

MCGILL LIBRARY'S ADDED TREASURES

Extensive Purchases Made in
Zoological and Ornitho-
logical Books

AN EXPERT'S TRIBUTE

Dr. Gerhard Lomer Back
From Europe After Making
Acquisitions With Dr.
Casey A. Wood

"So far as Great Britain is concerned, McGill University library in its departments of general zoology and Ornithology, is inferior only to that of the British Museum. It is worthy to rank at least with the library of the Zoological Society of London in these branches of science, and it is almost certainly superior in these respects to the library of any other British institution, not excepting the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

Dr. Gerhard R. Lomer, Librarian of McGill University, who has been over in England, together with Dr. Casey Wood, making purchases for the Blacker Library of Zoology and the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, reached Montreal on Saturday on the Minnedosa, and when questioned about his mission he cited the foregoing expression of opinion, which had been made by an English expert familiar for twenty years with the libraries of Great Britain, who had looked over these purchases.

No available source of valuable material was passed over and books were obtained from out-of-the-way dealers in the English provinces as well as from London and Paris specialists in scientific literature. Every effort was made to obtain books in the best possible condition, and in many cases the works were splendid examples of the bookbinder's art, and owing to excellent shipping arrangements, more than half the books have already been delivered in Canada. A special effort was made to obtain material from Russia, as there is every reason to fear that in that country scientific publications have been pulped for Bolshevnik propaganda purposes or other reasons. Early Australasian periodicals which are frequently referred to, but difficult to find by reason of their rarity, were also bought whenever the opportunity offered. In the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, especially, the utmost endeavor was made to ensure representation of every ornithological journal, and Dr. Wood has already well under way a descriptive catalogue of all bird periodicals ever published.

SCIENTIFIC VOYAGES.

"The reports of scientific voyages are of great zoological interest," remarked Dr. Lomer, "and the Blacker Library is now fortunate enough to contain such classics as 'Coquille', 'Sulphur', 'La Recherche', 'Uranie et Physicienne', 'Belgica', 'Astrolabe', 'Astrolabe et Zelee', 'Erebus' and 'Terror.' The last three are of great rarity, and until the Godman sale of early this year, it was next to impossible to trace a sale of a complete set of the 'Astrolabe et Zelee' voyages for upwards of twenty years.

Among monumental works the zoologist will be glad to find at McGill such publications as Godman and Salvin's *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, Spix and Martins for Brazil, Milne-Edwards for Mexico, Granddier for Madagascar, Smith for South Africa, Deshayes and Lucas for Algeria, and Prince C. L. Bonaparte for Italy. To the average layman these are but names, but to the scientist they will indicate how thoroughly the library is being equipped with essentials.

Of great historic, as well as intrinsic interest, is a copy of the famous 'Historia Naturalis' of Pliny the Younger. This third edition in point of date, but first in point of beauty, was printed at Venice in 1472 and may be regarded as the chief glory of Jenson's Press. This copy has a unique and beautiful historiated initial of the 15th century in perfect condition, representing Pliny offering his book to the Emperor. The volume is further interesting as doubtless having had its share in influencing the type of the Kelmscott Press, for the copy belonged to the library of William Morris and still bears his book label.

It was also learned from Dr. Lomer that the library had been successful in purchasing a number of Gould's

superb zoological works, and these, with those already in the ornithological library, form a complete set. In the same manner the works of Daniel Girard Elliot have been collected. Noteworthy additions have also been made to the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, including Selby's book on British Ornithology, second only in bulk to his Audubon already in McGill, and various works by Levaillant, with superb illustrations color-printed from copperplates and hand-finished. Mathew's splendid work on the birds of Australia, now entirely out of print, is another addition.

The library has succeeded in obtaining the entire collection of letters addressed to the late Dr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, the eminent ornithologist, which comprises thousands of letters from zoologists in all parts of the world, and is a mine of information to the historian of Natural Science. After it has been arranged, its importance as direct evidence in regard to events concerning Natural History in the latter part of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th centuries, cannot, in the opinion of Dr. Lomer, be over-estimated.

The gift of \$40,000 for the establishment of a library on zoology was made by Robert R. Blacker and Nellie Canfield Blacker, of California, early this year. Dr. Gerhard R. Lomer went over to Europe at the end of May, and he and Dr. Casey A. Wood have devoted a large part of the summer to looking over purchases for this library, together with the Emma Shearer Wood Library. Dr. Lomer was also able to secure a number of books of general interest for other departments of the library, and, in particular, some very fine specimens of manuscripts and early printing for the Morgan collection, which forms already an admirable nucleus for an exhibition of the history of printing.

Dr. Casey Wood is returning to Canada by a later boat.

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL,

September
twenty-seventh
1921

Dear Sir:

Owing to the Centennial Celebration the meeting of the Library Committee scheduled for Monday, October 10th, the date of the meeting has been changed, with your approval, to Tuesday, October 18th, at 4.30 p.m.

As an informal report on the work of the summer I enclose a clipping from the Gazette.

Faithfully yours,

Q.R. Lomer.

Enc.

University Librarian.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

127

Blacker

February
Fourteenth
1922.

Robert R. Blacker, Esq.,
Box 313, Pasadena,
California.

Dear Sir:-

On behalf of the Board of Governors of McGill University I beg to acknowledge the receipt of the final installment of the \$40,000.00 which you so generously gave for the establishment of a Zoological Library here.

Your munificence has enabled us to procure a library which forms, we believe, one of the most valuable collections of its character existing on this continent. It is impossible for me to convey adequately to you our sense of gratitude.

