

DEC - 2 AM

DEPARTMENT OF ORNITHOLOGY

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Canada. Tel. 928-3684 Cables: ROMA-Toronto

December 7, 1964

Prof. L. B. Macpherson,  
Dept. of Biochemistry,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Dr. Macpherson,-

Once or twice before, I have written to you regarding your specimen of Labrador duck, and regarding the possibility of the ROM getting same.

We are now in a position to offer you \$2,000 for it, should you care to let it come here for safekeeping.

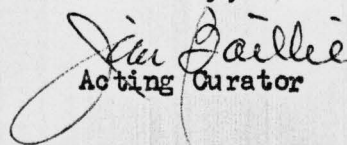
It may just be, and I am guessing, that you could use that sum more than you can use a Labrador duck.

We would like to acquire one while one is still available.

There are 54 specimens of this duck in the collections of the world, and I thought I would try you again first, before writing anyone else. If you still feel you would like to keep the bird, I shall then begin contacting the other owners.

I hope all goes well with you,

Sincerely,

  
Acting Curator



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
HALIFAX, N.S.

~~OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF MEDICINE~~

December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1964.

President Henry D. Hicks,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear President Hicks:

This letter is about a stuffed bird worth \$2000.00 and a set of books worth considerably more. The University owns the former, the latter might be given to us. I can explain, but not too briefly.

The Reverend Dr. Thomas McCulloch, as well as being the first President of Dalhousie, was a noted naturalist and a contemporary and acquaintance of John James Audubon. The latter visited him in Pictou in 1833. McCulloch's collection of mounted birds was left to Dalhousie and what remains can be seen in the 2nd and 4<sup>th</sup> floor corridors of the Forrest Building. But for one very important exception it is of little value because the data respecting the origin of the specimens is missing. It is of considerable historic interest because the birds are mounted in attitudes of the well-known "Audubon Prints" and no collection quite like it is known. When the McCulloch Collection (which once comprised more than birds) was left to Dalhousie it was accompanied by a bequest of 3 or 4 thousand dollars for its care. Presumably Dalhousie once had museum display space for it but for many years the bird collection gathered dust in storerooms until Ron Hayes resurrected it and, using some of the accumulated income of the bequest, had it refurbished and displayed as it is now.

My interest is as an amateur ornithologist (if there is such a type) and I probably know more about the collection than anyone now at Dalhousie. I believe that no one in the Biology Department has any interest in it for natural history is very much out of style, being too unscientific for the modern molecule-oriented biologist. In fact, it is said that it is a distinct disadvantage for an intending biologist to have any such interests. When inquiries were made

B.



President Henry D. Hicks

December 10, 1964

about the collection Ron Hayes always referred them to me. Some years back the Royal Ontario Museum catalogued rare bird specimens in Canada and, at his request, I replied to their questionnaire.

The important exception I mentioned before is an authentic Labrador Duck, one of the few known specimens in the world of this extinct species. Through me the R.O.M. offered it a home where its value would be appreciated. Ron Hayes and I thought that if it was to be given away the National Museum should have it but nothing was done at that time that I know of. Later the R.O.M. bid Passenger Pigeons, Carolina Parakeets, Whooping Cranes and Ivory-billed Woodpeckers in trade for it but as there was no policy of building a collection here there was no use for them and we showed no enthusiasm. That was two years ago. Now they have offered \$2000.00 for the one specimen.

I must refer back to the time Ron Hayes had the collection cleaned and put on display again. He did this because he thought there ought to be some evidence of care for the collection and use of the endowment for its original purpose should the McCulloch descendants decide to leave to Dalhousie the copy of the "Elephant Folio" of J.J. Audubon which they are said to own. This volume(s) is the origin of the famous prints mentioned before. This would indeed be a prestige item of the first water for any university to possess. It is worth many thousands of dollars.

I have merely acknowledged the letter from the Royal Ontario Museum, saying that I would find out if there was any interest in their offer.

Personally I would deplore the departure of the Labrador Duck from Dalhousie. I realize that natural history museums are not things that inspire much public or governmental support at the present but I believe that the time will come again when men will put value on their natural heritage. When this time comes I should hate to think that a unique nucleus we might have had was no longer ours. In addition I prize the bird. It is the immediate problem.

Probably more important is to show some interest in the "Elephant Folio" if, indeed, the McCulloch family does have a copy, and to sound them out on its eventual disposition. I do not know what branch of the family is supposed to have it, or where.

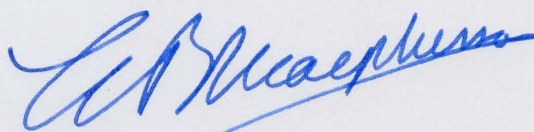


President Henry D. HicksDecember 11<sup>th</sup>, 1964

I don't think the Forrest Building corridor is the place for the duck, sprinklers notwithstanding. I have always known it was valuable but had thought, with the disappearance of private collections, that the market had fallen. It is clear that it has not. It would make an interesting conversation piece in your office. I would be happy to give it a home in my office which is in a fire-resistant (though unsprinklered) building too.

