



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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December 8, 1909

Mr. Solon J. Buck

Indiana University

Bloomington, Indiana

My dear Mr. Buck:

Owing to certain complications here, I have not been able to get a decision until now on the question of the appointment of a research assistant. The President has now authorized me to ask you whether you would be willing to accept an engagement, to begin January 1, 1910, for eight months, at the rate of \$100 per month. This precise period is indicated because the service year for which salaries are commonly granted begins on the first day of September.

I am not authorized to enter into any engagement as to the future beyond this date. You understand, I think, the general nature of the work which we are trying to do. It is, in brief, a sort of historical survey of the state, which we hope will culminate in a substantial and dignified centennial publication. The first piece of work which we have in mind for you is a general survey of the materials for the history of the state; in other

S. J. B. - 2

words, at the outset work of a distinctly bibliographical character. I should think that a few months of this work might profitably end in a publication which might be called A Guide to the History of Illinois. This would contain, perhaps, a sort of topical outline with full accounts of the material, whether printed or in manuscript, which is available for workers in the field of state history.

In addition to the bibliographical work, and perhaps parallel with it, I should think that you might undertake certain specific problems in the history of the state, especially since 1818; the period before 1818 being that in which Mr. Alvord is most interested.

Of course the details of your work could only be determined after consultation between ourselves and Mr. Alvord, and it can hardly, in any case, be set forth in detail at the outset.

I do not know how far you may be under obligations to the historical department at Indiana. I should certainly not wish to have you do anything which the members of that department would not consider entirely fair.

Hoping for a reply at your earliest convenience, and regretting the uncertainty in which you have been left so long,

I remain,

Very truly yours,

Ewart Breen

As you see, there is some lack of definiteness as to the precise way in which this work may be expected to develop in the future. On the other hand, it seems to me that there is a distinct opening for a man who knows how to take advantage of it. Let me know if you wish any further
E. B. B.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA, ILL.

COLLEGE OF LITERATURE AND ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

December 21, 1909

Mr. Solon J. Buck

Indiana University

Bloomington, Indiana

My dear Mr. Buck:

As a result of our recent negotiations, the President of the University has sent me the following statement, dated December 17, 1909: "I have authorized the Dean of the Graduate School to engage Mr. Solon Justice Buck for research in the Graduate School under the direction of the department of history at a remuneration of one hundred dollars per month, beginning January 1, 1910, and ending August 31, 1910. You may inform Mr. Buck of such authorization and he will receive in due course of time a statement to that effect."

will
I shall be glad if you take up definitely with Mr. Alverd, as soon as practicable, your general plan of work.

Very truly yours,

Evarts R. Green

The president has seen my ^{previous} letter to you and expressed general approval.
E. R. G.

C O P Y

Dec. 20, 1909

Dean E. B. Greene,

Dear Dean Greene:

I have a letter from the President of which the enclosed is a copy. In accordance with this authority will you kindly engage Mr. Buck on the terms specified? He is to report, of course, on January first.

Very truly yours,

David Kinley.

December 17, 1909

C O P Y

Dean David Kinley

University Hall

My dear Mr. Dean:

I hereby authorize you to engage Mr. Solon Justice Buck, now at the University of Indiana, as research assistant in Illinois history, to be employed in research by the Graduate School under the direction of the department of history, at a remuneration of one hundred dollars per month, beginning January 11, 1910, and ending August 31, 1910, his remuneration to be paid from the appropriation made by the Board of trustees for the Illinois Historical Survey (See minutes of the board, P. 255).

Faithfully yours,

(Signed) Edmund J. James.

K.

May 29, 1911

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Buck,

Please accept my thanks for your letter of May 22, and my congratulations on your success in the examination for the doctorate. I had little doubt of your success, but I am glad to get definite news of it.

I saw the President the other day and he told me that he would recommend you for promotion from the grade of Research Assistant at \$1200, to that of Research Associate at a salary of \$1400. I believe that we have an interesting field of work opening up before you and that we may count upon you to do your part efficiently.

If you are to be in Cambridge again at commencement I should be glad to have you make some inquiries about the impression made there by Mr. Thompson. For some reason or other he was not given a larger fellowship which I should have thought rather natural in view of his having passed the general examination. I have no doubt that there is a perfectly satisfactory explanation of this, but I should be glad to get such information on the point as you are able to pick up.

