

Cambridge, 12 March 1958

Dear Emmett,

Your letter arriving this morning has depressed me no end. After talking to Eric Turner I had hoped that your Washington meeting would lead to a suitable offer; and I can only wonder at the blindness of Universities who don't know a good thing when they see one. On the other hand I have a strong belief based on personal experience that all promotion is a matter of luck, good or bad, and that accident plays a much bigger part than merit in acquiring a good job. This is small comfort; but don't be misled into thinking that lack of opportunity is correlated with lack of ability.

Expressions of sympathy will not keep a family in a competitive world; and I wish I could see some practical way of offering help. I gathered from Turner that you did not wish to leave U.S.A. - naturally enough, I should take the same view were our positions reversed. But I don't see what we could do unless you were prepared to take a job over here; if you now feel you would contemplate one, we can see if a vacancy can be found. I'm in no position to do anything directly, but I know people who might help. Our scheme of appointing you editor of CIM might still be put into operation; but I am rather doubtful if we can organize anything in time, and the collection of sufficient funds to pay you a decent salary will certainly be difficult. But it would be a tragedy if you were prevented from doing the work which you can do best (if not alone), by the sordid necessity of earning a living. I've no doubt you would make an excellent numismatist; but it's clear that would encroach so far on your time and energy that you would find Mycenaean dropped into the background.

I'll certainly look around and see if any idea suggests itself to me. Needless to say I should be delighted if you could be persuaded to migrate across the Atlantic - and we have done quite well in England by taking in scholars who have left their own countries. Moses Finley, who was, I think, at Columbia, is now firmly entrenched here; and a most amusing chap he is to have about too.

I have recently had the bright idea of studying Messenia from air photographs; judging from what I saw last week, I think there is a good chance of improving our knowledge of the Pylian kingdom by such means.

Well, keep hoping, and we'll keep our fingers crossed for you.

Yours,

John

BY AIR MAIL
PAR AVION
AIR LETTER
AÉROGRAMME



Professor Emmett L. Bennett

1978 Yale Station

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CONN.

U. S. A

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Second fold here

Sender's name and address: J. Chadwick

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Cambridge

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY
ENCLOSURE ; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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