

6  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

RAMSAY TRAQUAIR,

A. R. I. B. A.

PROFESSOR

15 Dec 1921

Sir Arthur Currie, L.L.D., K.C.M.G.  
Principal of McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur Currie.

In case the University is considering further building, I wish to lay before you the claims of the Architectural Staff of the University for professional employment.

In other Universities it is customary, to my personal knowledge, to give such employment to architect members of the staff on the grounds that it is desirable that the teachers of Architecture should be kept in active touch with the practical side of their profession and that this is best done by having them engage to some extent in the design and erection of building.

McGill University has on her Staff four architects, Professor Nobbs, Mr W?E.Carless, Mr P. Turner and myself. We are all fully qualified architects, Fellowa of the Royal Institute of British Architects and Members of the Province of Quebed Architectural Association. Professor Nobbs and Mr Turner are at present in practice. Mr Carless and myself were for many years in practice, previous to taking up teaching.

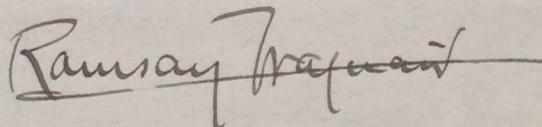
Professor Nobbs and Mr Carless both served in the war. Mr Carless served four years overseas, of which two and a half were spent at the Front, in the Artist Rifles, the Canadian Engineers and the Canadian

2.  
Pioneers. He enlisted in the Ranks and rose to the rank of Captain. He was awarded the O.B.E. Mr Carless undoubtedly sacrificed his professional chances by his services in the army.

It has been a satisfaction to the Staff of this Department to see work done for the University by Professor Nobbs, Personally I may be allowed to express my admiration of the new wing to the Library at present being erected by him. It seems admirably in harmony with the old building. So long as a considerable amount of work for the University was being done by Prof. Nobbs the Staff of the Department felt that the general principle was being preserved, and it must be remembered that Prof. Nobbs is doing valuable teaching work at a nominal salary.

I understand that applications for employment as architect are being made to you and to the Governors by others. It is on this account that I write this letter as I consider that it is only due to the Staff of this Department that their claims should be presented.

yours faithfully.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ramsay Traquair", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MacDonald Professor of Architecture  
McGill University

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FOUNDED 1834. INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTERS IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF KING WILLIAM IV.,  
FIFTIETH VICTORIA, AND EIGHTH EDWARD VII.

90th Session

1923-1924

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DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

4 Nov 1924

RAMSAY TRAQUAIR

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PROFESSORS

Sir Arthur Currie.

Principal. McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I enclose a list of the officials of the Royal Institute of British Architects, including the Council and the Board of Architectural Education, as arranged during our conversation this morning.

yours faithfully

*Ramsay Traquair*

*I have crossed out some names which I know could be of no value to us.*

November 5th, 1924.

Sir Robert Falconer, K.C.M.G.,  
President, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, Ont.

Dear Sir Robert:-

I hear very unofficially that the Boston School of Technology is seeking recognition from the Royal Institute of British Architects for its Canadian graduates. At the present time no school outside the British Empire is recognized by the Royal Institute.

I do not know how you feel about this and I doubt as well the propriety of making any formal protest. At the same time, we in Canada are trying to build up schools of Architecture. We have at our disposal nothing like the resources available in the American Schools and if the Royal Institute grants to any American school the recognition extended to us in Canada it places us under a further handicap. Of course, if a student regards the Boston School as better than any in Canada it is his privilege to go there, but if he chooses to go and becomes a graduate of that school, I do not think the Royal Institute should extend to him the same privileges as if he graduated from a British school.

I thought if you would join me we might indirectly bring some pressure to bear upon the officers of the Royal Institute not to begin to extend these privileges to American schools.

Yours faithfully,

President's Office.



November 14th, 1924

Principal Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

Please excuse me for not having answered your letter of the 5th November before this, but I was in doubt as to what answer to send, and I have talked the matter over with one or two. I quite agree with you as to the propriety of not making a formal protest against any action that the Royal Institute of British Architects may take, for I think that it is not at all unlikely that in answering any application from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, if they felt they had to refuse, they would definitely put the blame on us, and that would be most unfortunate. All the distance that I think it would be wise to go would be to request that they should not put us at a disadvantage by giving privileges to American Institutions such as they will not give to us.

I think also that this should be communicated to them indirectly. If any one in England who knows our situation has a chance of speaking to an influential member of the Council of the Royal Institute of British Architects he might prevent any harmful discrimination. Of course there is always the danger of a representative going farther than one would have gone oneself. Had Mr. Noxon, the Agent-General of Ontario, been in London at present we might have communicated with him, but he is in Japan and may not be back for some months. I am afraid I am at a loss to suggest any one else. The more I have thought of it the more I have considered it unwise to make any formal representations.

I am sorry that I am not able to give you a more satisfactory  
opinion in this matter.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

*Rohd Palmer*

President.

February 14th, 1925.