Very truly yours,

Ernest R. Rine

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May 29, 1911

Dr. Helen L. Buck
Harvard University
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Buck,

Please accept my thanks for your letter of May 22, and my congratulations on your success in the examination for the doctorate. I had little doubt of your success, but I am glad to get definite news of it. I saw the President the other day and he told me that he would recommend you for promotion from the grade of Research Assistant at \$1200, to that of Research Associate at a salary of \$1400. I believe that we have an interesting field of work opening up before you and that we may count upon you to do your part efficiently. If you are to be in Cambridge again at once - I should be glad to have you make some inquiries about the impression made there by Mr. Thompson. For some reason or other he was not given a larger fellowship which I should have thought rather natural in view of his having passed the general examination. I have no doubt that there is a perfectly satisfactory explanation of this, but I should be glad to get such information on the point as you are able to pick up.

Very truly yours,

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA, ILL.

COLLEGE OF LITERATURE AND ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June 22, 1911

Dr. S. J. Buck

1111 Arbor Street

Champaign, Ills.

My dear Dr. Buck,

The President has agreed to recommend to the Board my leave of absence for the year beginning February 1, 1912. This makes it necessary for me to provide in some way for the courses which I would naturally offer during the second semester. I should be glad to have you take History 15 and take part with Mr. Alvord in the management of History 101 during the second half of 1911_12. If you are willing to undertake this work I think there will be no objection either from the President or the Dean of the Graduate School, although there has been some question as to the possible diversion of your interest from research to teaching.

I shall be glad to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Very truly yours,

Evarts B. Green

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
URBANA, ILL.

COLLEGE OF LITERATURE AND ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

June 27, 1911

Dr. Solon Buok

1111 Arbor Street

Champaign, Illinois

My dear Dr. Buok,

Your letter of June 24th has come to hand. I am very much interested to know of the progress in your work. It seems to me that you have been making a very good use of your time. If you can arrange to return here by July 12th I think that will be sufficient. In the meantime I wish that you would keep in mind two matters which I want to go over carefully with you and Mr. Alvord when you get back: One of these is the organization of the archive inspection business; and the other has to do with the securing of the new building at Springfield some kind of ^{of a} "hall of archives." You will doubtless pick up some ideas on both of these subjects in the various places covered in your tour.

I do not believe that we can have a meeting of the trustees until about July 15th, and until that time there can be no definite appropriation over and above that which was authorized at the last meeting.

Very truly yours,

Evarts B. Kane

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

URBANA, ILL.

COLLEGE OF LITERATURE AND ARTS
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

October 6, 1911

Dr. Solon J. Buok

History Department

My dear Mr. Buok,

I return herewith the manuscript of your edition of the Flagg letters. I hope that you will be able to get it printed as soon as possible, because I think it is likely to arouse general interest. I assume that it is to be printed by the State Historical Society.

I am sending Dean Kinley a letter which I should be glad to have you see before it leaves my office.

Very truly yours,

Evarts Bruce

My dear Mr. Buck; I am passing this on to you as the "guide, philosopher, and friend" of the History Club. Perhaps some of the information you may be interesting to them. If so, please give it to them with my greetings. Yesterday, I spoke to about 800 students of the Waseda University on American Presidential Elections. Please remember me to Dow, Larson, Alvord, Robertson and the junior members of the Department. Kindest regards to your father ^{Jameson} Muller, E. B. G.
Tokyo, April 20, 1912,

I have recently had some interesting conferences with members of the historical faculty in the Imperial University of Tokyo. Though I am of course much handicapped by my ignorance of the language, it seems to me that the department here is really doing some admirable work in the collection and publication of documentary material. A very considerable number of documents in the Imperial archives at Nara have been transcribed and many other official documents of the Shogunate period have been turned over to the University. In fact the department of history in the University seems to be the recognized agent of the government for work of this kind. Besides these more or less official documents they have a great many diaries kept in the palaces of the daimios and in some of the Buddhist and Shinto temples. Some of these are illustrated by sketches in color. Of particular interest to Americans are the papers which illustrate the impression made upon the Japanese by their various foreign visitors from the days of Xavier to the coming of Perry. Though this material is mainly in Japanese there are some documents in European languages, as for instance in Dutch and Portuguese, which are more available for our students. There are of course maps charts and other forms of illustrative matter. From these materials they have been publishing two documentary series known respectively as "Dai-nihon-shirio" (Japanese Histori-

From letter to B. Greene

cal Materials), and "Dai-nihon-Komonjo," (Old Japanese Documents). You can probably find somewhere in Washington a calendar of the University (1909-10) in which you will find on pages 208-10 a brief account of this work under the heading, "Institute of Historical Compilation".

