

HOWE AND LESCAZE • ARCHITECTS

Philadelphia
February 24, 1933

Isaac W. Roberts, Esq.,
700 Walnut Street,
Philadelphia.

Dear Isaac:

There are two or three things I want to speak about merely to bring them to your attention.

1. I am informed that Purdy & Henderson found the plaster cracks in the 12th & Market Sts. building entirely normal and inevitable. I was sure such was the case, but I wished you to be entirely satisfied. However, I should like to point out that the expense to which we are put in paying Purdy & Henderson to send a man over here for a purpose of this kind is very large, and I would therefore urge that Mr. Cook do not call on us quite unnecessarily as in the present case.

2. As I told you yesterday, it appears that we have somewhat overtaxed the mechanical skill of the metalworker in requiring him to leave only a 1/16" clearance at the top and 3/16" clearance at the bottom of the bank doors. Our purpose in requiring so delicate an adjustment was to achieve the neatest possible result. It is still our opinion that it should be possible to make things fit without having them bind and twist. However, since they do actually bind and twist it will be necessary to have the doors cut down and the clearance increased. In order to make a good job the doors will have to be sent back to the factory. My office in New York is taking up with General Bronze Co. the question of the best method of accomplishing our end, and I am asking the Fuller Company to obtain a price on making the necessary corrections.

3. In order to avoid the necessity of a door frame at the swinging doors at the foot of the stairs to the bank it was necessary to put the doors in place before the flat ceiling was built above them. It was our belief that

HOWE AND LESCAZE • ARCHITECTS

-2-

since these doors were to be practically unused the Rixson hinges would last indefinitely. However, we seem to have been mistaken for the pivots or their bushings have already shown wear, probably due to the constant opening and shutting during construction. It is therefore going to be necessary to make some provision so that these doors may be removed. This is being taken care of in the same way as item #2.

4. Dick Francis feels that the remedies suggested for the Observation Tower sash are not satisfactory. He also feels that in this case, as in some others, the use of aluminum has not proved satisfactory.

In this connection I should like to say that aluminum was decided on only after careful inquiry and with the concurrence of the Fuller Company. It is a disappointment that it should not be entirely satisfactory, especially as regards hardware. However, it is to be noted that its cost is a good deal less than bronze and very much less than stainless steel, so that even if there is some cost involved in making them satisfactory, the total will still probably be less than it would have been if some harder material had been selected in the first place.

It is also to be noted that the windows in the Observation Tower are standard top-hung and pivotted sash made of stock sections and that no untried experiment was made with them. The question will be looked into further.

5. You asked me some time ago about the possibility of curtaining the windows from the Board Room and the Dining Room on to the Terrace. I have waited to propose a solution because it seemed to me that the question of furnishing this Terrace should be taken up at the same time. I have therefore got together a few illustrations of stock Malacca and cane chairs, and made a tentative plan to serve as a basis of discussion.

As to the curtains, it is our feeling that several independent curtains should be run on continuous tracks around the entire Terrace, instead of as proposed

HOWE AND LESCAZE • ARCHITECTS

-3-

by you at the two windows giving access to the Terrace. In this way the feeling of space provided by the free passages would not be destroyed. Furthermore, the Terrace itself could be made much more pleasantly habitable. When the curtains were not necessary they could be gathered at any desired point on the continuous track, either singly or in groups. I am aware that I have somewhat thrust this Terrace upon you, but I remain convinced that once it is furnished and utilized it will be a great source of pleasure to the Board. Will you give this matter your consideration?

Sincerely yours,