Professor P. E. Nobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

My dear Professor Nobbs:-

of February 9th.

Thank you for your letter

I am delighted to see that  
the stand taken by you personally, and which you  
advised me on behalf of the University to take, has  
been amply justified. All's well that ends well.

Yours faithfully,

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

February 9, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir Arthur,

You will recollect my having called your attention last September to an article by a Mr. Bradshaw, in the R.I.B.A. Journal of August 16th, the tone of which was singularly out of harmony with the usual amenity of that periodical, and in which certain schools of architecture, ours among them, were assailed, and certain rather odious comparisons instituted. This matter may now be regarded closed, the last issue of the R.I.B.A. Journal containing a general disclaimer of editorial responsibility for signed articles.

I have, during the last few months, been the recipient of letters from all concerned - the Secretary R.I.B.A., the Editor of the Journal, the author of the article and the Chairman of the Education Board. These are of a very personal and friendly character. It appears that what happened was, that after the R.I.B.A. International Conference on Education was over, every one was tired and went on holiday, and Mr. Bradshaw's article was hurriedly prepared, and was seen by none but himself till printed.

Mr. Curtis Green, the Chairman of the Board of Architectural Education, in a letter of 22nd December, 1924, says: "If you desire to do so, I shall be very glad for you to state that you have received an assurance from the Chairman of the Board of Architectural Education that the

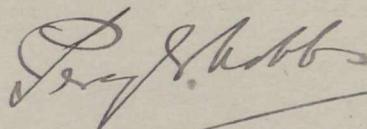
Sir Arthur Currie..... Page #2

Feb.9/25

"article in question was, like all other signed  
articles, clearly unofficial, and merely an ex-  
pression of the personal views of the writer."

I am,  
Yours very truly,

PEN /C

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'P.E.N.', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

P. S. The article which I withdrew from the  
R.I.B.A. Journal will appear in the Journal of  
the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada,  
next issue. It will reach all Canadian ar-  
chitects, instead of only a few.

P.E.N.

9 April 1925

ST MICHAEL'S  
REIGATE

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

On behalf of other  
members of the family equally  
with myself I thank you  
most sincerely for the  
kind words of your letter  
about my dear brother,  
S. H. Cappon, & for the  
proof they afford that  
his memory is still

warmly cherished at  
McGill - as in many  
other places & communi-  
ties. The testimony  
that has reached us  
from all directions of  
the affection & admir-  
ation he inspired is  
extraordinarily impressive

& unanimous.

You ask me about  
our family relationships.  
"Tommy" Capper of the  
7<sup>th</sup>, Durwin & his elder  
brother "Jack", of the  
24<sup>th</sup>, who is happily  
still living, are my  
Cousins - distant in  
degree but close in

intimacy & family feeling.  
I stayed with "Tommy" when  
he was a Professor at the  
Staff College, many years  
ago, & saw him several  
times when he was in  
hospital at Millbank before  
he went out the second  
time, to resume his ~~old~~  
former Divisional Command.

Believe me

Yours & faithfully

Sir A. W. Currie  
G.C.M.G., K.C.S.

J. B. Apper

March 26, 1925.

J.B. Capper, Esq.,  
St. Michael's,  
Reigate, Surrey.

Dear Mr. Capper:-

It was with very great regret that we heard of the death of your brother, our original professor of Architecture. Mr. Capper's work in our Architectural Department has left an enduring mark, not only in the department itself, but in the work of our many graduates who served under him.

His interests at McGill were not confined to his own Faculty. He gave some of our first illustrated public lectures and he won the hearts of the undergraduates by his interest in athletics and in their other activities. It was a real loss when he left us in 1903.

It is more than gratifying to the University to know that he looked back to his stay here with pleasure, and I can say with certainty that when we receive the fund provided from his estate, we shall regard it as a share of our heritage in which we may feel particular pride.

I am, as you request, giving no publicity to the matter until hearing further from you.

With kind regards

John Brainerd Capper.

St. Michael's.  
Reigate.

S. MICHAELS  
REAR  
SURREY

9 March, 1925.

Dear Sir,

My brother Stewart Henbest Capper, whose sudden death in Egypt on Jan. 8 last has been a great loss to many besides those of his own family, in the course of a remarkable career, held the Chair of Architecture at McGill for seven years, from 1896 to 1903, as the first Macdonald Professor of this subject in the University. From Montreal he went to Manchester University, again as the first occupant of the newly founded Chair of Architecture. In both places he did distinguished pioneer work and gave the first impulse to an educational movement which has continued to make progress since his day. It is <sup>in</sup> connexion with this subject that, as executor of my Brother's will (jointly with the Royal Exchange Assurance of London), ~~that~~ I have occasion to write to you; for he cherished until the close of his life the memory of his association with the two Universities on whose staff he had served, and, subject to certain family life interests, some of which we hope will in the nature of things endure for a great many years, he has directed that his residuary estate shall ultimately be divided between them for the benefit of their Architectural departments. The words of the will are as follows:-

" . . . on the determination of the trusts hereinbefore declared and contained my Trustees shall hold the said trust premises constituting or representing my residuary estate and the income thereof IN TRUST to divide the same equally between the McGill University of Montreal Canada and the Victoria University of Manchester for the benefit in each case of the Departments of Architecture of such Universities in the hope that each Uni-

2.

versity will see its way to utilise the money in some way that will associate my name and tenure of the chair of Architecture with this gift but such expression of my hope is not to create any trust or legal obligation and I declare that the receipt of the Treasurer or other proper officer for the time being of each of the said Universities shall discharge my Trustees."