I hope that some time in the future we may have an opportunity of welcoming you here, so that you may have an opportunity of seeing for yourself to what good use we have devoted your gift and of estimating the service it renders.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A. Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

February 8, 1922.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY

Dear Sir Arthur:

As Mr. Robert R. Blacker (Box 313, Pasadena, California) has just paid the final installment of the \$40,000.00 which he is giving to the Library you may possibly wish to send an acknowledgment on behalf of the Finance Committee. The Library Committee and Corporation have already expressed their appreciation.

Faithfully yours,

G.R. Lomer

University Librarian.

December 9th, 1926.

R. R. Blacker, Esq.,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Blacker:-

Our Librarian, Dr. Lomer, has informed me that once more you have been generous to the McGill Library and that you and Mrs. Blacker have now made it possible for a perfect catalogue of our zoological material to be made up. Anything that Dr. Casey Wood and Dr. Lomer undertake will be well done and a credit to all concerned in its production.

You must derive great satisfaction from having made it possible to collect such an outstanding Zoological Library. I am sorry that you have never seen it and I most earnestly suggest that you consider coming to Montreal on the occasion of our annual Convocation exercises, which take place on the last Friday in May. It would give us great pleasure to have you and Lady Currie and I would feel honoured if you and Mrs. Blacker would stay with us during your visit.

With all good wishes and the assurance that your gifts have been much appreciated by McGill University, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

C.P.R. Telegraph

Montreal, April 23rd, 1927.

Mrs. R. R. Blacker,
Pasadena, California.

GREATLY SHOCKED TO LEARN THIS MORNING OF YOUR HUSBAND'S DEATH.
PLEASE ACCEPT MY SINCERE SYMPATHY IN YOUR GREAT LOSS.

A.W. CURRIE

Charge



CANADIAN PACIFIC R'Y. CO.'S TELEGRAPH
FORM T.D. 1
1677
TELEGRAM

CABLE CONNECTIONS TO ALL PARTS OF THE WORLD

J. McMILLAN, General Manager of Telegraphs, Montreal.

NA606 49 NL

PASADENA CALIF 25

APR 26 AM 12 29

A W CURRIE

MONTREAL QUE

YOUR TELEGRAM APRIL 23 TO MRS R R BLACKER RECEIVED BY ME
INFORMATION REACHING YOU REGARDING MR BLACKERS DEATH WAS
INCORRECT HIS BROTHER EDWARD BLACKER DIED HERE SOME TWO MONTHS
AGO MR AND MRS BLACKER ARE NOW IN EAST AND WILL RETURN TO
PASADENA ABOUT MAY 15

E J BLACKER.

of

April 26th, 1927.

E. J. Blacker, Esc.,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. Blacker:-

I am delighted to receive your telegram this morning. The information on which I acted was contained in a letter received at our Library from Dr. Casey Wood. From it we understood that Mr. R.R. Blacker had died about two months ago. Naturally, we are all greatly pleased that such is not the case.

Some time ago I wrote to Mr. Blacker expressing the hope that he would be here at the time of our closing ceremonies in May. I take it from your telegram that we are not going to have that pleasure this year.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

Robert R. Blacker
Box 313
Pasadena, Cal.

September 17, 1927

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal McGill University
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir Arthur:

We have just made the final payment to A. P. J. Glassco, Bookseller, of \$13,000⁰⁰ on the pledge of \$33,000⁰⁰ due Jan 1, 1929 for the completion of the catalogue, and additions to the Blacker library.

Referring to the catalogue of books and other items in course of preparation for the Blacker library of zoology, it is the wish of my wife and myself, that only the names of Mr. Casey Wood, and Mr. Gerhard Lomer should appear (as Editors and Compilers) on the title page. They, it appears to us have done most of the work of preparing the manuscript for publication.

Very sincerely yours.

R. R. Blacker.

September 22nd, 1928.

R. R. Blacker, Esq.,
Box 313,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your kind letter addressed to Sir Arthur Currie. The Principal is at present in Europe and will not be back for some weeks.

Meanwhile, may I take this opportunity to thank you very much for your letter and the great benefit which your generosity has conferred on our University. It will, no doubt, interest you to know that we are making a greater effort than hitherto to extend the importance of the Biological sciences and particularly the interests of the Zoological Department. For this reason your valuable contribution is all the more appreciated.

I have given instructions with reference to your request as to the title page of the volume.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Acting Principal.

September 22nd, 1928.

Dr. G. R. Lomer,
University Librarian.

Dear Dr. Lomer:-

I am sending you herewith
copy of a letter received from Mr. R.R.Blacker,
which explains itself.

I presume his request
regarding the title page is in order and I
would be glad if you would comply with it.

Yours faithfully,

Acting Principal.

December 12th, 1927.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Blacker,
Pasadena, California.

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Blacker:-

Let me acknowledge with grateful thanks the receipt of your communication dated December 5th, in which you intimate your intention to make a further contribution of \$33,000 to McGill University for the account of the Blacker Library.

The Board of Governors meets in a few days and I know they will be very pleased indeed to hear of your continued practical interest in the Library. You have erected here a very fine monument and one which will be of ever increasing interest to scholars and all interested in Zoology and kindred subjects.

May I on behalf of the University and all its friends ask you to please accept this inadequate expression of our gratitude, and with all good wishes, I am,

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

McGILL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., PH.D.
LIBRARIAN

May 22, 1929.

A.E. Prudhomme
St Anne
Dame St
West

A. P. S. Glassco, Esq.,
Bursar,
McGill University.

Dear Mr. Glassco,

It gives me pleasure in bringing to your attention the following cable received today from Dr. Casey A. Wood:

"Notify Principal Currie Blackers give eighteen and I three thousand. Twenty-one thousand Blacker Library next eight months. Annotations needed."

