

December 11 1958

Dear Polly,

I understand from Mr. Day that the current set of drawings is THE final set. As there have been so many changes since the last we-thought final set, I've asked him to send copies to the Trustees' committee, so that they will know what's going on and can give their okay to what the building is really going to look like.

Are you satisfied with the plans? Mr. Day indicated that you have given them your formal approval. If you have any lingering doubts that may erupt eventually, do say so. For example, has the arrangement of the books worked out to your satisfaction? Are we all right on total number of stacks?

Are you sure that you want to squander 6 book sections (on the ground floor) for the sake of two tables that will only be of limited use as they are right in the main route from stairs to carrels and nobody will be able to do much sitting there? I'm guessing it's the bound Timeses that are the problem. Wouldn't an extra large lectern do just as well?

Incidentally I think the lecterns are a fine addition.

The "privacy screen" on the main floor I can't buy. I think it's appearance will be ...how to describe it?--dinky and pointless somehow. It will clutter a space that cries to be left open. It will not afford real privacy either: the tables are still in the center of the main aisle of the main reading room and nothing can alter that. We have made lavish provision for real privacy elsewhere, isn't it enough? All in all I cannot see that this "screen" is worth what it will cost.

Aside from this, I think the plans look highly satisfactory and I'm only hoping to hear you say so too!

Are you content with the tables and chairs? If you think the number of easy chairs is still too high, I suggest another table in each of the south corner bays on the main floor.

What gives with Mr. Metcalf? Is he still on the team?

Best wishes, and do let me hear from you if you're worrying about any part of this.

Betty

copy to Mr Day