The will has not yet been proved, my brother's residence and death in Egypt having introduced complications which cause delay, and I therefore ask you to be kind enough, for the present, to keep this bequest from publicity; but I have thought it right to give you notice of it in advance. The estate is of modest proportions, but I should hope that the moiety of the residue which will go to each University <sup>will</sup> ~~would~~ prove to be not less, at any rate, than between £4,000 and £5,000.

In case the facts of my Brother's life may not be familiar to you and others at McGill, although there must be some who remember him, I enclose a cutting of the obituary notice which appeared in THE TIMES (London) on Jan. 10, 1925.

I am, dear sir,

Yours faithfully,



General Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., LL.D, &c.  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University, Montreal.

6  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

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PROFESSOR

MONTREAL 12 December 1921

Sir Arthur Currie. GCMG &c  
Principal, McGill University

Dear Sir Arthur Currie,

I send a copy of a memorial on the supply of plaster Casts for educational purposes. This is one of the results of a conference of University Schools of Architecture held in Toronto in October last.

It is proposed to circulate this amongst all the Art and Architectural Schools, the Museums and other bodies concerned in Art education in Canada, and to some extent in the U.S.A. for signature and approval. If, as we believe will be the case, there is an immediate support, it is proposed to send the memorial to The Canadian and British Governments, and <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ the two great English Museums, in the hopes that it may influence their action.

I may say that I have already assurance that action of this kind on our side will be welcome to the authorities of the Victoria and Albert Museum, and that it will receive serious consideration.

I do not wish to take further steps without the fullest knowledge and approval of the University, and on that account send you this copy, which is a draft only, for your approval.

yours faithfully

*Ramsay Traquair*

Draft

## MEMORANDUM

On the supply of CASTS OF ARCHITECTURE and the ALLIED ARTS to the Architectural Schools and Museums of Canada, from the British National Museums.

**Inception.** At a meeting of Representatives of the University Schools of Architecture in Canada, held in Toronto in October 1921, it was resolved to prepare a memorandum on the need for plaster casts of Architecture and the Allied arts in the Art and Architectural Schools and the Museums of Canada, with particular reference to English Architecture and to the collections in the National Museums in London, and on the desirability of organising the supply of casts of British Art for the benefit of Art education throughout the Empire.

### Previous Proposals.

This need has been felt for many years past. In 1910 proposals were made for the formation of a "Type Collection of British Art" to include casts of Architecture and Architectural Details from buildings in Great Britain. These were to be sold to Museums and Schools of Architecture throughout the world. The proposals were elaborated in a "Report on a Type Collection of British Art" of May 10th 1911 from Professor P.E. Nobbs of McGill University Montreal, to Sir Cecil Smith, Victoria and Albert Museum.

A letter in support of the proposals from the principal Architectural Schools of the United States contains the following statement:-

" At present Greek, Italian, German and French Architecture, and even the Architecture of such small countries as Belgium and Holland, is adequately illustrated by casts which are in the market and can be obtained for the most part without Great difficulty, but there are no adequate casts of English Architecture. The fragments in the Architectural Museum in London are too small to be of any great value and the casts themselves are for the most part poor and not for a moment to be compared with the splendid work done in France, Belgium

and Germany.

This letter was signed by representatives of the following Schools of Architecture:- Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Columbia University, University of Pennsylvania, Cornell University, University of ~~Kansas~~ Illinois, Syracuse University, Art Institute of Chicago, Chicago School of Architecture, University of Michigan, Washington University, St Louis.

Present  
Conditions.

These proposals did not result in any action. The Schools of Art and Architecture and the Museums in Canada and in the United States are still very poorly supplied with casts of English Art, or of objects in the English Museums. It is extremely difficult to obtain any such casts, although casts of the art of other countries can be obtained with no great difficulty.

Here in Canada, where a national art has not yet arisen, casts are of great importance, both for the technical education of the Architect and craftsman, and for the general instruction of the public. Excluding classic Greek and Roman art, the casts at present obtainable lead the public, as well as the student, to imagine that English art and architecture are negligible and unworthy of study. Nothing has been done to open to the world the treasures of British Art.

France, on the other hand has organised, in the Museum of the Trocadero, a great department for the encouragement of the French Tradition in Art. By the casting department of the Louvre, she allows other countries to participate in her Art collections. The high reputation and widespread influence of French art in America, as indeed throughout the world, must to some extent be attributed to this wise and farseeing policy.