Faithfully yours,

G.R. Lomer.

University Librarian.

L/F

R.R. Blocker
P.O. Box 313 Pasadena Cal.
Just been notified of your
gift from you and Mrs
Blocker of 18000 dollars
as additional endowment
Blacker Library. Sincerely
Appreciate your great Gift
generosity Currie

12th December, 1929.

My dear Dr. Casey Wood,

Lomer told me today that he had received word from you that you were on your way to Italy to spend the winter. I sincerely trust that fine weather follows you, for Italy when the weather is fine is one of the pleasantest spots on earth.

I remember that last year Campbell-Stewart and his mother went to Rome to spend a Christmas vacation. They returned to London about the third week in January and Campbell told me that although they were away for five weeks they never saw the sun until they crossed the English Channel on the way home.

About January 24th I left London for Egypt. When I arrived at Trieste I thought that somehow or other I was in Winnipeg. The wind was blowing a howling gale. There were no conveyances to take us from the railway station to the boat and we had to plough our way through snow-drifts, at times being stuck tight by the force of the wind. We arrived in Venice the next morning and it reminded me of Regina. Canals all frozen, snow six inches deep, and altogether a dismal-looking place. I saw it again at the end of April and the difference was very impressive. Before going to Venice I had spent a week in Florence, two weeks in Rome and a week in Naples. I am looking forward to my next visit. There is so much to see, so many things of overpowering interest, so many things that can't be seen anywhere else, that one must remain a long, long while or else return at frequent intervals, if one is to be satisfied.

The thing that concerns me most regarding your visit is suggested by what I have just written about.

Dr. Casey Wood,
38 Piazza d'Espagnia,
R o m e .

Care American Express Company

I am afraid that you will try to see too much, and looking at galleries, museums, churches and libraries is, after all, a tiring matter. You must be careful not to over-fatigue yourself.

Things are going along about the same at McGill. Lomer is anxious to have the Corporation sanction a new degree, - Bachelor of Library Science, - but the Corporation is a very conservative body and these new degrees are not readily taken up. Lomer will likely have told you that the Carnegie Corporation has increased his grant for the next three years from \$10,000 to \$18,000 annually. Lomer is a very efficient officer and a helpful colleague.

Please remember me very kindly to Mrs. Wood. We are looking forward to seeing both of you some time during the summer.

I think that Lomer is going to write to you about a degree for Mr. Blacker.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

EDEN HOTEL
VIA LUDOVISI
ROME

Mar 30. 30.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal McGill University
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir Arthur: -

I was greatly shocked to read in the
Montreal News of the death of my old
friend Dr. R. F. Rulman. He was one
of my groomsmen when I was married in
Montreal so many long years ago & we
have kept in touch with one another
ever since. I do not know of a
relative to whom I can ~~write~~
write my condolences & regrets. Perhaps

You can give me such an address?

The fine winter weather here, the meeting with so many old friends, and the comparative rest from work have combined to improve my health to such an extent that I hope to return to London with my family the middle of May to complete my job on the Blackes Catalogue in the British Museum. By the way, I trust you have received the proper support for the carrying out of our

plans relative to that gentleman.

With all good wishes

Sincerely yours

Casey A. Wood

April 12th, 1930

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Eden Hotel,
Via Ludovisi,
R o m e .

This morning I received your letter of March 30th. Of course, Ruttan's death was expected. He had failed very rapidly in the last six months. When I returned to Montreal last May I saw a remarkable change in him, but yet he came to Convocation and walked from the Library to the Capital Theatre, where Convocation took place. The last University function he attended was the special Convocation at which an honorary degree was given Ramsay Macdonald. I saw him in his room shortly before he died and knew that the end was very near. He retired, as you know, the year before last under full salary for the year, and his pension allowance was then about \$3500 per annum. He felt that that would not be enough to enable him to keep on his apartment and his connection with his Clubs, so I went to him and told him not to worry, that as long as he lived the University would pay him a pension at the rate of \$5,000 a year. It cheered him greatly, and we were glad to do this kindness to such an old and valued servant of the University.

His brother still survives, but is in most indifferent health, also suffering from the same complaint that carried off Ruttan. His address is, Dr. A. M. Ruttan, Provost, Alberta.

Just a year ago I was in Florence, after having spent a fortnight in Rome, and I know well the delightful weather you are having. To us, too, the fine weather has come, and the golf links are open today for the first time this season. Much as I would like to, I cannot have a game, because today and yesterday we are entertaining a group of sixteen headmasters of English Public Schools who are making a tour through Canada for the purpose of visiting all the Canadian Universities with a view to deciding whether or not they wish to recommend to public school boys the advisability of taking their University training in Canada. The delegation is headed by Dr. Cyril Norwood, headmaster of Harrow, who is staying with me.

By the way, many of your old friends have died recently. I know I have written nearly a dozen letters of condolence in the last ten days. Abner Kingman and Harold Hampson were buried last Monday. Murray Williams about a week ago. Mrs. Braithwaite was buried yesterday at Hamilton.

Have you heard of Collip's wonderful discovery in our Bio-Chemistry Laboratories?

Lomer told me at the meeting of the Library Committee the other day that you were enjoying good health this winter.

The matter of an honorary degree for Mr. Blacker comes up for decision next week.

With kindest wishes to Mrs. Wood,

I am,

Telephone:—
WESTERN 7118 & 7119.

Telegrams:—
NATHISMUS, SOUTHKENS. LONDON.



DR. CASEY WOOD,
ZOOLOGICAL LIBRARY,
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W.7.

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.7.