Should you wish my further advice on these two matters I would be happy to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.B. Macpherson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

L.B. Macpherson

/dd



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

TO: The President

May 5, 1965

FROM: E. B. Mercer

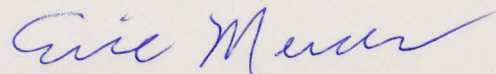
SUBJECT: The McCulloch Collection of Mounted Birds.

With reference to Dr. Macpherson's letter of December 11 and the McCulloch Collection of Mounted Birds over which Dr. Macpherson is concerned, I have made some inquiries and given a little thought to the matter, as you requested. I suggest that we should hold on to the McCulloch Collection and the valuable specimen of the Labrador Duck, and that we try to obtain the "Elephant Folio" of J.J. Audubon, if it is anywhere available to us.

With the growth of the University and the erection of new buildings there should be a space eventually for "Dalhousiana" in which this Collection of our first President <sup>would</sup> ~~will~~ fit very nicely. The Labrador Duck would, of course, be the centrepiece.

In the meantime, I would suggest that Dr. Macpherson be asked to keep an eye on the Collection and be allowed to keep the Labrador Duck in his office, if he wishes. Possibly Dr. von Maltzen should be consulted before this move is made in case he has proprietary interest in it.

Dr. Macpherson might also be interested in finding out where the "Elephant Folio" is now so that the University might, officially, eventually secure it. (I have checked with Professor Wilkinson to make sure that we do not have it at present).



Assistant to the President

dh



Dr. L. B. Macpherson,  
Assistant Dean,  
Faculty of Medicine.

July 12, 1965

E. B. Mercer

McCulloch Collection of Mounted Birds.

With reference to our telephone conversation of May 28, I am writing to you to confirm that the President has decided that the McCulloch Collection of Mounted Birds, with the valuable Labrador Duck, should be retained by the University. If it is not too much trouble, will you keep an eye on the Collection?

The President has no objection to the Duck's gracing your office. However, Dr. von Maltzen should be kept in the picture in case he has some interest in the Collection.

If you are interested in tracing the "Elephant Folio" of J. J. Audubon, I believe the President would be willing to make an effort to obtain it for the University, if you should locate it.

  
Assistant to the President

dh



WALDEMAR H. FRIES  
86 CUSHING STREET  
PROVIDENCE 6, RHODE ISLAND

6 October 1966

Miss Sylvia Fullerton  
The University Library  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Miss Fullerton:

My friend John Ettlinger has read to me ~~that~~ part of your letter of October 3rd which concerned the Double Elephant folio of the Birds of America.

For some years I have been searching for the extant sets of the folio. I have been unable to find any indication that Professor Thomas McCulloch ever received from Audubon any prints of the original Double Elephant folio. There is in existence a ledger in which there is a record of the various subscribers and the volumes of the folio or individual prints which might have been set out. The name of McCulloch does not appear in this ledger.

Audubon met Dr. McCulloch during his expedition to Labrador on August 22, 1833. I would refer you to details of the meeting to be found on pages 436-437 of Audubon and His Journals by Maria R. Audubon-Charles Scribner's Sons-New York-1897. - Vol. I.

I find in my files copies of two letters which Audubon wrote to Dr. McCulloch. The first was written at New York on September, 1836. This letter concerns specimens which he desired the Dr. to send to him. The other letter is dated September 29, 1840 (also dated at N.Y.) It is interesting to note that in this letter he stated that he had forwarded to Halifax "the numbers of our little work (1 to 13.)" These are the numbers which when bound are now known as the OCTAVO edition. In your letter you wrote about there having been sent numbers 1-23. Do you not think that perhaps the original prints of the elephant folio have been confused with those of the Octavo? When the two men met the publication of the folio had been underway since 1826- it hardly seems logical that at such late a date Audubon would be sending the first numbers of the elephant folio which had been printed seven years previously.

I am sending you copies of both letters. I regret to say that I do not know where the original of the letter of September 12, 1836 is located. I think I may have obtained it from the New York Public Library. The letter of September 29, 1840 is the property of Morgan Bulkeley, Copake Falls, R.F.D. New York. It is on loan to the Bailey Museum at Bartholomes' Cobble, Ashley Falls, Mass.



There are many references to McCulloch in the Ornithological Biographies- as follows:

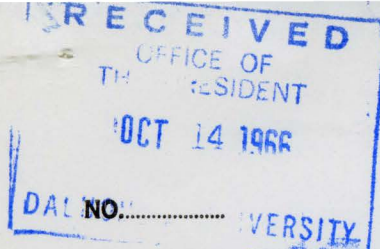
Vol. III- p.253,  
" IV - p.84  
" " -pp. 163-164  
" " - p.261  
" " - p.271  
" " - p. 377  
" " - p.416-417  
" " - pp. 436-437  
" " - p.551  
" V - p.269

This seems to be all that I can tell you about the Audubon-McCulloch relations s found in my notes. I hope that the information be of some help to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Waldemar H. Fries*  
Waldemar H. Fries

Copy to Mr. Ettlinger.



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMO

FROM Sylvia J. Fullerton.....

DATE October 14, 1966.....

TO President H.J. Hicks.....

RE.....