The reason why I am imposing this letter upon you is that I have been much impressed with the desirability of our beginning to lay the foundation for a more adequate study of the history of the Far East by establishing helpful relations with the historical scholars who are at work here. It seems to me that both the Carnegie Institution and the American Historical Association might contribute some thing toward such a result. I wonder whether you would find it possible to send out a set of the historical publications of the Carnegie Institution to the Institute . Perhaps they would be willing to send you in exchange the documentary series above mentioned. I think it would perhaps be well to address them, with an explanatory letter referring to this communication of mine, to Professor Sanji Mikami who is the head of the Institute (College of Literature, Imperial University, Tokyo.)

On the request of Professor Gempachi Mitsukuri I wish to nominate him for membership in the American Historical Association. If you can arrange to have this done and to have a letter sent to Professor Mitsukuri which shall be something more than the ordinary official notice of election I think that he would be pleased. I might add that he is a Ph.D. of the University of Tübingen. His address is also College of Literature, Imperial University, Tokyo.

What would you think of having a Council committee appointed to take up the general subject of possible development of studies in this field, and of closer relations with the historical scholar-

ship of the Far East? If convenient I should be glad to have you pass this suggestion on to Haskins. Of course ~~there~~ are certain conditions here which tend somewhat to limit the freedom of historical inquiry but this is not true of all periods and the members of the department generally have had some of the modern training in methodology and criticism.

I should be glad to know what you think of these suggestions. I have had a thoroughly delightful time here but shall have to sail for China in a few days. I expect to go by the Siberian road to London.

With kindest regards

I am

Sincerely yours

Dear Dr. Buesch:

I am sending Dr. Thompson the enclosed criticisms of his preliminary draft. He may come to you for advice and I should like to have you know the main lines of my present criticism. Please forward the letter to Mr. Thompson after you have read it.

E. B. S.

March 14, 1913.

The Board approves your ms. for publication. Please send it as rapidly as possible.

Yours truly
L. S. S.

J. P. B. Swearingen,

Dudley Road, Newton Center, Mass.

16 August 1913/

Dr. S. J. Buck,

Lincoln Hall,

Urbana, Illinois.

Dear Dr. Buck:

Will you kindly examine the enclosed plan of cooperation for History 101, and let me have your comments on any part of it which seems to you to require modification? The general plan is that agreed to at our departmental meeting last spring.

Very truly yours

Ewart B. Swearingen

EBG/B

HISTORY 101. PLAN FOR COOPERATION OF INSTRUCTORS
IN THE SEMINARY OF AMERICAN HISTORY. 1913-14

General plan: Weekly meetings (Saturdays); two hours for each session.

Total meetings, 14 each semester. 4 meetings each semester reserved for general conference of all members of the department (instructors and students), for the presentation of the reports on research and reviews of current literature. Remaining 10 meetings devoted to bibliography and typical problems of various divisions of the field under the direction of members of the department as indicated below.

First Semester.

Greene. Sept. 27 to Nov. 15 inclusive, allowing for general sessions, Oct. 18 and Nov. 15. General bibliography, and special bibliography of American History to 1789. Typical problems in colonial history.

Alvord. Nov. 22 to Jan. 24 inclusive, allowing for general sessions Dec. 13 and Jan. 24. Bibliography and typical problems of Western history to 1815.

Second Semester.

Robertson. Feb. 14 to March 28 inclusive, allowing for general sessions Feb. 14 and March 14. Bibliography and typical problems of American history since 1789.

Cole. April 4 to April 25 inclusive, allowing for general session April 25. Bibliography and typical problems of American history since 1789 continued (division of field to be arranged with Professor Robertson).

Buck. May 2 to May 23 inclusive, allowing for general session May 23. Bibliography and typical problem, or problems, of Western history since 1815.

Student Membership and Work of Students.

Registration in History 101 for one unit to be regarded as the normal course for first year graduate students specializing in American history. The course to be so conducted as to require of such students about half their time for the "typical problems" and to leave the remaining half free for the preparation of the Master's thesis.