27 August 1930.

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

Dear Sir Arthur :-

You will, I am sure, be gratified to learn that Mr. and Mrs. Blacker of Pasadena and the undersigned have further subscribed to the Zoological Funds of the University.

The Blackers will donate \$10,000 and I \$2000, payable in February 1931 and July 1931. The money is to be expended mainly for the publication of the manuscript (annotated) Catalogue of the Vertebrate Zoological treatises in all the McGill libraries, on which the Staff and I have been engaged for the past six years, and for the acquisition of certain desirable items for the Blacker and E.S.W. Libraries.

These subscriptions will enable us to complete a scientific contribution to faunal bibliography much needed by librarians and students throughout the world, and will, I think, draw additional attention to the enviable standing occupied by McGill Libraries in University and natural history circles everywhere.

I would be much pleased if you will acknowledge this recent donation to Mr. and Mrs. Blacker,

Sincerely yours,

Casey A. Wood

September
Sixth
1930.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Zoological Library,
British Museum, Natural History 1,
Cromwell Road,
London, S.W.1, England.

Dear Dr. Wood:

Sir Arthur Currie is accompanying Mr. Beatty on his annual Western trip, and your letter of August 27th only arrived a few minutes before he left. Sir Arthur was delighted to learn of the further donation which you and Mr. and Mrs. Blacker are making to our Libraries and he has sent an acknowledgment to Mr. and Mrs. Blacker. You will probably hear further from Sir Arthur on his return.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to the Principal

September
Fifth
1930.

Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Blacker,
Box 513,
Pasadena, California.

My dear Mr. and Mrs. Blacker:

I have this moment received a letter from Dr. Casey Wood in which he tells me of your further generous contribution to the funds of the McGill University Library to be used for the purpose of the acquisition of certain desirable items for the Blacker and Emma Wood Libraries. Dr. Wood speaks most enthusiastically of what this contribution will enable him to do, and I can readily see that it will add to the already enviable standing occupied by the McGill Libraries in the Natural History world. Had his letter arrived but a few minutes later I would not have been able to acknowledge this gift for more than a month.

Please understand that this acknowledgment though brief is very sincere indeed.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

Telephone:—
WESTERN 6323X

Telegrams:—
NATHISMUS, SOUTHKENS, LONDON.



DR. CASBY WOOD
ZOOLOGICAL LIBRARY
BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),
CROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W. 7.

BRITISH MUSEUM (NATURAL HISTORY),

CROMWELL ROAD,

LONDON, S.W.7.

15 September 1930.



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

Dear Sir Arthur :-

The manuscript of Volume I of my Introduction and Catalogue (I enclose proof of title and frontispiece) is in the hands of the University of Oxford Press and the remainder of the work is practically complete in its written form. I am now correcting the first "slip" proofs. As I leave for Rome to-morrow - to avoid the London winter - I wish to say to you that I have made all arrangements with the Press to bring out both volumes during 1931.

During my stay in Rome my assistant in the British Museum, Miss Lillian Bates, 75 Carlton Hill, St. John's Wood, London, N.W.8. will help with the proof reading, etc. She is the one who knows all about this work and is most competent to finish the proof reading and generally to complete the scheme of publishing and mailing the work when ready for distribution. If anything should happen to me - as it easily might - I would like her present salary continued until the volumes are distributed and all bills paid etc.

I need not add that it will not be worth while to advertize the treatise for sale as there will be little commercial demand for it; the books for their scientific value and the "kudos" (if any) accruing to the University being the chief compensation.

As I wrote Dr. Lomer, he is at liberty to have and use as many copies as he likes in the proportion of 1 cloth bound to

(2)

Sir Arthur Currie.

15 September 1930.

10 paper bound copies with the McGill University Publications imprint. If he will notify me at once on this point I can have the imprint made on original copies. In this case he will, of course, furnish me with the addresses to which he wishes the copies sent and say whether he would like them mailed from London or sent direct to Montreal en masse for distribution there.

I am mailing Dr. Lomer a copy of this letter.

With best regards,

Sincerely yours,

Casey A. Wood

CW/LB.

AN
INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE
OF
VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

BASED CHIEFLY ON THE TITLES IN THE
BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY
THE EMMA SHEARER WOOD LIBRARY OF ORNITHOLOGY
THE BIBLIOTHECA OSLERIANA AND OTHER
ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS OF MCGILL
UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, CANADA

- A. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY
B. STUDENT'S AND LIBRARIAN'S INDEX TO SELECTED TITLES ON VERTEBRATE
ZOOLOGY, ARRANGED IN GEOGRAPHIC AND CHRONOLOGIC ORDER
C. A PARTIALLY ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF THE VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGICAL
TITLES IN THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES. A-C.

VOL. I

COMPILED AND EDITED
BY
CASEY A. WOOD

[In two ~~books~~ quarto volumes]

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
LONDON: HUMPHREY MILFORD

1931



BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY

Aquarelle attributed to Charles Collins (ca. A.D.1736) of the Dodo, *Raphus cucullatus*. Original drawing from the Taylor White Collection in the Blacker Library of Zoology, McGill University, Montreal, Canada.

DR. CASEY WOOD,
AUTHORS' CLUB,
LONDON, S.W. 1.
ENGLAND.

13 April 1931.

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

Dear Sir Arthur :-

Although our paths have not crossed my wife and I followed your successful visit to our old stamping ground - the India of and about Delhi - and we could easily imagine your contribution to the adornment of New Delhi. I don't suppose the English speaking world will ever know it by any other name.