---

Some time ago you were inquiring whether or not we had ever received a set of the Elephant Folio of Audubon's Birds of America from the McCulloch bequest.

As you know, we were unable to find a copy or any record that we had ever received a set.

Mr. John Ettlinger, of the Library at Brown University, and shortly to become a member of our staff, told me that he knew a Mr. Fries who was compiling a list of the sets. Mr. Ettlinger in turn asked Mr. Fries and I am enclosing a copy of Mr. Fries' reply for your information.

Sincerely,

*Sylvia Fullerton*

dms/SJF  
Enclosure



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

NATURAL HISTORY BRANCH



MUSÉE NATIONAL DU CANADA

DIRECTION DE L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

OUR FILE NO.  
NOTRE DOSSIER N°

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

YOUR FILE NO.  
VOTRE DOSSIER N°

Ottawa 4, April 5, 1967.

Dr. John E. McInerney,  
Department of Biology,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Dr. McInerney:

A basic principle of museums which is receiving wider and wider international acceptance is that specimens of national importance should be eventually deposited in National Museums where continued federal government support can guarantee their perpetual survival under continuing professional curatorship. The National Museum of Canada is receiving such support and its growing collections are receiving growing national and international recognition.

In the fields of natural history the St. John's Natural History Society has deposited at the National Museum of Canada the last specimen of the extinct Newfoundland wolf. Last month, Dr. Ian McT. Cowan, Dean of Graduate Studies of the University of British Columbia, deposited at the National Museum the type specimens of birds and mammals held in the University of British Columbia Museum, on permanent loan. He expressed his view that such irreplaceable specimens should be at the National Museum rather than at a University Museum where changing emphasis in Biology might eventually jeopardize their perpetual care.

After receiving Dr. Cowan's unsolicited letter I recalled previous correspondence we had concerning the condition and care of the Labrador duck in the McCullough Collection held by your Department. As you undoubtedly are aware this is one of very few specimens extant of this extinct Canadian bird. The National Museum does not possess a specimen among our collection of 55,000 birds. We would be very interested in guaranteeing the preservation of this unique specimen either through a permanent loan arrangement or an outright purchase. Of course full acknowledgement would be given to your University and Department in any arrangement.



Dr. John E. McInerney - page 2

April 5, 1967.

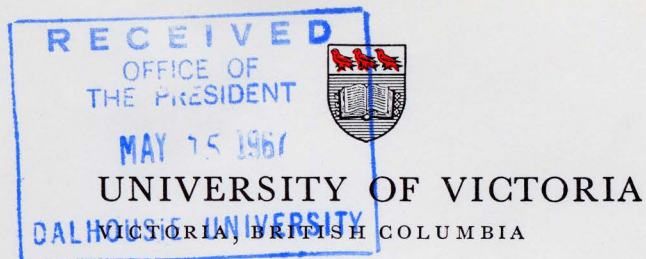
I would greatly appreciate it if you would draw this matter again to the attention of the proper University authorities as you indicated you would do in your letter of October 8, 1964.

Yours sincerely,

*A.W.F. Banfield*

A.W.F. Banfield,  
Director of Natural History.





*Department of Biology*

May 10th, 1967

President H. D. Hicks  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Dear President Hicks:

As you are aware part of the substantial McCullough Natural History Collection is presently housed in the Forrest Building. Included in that collection of mounted bird specimens is one of national interest and importance, a now extinct species, the Labrador duck.

During my brief stay at Dalhousie I became concerned that the McCullough Collection was deteriorating because of an infestation of carpet beetles. In searching for ways to combat the problem I wrote to the National Museum for advice. In their reply they outlined a technique for controlling the carpet beetle infestation and emphasized the importance of the Labrador duck specimen. I initiated a twice yearly treatment with insecticide, a practice which I trust has been maintained since.

Attached is a copy of a letter recently addressed to me by Dr. A.W.F. Banfield, Director of Natural History at the National Museum. In it he underlines, cogently I feel, the desirability of housing unusually valuable specimens in the National Museum where their perpetual care is guaranteed. That this can be done on a "loan" basis seems to me an attractive feature.

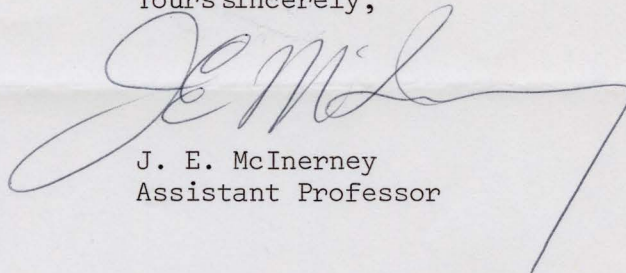


President H. D. Hicks

May 10th, 1967

I bring this to your attention in response to Dr. Banfield's request.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. E. McInerney', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

J. E. McInerney  
Assistant Professor

JEMcI:mm

Enclosure

cc: Dr. A.W.F. Banfield  
Director of Natural History  
National Museum of Canada  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dr. K. von Maltzahn, Head  
Department of Biology  
Dalhousie University  
Halifax, Nova Scotia



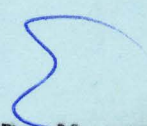
Dr. L. B. Macpherson

May 16, 1967

E. B. Mercer

THE LABRADOR DUCK

With reference to the attached correspondence,  
have you any comments before I bring this matter  
to the attention of the President?



