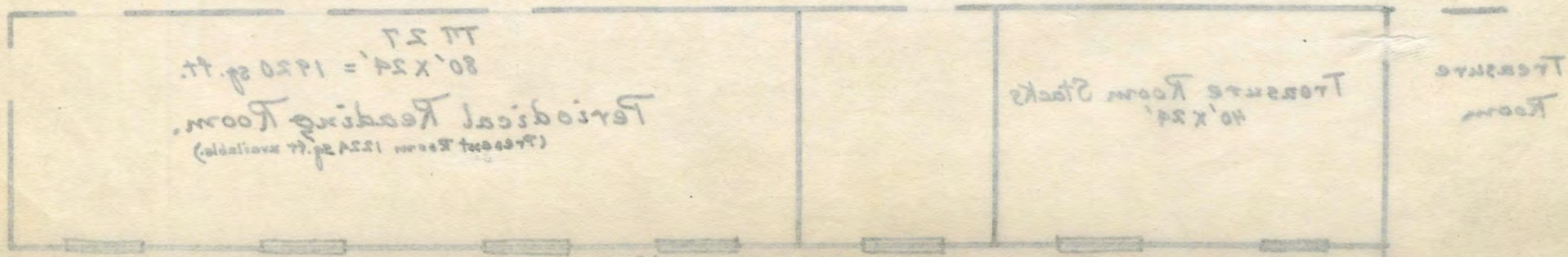
Present Layout of 2nd floor - centre section Interpoor





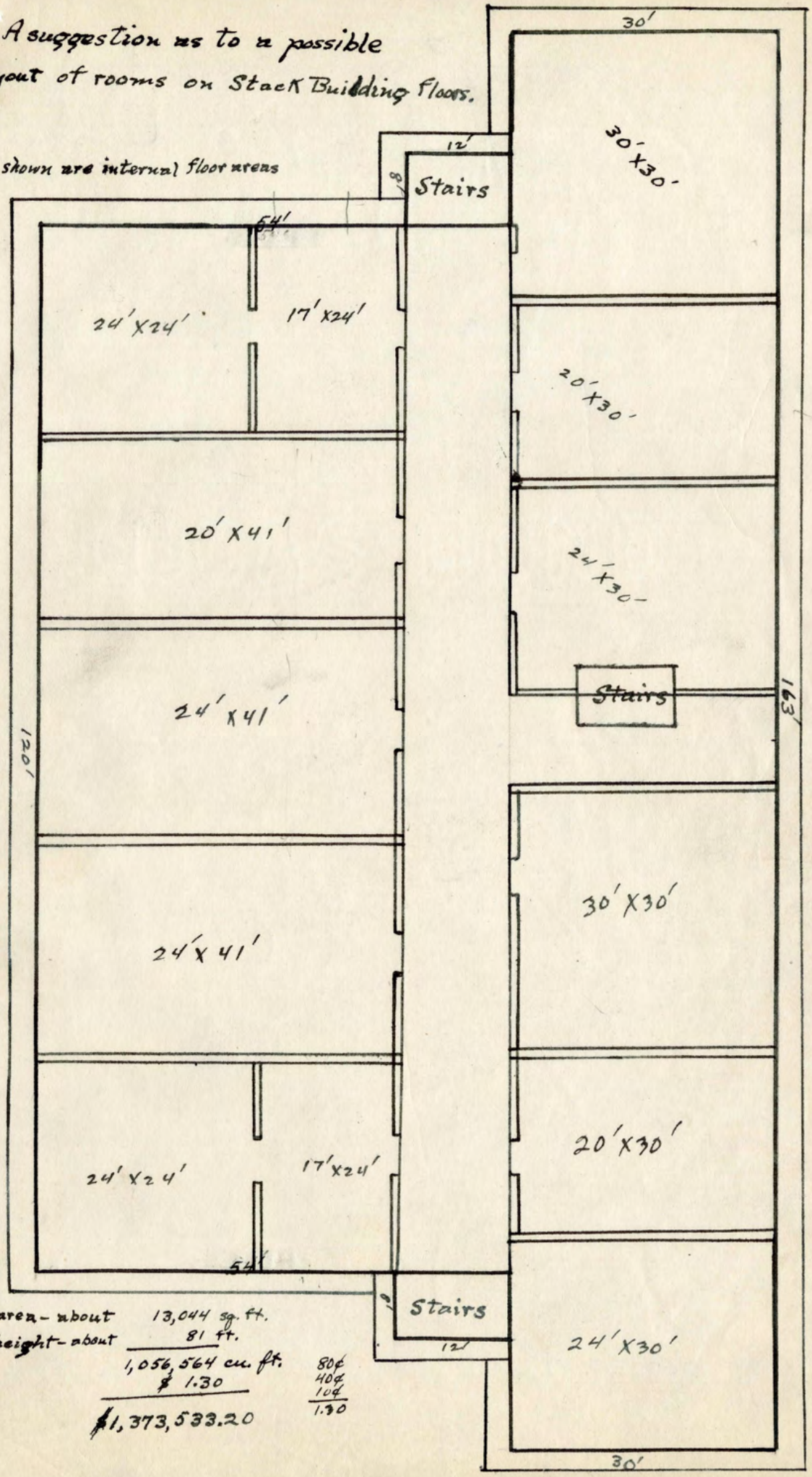
Proposed Lay-out of 2nd Floor





A suggestion as to a possible layout of rooms on Stack Building Floors.

All figures shown are internal floor areas



External ground area - about 13,044 sq. ft.
mean height - about 81 ft.

1,056,564 cu. ft.
$ 1.30

$1,373,533.20

80¢
40¢
10¢
1.30

Fig 1

A suggestion as to a possible layout of rooms on Steel Building floor.

All figures shown are interior floor areas

External ground area - about 13,044 sq. ft.
Mean height - about 81 ft.
1,056,564 cu. ft.
÷ 1.30
80¢
40¢
10¢
1.30
$1,372,533.20

The University of Chicago
The Colleges of Arts, Literature, and Science

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

March 13, 1924

President E.D. Burton
Harper Library

Dear President Burton:

I am sending you herewith a transcript of the discussion of the Library Report which took place at the Quadrangle Club on the evening of March 3.

Very truly yours,

Ernest H. Wilkins

Dean of the Colleges

EHW/ES