

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 11, 1956

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Dear Ralph,

Thanks for your letter. I forgot to mention the other day the subject of the paper which I will be condemned to enjoy: POLITICAL THEORY IN AN OTTONIAN MINIATURE. And that's that.

I was very glad to hear from you about your Lednicki-like¹ success in New York. I am sure there was plenty of material for a discussion and that all of you enjoyed it. At any rate, the students cannot have torn you to pieces because otherwise you would not have come about with your crazy ideas about going to Japan.² What you need is to stay in this country and not be forgotten. What you further need, and the country as well, is that you finish the funerary ceremonial - and that is it. Going to Japan would make you forget all your accumulated material (and don't believe you can just dash it off before you leave) and it will involve you in lectures on stuff quite outside your field. That it would be a "position of some prestige" I can hardly believe. I shall be glad, however, to discuss it with Professor Neumann [??] and see what his opinion is like.

Don't lose your nerve, although I can see that you are under a certain strain, and don't forget that Vassar turned up last year not before the middle of May. Besides a few frozen guinea hens will always be at your disposal to keep you from starvation. Mr. Levine³ and I will see to that.

See you in Washington, probably on May 2.

Love,
Eka [Signed]

¹ Lednicki, an immigrant Polish professor at Cal, was often the butt of teasing jokes by Eka. One was Lednicki's predisposition to brag about the great success of his activities, and in the case in hand, I probably boasted of the success of the Renaissance Colloquy at Vassar, which I had helped organize but did not perform in.

² A colleague at Vassar, who had taught at a certain major Japanese University, thought he could get me a position there if I was interested; the job market was not that good, and I had told Eka I might apply for a job in Japan, *faute de mieux*.

³ The butcher at our favorite market in Princeton, a favorite townsman of Eka and me. There seems to be an implication that Eka would consider hiring me again as his assistant.