Great Britain has national collections inferior to none, and a national art which should be a national pride. Her people are spread widely over the world Yet nothing has been done to make known to the British

people the value of British art. We would urge that something should be done to make the national art treasures available to all citizens of the Empire, in so far as this can be done by casts and publications.

**Present Supply.**

The present sources of supply are, firstly:-

**France.**

The Trocadere Museum in Paris, a great museum of Architecture and sculpture, mainly French. Here most excellent casts may be obtained. This collection has also been published in photogravure in four folio volumes.

The Museum of the Louvre has a cast department for the supply of casts of objects in the collections.

**Germany.**

The Berlin Museums have a department for the sale of casts. The authorities are willing to consider the preparation of casts of any suitable object, even if the moulds are not already made. Previous to the war the system of the Berlin museums was possibly the best in Europe.

**Italy.**

Good casts can be obtained of Italian Art from such firms as De Angelis, or Lelli, and from the museums at Rome and Florence.

**U.S.A.**

Messrs Casseri of New York have a fair collection of casts, mainly selected for use in the elementary schools. The demand for casts in the U.S.A. is very great and the supply at present comes from all parts of Europe and covers all branches of art, excepting English. The U.S.A. would probably be a large purchaser of good casts of English art.

**Great Britain.**

It was formerly possible to obtain casts of a limited number of classic and renaissance examples from Messrs Brunacci in London. Many of these were from old moulds and were lacking in sharpness. This firm has apparently been taken under government control and recent efforts to obtain casts from them have met with no success.

Neither the British Museum nor the Victoria and Albert Museum has a cast department.

At present therefore the English national museums are available only to the few who can afford to visit and to study in London, and English national art can only be studied by those who can travel in England. The vast majority of the citizens of the British Empire are unable to do this and are therefore shut out from the benefits to be obtained from such study. The technical education of the artist, the architect and the craftsman outside London must be conducted without the help of the national art collections of his motherland and must be based on foreign examples.

Present needs.

The present needs are:-

(1) Casts of English architecture, sculpture and architectural ornament for sale to museums and educational institutions. There is at present a collection of such casts in the Victoria and Albert Museum, and this should be increased by the addition of casts from important English buildings of all periods.

Very fully detailed proposals for such a collection were made in the report from Professor Hobbs to Sir Cecil Smith of May 10th 1911.

(2) Casts of suitable objects in the British Museum and in the Victoria and Albert Museum.

First class casts, made from fresh moulds are essential. The few casts at present obtainable are of poor quality.

(3) Original examples of good design and workmanship in wood, iron, stained glass, metal finishing, plaster and similar crafts. Old houses are being continually broken up and a great deal of suitable material is constantly in the market. Many pieces which are not of sufficient importance for the national museums would be of great value to the schools in Canada. These cannot afford to have a purchasing agent in London and it is suggested that the museums might be able to assist in obtaining examples.

(4) The publication in photogravure of the principal

collections of Architecture, sculpture and craftsmanship in the national museums.

(5) An illustrated catalogue of the casts for sale. This should be circulated as widely as possible.

Means of supply.

It is not attempted here to lay down any absolute system for supplying these needs. This can only be done by those conversant with the organisation and methods of the national museums. The following suggestions are offered.

(1) The principle should be accepted that it is <sup>one</sup> ~~a~~ part of the functions of the national museums to ~~discuss~~ provide the means for a knowledge of British Art throughout the Empire.

(2) A Department of Casts should be formed in each of the national museums for the supply of casts of objects in that Museum. This is at present done in the principal European museums.

(3) A cast museum should be formed, on the lines of the Trocadero Museum, for the supply of casts of English Art.

Expense.

It is believed that the demand for casts would be extensive, not only in the Dependencies and Dominions of the Empire, but also in the United States of America.

The institution would therefore be partly self supporting.

6  
Arch

August  
Twenty-second  
1922.

Kenneth M. Campbell, Esq.,  
1019 Canada Cement Building,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your  
letter of August 21st.

Your letter will be placed on file  
and should an opportunity arise I will let you know.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

21<sup>st</sup> August 1911.

General Sir Arthur Currie K.C.B.

McGill University.

Dear Sir:- My absence from the  
City has prevented my  
complying earlier with your  
request, that I send you  
my address in case your  
should see fit to use my  
services for the Architectural  
work of the University.

As I mentioned to you,  
during the interview you  
so kindly granted me on  
Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup>, I graduated

7.  
from McGill in 1911. My  
subsequent training has  
been in the office of Messrs.  
Robb and Hyde and Messrs.  
Baron and Blackader of  
Montreal and Sir Aston  
Webb of London, England.

I trust, Sir, that I may  
be given an opportunity  
to do some of the future  
work. I  
Thankfully yours.

Kenneth Macpherson.

1019 Canada Cement Bldg.

City.

Telephone. Westown 6483.

April  
Eighteenth  
1923.

Dr. F. D. Adams,  
Dean, Faculty of Applied Science,  
McGill University.