E. B. Mercer,  
Asst. to the President

P

Enc. 2

DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

FILE NO.

MAY 19 1967

TO: Dr. L. B. Macpherson

May 16, 1967

FROM: E. B. Mercer

SUBJECT: THE LABRADOR DUCK

With reference to the attached correspondence,  
have you any comments before I bring this matter  
to the attention of the President?

*E. B. Mercer*  
E. B. Mercer,  
Asst. to the President

P

Enc. 2

*By Xerox*

29 May 1967

→ TO : E.B.Mercer, Assistant to the President  
From : L.B.Macpherson  
Subject : Labrador Duck Specimen

If there is no place at Dalhousie where this specimen can be safely and properly displayed ( and I do not believe that there is ) then I recommend, with some personal regret, that it be transferred to the National Museum of Canada on loan. The understanding should be that if Dalhousie ever establishes a proper Natural History Museum the Labrador Duck specimen would be returned to Dalhousie. I suppose the right of the University to loan the specimen, vis-a-vis the McCullough Collection, should be checked.



BF Sept 7  
ph  
(Keep together)

Dr Read

Would you have time to  
look this over & advise on  
the legal implications  
of loaning "The Duck" to  
the National Museum?

Eric Jancy

Should be a formal legal document  
setting out the terms of the loan.  
EJR

Ask Dr. Reed  
about legal angle

---



Labrador Duck

(New Doc)

F  
247A

December 4, 1967

Dr. A. W. F. Banfield,  
Director of Natural History,  
National Museum of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Banfield:

You may remember that you wrote on April 5th 1967 to Dr. J. E. McInerney, formerly of the Department of Biology at Dalhousie and now at the University of Victoria, about our specimen of the Labrador duck. I am writing to say that the President is agreeable to lending the duck to the National Museum of Canada, reserving the right to ask for its return if and when a natural history museum is established at Dalhousie.

Before I ask our solicitors to arrange a document setting out the terms of the loan, I am writing to ask you to confirm your continued interest in the specimen under such a condition.

Yours sincerely,

  
E. B. Mercer

Assistant to the President

c

cc Dr. J. E. McInerney  
Department of Biology  
University of Victoria

Dr. L. B. MacPherson  
Dr. K. E. vonMaltzahn

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

MUSÉE NATIONAL DU CANADA

PLEASE REFER TO

OUR FILE No.....



CANADA

VEUILLEZ CITER NOTRE

No.....

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

Ottawa, Ontario,  
12th December, 1967.

Mr. E.B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Sir:

In Dr. Banfield's absence I am replying to your letter of December 4th, concerning the loan of your specimen of the Labrador duck to the National Museum of Canada.

The National Museum should be delighted to take this rare specimen on loan under terms and conditions agreeable to both our organizations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'T.A. Russell', with a large loop at the end.

T.A. Russell,  
Administrator,  
Common Services.



BF Jan 4  
plu

December 15, 1967

R. A. Cluney, Esq.,  
McInnes, Cooper & Robertson,  
P. O. Box 730,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Mr. Cluney:

This request for your services may seem a bit unusual, but we have a very valuable specimen of the Labrador duck at Dalhousie which, it has been decided, should be loaned to the National Museum of Canada until we have a proper place to display it.

Dr. Read is of the opinion that there should be a formal legal document setting out the terms of the loan, and Dr. Hicks has concurred in both the loan and that there should be an agreement signed by the Museum.

I am attaching copies of two letters on the subject, involving the Director of Natural History at the National Museum and Dr. McInerney, who was formally in our Department of Biology. I think these should give you enough information to draw up the agreement, but, I know that you will call on me if you need anything further.

Yours sincerely,

E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President

c  
Encs. 2

McINNES, COOPER & ROBERTSON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &C.

DONALD McINNES, Q.C.	A.G. COOPER, Q.C.
J. H. DICKEY, Q.C.	G.B. ROBERTSON, Q.C.
L.A. BELL	HAROLD F. JACKSON
R.A. CLUNEY	HECTOR McINNES
H. E. WRATHALL	J. M. DAVISON
STEWART McINNES	L. J. HAYES
J. A. F. MACDONALD	

P. O. Box 730  
1673 BEDFORD ROW  
HALIFAX, N.S.

December 21, 1967.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

Thank you for your letter of December 15th giving me instructions concerning the preparation of an agreement relating to the loan of the Labrador duck at Dalhousie to the National Museum of Canada.

I will be forwarding a draft form of agreement to you shortly.

Yours truly,

*R & Clune*

Mr. E. B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

RAC"BL

*not yet Jan 23  
Feb 1*

*BF Jan 5  
Jan 23  
30  
Feb 8*



Mar 1  
BF Feb. 23  
file

February 9, 1968.

R. A. Cluney, Esq.,  
McInnes, Cooper & Robertson,  
P. O. Box 730,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Cluney:

Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

I have just had your letter of December 21  
brought forward to my attention, and am dropping  
you a note in case this <sup>matter</sup> letter might have become  
buried under other more important items.

