

YALE UNIVERSITY
NEW HAVEN · CONNECTICUT

ORIENTAL STUDIES

December 5, 1947.

Miss Alice E. Kober,
1050 East 43rd Street,
Brooklyn 10, N. Y.

Dear Miss Kober:

I am indeed astonished by the news conveyed in your letter of December 4th. The astonishment is not uncomplimentary to you; it is chiefly on account of the fact that I had no idea that the University of Pennsylvania ever had appointed or would appoint a woman to a major position. If they actually do offer you a full professorship at a good salary, and especially if they make it exclusively graduate work (I would suggest that you at least propose this; or at least propose that your courses be primarily graduate courses, perhaps open to advanced undergraduates by special permission, or something like that) -- if all this happens, it seems to me that I would take it, if I were you. It is true, of course, that you would have to "do more Indo-European and less Minoan", at least for the time being. But I should think you would enjoy Indo-European. As for what I would be willing to say, it would be that you have taken advanced courses in Sanskrit with me for a number of years and done excellent work; that you impressed me, in those courses and otherwise, as a person of high intelligence, originality, and insight. I could not say from personal knowledge that you know anything in particular about Indo-European comparative grammar, and if they asked me that question, I should have to answer it in that way. I don't doubt, however, that you do know plenty for the purposes in hand. What you don't know, you would soon learn, so far as it seemed necessary, you being what you are. As to whether you could "fill Professor Kent's shoes", I hope you wouldn't try to. Personally, I would be willing to let those shoes be enshrined in some appropriate place, and left unfilled.

If I ^{can} ~~could~~ do anything more, let me know. I hope you get a really good offer. That would be pleasant, even if you did not want to accept it. And if it is really very good, I should think you would want to accept it.

All best wishes,

Very sincerely yours,

Franklin Edgerton

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