My dear Dean:-

With reference to the memorandum left with me yesterday regarding 1st Year History in the Department of Architecture, I have come to the following conclusions:-

(1). That the Faculty of Applied Science were justified in concluding that a separate examination paper in History would be provided for the students in Architecture. Apparently a discussion over this has been going on for a long time, largely between Dr. Porter, representing the Faculty of Applied Science, and Professor Williams, the Head of the History Department. Probably better results would have been obtained had the Deans of the Faculties concerned taken up the matter at the start. I gathered also that when an agreement was found impossible the matter was brought up in the Arts Faculty and it, as a body, decided to support the Head of the History Department.

(2) I am not in agreement with that decision. I believe that the History Department might very well have provided the two papers this year and then raised the question as to the practice to be followed in future years. However, the decision has been made and I think it unwise to over-rule that decision, solely on the grounds of policy. Dr. Porter has threatened the Arts Faculty with retaliation, so that we have a regrettable state of affairs existing. If I over-ride the decision of the Arts Faculty the irritation will be increased. If I do not Science will feel that faith has not been kept with it.

Dr. F. D. Adams

- 2 -

(3). I conclude also that it would be no great hardship for the few students in Architecture to write on the paper in History on May 9th at Macdonald College. I think the examiner would take into consideration that they have been unable to complete the course in its entirety. I do not think the three hours given up for the purpose of writing the paper would interfere very much with their other work out there and if they cannot retain the knowledge of their subject until May 9th they deserve to fail. However, apparently, Applied Science does not agree with such a suggestion, and so, for this year, I would suggest to you that you take the record of their progress throughout the year as furnished by Professor Waugh and that you pass them or plough them as you see fit.

Before examination time comes round again I shall take up the question and have the University policy established as to the relations between Faculties in connection with such matters. Apparently it arises between Arts and Medicine and there should be a University policy.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

April 17th.1923.

MEMORANDUM with reference to the sessional examination in First Year HISTORY in the Department of Architecture of the Faculty of Applied Science.

-----

(1) For many years a special course in General History was given by the Department of History to students of the 1st. Year in the Department of Architecture in the Faculty of Applied Science.

(2) More recently the Department of History represented that on account of their small staff it was found very difficult to provide this course, and the request was made that the students of the 1st. Year in Architecture should take the regular 1st. Year Arts course in General History.

The Faculty of Applied Science agreed to this for the purpose of accommodating the Department of History, although the course in question did not meet the needs of the students in Architecture nearly so well as that which it replaced.

(3) At a meeting of Corporation held on June 16th.1920, the Faculty of Arts was requested by the Board of Governors to lengthen their academic year by one month. This request was referred to the Faculty of Arts for consideration and report.

(4) At the Corporation meeting held on December 8th.1920 the Faculty of Arts reported in favour of lengthening their academic session by two weeks, but stated that in so doing many difficulties would arise in connection with courses which were taken jointly by students of the Faculty of Arts and of other Faculties.

This report of the Faculty of Arts was sent down to all the other Faculties for their consideration.

(5) At a meeting of Corporation held on February 9th.1921 all the other Faculties reported on the proposal of the Faculty of Arts. The various difficulties which would result from the lengthening of the Arts session were considered and commented upon. The Faculty of Applied Science in its report stated that these difficulties could be overcome "the only inconvenience of any account would be the setting of two examination papers" in each

of these subjects which are taken jointly by the students of the two Faculties. The History course in question was specifically mentioned as one of these subjects.

In view of these reports the whole question was again remitted to the Faculty of Arts for consideration and report.

(6) At a meeting of the Corporation held on April 13th. 1921 the Faculty of Arts having considered these reports from the other Faculties, together with the difficulties which must necessarily be met "reaffirmed its former decision" and recommended that the academic year of the Faculty of Arts be lengthened by continuing their lectures until the end of April.

This was adopted by Corporation and the Arts session was ordered to be lengthened.

(7) All the Professors having joint courses (with the exception of Professor Basil Williams) when requested to prepare separate examination papers for the students of the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Applied Science - as it was pointed out at Corporation would be necessary - at once supplied the papers which are now being printed. Professor Williams, however, in whose Department the course of 1st. Year History was taken by the students in Architecture, referred this request to the Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty of Arts refused to allow a separate paper to be prepared for the students in the Department of Architecture.

(8) The examination in History for the Department of Architecture is scheduled for April 25th. A.M. - that for the Faculty of Arts is scheduled for May 9th.

(9) The Faculty of Applied Science now asks for a separate *papers* examination in History to be taken by the students of the Department of Architecture on the morning of April 25th., as required by the action of Corporation.

*for the* (10) On May 9th. the students in Architecture are engaged in the regular work of their Summer School in Surveying at Macdonald College. They work there in a group of students which is broken up by the absence of any of its members. Furthermore,

they have not taken the whole course of lectures on which the Arts students are examined, and they are in every way entitled to a separate examination paper.