Yours sincerely,

E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President

c

McINNES, COOPER & ROBERTSON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.

DONALD McINNES, Q.C.	A.G. COOPER, Q.C.
J. H. DICKEY, Q.C.	G. B. ROBERTSON, Q.C.
L.A. BELL	HAROLD F. JACKSON
R. A. CLUNEY	HECTOR McINNES
H. E. WRATHALL	J. M. DAVISON
STEWART McINNES	L. J. HAYES
J. A. F. MACDONALD	G. T. H. COOPER

P. O. Box 730  
1673 BEDFORD ROW  
HALIFAX, N.S.

February 27, 1968.

Our File: X-1424

Dear Professor Mercer:

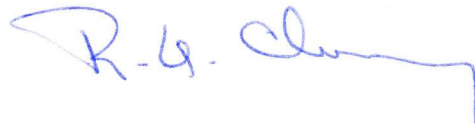
Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

I apologize for not having forwarded the enclosed Agreement earlier.

The Department of the Secretary of State may have some standard form of Agreement which they use in cases of borrowing specimens, but I feel the enclosed Agreement is suitable for purposes of the University.

If you have any comments on the Agreement, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,



Professor E. B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

RAC"BL

encls.



*BF after signature  
Mar. 18 plsl.  
EHR*

February 29, 1968.

Dr. A. W. F. Banfield,  
Director of Natural History,  
National Museum of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Banfield:

Re: Labrador Duck at Dalhousie

With reference to the letter written on December 12th by your Mr. Russell in your absence, I am enclosing three copies of an Agreement between Dalhousie and the National Museum of Canada, covering the loan of our Labrador Duck to the Museum. If this form of Agreement is satisfactory to you, may we have two copies returned to us duly signed.

With regard to the shipping of the Duck, I am planning to ask Mr. J. L. Martin, the Director of the Nova Scotia Museum of Science, to loan us the services of Mr. Lloyd Duncanson of his staff, to ensure that the bird is properly packed to avoid damage in transit. If your experts have any suggestions I shall be pleased to pass them on to Mr. Martin for Mr. Duncanson.

Yours sincerely,

Henry D. Hicks

c  
Encls.

cc: Dr. K. E. von Maltzahn



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

MUSÉE NATIONAL DU CANADA

PLEASE REFER TO

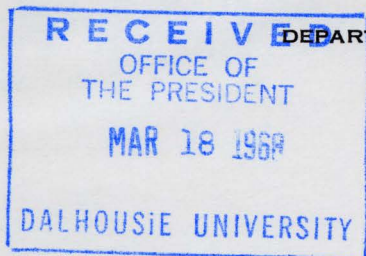
OUR FILE No.....



CANADA

VEUILLEZ CITER NOTRE

No.....



DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

Ottawa 4, March 13, 1968.

Mr. Henry D. Hicks,  
President and Vice-Chancellor,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Hicks:

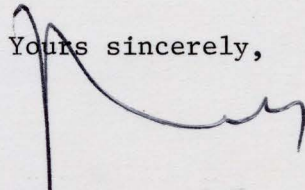
In the absence of Dr. A.W.F. Banfield, Director of the Natural History Museum, I wish to acknowledge your letter of February 29 enclosing agreement concerning the loan of your Labrador Duck to the National Museum for execution on behalf of the National Museum. We took the liberty of having our legal adviser review the agreement and his comments are as follows:

"While the agreement does not appear to contain anything in substance which is objectionable from a legal point of view, it does not really follow the form of agreement which is usually entered into on behalf of Her Majesty in right of Canada."

He has prepared a revised agreement and I submit this in four copies for your consideration.

On behalf of Dr. Banfield, may I thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

  
T.A. Russell,  
Administrator,  
Common Services.

Encl.



March 18, 1968.


R. A. Cluney, Esq.,  
McInnes, Cooper & Robertson,  
P. O. Box 730,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Cluney:

Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

With reference to the Agreement you prepared for the loan of the Labrador duck to the National Museum, we now have received one from them in their own format. I am presuming that it is all right, but I am sending you a copy for your information, and just in case you have any comments.

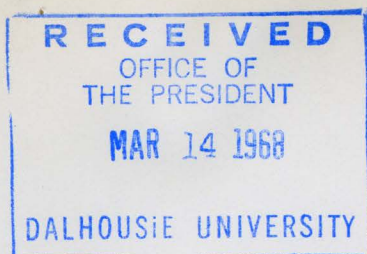
Yours sincerely,



E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President

c  
Enc.





# NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

HALIFAX, CANADA

March 13th, 1968

Dr. Henry D. Hicks,  
President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Dr. Hicks:

We received a request last week from Professor Eric B. Mercer to prepare a Labrador Duck for shipment from Dalhousie to the National Museum in Ottawa. This duck is, I understand, a part of the McCulloch collection, and I am deeply concerned about its transfer to the National Museum.