All my Canadian friends seem to be on the march lately. I have had several letters, newspapers, etc. from my old college friend, the Rt. Hon. Sir George Perley. Who would have supposed, when we, part of the "American Colony" were boys together in Ottawa that he, born in N.H., a St. Paul's School student and a Harvard graduate, would rise to such (British) heights! However, *his honors were* ~~was~~ fairly and well earned.

I believe that Canada will (and ought to) benefit quite as much as the mother country from the Argentine Exhibition. You have much raw material and many manufactured products to exchange with South America, not to mention an understanding on the wheat question. I wish the U.S. and Canada -- but there, that's enough of that *line of politics*.

What I really desire to tell you is that when I came to Rome the beginning of last November to escape the fogs, snow, and other delights of the London winter climate, there were in jackets in my room at the British Museum (about) 14,000 sheets of typescript, printed and hand-written material that had accumulated, mostly in Montreal, during the last five or six years. These had been gathered, as you know, first for a projected catalogue of ornithological periodicals - the publication of which never materialized - and later for a Catalogue of the Blacker Library. As the prospect for the latter did not appear to be more promising than the fate of the former I arranged with the Blackers ~~that, between us~~ (I

Sir Arthur Currie.

13 April 1931.

contributing what I regarded as my share of the enterprise, ~~for to undertake the~~ ^{the} task of bringing out a practical treatise, to include a Catalogue of the vertebrate-zoological titles in all the McGill libraries. Dr. Lomer and others were good enough to assist me in this rather Quixotic undertaking, ~~and~~ in spite of all difficulties the task is now completed.

I would not undergo the mental fatigues and worries of that job again for all the wealth of Ind! - but fools rush in ----- . The cost in money has been enormous, the work endless and the thanks nil. Mind you, I am not complaining, as I went into the affair with my eyes wide open; I am just explaining. A week ago I wrote THE END on ~~one~~ manuscript page 9423, having passed upon, pared, polished and pruned that number of sheets in a little over five months; not much time for loafing on the job.

We have had on the whole a better winter than the rest of Europe - no snow, fogs, ice or very cold weather. Mrs. Wood unfortunately is laid up with the "flu" but will, I think, be well enough to leave here on April 28th. for a week in Lugano, then on to Vitznau for the summer. That's a fine place to finish reading the 300 or so pages of galley and page proof that still remain to complete the printer's job.

My wife joins me in kind regards to Lady Currie and yourself and I am, as ever,

Cordially yours,

Casey A. Wood

I have written much the same sort of report to Dr. Lomer.

June 17, 1931.

Dr. Casey Wood,
Authors' Club,
London, S.W.1.,
England.

My dear Dr. Casey Wood,

I am indeed grateful for your letter of April 13th, which awaited me on my return to the University at the end of April.

After six weeks in India, I returned to Canada via China and Japan, where I spent more than a month visiting Hong Kong, Shanghai, Tientsin, Peiping, Mukden, Kyoto and Tokyo, but impressions of my visit both there and in India must await the time when we can meet again - and this, I hope, will be soon.

I am profoundly interested in the amazing amount of work you have been able to carry through to the end. To prepare a work amounting to 9433 pages is a stiff task under any circumstances, but when that work is of the character of the one which you have finished one can scarcely appreciate the colossal task you have accomplished. I must cordially congratulate you and hope that now it is finished you will not find that you have given to it too much in the way of health.

Lomer has not yet returned to McGill and I daresay you have already seen him.

Things are going fairly well at the University, and when one considers in the aggregate the progress that has been made in the last ten years perhaps one should be satisfied. We could have done very much

more, but for the lack of funds. It is true that when the \$6,400,000 was pledged eleven years ago every cent and more of it had already been allotted. Since that time, we have run practically on deficits and have been caught badly in the last few years. Interest returns are lower and some dividends passed. It was our intention to have a campaign seven years after the first one, or in 1927, but we stood aside for the hospitals, and that was our undoing.

I hope that you and Mrs. Wood have a good summer, and perhaps we may see you here this fall. My wife joins me in most cordially reciprocating your good wishes.

Ever yours faithfully,

Principal

BM

DR. CASEY WOOD,
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM,
LONDON, S.W. 7.
ENGLAND.

26 September 1931.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal and Vice-Chancellor,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

My dear Sir Arthur :-

I did not reply to yours of June 17th. as there did not seem to be anything particular to communicate. Since then my (and Lomer's) Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology has been completed and will soon be mailed - your copy among the others. The enclosed leaflet furnishes all essential information regarding this compilation. As nearly the whole edition of 2000 copies will be mailed gratis to Museums, Libraries and vertebrate zoologists all over the world I think it cannot fail to be of very considerable value to the library in particular and to the University as a whole. Moreover, as you will see by the appeal on Page 1 (of the leaflet) the library should have several thousand exchange books, periodicals, separates, etc., sent them and ~~that~~ the library itself will be placed on numerous mailing lists from which it is now excluded.

This work has cost a large sum in money, energy and grinding work on the part of McGill officials in particular. They ought to have credit for it. If after all the bills are paid there is any money left from the special Blacker fund I intend to expend it mainly on periodicals which, to my mind, are the foundation of all literary research.

I have little time to attend the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science but with my brother-in-law - Professor Cresswell Shearer* of Cambridge - I attended the Conversazione of the Royal Society and there met Dean Frank Adams and quite a few other former and present McGill professors in addition to numerous illustrious fellows of the Society.

* an old McGill graduate

Sir Arthur Currie.

26 September 1931.

I find it necessary to leave here in November for California, sailing direct by way of the Panama Canal to Pasadena, probably reaching that place about Christmas time.

Please regard your volume of the Introduction and Catalogue as a Christmas card.