(11) The decision with reference to this case involves big future issues. If Professors having joint courses are not to prepare separate papers it will be necessary next year, and in all subsequent sessions, to provide many additional courses of lectures which may be given to students of the two Faculties separately. All this can be readily avoided and a very large expenditure of money saved by the simple expedient of the preparation of separate examinations papers for the students of the two Faculties who are taking these joint courses.

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE

McGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

August 27 1923.

RAMSAY TRAQUAIR

F. R. I. B. A.

W. E. CARLESS

F. R. I. B. A.

PROFESSORS

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G. L.L.D.  
Principal of McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur,

I wish to thank the University very sincerely for the honour which they have done me in conferring on me the Degree of M.A. honoris causa.

It will make a very real difference to me to feel that I am an alumnus of the University in which I have the pleasure of teaching. I shall feel all the more proud of my school in the feeling that I am not only a teacher but also a member in it.

I remain.

yours faithfully

Ramsay Traquair

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

March 27, 1924.

Sir Arthur W. Currie,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Your kindly reproof regarding my style and title in connection with my recent paper at the R.I.B.A., I take as a pretty compliment. It was, I think, in the interest of our professional life here that it appeared as it did.

As I am unable to return to London to attend the International Congress on Architectural Education in July, the R.I.B.A. have done me the honour of asking for a general exposition of my views, to be published in the R.I.B.A. Journal just before the Congress. That paper will be signed in my quality as a Professor of McGill. It will represent my individual opinions only.

Yours very truly,

*Percy Nobbs*

PEN/C

*P.S.*

*In the course of architectural articles from my pen published in American & English magazines since the war my style is "Percy S. Nobbs, M.A."*

*PEN*

March 26th, 1924.

Professor P. E. Nobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Nobbs:-

I am returning herewith the two numbers of the Journal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, which you were good enough to leave with me.

I read your paper with a great deal of interest. If I have any criticism to offer it is that the papers are reported as having been given by 'Percy E. Nobbs, etc., President of the Province of Quebec Association of Architects'. I wish you could have introduced 'Professor of Architecture in McGill University' somewhere; although I know very well that those who heard you were aware of your association with this University.

I am returning the Secretary's letter.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

June 23rd, 1924.

The Secretary,  
Board of Architectural Education,  
9 Conduit Street, Hanover Square,  
London, W.1.

Dear Sir:-

Reference your circular letter of 27th May addressed to Sir Arthur Currie, I beg to say that some time ago Sir Arthur wrote that he would have no objection to being a member of your Committee. Possibly the letter has been mislaid.

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.

TELEPHONES MAYFAIR 434.  
MAYFAIR 6543.

TELEGRAMS, RIBAZO, PICCY, LONDON.

## Royal Institute of British Architects,

*Incorporated in the Seventh year of William IV.  
and the fiftieth of Victoria.*

*9, Conduit Street, Hanover Square, London, W1*

BOARD OF ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION.

27th May 1924.

Dear Sir,

With reference to my letter of the 8th April last, asking if you will be kind enough to allow your name to be included in the list of Members of the Grand Committee for the International Congress on Architectural Education, I shall be glad if you will tell me if my Executive Committee may have the honour of doing this.

Yours faithfully,

*Edward J. Haynes*

---

Secretary to the Board.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

July 30, 1924.

Wilfrid Bovey, Esq.,  
Principal's Office,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Bovey,

Re cable from Royal Institute  
of British Architects, Board of Architectural  
Education, I advise reply as follows:-

"Montreal, July 30, 1924.

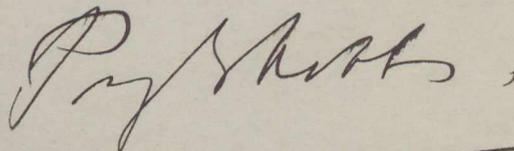
"Haynes,  
" Ribazo, London.

"Use selections drawings McGill School "  
"of Architecture for Travelling Exhib- "  
"ition. Return balance including "  
"measured drawings old French work. "

"McGill University."

I will cover this with a letter to Haynes.

Yours faithfully,



PEN/C  
Encs.

CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY COMPANY'S TELEGRAPH

FORM T.D. 1 M.



TELEGRAM

RECEIVED AT UPTOWN BRANCH  
CANADA CEMENT BLDG

All Messages are received by this Company for transmission, subject to the terms and conditions printed on their Blank Form No. 2, which terms and conditions have been agreed to by the sender of the following message. This is an unrepeatd message, and is delivered by request of the sender under these conditions.

J. McMILLAN, General Manager of Telegraphs, Montreal.

38RABR 41 VIA HX JULY 29

LONDON

LCO MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

BOARD ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION ROYAL INSTITUTE BRITISH ARCHITECTS WISH TO ORGANIZE TRAVELLING EXHIBITION DURING NEXT YEAR OF SELECTED EXHIBITS FROM INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS EXHIBITION MAY WE HAVE PERMISSION KEEP FOR THIS PERIOD SELECTIONS BEFORE EXHIBITION IS DISPERSED.H

HAYNES RIBAZO.

