

March 21, 1944

Professor Frederick L. Paxson
Chairman, Department of History
30 Wheeler Hall, Campus

Dear Fred:

As you know, Dr. Kantorowicz has been teaching in the European Area and Language Program. Frankly, I took him on in the hope that before the Army work ended a professorship could be secured for him in the University. The abrupt ending of the program prompts me to ask if you cannot get some action now.

Kantorowicz is the logical successor to Professor Morris. This is not my opinion alone. At your suggestion, I sounded out the two medievalists in whose judgment I have most respect - President White of Mills College, and Joseph R. Strayer, Lea Professor and Chairman of the department at Princeton. They both agreed that it would be foolish to look elsewhere when we have the best medievalist in the country on our campus. Professor Strayer wrote: "My own opinion is that California would be crazy to look for another medievalist . . . Kantorowicz is better than anyone you can bring in from outside."

The range and depth of Kantorowicz's knowledge amazes me. I have read articles by him printed in the last year on art, on humanism, on theology, and on constitutional history. Incidentally, I have been impressed with the quality of the journals, both in this country and abroad which have printed his material. For me, he has been ranging over the whole field of history, and earning the applause of a most difficult audience. I was most impressed by the verdict of a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, that Kantorowicz taught better than any scholar he had known.

Ought we not to seek some way of getting him back as lecturer next year, with the promise of a professorship on Professor Morris' retirement? As I understand it, money would be the only obstacle to keeping him next year, and I am willing to do what I can to meet that argument. I am under the impression that we on the Army program are to be paid on the twelve-months basis for the months we taught. If I do get this supplement, I am willing to offer up to a thousand dollars, contingent on the pledge of an equal amount by other contributors - and I am willing to try to get the balance from others.

In any case, I hope you will see what can be done.

Faithfully yours,
[Signed]
Raymond J. Sontag

RJS : pb