Since coming back to Halifax I have done everything possible to encourage close cooperation between the Nova Scotia Museum and the National Museum, and shall continue to do so. I feel that certain specimens should be in their collections rather than ours and have made transfers accordingly. At the same time, with the quickly approaching construction of our new Museum, I hate to see valuable treasures leave this province when they can be properly stored, housed and displayed in our new quarters.

In the course of our exhibit planning, we are setting up displays around well-known people of Nova Scotia's past. Dr. McCulloch happens to be one of these people, and I am sure he will get much more attention here than he would in our national institution.

The value of the Labrador Duck, of course, lies to a great extent in its rarity, there being, I believe only two or three specimens in existence. Here again, the theme of our new Museum will be Man and Environment in Nova Scotia. The effects of man's activities on our wild life will be illustrated, and extinct species will naturally play





## NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

HALIFAX, CANADA

Dr. Henry D. Hicks

- 2 -

March 13, 1968

a prominent role.

We have cooperated with Dalhousie in many ways during the past years. Large and valuable parts of our collections have been placed at the disposal of Dalhousie on a long-term loan basis for teaching purposes. Your Geology Department in particular has benefited in this way. I hope this type of cooperation will continue and increase in the future.

The museum picture in Nova Scotia has suffered in the past and suffers today from over-fragmentation. We have at present about 50 museums in Nova Scotia, many of them ill-financed, with little or no competent staff but at the same time holding extremely valuable collections of specimens. This is a problem which sooner or later we must face. With the progress towards the new museum we have been attempting to consolidate our resources wherever possible and have been making considerable progress. We hope that when our new quarters are finished that many people and organizations throughout the Province will recognize that we have facilities and the staff to care for our province's scientific and historical heritage.

I should appreciate it if, in the future, when Dalhousie is contemplating disposal of materials that you would think of us. I know that you are not entirely unfamiliar with our problems as a result of your past experience and I trust that you will continue to be one of our supporters.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Lynton Martin".

J. Lynton Martin,  
Director.

JLM/mps



March 19, 1968.

J. Lynton Martin, Esq.,  
Director,  
Nova Scotia Museum of Science,  
Halifax, N. S.

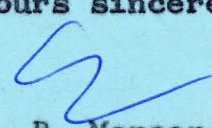
Dear Mr. Martin:

I am acknowledging your letter of March 13 on behalf of the President who is absent from the city briefly. We are sorry that we did not know about your special McCullough display. There is probably no excuse for our ignorance of what is going on in the same city.

However, I think we have committed ourselves to lending the Duck to the National Museum beyond the point of recall now. In the future we will certainly remember to discuss such matters with you and your staff before taking action.

I had intended to write to you about preparing the Labrador duck for shipment, but since you have kindly mentioned it in your letter, I hope I may feel free to talk directly with Mr. Lloyd Duncanson when the necessary loan documents have been signed by the National Museum people.

Yours sincerely,



E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President



Professor Mercer's Office

March 25, 1968

D. H. McNeill, Esq.

Attached Agreement

Professor Mercer has asked me to send the attached (four copies) along to you for signature by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Board of Governors. When this has been done would you be good enough to return them to this office so we may correspond further with the National Museum of Canada.

(Mrs.) Elizabeth A. Christian

Encs.

McINNES, COOPER & ROBERTSON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.

*BF April 2/1968*

DONALD McINNES, Q.C.	A.G. COOPER, Q.C.
J. H. DICKEY, Q.C.	G.B. ROBERTSON, Q.C.
L.A. BELL, Q.C.	HAROLD F. JACKSON, Q.C.
R.A. CLUNEY	HECTOR McINNES
H.E. WRATHALL	J.M. DAVISON
STEWART McINNES	L.J. HAYES
J.A.F. MACDONALD	G.T.H. COOPER
JOHN G. COOPER	DAVID B. RITCEY

P. O. Box 730  
1673 BEDFORD ROW  
HALIFAX, N.S.

March 25, 1968.

Dear Sir:

Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

Further to your letter of March 18, I have perused the form of Agreement prepared by the solicitors for the National Museum, and I consider it to be in proper form.

Yours truly,

*R.G. Clune*

Mr. E. B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

RAC"BL

*Mrs C.  
Documents signed?*

*April - Mrs. Nicolls has secured Mr. McInnes' signature  
and will have Mrs. Moore's today.*



DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MEMO

NO.....

FROM.....Professor Mercer's Office

DATE.....March 25, 1968

TO.....D. H. McNeill, Esq.

RE.....Attached Agreement

---

Professor Mercer has asked me to send the attached (four copies) along to you for signature by the Chairman and Honorary Secretary of the Board of Governors. When this has been done would you be good enough to return them to this office so we may correspond further with the National Museum of Canada.

*Mrs. E. A. Christian*  
(Mrs.) Elizabeth A. Christian

Encs.



*BK April 16/68*  
*" 23 "*  
*May 7/68*

April 2, 1968.

Dr. A. W. F. Banfield,  
Director of Natural History,  
National Museum of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

Dear Dr. Banfield:

With reference to your Mr. Russell's letter of March 13, I am returning the loan documents, *(4 copies)* duly signed, to you for your own signatures.

On receipt of our copies of the Agreement from you we shall arrange to have the Duck crated and shipped to the Museum.