1227PM

July 29th, 1924.

Professor P. E. Hobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Hobbs:-

We have just received the  
following cable:-

"Board Architectural Education Royal  
Institute British Architects wish to  
organize Travelling Exhibition during  
next year of selected exhibits from  
International Congress Exhibition.  
May we have permission keep for this  
period selections before exhibition  
is dispersed?"

Haynes Ribazo.

Will you please let me know  
what you think of this?

Yours faithfully,

Wilfrid Bovey.

September 19th, 1924.

Professor P. E. Nobbs,  
14 Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Professor Nobbs:-

I have your letter of the 17th containing a memorandum of telegrams which have passed between you and the Royal Institute of British Architects. The letter to Professor Traquair which is also attached is now returned herewith.

I wrote a letter to the President R.I.B.A. in slightly different terms to what you suggested.

With all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

September 19th, 1924.

The President,  
Royal Institute of British Architects,  
No. 9 Conduit Street,  
London, England.

Dear Sir:-

My attention has been directed to an article which appears on page 590 of your Journal of the 16th of August issue. This article is a criticism of the Students' Drawings exhibited at the Congress Exhibit and represents, I take it, the official view of your Institute.

This criticism makes a very sweeping condemnation of the work of the Department of Architecture of this University, the reference being as follows:

"The McGill University exhibit was disappointing as the fruits of a five-year course. At Toronto University the presentation is often a feeble imitation of the Beaux-Arts style, and many of the plans were wrong in scale and poor in design. The work is, however, better than that of McGill University".

In view of the fact that our school has so recently been recognized by your Institute we cannot help feeling considerable surprise and regret to find its work condemned in such an unqualified way. The comparison of the work of this school with that of Toronto seems altogether unnecessary and cannot have any good effect whatever in the relations existing between these two schools. Such a comparison teaches us

President, R.I.B.A. - 2 -

nothing. In fact it is impossible to gather from the article the reason for your opinion that the results of the five-year course here are 'disappointing'. I cannot help noting that the comments on the Cambridge and Edinburgh schools are of a very general nature and yet severe.

It seems to me that in such an article all the schools might reasonably have expected to find some explanation of the criticism and some constructive suggestion. Well thought out criticism is always beneficial and always welcome, but the reference to the work of the McGill school helps us in no particular and can be productive of nothing but harm.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.E.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

September 17, 1924

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

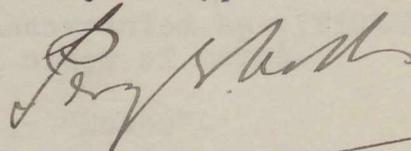
Dear Sir Arthur,

The attached memo. to the Secretary,  
Royal Institute of British Architects, contains a  
copy of cables exchanged. This qualified consent  
to the publication of my article is in deference  
to the view you expressed.

May I hear whether you saw your  
way to accept my suggestion that you might com-  
municate with the President, R.I.B.A.?

I also enclose a letter from Sep-  
timus Warwick to Professor Traquair, on this sub-  
ject, which please return.

Yours very truly,



PEN/C  
Encs.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.,  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.E.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL.

COPY ONLY

September 17, 1924.

The Secretary,  
Royal Institution of British Architects,  
9 Conduit St. Regent St.,  
London, W.1, England.

Dear Mr. MacAlister,

I have today received the following  
cable:-

"London, Sept.16.

"Nobbs,  
"14 Phillips Sqr. Montreal.

"Hope may publish your paper this week's  
"Journal. Please cable.

"Dircks."

I have replied as follows:

"Ribazo,  
"London.

"Dircks. Publish if accompanied by official  
"disclaimer Bradshaw's order of merit.

"Nobbs".

This is without prejudice to the issue  
which has been raised.

Yours faithfully,

PEN/C

*PEN*  
*P. E. Nobbs*



PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR:  
SIR ARTHUR W. CURRIE, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.

FROM  
THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR,  
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,  
MONTREAL.

Telegram

W. H. Brigden

R. A. I. C. Journal

160 Richmond Street W.

Toronto

Please add footnote to my article on  
McGill Buildings ~~and~~<sup>as</sup> follows.

"The architects of the ~~original~~ Arts building  
were Fowler and Roy." and add  
their names to the illustration of the Arts  
Building.

TRAUQUAIR



Ottawa,  
March 28, 1925

Dear Sir Arthur:

I thank you for sending me a copy of Professor Ramsay Traquair's article on "The Old Architecture in the Province of Quebec."

I am delighted to know that the Association of Architects in Quebec is endeavouring to preserve at least the records of these charming bits of early architecture, more especially as there is always the danger that the hand of Time or the needs of a work-a-day world may destroy the originals.

We do well to foster a love for our old landmarks. It counts for much in the life of a nation to realize that it has a background, historic and picturesque, and in the older parts of Canada, particularly in Quebec, there is so much that is worthy of our admiration and respect.

