

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN THE HUMANITIES

Old Observatory
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

608 262-3855

E. L. Bennett, Jr.
1401 Observatory Drive
608 262-6118

Dear Tom,

I probably ought to write to report what I know. Not much.

It was two weeks ago (today is 30 November 1985) that I had the pictures of kutel taken, by Dale Grote with assistance of Susan McMorris (who was going to do it herself). They seemed in the films to be not so hot, I am told, but since he had taken a variety of exposures, the prints weren't all bad, and the colors, or at least some of them, are pretty good, just a little bit yellower or redder than the real thing, and there's a problem of insufficient depth of focus.

Today I went out to Middleton, and then to Northport beyond the airport, and got myself half a bushel of wheat, and made my first tentative measurements. Using a plastic glass and a plastic half gallon ice cream carton. Result, capacity absolute maximum with a heap which wouldn't survive much moving at 4.75 liters, and a minimum, a convenient bit below the rim, of 3.75 liters. The heap's not very high; wheat is slippery stuff, but it does cling to the inside or outside of the burlap bag it comes in. Also, for one who grew up on Puffed Wheat, it's might small. But it's neat.

The modifications to the paper haven't got very far yet.

The vita came on Tuesday, were corrected on Wednesday, printed on Thursday, errors found on Thursday, and more on Friday, and printed out on Friday, xeroxed and some set aside for various files and some for you. The dossier came on Wednesday.

Barry had told me that he, I, and Fannie would meet Friday at 2 to work out what answer would be sent you. I was there at the right time, but all alone.

So I called Fannie, and was told she had decided to do it herself, had told Barry to tell me. But maybe I was incommunicado. So when she came around to Van Hise later I handed over the dossier including the new vita, and she allowed as how she had her copy of the proposal. Good thing, because I didn't really want to try to remember where it was. My desk near to this machine is again piled pretty high.

I probably ought to tell you about our most recent department meeting, which was on whether R. Colaizzi should be continued for another year. The reason was that he had to be reviewed this fall, and has perhaps the possibility of finishing off his dissertation and standing his defense within this year (academic, I think). But, of course, he was hired on the promise of having it all in hand by the time he started teaching. So Fannie reported that even if we recommended to extend his contract for a year, there were legal questions still unresolved, and the possibility that the Dean might not be willing to go along with it. The dossier was prepared and there was a considerable discussion, though it didn't last forever. I had announced that I was leaving at 5, willy-nilly, so I could get to my flute lesson. At the votes Barry and I voted no, the others yes to try to extend his contract. One less vote yes from the others would have made a tie. No idea what we'd have done then. Athena wasn't around. We'll have to review him again in the

spring. We'll also have to review Winkler about that time. I estimate the chances of a tie somewhat greater for him. And there might even be a small chance of voting him down.

With Colaizzi offered for continuation, I think that the campaign we hoped to mount for a Christmas meeting search for another youngster is unlikely to get off the ground. At least nothing has been said about it. So it will probably be after we have your answer that the question will come up again. Which means I think that it comes up next year.

Barry gave me a copy of your letter. Seems a good one. I don't have it in front of me at the moment, but I remember something about my preference in retirement. In the good old days before I thought there was any merit in speculating about retirement and was vigorous and hardy, I thought I would naturally continue to enjoy good old Wisconsin winters as much as the enjoyable old Wisconsin summers. Now I'm not so sure, though I've never been in Florida, and don't think going there would be at all a good idea. But I'm more respectful of a regime like that of the Solmsens, who winter in N.C., and summer either overseas or in WI. I don't, it is true, anticipate with pleasure living 12 months in Texas. But six months might be possible. And maybe after coming back from the balminess of Athens it might be that I wouldn't really want to hang around Madison for 12 months. But that's counting just the weather. The other sides of Madison might still be attractive.

But you should, as I said long ago, not let my presence or absence or preferences or wishes weigh significantly in your calculations. You have many more serious things to consider.

Good hunting. The opera, Beatrice and Benedict, is almost over, and I will get on to other things, and probably print this out tomorrow and send it Monday.

Yours,

30 November 1985

Postscript:

It snowed lots of inches, and it's 1:00 pm Sunday, and the radio says the storm isn't even here yet.

I found out just now why when I've come over here to print out letters and stuff I wrote up on my machine it keeps asking how I want things hyphenated. That's because I went out and bought myself a copy of the program, and the revised one at that. And ~~so~~ put it on my machine, and it won't get on this one through the University till mid-December at least. And my version doesn't think about hyphenation at all, though I can tell it to. This one insists on it (because it came that way and we must have thought it a good idea). I must think about it. I see that it also doesn't want to put the Institute telephone number under the center, and I must revise my heading to make it do that again.