If you have funds for the purpose, we shall bill you for the cost of shipping and insurance; but, if not, I am sure that the University can absorb these charges. In this connection, it is our intention to insure the Labrador Duck for about \$2,000.00, but we would appreciate advice from you if this is not enough in your opinion.

Yours sincerely,

*2*  
E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President

c  
Encs.

*Not received yet EM*  
*16-IV*  
*23-IV*



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

NATURAL HISTORY BRANCH



MUSÉE NATIONAL DU CANADA

DIRECTION DE L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

OUR FILE NO.  
NOTRE DOSSIER N°

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

YOUR FILE NO.  
VOTRE DOSSIER N°

Ottawa 4, April 16, 1968.

Mr. E.B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 2 and the attached copies of the Agreement covering the loan of the Labrador Duck. I return herewith two copies, duly signed, and have kept two copies for our files.

I suggest that the easiest way of handling the shipment would be for you to send the parcel by railway express, collect, and to insure the duck for a suggested \$3,000 with the railway company. We will accept full charges at this end. In this way, we will be able to get around the small problem that the Government does not normally insure objects but would rather accept the risk.

I would like to assure Dr. Hicks and yourself how much we, at the National Museums, appreciate your co-operation in this loan. This rare specimen will greatly enhance our National collection of birds. When the specimen arrives, we intend to put it on display and to issue a news release on the event giving full credit to Dalhousie University.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

*A.W.F. Banfield*

A.W.F. Banfield,  
Director,  
Museum of Natural Sciences.



BF May 20/68

April 26, 1968.

J. Lynton Martin, Esq.,  
Director,  
Nova Scotia Museum of Science,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Mr. Martin:

Further to my letter of March 19, we now have received back from the National Museum the signed loan documents, and are free to send them the Labrador Duck.

I hope that Mr. Duncanson will be free to give his expert attention to crating it for us so that it will arrive undamaged. The Bird is in the Forrest Building and can be located through Dr. von Maltzahn, the Head of the Biology Department or, in his absence, through Mr. D. Wiseman who can be located on the first floor.

If Mr. Duncanson should decide to take the duck to the Museum, it would be appreciated if your people would ship it railway express, collect, and insure it for \$3,000 to the following address:

Dr. A. W. F. Benfield,  
Director of Natural History,  
National Museum of Canada,  
Ottawa, Ontario.

May we have the receipt from the railway company.



J. Lynton Martin, Esq.--2

April 26, 1968.

I hope we are not presuming too much on your good will and that you or Mr. Duncanson will get in touch with me if there are any difficulties.

Yours sincerely,

E. B. Mercer  
Assistant to the President

c

cc: Lloyd Duncanson, Esq.  
Dr. K. E. von Maltzahn  
D. Wiseman, Esq.

McINNES, COOPER & ROBERTSON

BARRISTERS, SOLICITORS, &c.

DONALD McINNES, Q.C.	A.G. COOPER, Q.C.
J.H. DICKEY, Q.C.	G.B. ROBERTSON, Q.C.
L.A. BELL, Q.C.	HAROLD F. JACKSON, Q.C.
R.A. CLUNEY	HECTOR McINNES
H.E. WRATHALL	J.M. DAVISON
STEWART McINNES	L.J. HAYES
J.A.F. MACDONALD	G.T.H. COOPER
JOHN G. COOPER	DAVID B. RITCEY

P.O. Box 730  
1673 BEDFORD ROW  
HALIFAX, N.S.

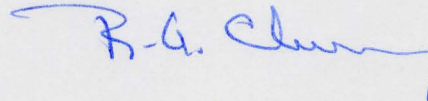
May 8, 1968.

Dear Sir:

Re: Dalhousie and National Museum of Canada

I now enclose herewith our account for services  
in connection with this matter.

Yours truly,



Mr. E. B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

RAC"BL

encl.



Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia

*Halifax, N.S.* May 8, 1968.

*To McInnes, Cooper & Robertson*  
*Barristers and Solicitors*

RAC

Re: National Museum of Canada

---

To professional services in connection with this matter,  
including the following:

Receiving instructions from you; preparation of draft form  
of Agreement; perusal of draft Agreement submitted by the  
Government; telephone conferences and correspondence.

OUR FEES

\$20.00

Assistant to the President

May 9, 1968.

D. H. McNeill, Esq.

The attached

The attached account is for drawing up an agreement between the University and the National Museum of Canada, to cover the loan by us of the Labrador Duck which is in the Forrest Building.

It was Dr. Read's opinion that we should protect our interest in the Bird in this manner.

  
E. B. Mercer

c  
Enc.





NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA - LES MUSÉES NATIONAUX DU CANADA

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
LE MUSÉE NATIONAL DES SCIENCES NATURELLES  
OTTAWA

OUR FILE NO.  
NOTRE DOSSIER NO

AIR MAIL

May 9, 1968.

Mr. E.B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

Based on your last letter concerning the loan of the Labrador duck specimen to the National Museum of Natural Sciences, we expected to receive the specimen shortly. We have made preparations to put the specimen on exhibit during the international Museums' Week, May 27 to June 1, and to distribute a news release on the loan arrangements with Dalhousie University. In view of the short time before the proposed exhibit, it would be greatly appreciated if the Labrador duck could be shipped at the earliest possible moment.

