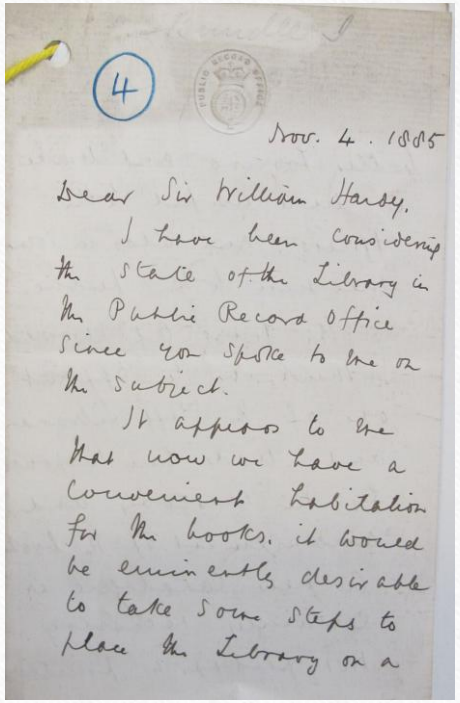
The library at the National Archives:

A door into a complex archive collection

Internal correspondence showing support



(4)

Nov. 4. 1885

Dear Sir William Hardy,

I have been considering the state of the Library in the Public Record Office since you spoke to me on the subject.

It appears to me that now we have a convenient habitation for the books, it would be eminently desirable to take some steps to place the Library on a

‘There are occasions when it is immensely valuable to me’

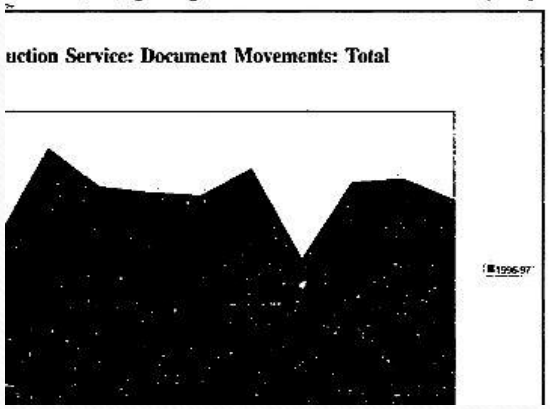
Miss Peake, 1953 (PRO 1/1414)

Opening doors to the public

Opening the library

Opening the library to the public was one of our achievements during the year. This was made possible by the implementation of an automated library catalogue system requiring the retrospective conversion of 150,000 titles, and the move of 1.8 kilometres of library books from Chancery Lane to Kew.

We are opening the library in two stages. In March 1997 we opened the reading areas, giving users access to the library's periodicals, annuals, statutes and topography sections. Staff help is currently needed to gain access to monographs, through author and classification indexes. During 1997-98, we are converting nearly half the most popular monographs to the new system, with the aim of creating public access to the remainder of the library by the end of March 1998.



Beyond the boundaries

But there was a world
Somewhere
Out there
And Mrs. Long opened that wardrobe
But no lions or witches scared me
I went through
Knowing there would be
Spring

A POEM FOR MY LIBRARIAN, MRS. LONG
By Nikki Giovanni

ENDS