With the compliments of my wife and myself to Lady Currie and yourself

I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Casey A. Wood

This work has cost a large sum in money, energy and grinding work on the part of McGill officials in particular. They ought to have credit for it. If after all the bills are paid there is any money left from the special Blacker fund I intend to expend it mainly on periodicals which, to my mind, are the foundation of all literary research.

I have little time to attend the meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science but with my brother-in-law - Professor Greenwell Shearer of Cambridge - I attended the Conversations of the Royal Society and there met Lord Raman, Frank Adams and quite a few other former and present McGill professors in addition to numerous illustrious fellows of the Society.

CW/LB

FROM THE UNIVERSITY
24 SEP 1931
OXFORD

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE LITERATURE OF VERTEBRATE ZOOLOGY

based chiefly on the titles in the BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY, the Emma Shearer Wood Library of Ornithology, the Bibliotheca Osleriana [the Gest Library of Chinese Literature], and other Libraries of McGill University Montreal, Canada. Compiled and edited by CASEY A. WOOD, M.D., LL.D., *Collaborator, Division of Birds, Smithsonian Institution.* 4to, pp. xix + 643. Col. frontispiece. Oxford University Press, London, 1931. Fifteen dollars or three guineas.

LIBRARY MCGILL UNIVERSITY
MONTREAL, CANADA

October 1st, 1931

Here it is
~~There~~ has recently been mailed to you from the Oxford University Press, Oxford, England, with the compliments of the

THE BLACKER LIBRARY OF ZOOLOGY

the work described above. It is hoped that the recipient of a complimentary copy of the work will place the Library on his mailing list and be able to contribute *in exchange* books, periodicals, separates, or tracts. Some of these may fill gaps in one of the University libraries.

The BLACKER LIBRARY will also be grateful for *autograph or typescript letters of naturalists*, the purpose of which is stated on page 643 of the *Introduction*, under the heading ZOOLOGISTS.

Exchanges are to be addressed to:

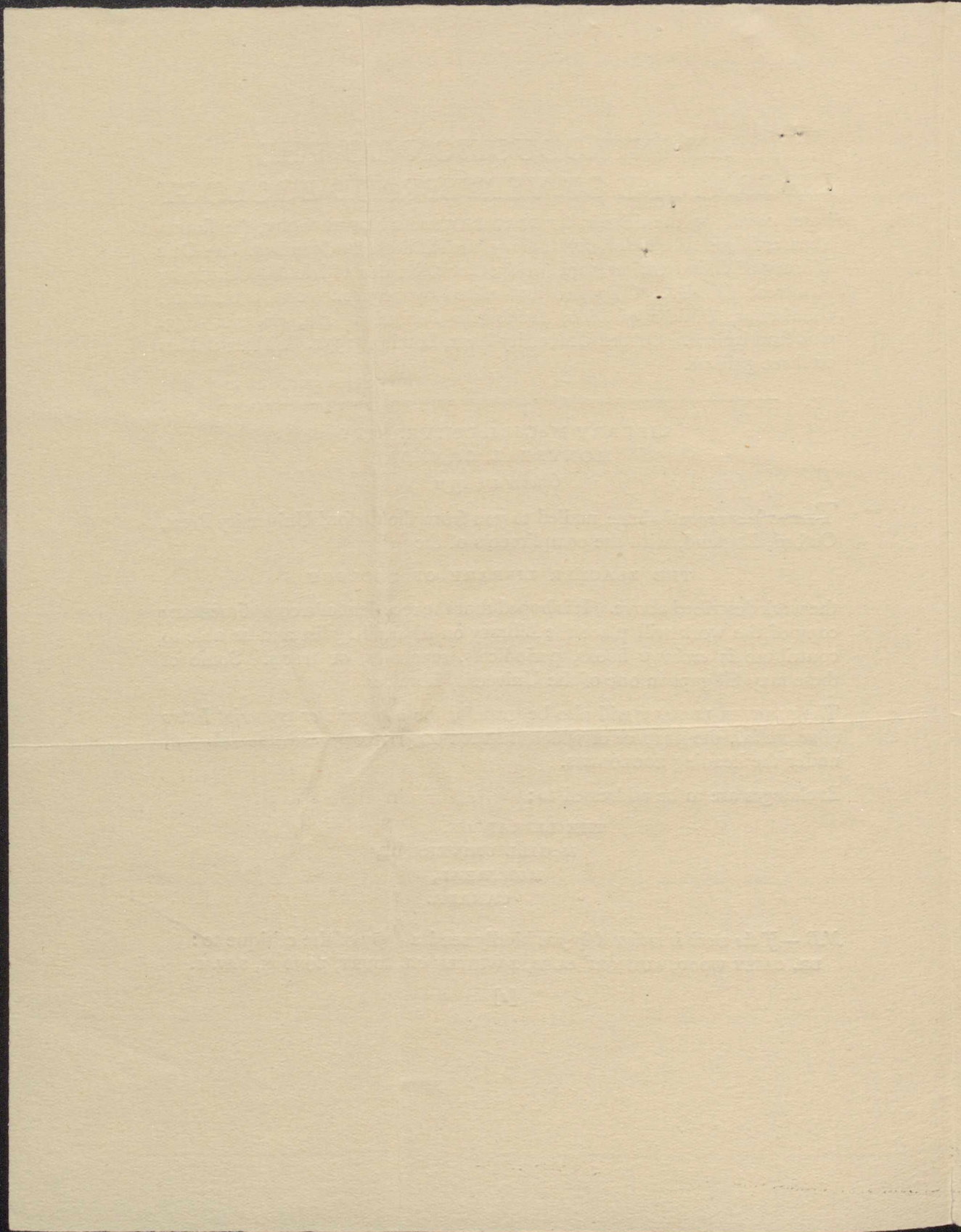
THE LIBRARIAN,
MCGILL UNIVERSITY,
MONTREAL,
CANADA.