Yours sincerely,

*A.W.F. Banfield*

A.W.F. Banfield,  
Director.

*Burcannon to call when  
he has made arrangements  
to ship the Bird.*



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF CANADA

NATURAL HISTORY BRANCH



MUSÉE NATIONAL DU CANADA

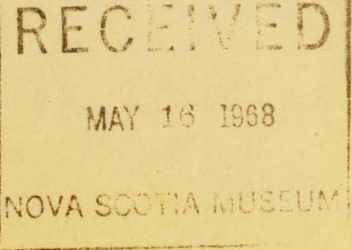
DIRECTION DE L'HISTOIRE NATURELLE

OUR FILE NO.  
NOTRE DOSSIER N°

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE  
SECRÉTARIAT D'ÉTAT

YOUR FILE NO.  
VOTRE DOSSIER N°

Ottawa 4, May 14, 1968



Dr. J. Lynton Martin,  
Director,  
Nova Scotia Museum,  
Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Dear Dr. Martin:

When you transferred our telephone conversation yesterday afternoon to Mr. Lloyd Duncanson, he explained that the Labrador Duck is flimsily mounted on a fragile stand, and with an elongated and presumably brittle neck. Mr. Duncanson feels that the mount would be difficult to prepare for shipment via the usual carriers without considerable risk of damage to the specimen.

I quite agree that we cannot take the slightest risk of damage to this specimen.

I then discussed the problem with our Director, Dr. A.W.F. Banfield, who is in agreement with the following suggestion. I shall be driving to Nova Scotia in July and perhaps the solution is to bring it back in my car. With a little careful packaging I think that will be the best solution to the difficulty.

I should like to take this opportunity to thank you and Mr. Duncanson for your kind assistance in this matter. If you have gone to any expense I think that we should reimburse you.

Sincerely yours,

W. Earl Godfrey,  
Head, Vertebrate Zoology Section.





## NOVA SCOTIA MUSEUM

HALIFAX, CANADA

May 17, 1968.

Professor E. B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Coburg Rd.,  
Halifax, N. S.

Dear Professor Mercer:

Mr. Duncanson examined the specimen of the Labrador Duck and felt that you are taking a very big chance by shipping it through the regular channels. We therefore telephoned Mr. Earl Godfrey, of the National Museum, and explained the situation to him.

I am enclosing herewith a copy of his reply which is self explanatory.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "J. Lynton Martin".

J. Lynton Martin,  
Director.

JLM/cm  
Enc.1.



May 21, 1968.

Dr. K. E. von Maltzahn

Assistant to the President

Labrador Duck

It has now been arranged that Mr. W. Earl Godfrey, the Head of the Zoology Section of the National Museum of Canada, will pick up the duck while he is in Nova Scotia in July, and take it back in his car with him. The Nova Scotia Museum will assist him, as necessary, with packing the bird.

I am sending Mr. Godfrey a copy of this memorandum so that he can use it as his authority to take the bird from your Department.

  
E. B. Mercer

c

cc: W. Earl Godfrey, Esq.,  
Head, Vertebrate Zoology Section,  
National Museum of Canada,  
Ottawa 4, Ontario

Dr. J. Lynton Martin,  
Director,  
Nova Scotia Museum,  
Halifax, N. S.

cc: D. Wiseman, Esq.  
Stores Technician,  
Biology Department

403

BT July 31  
pls.  
Aug 28/68





DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY  
HALIFAX, N. S.

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

August 5, 1968

Received from Department of Biology, Dalhousie University

1 case containing mounted Labrador Duck.

W. Earl Godfrey

5 August 1968

Defects: 1 slight break along left corner when acquired.  
WE Godfrey

Case closed ! EM. 29-VIII-68



*Copies to Dr. Cameron Acting Head Biology & Mr. Mann plae.*  
NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF CANADA - LES MUSÉES NATIONAUX DU CANADA *Sent Sept 9/68*

NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES  
LE MUSÉE NATIONAL DES SCIENCES NATURELLES  
OTTAWA

OUR FILE NO.  
NOTRE DOSSIER NO

Ottawa 4, September 4, 1968.

Mr. E.B. Mercer,  
Assistant to the President,  
Dalhousie University,  
Halifax, N.S.

Dear Mr. Mercer:

I want you to know that the Labrador duck arrived safely at the Museum last month. Mr. W.E. Godfrey, our curator of birds, carried it personally in his car. We are now preparing a special case and exhibit for the main rotunda of the Museum where it will be displayed for a number of months. We have also prepared a news release on the event which fully credits the generosity of Dalhousie University. I will send you a copy of the news release as soon as it is prepared.

I want to take this opportunity of thanking you, the President and the staff of Dalhousie University who made this loan possible. It was very generous of the University and we are pleased to care for the specimen until such time as a natural history museum is established at Dalhousie.

Yours sincerely,

*A.W.F. Banfield*

A.W.F. Banfield,  
Director.

(281)

F  
2340  
Duck  
P