

# Brooklyn College

BEDFORD AVENUE AND AVENUE H  
BROOKLYN, N. Y.

DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICAL LANGUAGES  
ACADEMIC BUILDING

December 4, 1947

Dear Franklin:

Your letter arrived at 8:15, just as I was leaving for college. I began to answer at 8:30, then decided first to call E. Adelaide Hahn for advice. She was my teacher at Hunter College, and will certainly do everything possible.

I explained the situation to her, because I wanted to know her reaction to the idea of my stepping into Kent's shoes. She regards the idea with favor. She had heard, of course, that Pennsylvania was looking for a person in classics, and said that Sturtevant and Edgerton had recommended Hönigswald, Is he the other person you mentioned? He's a good man, and deserves a break. I was glad to find that out, because it gives me an idea of the sort of person being considered. I think I'm as well prepared as he in linguistics, though it might be hard to prove without a direct trial, because he has been teaching all kinds of things in various places, while I've been plugging along at my own uninspiring job.

I will write to Edgerton and Sturtevant, and explain the situation as I see it. I think they would probably be glad to write. Edgerton wrote to the Guggenheim Foundation for me, and I think had a lot to do with my getting the Fellowship. Miss Hahn says she will certainly write, if I tell her to whom to address the letter.

I don't think I even know Buck--as a person that is--so he certainly doesn't know me. I can't at the moment think of anyone at Harvard, except Sterling Dow, for whom I identified that Segovia-Sandwich plate.

The trouble is, I never expected to take another job, and have made absolutely no effort to learn or publish things that might impress anyone. People don't ordinarily leave the city colleges once they are set, because the salaries are good, and there is the question of the pension. As things are now, I can retire at 55, and have every intention of doing so, and perhaps taking some more congenial teaching work then. Naturally, if I shift to Pennsylvania, things would be quite different. I checked my salary here, and find I'm supposed to be getting about 6,700 dollars a year. Of course, with income tax and pension, the sum I get is much smaller. Next year I'll be getting about \$6,900 here. There are other factors involved: the question of more congenial teaching, working with the Minoan material, and working with you. I figure they might be worth the sacrifice--but I wouldn't be heart-broken in either case. And I can still help with the Minoan Research Library in any event.

~~It is a list of courses, publications, etc. you want.~~ I'm mailing you a copy of my dissertation, and am enclosing the lists of courses, publications, etc. you want. *It is fortunately ready for a committee on formation here.*

Miss Hahn will write when you tell me to whom. I'll leave it up to Edgerton and Sturtevant to write if they wish. I presume they will know to whom.

As I see it--I can easily handle any Latin and Greek work. The general IE will require preparation, but I have the background, and need only get lectures in shape. But there's nothing in the courses I teach here to show that. We have a small elective student body, and a huge one for required courses. All the Greek (what there is of it) is taught by one elderly and peculiar lady, who has hysterics at the very thought of ~~xxxxxx~~ having anyone else teach Greek--so nobody

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does. I once taught a course in Beginner's Greek.

Since electives seldom are given, the members of the department more or less drew lots for the courses listed under their names.

I am quite neutral about the whole thing. I won't refuse the job if it is offered, but I don't want it so badly that it's worth too much effort. I don't like what I've heard recently about the Classics Department at Pennsylvania.

Well, the enclosures give, I think, the information you asked for.

By the way, hold on to the booklet from the American School at Athens. In case you haven't noticed, it contains an unpublished inscription from Pylos. I wrote and asked Blegen's permission to send it to Myres, Sundwall, Ktistopoulos, Carratelli, Eugenio Peruzzi, Bossert, Hrozny, etc. and he answered that I could. He also wrote that the Pylos inscriptions were still buried.

Homer Thompson sent me about a dozen extra copies.

The list of courses includes all that I've actually taught---not of course, all every year--or even every five years. Some maybe never again.

By the way--not that this will make any difference--but I've also done a lot of Braille for our blind students. Another reason I'll be sorry to leave Brooklyn. There'll be nobody to do it.

Allen