When Book comes =

N.B.—If the work is reviewed by you kindly send a copy of the critique to:
DR. CASEY WOOD, AUTHORS' CLUB, 2 WHITEHALL COURT, LONDON, S.W. 1.

[r]

2741



The treatise above entitled is divided into three main sections. The *first* consists of introductory matter which furnishes a brief account of the literature of Vertebrate Zoology from the earliest times to the present—from the writings of ancient and medieval zoologists, Aristotle, Pliny the Second, Dioscorides, Averroës, *et al* to the more important treatises and monographs on ornithology, mammalogy, ichthyology, herpetology, and amphibiology of the twentieth century. Included are general treatises and numerous periodicals and serials, monographs on vertebrate palaeontology, zoogeography, ecology, psychology, bionomics, experimental zoology, &c., likely to interest the advanced student and the librarian.

Brief descriptions are also given of Natural History Societies, Museums, and Zoological Stations throughout the world; travelogues of naturalists; drawings of animal painters and illustrators, more than 5000 originals of which are in the McGill libraries.

It is hoped that *physicians* and *medical* libraries will find the work useful. As is well known, not only were the majority of ancient and medieval writers on natural history physicians, but many modern treatises on comparative and systematic zoology are the products of medical men.

The *second* section of this *Introduction* is an arrangement of the Library Contents (on Vertebrate Zoology) in both chronological and geographical order so that a work on any desired subject can be quickly found and delivered to the student by the librarian.

The *third* section is the largest and most valuable for both the research student and the librarian—a partially annotated *Catalogue* of the vertebrate zoological items in all the University libraries, forming a very large selection of important works on that vast subject.

The McGill libraries are particularly rich in incunabula and other fundamental treatises on vertebrate zoology, as will be seen by consulting Chapter xix, page 127, in which a number of rare and unique items are briefly described.

It may here be added that with the continual additions to the various University Libraries the collections now approach a total of 400,000 volumes.

October 29th, 1931.

Dr. Casey Wood,
Natural History Museum,
London, S. W. 7,
England.

My dear Dr. Casey Wood,

Let me thank you for your letter of September 26th. The Catalogue came to hand yesterday, and even a layman like myself is impressed by the tremendous task you have completed. I congratulate you most sincerely, and I thank you on behalf of the University for your great interest and efforts on behalf of our Library. I shall make a point of telling the Board of Governors at its next meeting about the generous contribution you have made to the cause of science and to advance the name and fame of McGill.

We were sorry you were not with us at the Reunion. In spite of the depression, it was a very successful affair and the various functions were well attended. At the concluding dinner we had over seven hundred, and the Chancellor made an inspiring address. I addressed a smoker which was attended by over a thousand men, and the attempt was made all through the Reunion gatherings to tell the graduates what we are doing at McGill to-day. At the Convocation we gave the Prime Minister a degree, and also honoured four other outstanding graduates.

I hope that you and Mrs. Wood will spend a very happy winter in California, and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you some time next year. In the meantime, my wife and I cordially reciprocate your good wishes, and with renewed thanks,

I am,

Ever yours faithfully,

As from:- VISTA DEL ARROYO, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, U.S.A.

10 November 1931.

Dr. Gerhard Lomer,
Librarian,
McGill University,
Montreal, Canada.

Copy for Sir Arthur Curie

DR. CASEY WOOD,
ZOOLOGICAL LIBRARY,
BRITISH MUSEUM, (NATURAL HISTORY),
GROMWELL ROAD,
LONDON, S.W. 7.

Dear Dr. Lomer :-

As nearly as I could judge the very large cost of bringing out the Catalogue leaves the Blacker Fund so depleted that we would be unable to carry out the program that you and I have long had in mind. After paying all the bills incident to preparing the MS and for the publication and distribution of the volume there would be little remaining for other activities connected with the management of the Blacker Library of Zoology.

I laid all our troubles before Mrs. Blacker and she has just sent me a very welcome cablegram generously promising the sum I suggested to meet our pressing needs, viz Four thousand five hundred dollars (\$ 4500) payable in Canadian currency next February for the following purposes, which I give in order of urgency :-

1. The purchase of as many PERIODICALS AND SERIALS as the fund will allow.
2. Continuing the cataloguing of the Library until the midsummer holidays 1932.
3. The binding of unbound volumes - periodicals in particular.
4. The purchase of such other desiderata as the Fund will permit.

I may say here, and I am sure you will agree, that the yearly interest of the Blacker Endowment should not be spent for any of the above activities (except perhaps binding) but should be earmarked for the purchase of current zoological magazines and serials, for continuation of the same, and for the purchase of odd volumes and numbers to fill gaps in incomplete sets. The income

Dr. Gerhard Lomer.

10 November 1931.

from this Fund will not be sufficient to pay salaries, buy expensive books, or to pay for extensive binding.

The purchase and shelving of complete bound sets of the large array of zoological periodicals issued in all languages all over the world is the outstanding need of the Blacker Library, and these acquisitions should be continued from year to year to the exclusion, if necessary, of other activities.

1. PURCHASE OF PERIODICALS. For obvious reasons now is the time to buy zoological items quoted in pound sterling. The rather large list of Wheldon and Wesley's offerings is now in your hands. All titles not in the Library should at once be ordered subject to the usual 10% discount. I sincerely hope Professor Willey will assist in choosing all such desiderata from that and other lists. Wheldon and Wesley are now holding their offerings until they hear from you.

