

if possible, I would like to have the list of publications and of courses by Friday afternoon, when I have a meeting with Crosby. It is essential to strike before he gets too much interested in someone else. As I said before, the crucial thing now is to stress your work in Greek and Latin, their linguistics, and in fact anything connected with them. Courses in Latin literature in translation won't hurt. Also General IE, though there doesn't seem to be much opposition on that count. I have some information to me by Friday so that I can have it for Crosby then; the rest can trickle in later whenever it is ready.

3 December, 1947

Dear Alice,

Please send me FAST a complete list of your publications, including book reviews, classes you have taught, and the titles of lectures you have given. Also the names of people who will boost you. Also a copy of your dissertation.

I have just come from a meeting of the committee to appoint a successor to Kent, and I realize that it is much later than I thought. There was some very strong support for your nomination, but there was also uncertainty as to your ability in general IE and classical linguistics--not criticism, but just lack of information. The next step in our deliberations is up to Crosby, the head of the classics department, who is to get more information about you and one other candidate. He is obviously not sure that you have done as much work as he wants in classical linguistics. He will be impressed if you can get somebody with a big name to write and tell him that you are wonderful. His trouble, strictly confidentially, is inertia. He is a very nice man, but he is also a lazy one. I gave him your opus on -INTH- to look at, but he was "too busy" to read it, and just glanced at it a bit. He would be impressed, however, by a recommendation from a well known scholar; several of them would probably bowl him over and win the day. His present attitude is generally a negative one, a failure to get enthusiastic about known quantities, and a relatively greater interest in the possibility of people about whom we know almost nothing. You know the type; so do I: the army was full of them. What he needs is a good prod. Is there anyone at Harvard who would speak up for you? Crosby is very much under the Harvard spell.

Incidentally both Sturtevant and Edgerton sent lists of possible candidates. Neither mentioned you, probably because they thought you were not available. Could anything be done to rectify this? It may be that Crosby will write to ~~Edgerton~~ Sturtevant anyway. How about Miss Hahn? (or is it Kahn? my mind seems blank on this point.) Buck?

What this all adds up to is that I think there is an excellent chance, if we can get over the Crosby hurdle. The obstacle is in no sense insurmountable; he has nothing against you and admits many points in your favor. It is just that he is negative about everything and will let this slip unless something happens to wake him up. His mind is still open, or as nearly open as it ever is. Kent, incidentally, has given what people who know him best interpret as a recommendation. The committee interpreted it as such.



3 Dec 1944

If possible, I would like to have the list of publications and of courses by Friday afternoon, when I have a meeting with Crosby. It is essential to strike before he gets too much interested in someone else. As I said before, the crucial thing now is to stress your work in Greek and Latin, their linguistics, and in fact anything connected with them. Courses in Latin literature in translation won't hurt. Also general IE, though there doesn't seem to be much opposition on that count.

Do try to get some information to me by Friday so that I can have it for Crosby then; the rest can trickle in later whenever it is ready.

Dear Alice,

Hastily and, on the whole, optimistically, including a list of your publications, and the titles of lectures you have given. Also the names of people who will boost you. Also a copy of your dissertation.

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