

# The University of British Columbia



THE LIBRARY  
JOHN RIDINGTON, LIBRARIAN

VANCOUVER, CANADA

16th December 1926.

Principal Sir Arthur Currie,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

This Library has recently received a copy of the "McGill Honour Roll".

There is no indication in the book as to author, or Committee of publication. The statement on the title page is, "Published by McGill University, in honour of those who served in the Great War". In the absence of more specific information I am, therefore, acknowledging this appreciated gift to yourself, as Principal, and would like you to pass on the thanks of this University to those more immediately responsible.

This Library is now in possession of a goodly number of such memorial volumes, from both Canadian and English universities. I do not think, however, that we have received any that is as beautiful as the one issued in memory of McGill's student body. Whoever is responsible for its production is to be congratulated. It is a worthy memorial of a splendid record.

That over three thousand men should have enlisted, and that between three hundred and four hundred should have given up their lives while in military service, is a fact that should at once sober and inspire all the present and future sons of McGill. I remember being on your Campus in the autumn of 1915, coming up after my course at the Library School to meet your then Librarian, Mr. Gould, and to look over your Library. The Campus had been transformed into a drill ground - the lawns were trampled by marching feet; little squads of men were being instructed in bayonet practice; and all sorts of military training activities were in progress. These young fellows were even then preparing "To give up the years to be, Of comfort and of joy" - and now many of them lie in Flanders field. The pathos, the tragedy, the stupidity of it all! When will we learn "How good and pleasant a thing it is for men to dwell together in peace and unity"? But the insensate and intrinsic folly of war detracts no whit from the heroism of those who voluntarily take its risks. And we who remain do well to do proud and tender honour to the memory of all who fell in perhaps one of the most necessary, as it was beyond question the greatest, war of all times.