Students in this field beyond the stage of first year's work should be associated with the course to the extent of participation in the general conferences, according to the selection of "typical problems" from year to year. Such second or third year students may take such further part in the seminary as may appear desirable in individual cases.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

315 Lincoln Hall, Urbana Illinois.

24 September 1913.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
418 Lincoln Hall.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I shall be obliged if you will send me at your earliest convenience your exact consultation hours for the semester. So far as practicable I should be glad to have each member of the Department allow one hour daily for this purpose.

Will you kindly send to this office a statement of the total enrollment in each of your classes up to and including Wednesday, October 1.

It is probable that there may be an opportunity before long to present orders for library purchase. I shall be obliged if you will, as soon as practicable, make up a list of books and especially of extended sets which as yet we do not have, or which are at present defective.

Very truly yours

Evarts C. Greene
MCS.

EBG-LB

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

315 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.
27 October 1913.

Dr. S. J. Buck,
418 Lincoln Hall.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I understand that the students named below are writing their theses under your general direction and in your special field of work. I shall be obliged if you will arrange to have them report to you from time to time about the progress of their work, and be prepared to assume a general responsibility for the soundness of their work.

Will you kindly see that the thesis subject of each student is reported to me in writing not later than Friday of this week.

Students-- Matthew Lawrence
Deette Rolfe
Wayne E. Stevens.

Sincerely yours

Ernest B. Greene
B.

EBG-B

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

315 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.
4 December 1923.

Dr. S. J. Buck,
418 Lincoln Hall,

Dear Dr. Buck:

I am glad to have the reprint of your paper on the New England Element in Illinois. I suppose I am one of those who have been more or less guilty of under-rating the political influence of the New Englanders in Illinois during the early years.

Sincerely yours

EBG-B

Edo B. Brew

C O P Y

416 Lincoln Hall,

Urbana, Illinois, December 6, 1913.

Professor Evarts B. Greene,

315 Lincoln Hall.

My dear Mr. Greene:-

The greater part of the material for the proposed volume on Illinois in 1818 will be found in the federal archives at Washington, the archives of the state and the State Historical Library at Springfield, library of the Chicago Historical Society, Library of the Wisconsin Historical Society at Madison, the Mercantile Library of St. Louis, the archives of the fifteen counties in southern Illinois which were established during the territorial period, and the library of the University of Illinois. I have made an estimate of the necessary travelling expenses for gathering material from these various collections, as follows:

Washington, (10 days)	\$75.00
St. Louis and the counties of southern Illinois (2 weeks)	60.00
Madison (one week)	20.00
Chicago (two weeks)	50.00
Springfield (one month)	<u>80.00</u>
	\$285.00

There is also of course material in private hands, which will doubtless come to light, and some travelling will probably be necessary to secure material of this sort. \$15 might be added for that, making a total of \$300 for travelling expenses. For stenographic assistance, typewriting and incidental expenses, I would estimate \$200, thus making a total of \$500. I have included no provision for the pur-

Professor Evarts B. Greene

- 2 -

December 6, 1913.

chase of books, manuscripts, and newspapers, or for the making of transcripts or photostatic reproductions. It would seem reasonable to me that if the commission pays the expenses of examining the collections and selecting the material to be copied, the University, or possible the State Historical Library might well bear the expense of reproduction. I would estimate that \$500 would cover this item. Professor Alvord and I have been planning for some time to secure for the University Library at the first opportunity photostatic reproductions of the early Illinois newspapers, and a large part of the transcripts of documents would doubtless be used later in volumes of the Illinois Historical Collections. I should like to stop in Washington on the way back from the meetings in Charleston to do the necessary work there if it can be arranged.

Sincerely yours,

S. J. B./MS

315 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois.
11 December 1913.

Dr. S. J. Buck,
418 Lincoln Hall.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I have just received a note from Dr. Schmidt in reply to my question about the terms of payment for your services to the Publication Committee of the Centennial Commission. I quote the following statement.

"Dr. Buck should by all means receive regular remuneration as the work continues, for the simple reason that as soon as the work is completed there will be no further return to him by any such system as a royalty. Before the general Centennial Commission meeting we will have a meeting of our own and decide on his position toward the Commission."

Sincerely yours

Edw. B. Rouse

EBG-B

Mr. C. D. ...
P. ...
...
standing

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN