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Extensive Addition to Library Planned

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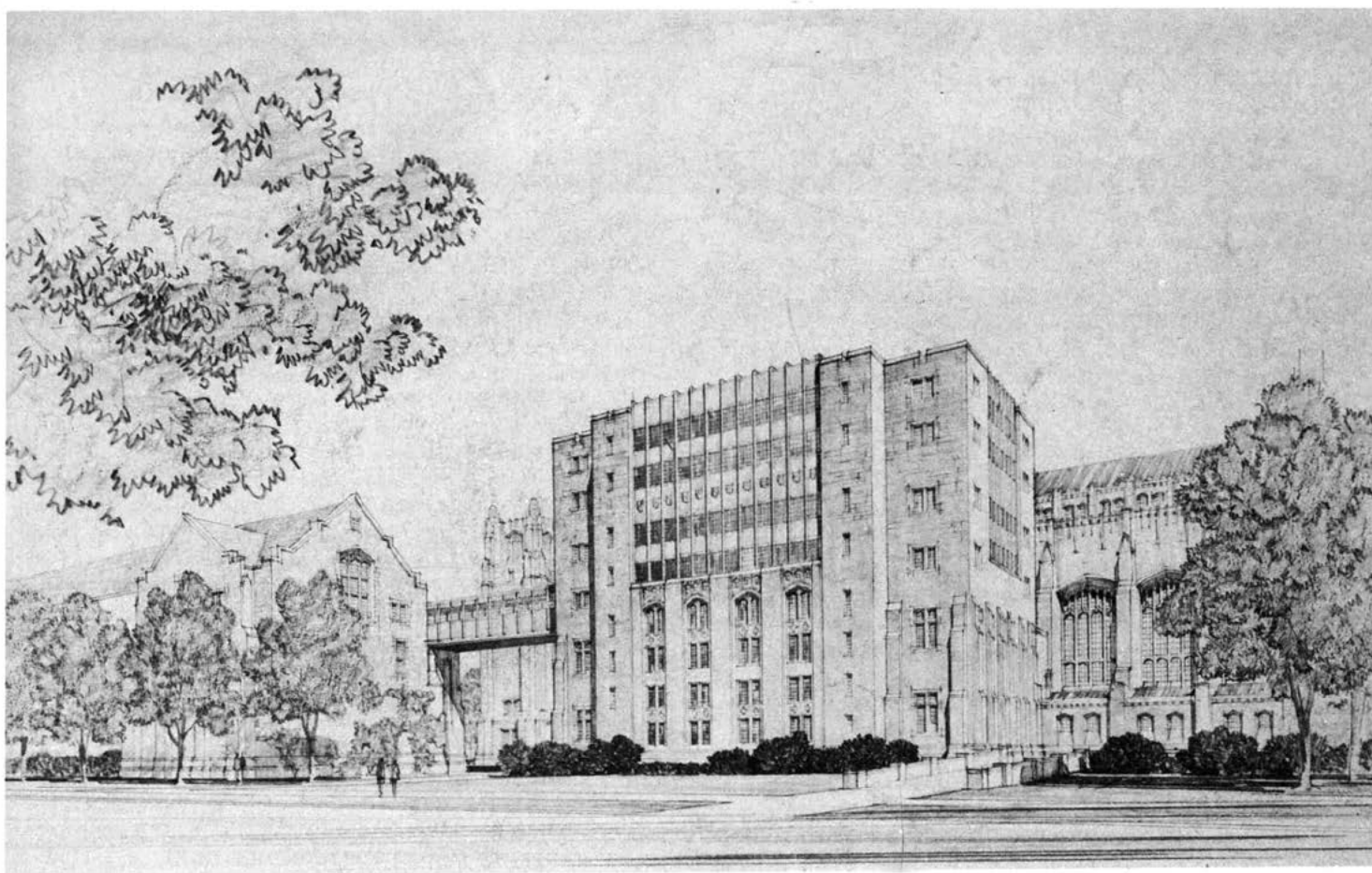
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PROPOSED LIBRARY ADDITION

EXTENSIVE ADDITION TO LIBRARY PLANNED

by JOHN FALLON

"The following day, March 30, 1859, the motion to put the Committee's plan (to found the Law School of the University of Michigan) into operation was taken from the table and passed by the Board of Regents ...

