

May 10, 1929

Reverend J.H. Lightbourn,  
105 Decarie Boulevard,  
N.D.G.

Dear Sir:-

I have your letters of April 19th and 22nd concerning the formation of a Modern Language Association.

I regret that I cannot see how the University can foster the scheme as outlined. Any good instructor in Modern Languages must charge a proper price for his services. This must be met from payments made by the students, and you would therefore save nothing by adding a new association with its own teachers, when the Universities provide all the instruction that could be desired. Persons desirous of taking up the study of modern languages who do not wish to become undergraduates at a University can follow Extension and Extra-Mural classes.

I might point out that if you had one hundred members in your association, your proposed charge of \$1.00 per annum would only provide about six lectures at the usual fee paid to lecturers.

As far as the phonograph systems are concerned, these are already organized by various institutions in Canada and England; anyone interested has only to write for them and pay the fee. I do not know whether you could convince the Department of Romance Languages here that the system is a good one. Personally I must confess that I have no faith in it whatever and could not conscientiously co-operate in any such scheme.

I do not want you to think that I am not anxious to further the work of modern language study. If you wish to organize a special group in Montreal, the University would be only too glad