

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

April 20, 1956

SCHOOL OF HISTORICAL STUDIES

Dear Ralph:

Thank you for your letter and for the good words you had about [Helmut] Küpper's death. In the meantime you can write me another letter on the death of Ernst Robert Curtius. I admit it's rather haunting.

Concerning the Seattle business. Of course I bluntly refuse to make up your mind for you. You are 33 and Alexander had conquered the world and died by that age. As for the facts, you will not be involved in the Mediaeval History business. Mr. [Solomon] Katz¹ writes to me:

'We intend to appoint the successful candidate as instructor. His major responsibility will be in the History of Civilization course, but he will also be given the opportunity to teach one or two courses during the year in his own field of special interest. As you know, we prefer a medievalist, but since we hope to have an opening exclusively in that field for 1957-58, we are quite willing to consider someone who, like Dr. Giesey, can presumably teach both the History of Civilization and Early Modern European history.'

You realize that they want a mediaevalist in his own right for 1957-58 and thereafter and that all you'll have to do is teach History of Civilization and Early Modern Europe. I couldn't imagine anything more in your line than this program. To offer one or two upper-division courses in your special field of interest is, after all, not a punishment and exactly what anyone would desire. So far as General Civilization is concerned, I understand it that others are going to give it, that you will have to conduct a number of sections and that within the framework of that cooperative you will have to lecture on Early Modern France, England, etc. If Mr. Katz writes one or two courses in Early Modern, the idea is obviously either one full-year course or two semester courses, but I may be wrong about that. At any rate, the teaching load appears as relatively modest, if compared with what poor Bobby will be compelled to squeeze, out of his brains—that is, textbooks.

The salary I admit is not terribly high but this I assume would be adjusted in due course. Your trip to St. Louis (so far as I know the AHA meeting will be held there, not in Chicago) will certainly be paid by the University because this is the common custom with regard to those who read papers or are otherwise officially active at the meeting. On the other hand, you should not forget that life on the West Coast is cheaper than it is here. Seattle, of course, is rainy and you might need a new umbrella, unless you can borrow one from Mr. Eden or, even better, a big ceremonial one from Halle Selassie.

Whatever you do, you will probably have to make up your mind quickly because they want to reach a decision at Seattle within the next week or ten days. If you show

¹ Chairman of the Department of History at the U. of Washington.

Mr.

[EHKantorowicz to REGiesey, 20 Apr 56]

Katz the beauty of your cold shoulder for the second time, I believe he would be too frosted to thaw out ever again, By the way, Mommsen has written to Katz, so you don't need to solicit him.

Now you will have to make a decision whether to eat west coast hay or wait for an Eastern carrot without hay.

Love,

Eka [Signed, plus handwritten:] via Margie²

Dear Pookissimo:³

The above was dictated to me this morning with instructions to sign and send since the Boss won't be in this afternoon. I should perhaps add more than this little note, but I'm suffering from the fearful combination of (1) a hangover from a birthday party we gave [Leopold] Ettliger last night (2) one of [E(lias) A(lbert)] Lowe's *luncheon* gatherings in the back room with sherry and far too much to eat. In short, I'm a wreck,

I should stay out of the above controversy since it's only by accident that I am the transmitter and *Dienst ist Dienst*, but I can't help risking my professional honor such as it is to say that there's no doubt that at this end of the line the Boss thinks you should go to Seattle and be grateful for the blessing. I agree if only because it sounds like the sort of job from which you can proceed to greener pastures on your own merit without benefit of outside aid.

Love from us both.

Ševs

² Margie Ševčenko, Eka's assistant, had typed this from dictation. She typed in the signature as "Eka." and handwrote a forged "EKa" above it. This shows that she was aware Eka himself capitalized the 'k' in his name, but she blundered with the 'E' not realizing that Eka always made it by putting a dash in the middle of a capital 'C', converting it into in capital 'E'.

³ "Pooky" was Margie Ševčenko's nickname for me; she is the author of this note.