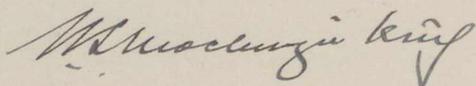
Will you be good enough to convey my compliments to Professor Traquair. I should enjoy reading further articles along this line, as I

gather this is the first of a series.

With my sincere thanks and kindest regards to yourself.

Believe me,

Yours very sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. Macleod King". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Sir Arthur W. Currie, G.C.M.G.,  
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,  
McGill University,  
Montreal, Que.

October 12, 1925.

Percy E. Hobbs, Esq.,  
14, Phillips Square,  
Montreal.

Dear Mr. Hobbs:-

Sir Arthur, before he left for the West, asked me to take up immediately the question of the Royal Canadian Academy's free evening classes in life and to obtain some further information in the matter.

Would you be good enough to let me know how many students of the Department of Architecture would be attending this class in each year. Would you also kindly let me know approximately how the expenses would be apportioned. Presumably it would involve only Mr. Dyonnet's salary and the wages of the models.

Yours sincerely,

Wilfrid Boyoy.

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.S.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

October 8, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Following our conversation today on the subject of the Royal Canadian Academy's free evening life-classes, I have very great pleasure in acceding to your suggestion to put the matter in writing.

1. One of the functions of the Academy is to organize these classes wherever there is a demand, throughout Canada, and the Academy finds its resources crippled as the government subsidy has of late been reduced by sixty-six per cent.
2. The Provincial School of Fine Arts does not provide the nude for its pupils. Higher instruction in drawing will thus not be available in a free school in the city unless the Academy classes can be organized.
3. The Art Association has always been willing to provide the studio accommodation, and will probably do so this year, free of all charges, and besides defray part of the cost of the regular instructor.
4. The local Academicians are prepared to pass upon the eligibility of students for these higher studies, to visit the class in rotation, and to recommend a regular instructor in the person of Mr. Dyonnet, while the Academy, as a body, is prepared to pay the wages of the models.
5. The Department of Architecture at McGill has always urged its more advanced students to take ad-

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vantage of these classes. Twenty-five per cent (25%) of the attendance this year might be expected from this source. The Department has neither the accommodation nor the means to provide a life class of its own, as is customary in most Schools of Architecture on this continent.

6. It is very desirable that sufficient funds should be available to enable duplication of the time table so as to avoid mixed classes, i. e. four nights a week instead of two.

7. A sum of from \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 made over to the Academy for use in this connection would enable this work to be undertaken, with thorough instruction and adequate supervision.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) Percy E. Nobbs,

FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY  
LIFE CLASS COMMITTEE.

PEN/C

NOBBS & HYDE  
ARCHITECTS

PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.  
GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., R.R.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

October 8, 1925.

Sir Arthur Currie, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.,  
Principal,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Sir Arthur,

Following our conversation today on the subject of the Royal Canadian Academy's free evening life-classes, I have very great pleasure in acceding to your suggestion to put the matter in writing.

1. One of the functions of the Academy is to organize these classes wherever there is a demand, throughout Canada, and the Academy finds its resources crippled as the government subsidy has of late been reduced by sixty-six per cent.
2. The Provincial School of Fine Arts does not provide the nude for its pupils. Higher instruction in drawing will thus not be available in a free school in the city unless the Academy classes can be organized.
3. The Art Association has always been willing to provide the studio accommodation, and will probably do so this year, free of all charges, and besides defray part of the cost of the regular instructor.
4. The local Academicians are prepared to pass upon the eligibility of students for these higher studies, to visit the class in rotation, and to recommend a regular instructor in the person of Mr. Dyonnet, while the Academy, as a body, is prepared to pay the wages of the models.
5. The Department of Architecture at McGill has always urged its more advanced students to take advantage of these classes. Twenty-five per cent (25%)

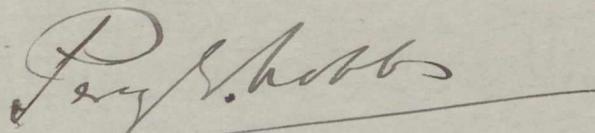
Oct. 8/25

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7. A sum of from \$800.00 to \$1,000.00 made over to the Academy for use in this connection would enable this work to be undertaken, with thorough instruction and adequate supervision.

I am,  
Yours faithfully,



FOR THE ROYAL CANADIAN ACADEMY  
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PERCY E. NOBBS, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., R.C.A.

GEORGE T. HYDE, B.Sc., S.B.

14 PHILLIPS SQUARE  
MONTREAL

October 9, 1925.

Colonel W. Bovey,  
Principal's Office,  
McGill University,  
Montreal.

Dear Colonel Bovey,

The enclosed letter to Sir Arthur Currie results from my conversation with him yesterday. I understand he has left town and will be away some time, but I think from what he said that he has in mind some way of supporting the Academy Life Class, so I send two copies of my letter to him in case he desires to send one of them where it would do most good. I shall therefore be obliged if you will have these letters forwarded to him, instead of awaiting his return.

Yours very truly,

*P. E. Nobbs*

PTN/C  
Encs.