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UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA 4, PA.

Miss Alice E. Kober
1050 East 43 Street
Brooklyn 10, New York

Dear Alice:

Your extremely interesting letter arrived at lunch time today. I am waiting now for a phone call telling me to come down and talk to our new Director about the scheme for a Minoan Institute. In the uncertain number of minutes which I will have before then I will take up what business I can.

In the first place I am enclosing the draft for a mail ballot destined for the members of the Executive Committee of the Archaeological Institute. I would appreciate your returning it to me with your comments after you have seen it. As you will gather from the note at the top, Dow sent it to me for my and possibly your comments before sending it out. On mulling it over a bit, I may suggest slight changes in the wording of this. I know, however, that it is quite tentative and leaves ample latitude for revisions.

and With regard to your article for the special number of the AJA, it does not have to be in by the first of October; the end will do perfectly well and we could probably even allow some leeway beyond that. The number itself is unlikely to go to press much before Christmas time. I have set the date way ahead, first because of Miss Swindler's experience in compiling the Beazley number that a high percentage of scholars was a month or more late anyway; and second, because it is our plan that all papers should be read by the committee (Swindler, Dow, Nock, and myself) before publication; thirdly and most important, we must have the information on which to base the decision which papers are to be selected for reading at the symposium at the Christmas meetings in time to make this decision and to print it in the announcements. In regard to the latter I feel reasonably certain in my own mind that your paper would be suitable for it, and that I am willing to make the recommendation sight unseen if necessary. This is all right unless some other member of the committee decides to be sticky about it and refuses to approve the decision without first seeing the manuscript. However, we can handle that when we come to it, and the most important thing from my standpoint is to get the article and have it in the printed number. Do it by the end of October if you can; if you find this impossible, do keep me informed of progress and of the probable date it will be finished. There will not be any serious problem about its appearance in the AJA, and I will do everything that I can to secure its acceptance as a verbal offering.

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With regard to getting to Greece, there is one possibility, but I don't know how good it is. The James Rignall Wheeler Fellowship of the American School is granted on the recommendation of the Director. It was given this year to Jerome Sperling of Yale, but I have just heard that he has gone into the regular Army. The result is that the position is, or was a very short time ago, open. It may be a good idea for you to write to Rhys Carpenter, Bryn Mawr College, who is at least in title Director of the School, and ask him about it.

I have just had a few words with our Director, who is in favor of the Minoan Institute idea. My understanding is that at first at least our effort would be directed toward getting plaster impressions, squeezes, and/or photographs of the existent material and providing suitable storage and study space for it here. At the same time we should try to have a complete library of all the available printed literature on the subject. It seems to me that the material could be collected without too much difficulty if we were able to get a grant of a very few thousand dollars to pay for the actual expense of having the copies made. This I think could be done without more ado and I will try to work for it as a minimum. The second question, that of getting you here, is more complicated and I am not sure that I see the solution though I have an idea. The idea is simply that Roland Kent has retired as Professor of Indo-European Philology and his chair has not been filled. I don't know whether they intend to fill it or not, but I will try to find out about it. It might be that I could start a minor boom with some hopes of success in having the position made available to you. In case it were, I would like to urge that the appointment be partly in the University and partly in the Museum, specifically for the Minoan business. I gather that the major emphasis in such a combination would have to be on the University. Kent's heaviest teaching load was in Greek and Latin linguistics, particularly the latter. I have no doubt that you can handle this with the greatest of ease. As you understand, I am thinking out loud; my thoughts are iffy and my putting them down on paper is nothing short of rash. I am putting this out simply as a feeler so as to know your reaction to the whole thing. Obviously I would not want to push the matter without feeling reasonably sure that you would be interested if it succeeded. Don't count on it too much because I am still pretty young in university politics and it may well be that my word will carry even less weight than I timidly think. Furthermore I am afraid that there is something of a prejudice against giving faculty appointments to women. How strong it is I don't know, but will soon find out. Whether anything can be done in this way or not, I would still like to push the idea of getting the Minoan material together here and would certainly be grateful for your guidance and help. In all probability a great deal of the work and planning time would have to fall on your shoulders and I would certainly hope that you would make sufficient use of it to justify the effort in the first place.

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With regard to the scope of the "Minoan Institute", I wonder on second thought if it wouldn't be best to limit ourselves to linguistic material. In this case it might be advisable to have not only Minoan and the related scripts, but also the material for the Asiatic languages which are perhaps related linguistically, if not epigraphically, to Minoan.

All of this would fit in very nicely with excavations at Sardis if these really materialize. You would probably find yourself faced with the request to deal with any Lydian material that turns up.

I have rambled on long enough for the moment and must call a halt to tend to more routine business. Your head is probably swimming by now; mine certainly is.

With all best wishes,

Yours,

Franklin

JFD:ek
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