After considerable correspondence I have induced Fock of Leipzig (the largest German dealer in zoological periodicals) to give the Blacker Library a discount of twenty per cent (20%) off his catalogue prices of periodicals, and he will shortly mail you duplicate lists and catalogues with the items that are now in stock plainly marked. I think we may safely order from him 12,000 RM worth, less 20% - but not more for the present.

I think these lists should be scanned on arrival and "action" taken forthwith.

2. I place a limit on the cataloguing of the Blacker Library items because there will probably be no further funds available for the purpose after July 1932. Have you any suggestions?

3. I have, as you know, given Forbes - the British Museum binder - orders to repair and bind such books as have recently passed through my hands in London for the Blacker Library. He does his work quickly, very well and cheaper than it can be done in Montreal. He will do the same for any of the Wheldon and Wesley orders, rendering his account in due course to the Blacker Fund. Other unbound volumes you will have to deal with in Montreal, as seems best to you.

(cont.)

Dr. Gerhard Lomer.

10 November 1931.

4. I have myself a long list of other desiderata in zoology not in the McGill libraries, that appear on the market from time to time. I suggest that we wait until 1932 - until we know the available balance for such titles before ordering any of an expensive character for the Blacker Library.

Finally, if I am alive, we shall have a "round up" of ways and means next February and decide the future policy of the zoological libraries.

Kindly note that my latest address is at the head of this letter, and believe me to be

Very sincerely yours,

Casey A. Wood

COPY FOR SIR ARTHUR CURRIE

Blacker

December 3, 1931.

Mrs. R. R. Blacker,
P.O. Box 313,
Pasadena,
California.

Dear Mrs. Blacker:

It must, I feel, be a matter of great satisfaction to you and of justifiable pride that the Catalogue of the Blacker Library of Zoology has been made known far and wide throughout the world by the publication of "An Introduction to the Literature of Vertebrate Zoology", to which Dr. Casey A. Wood has given so many years of his valuable time and so much of his broad and scientific erudition.

The Catalogue, I regard, not only as a contribution to the bibliographical literature of a scientific subject, but also as a fitting tribute to the foresight and generosity which you and Mr. Blacker have shown throughout the past decade. Our one and great regret must be that the volume came from the press just too late to receive Mr. Blacker's approval.

We have on the occasions of your repeated generosity in the past expressed our appreciation of your development of this side of the Library's resources until it is now an outstanding scientific collection known throughout the world, but I cannot let this opportunity pass without once more assuring you of

Mrs. R. R. Blacker.

our deep and lasting gratitude for the practical and continued interest which you and your husband have shown in the subject of Zoology and in the Library of McGill University.

With kindest regards,

Yours faithfully,

University Librarian.

COPY

LIBRARY OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL

GERHARD R. LOMER, M.A., Ph.D.,
LIBRARIAN

October 5, 1920.

Sir Arthur Currie,
Principal,
McGill University.

Dear Sir Arthur:

I have to-day received the following telegram from R. R. Blacker of Chicago:

"Through suggestion of Dr. Casey Wood I desire to present to McGill University a library on Zoology. He will confer with you and represent me. I desire him on purchasing board."

In accordance with your instructions I have notified Mr. Glassco and have telegraphed to the donor expressing, on behalf of the Principal, the Governors, and the Library Committee, the sincere appreciation of the University of this much needed addition to its scientific resources.

In the library of books on Ornithology which Dr. Casey Wood recently presented to the University his intention was to establish a complete research collection on that special subject, and it is through him that this new donor is being induced to establish a similar collection for another branch of science.

Such collections form invaluable additions to McGill's scientific library resources, and adequate

Sir Arthur Currie.

room will have to be provided for them in the immediate future. It cannot be too emphatically stated that the Library has entirely outgrown the present building in every department of its activity and that it is seriously congested at the present moment.

I trust that plans for the extension of University buildings will include a wing to the Library.

Faithfully yours,

C. F. Jones.

University Librarian.

Blacker

July 4th, 1928.

Dr. Casey A. Wood,
Stanford University,
California.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of recent date with reference to the Blacker Library.

I regret to have to tell you that there is on file in this office no letter from Mr. Blacker, though there is copy of a letter of thanks from Sir Arthur to Mr. Blacker acknowledging one dated December 5th, 1927. This correspondence would naturally be kept in the Library and I have communicated your wish to Miss Hadow. All she has been able to find on file is a letter from yourself to Dr. Lomer of December 8th, and I am enclosing herewith copy of this. I trust it will give you the information you desire. If not, please let me know and I shall do my utmost to procure what you desire.

I am glad to be able to tell you that Sir Arthur's health is very much improved. It is now a matter of following a very rigid diet and taking a long rest. He sailed on the 28th of June for England and expects to spend most of the summer somewhere on the coast of Normandy or Brittany. We are all looking forward to seeing him return in September completely restored.

Yours faithfully,

Secretary to the Principal.

DR. CASEY WOOD
STANFORD UNIVERSITY
CALIFORNIA

Secretary
Sir Arthur Cuesie
Principal McGill University
Montreal, Canada.

Dear Sir:-

In Sir Arthur Currie's absence will you kindly give me by return of post a little information? I have mislaid the notes dictated to me by Mr. R.P. ~~Blacker~~ Blacker of Pasadena, California, when he gave his last donation, in ~~the~~ November, of \$33,000 to the Library.

Will you please send me a copy of his letter, for my guidance in ordering books, and greatly oblige

Very sincerely yours

Casey A. Wood

In your reply ~~please~~ kindly tell me how Sir Arthur is progressing. We are all anxious to know.