



Professor John Provost Wilkinson, B.A., B.L.S., M.L.S., came to Dalhousie on September 1, 1960, to become Director of Libraries. Prof. Wilkinson had three years of training as assistant director of libraries at the University of Nebraska and before that six years as assistant librarian at the Ontario College of Education of the University of Toronto, and one year as assistant reference librarian in the Toronto Public Library.

Prof. Wilkinson is a native of Exeter, England, but nevertheless a life-long Canadian resident. Recently he has been attending the University of Chicago, completing his course and language requirement and the preliminary examination for his doctorate in the Graduate Library School.

"The new reading rooms have been very well received," stated Prof. J. P. Wilkinson, University Librarian, in a recent interview discussing the operations of MacDonald Library.

Faced this year with a critical shortage of space, the library underwent major surgery this summer, most notably with the addition of a mezzanine floor in the Great Hall upstairs. Other changes see the circulation desk transferred to its new location in the entrance hall, the combination of the two old reserve systems into a single reserve room, and the location of catalogues in a central position upstairs.

"Last year the stacks were over 99 per cent full," explained Prof. Wilkinson, "while ideally they should not be filled to more than 75 per cent capacity. The only space available to us was the excess height in the Great Hall, and the entrance hall, which formerly served only as a gathering place."

With the new additions, capacity in the reading room shelves is doubled, and reader space has increased by one-third. It is hoped that the new additions will ease the pressure on library facilities for at least another year. Also, because of their interrelation, it was felt necessary to bring the humanities and social sciences divisions closer together.

The old Humanities Reading Room has been converted to a Reading Lounge, where smoking is permitted. It will soon be equipped with couches, where students can relax and read at pleasure.

RESERVE SYSTEM CHANGED

Borrowing procedure has changed somewhat this year, particularly at the reserve desk. "We've scrapped the old three-hour borrowing periods," says Prof. Wilkinson, "and have instituted two periods daily during which books may be taken out of reserve." The first period extends

from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30, while the second is from 3:30 to 10:30 the next morning. "Moreover, we will now take reservations on books for overnight charge-outs, if they are picked up by 6:30 p.m.," the Librarian adds.

STIFFER FINES ON RESERVES

"We've tightened up on fines,"

states Prof. Wilkinson. On reserve books, the damages amount to 25c per hour, while three-day and fourteen-day reserves incur a fine of \$10c per day.

"We're making it tougher on the delinquent who keeps out books which are presumably in highest demand. On the larger charge-outs, late returns I feel are primarily due to forgetfulness," thinks the Librarian.

AUTOMATION COMES

The library plans soon to install a Gaylord Automatic Charge-Out machine. Using this marvel, every student is supplied with a card which has his own number on it, and the machine imprints information from the card onto the charge-out slip. Using this method, processing time per book is cut to about four seconds, which it is hoped will largely eliminate congestion, especially at the reserve desk, which is frequently overcrowded at present.

NEW LIBRARY COMING?

Commenting on long-range plans for the library system at Dalhousie, Prof. Wilkinson hopes that by 1967 plans will have been completed for a major extension to the present building and a complete renovation of the old quarters — either this, or, the construction of an entirely new building.

"Ideally, the library should be close to the proposed Students' Union Building," says Prof. Wilkinson, "because it is an integral and necessary part of student life."

MULTIPLE BOOKS TO BE REDUCED

Prof. Wilkinson confirmed

rumours that the library hopes to curtail the practise of obtaining a large number of copies of books when requested by professors for use as supplementary texts in courses. He cited three reasons for proposing such a policy:

1) The library is desperately short of storage space, and multiple copies restrict the number of titles which can be housed;

2) Multiple copies are expensive. It costs the library an estimated \$1.20 to process a book from the time it is ordered until it is available on the shelves, over and above a book's purchase price;

3) The library is not running competition with the bookstore. Where there are cheap paperbacks available, students should be required to buy these books, rather than to rely on the library procuring twenty or thirty copies.

"We feel very strongly that an adequately supported and adequately operated bookstore should be set up on campus, not only to give students their texts but also paperbacks for incidental reading."

It is the library's policy to have a copy of every book necessary for research and studying purposes "but students should own the books which they will use

heavily and consistently throughout the year."

Discussing the main stacks which are exclusive of only the fourth year graduate students, Professor Wilkinson stated that the stacks were not as accessible or useful to the first and second the situation is probably best be-year students but he added that cause: 1) there are not enough carrel facilities for graduate students and their stack tables must be kept isolated. 2) There are over 135,000 catalogue titles in the library and only a small percentage of these books are relevant to first and second year courses.

"It doesn't help a freshman to put him into a situation where he hasn't got the first inkling of where to "go", says Professor Wilkinson. "Besides, the books in the RR's were selected by faculties themselves as sound and relative to the junior courses."

The MacDonald library is a burgeoning operation. It has 135,000 titles catalogued, subscribes to 1230 periodicals and added 7251 new books last year alone. In 1960-61 by comparison, there were 116,300 books and 651 current periodicals. Expenditures last year totaled 47,395 dollars for books and periodicals a considerable jump from the 21,661 spent in 1960-61. Also staff has risen from 15 in the former year to 31 this year.



Library's inner Sanctum: The Stacks

Library improved but more space needed



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