"At their June meeting the Regents authorized the Law Committee to purchase up to \$2000 worth of law books for the new department ...

"And so the long projected Law Department at last became a reality. From the humble seed planted in 1859, the present Law School was to grow."¹

Ninety five years to the very month later, the tree which grew from that seed will feel the bud of a new branch. The eyes which have patiently watched that growth through the years will witness the birth of the latest addition to the Quadrangle. The Editors of this magazine did not realize at publication time a month ago, that Don Steiner's article would be so appropriate.

On November 16th Dean E. Blythe Stason announced to this reporter that the month of May, 1954 would see the beginning of construction on a \$700,000 addition to the present Legal Research Building. The new section will consist of four floors to be added to the present stack portion of the building. The Dean enlarged upon the bare announcement in a second interview when he related the elements of the plan and gave some pertinent details as to financing.

The elements of the plan or the reasons for the present expansion are, in the main, threefold. The first is, quite naturally, to make room for more volumes. The library expands at a normal rate of between 8000-10,000 volumes per year and the planners of the original building had this in mind as the foundations are adequate for the work now at hand. The present capacity is 250,000 and at the time of writing there are 240,000 in the collection. However, there are books in the corridors because room must be left for expansion in each set of periodicals and other reports. The new addition with four stories and ten foot stack levels instead of the present seven foot levels, will allow space for 150,000 additional works and thus will be adequate for the next fifteen to twenty years. Even with the new addition, storage space will be needed in the North Campus for the less frequently used books.

The second reason is the improvement in Faculty and Graduate Research which will be made possible by the additional space. At the present time the entire top floor of the Research Building is given over to Faculty offices and space for the staffs of the various research groups. It had been intended that offices should be available to holders of graduate fellowships, but lack of space does not permit this at this time. The new building will afford 18 additional student carrels and 16 more offices. It is anticipated that stack privileges will be given to the seniors with the temporary use of carrels when they are engaged in writing special papers or are on other special assignments. This, however, is not fully developed at the present time. As can be seen from the artist's drawing, a bridge will connect the third floor of Hutchins Hall with the 7th stack level of the new building. The passageway will permit easy access to the library without all the present disadvantages. It will also allow ready entry to a seminar room which will be on the 7th level. The value of such a room is easily apparent when one sees the advantages of ready access to research material and the research

staff. It seems certain that the present research in the fields of Atomic Energy, Legislation and the other areas of study will be greatly implemented and new horizons will be charted when this structure is completed.

The third aim is to increase the library staff service. The number of employees will be increased, and they, in turn, will need more space. Some 2,000 square feet of space in the new building has been set aside for that purpose.

The financing for this enterprise also follows a threefold pattern. The Dean is seeking \$250,000 from the legislature. The legislature when it meets in January will consider this request. The remaining \$450,000 to make up the total of \$700,000 will come from funds saved from the Research Income Fund which was set up by Mr. Cook. This money was saved during the war years when military necessity kept research at a very low level. No aid has been asked from the alumni for this particular operation.

Thus, this \$700,000 addition to the Legal Research Building will provide opportunity for 150,000 new volumes, countless new paths to investigate in research, and greatly expanded library services. When completed in 1955, the facilities will be adequate for the next fifteen to twenty years, and will give this University the superb equipment needed to carry on its legal research which has already made such an auspicious beginning.

¹Don Steiner, "History of the Law School: The Founding," *Res Gestae*, Vol. 4, No. 2, (Nov. 1953.)