

EMORY UNIVERSITY
EMORY UNIVERSITY, GEORGIA

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK

March 8, 1958

Prof. Emmett Bennett
Department of Classics
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut.

Dear Emmett :

While I was writing to you last time a number of miscellaneous thoughts began to churn around in my mind and eventually settled into a shape about which, after some investigation around here, I would like to ask your reaction.

In some ways the key-pin in this structure is the more or less adventitious contact we have with a gentleman of Cretan extraction - a relative, in fact, of a man on our staff. Skipping most of the connectives we come to the visible structure of the idea. This is that we might try to raise an endowment here for a "Chair of Cretan Studies". If this should prove possible, we might hire you to fill it. You would be expected to teach one of our regular low-level undergraduate courses in Latin or Greek each quarter; the rest of the time you would spend doing research on pre-classical scripts and their implications (and you can see clearly that there would have to be a heavy emphasis on the Cretan - particularly since one aspect of the idea that appeals to our administration is that Linear A is beginning to make Biblical connections, and we are getting a Biblical Archaeologist in our Theological School (Ben Dor)) and hope to build up a sphere of study in that area) and maybe, of course, develop some students for advanced work in the subject.

You should understand that we are not at the moment entertaining ambitions of a full graduate program in classics as such, but there seem to be real possibilities of graduate study and research in areas like history and religion where classics would have a place - and in this case pre-classics.

You must also understand that this is all in the nature of preliminary exploration. We don't have any money yet, and haven't asked anyone for any. There didn't seem to be much point in asking anyone for money for you if you were already signed up somewhere else. So this letter is simply and only to ask (1) whether this idea appeals to you and (2) are you still free ?

If you are still free and interested, we would try to make some more concrete ~~advance~~ *moves*. But of course another difficulty is that it is not to be imagined that we could under the most wildly favorable circumstances collect this endowment in a couple of months; that is we could never hope to have it ready by fall. I think, though that if within a couple of months we saw real promise of success, we might be able to patch up something for this coming year.

Well, I've already said more than I know, but it does seem that we do need to know your view of the matter before we do anything more than we have. So over to you - and I hope for speedy response. Meanwhile all best to all of you from all of us -

Yours - hopefully -


Robert Scranton

PS. Within your "view of the matter" I am thinking also of whether you might know of anyone else who has already had this idea and is working on it.