



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit www.mnhs.org/copyright.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Organized in September, 1884. Incorporated by Act of Congress, 1889.)

H. MORSE STEPHENS, *President*, Berkeley, Cal.

GEORGE L. BURR, *First Vice-President*, Ithaca, N. Y.

WORTHINGTON C. FORD, *Second Vice-President*, Boston

A. HOWARD CLARK, *Curator*, Smithsonian Institution, Washington

WALDO G. LELAND, *Secretary*, Carnegie Institution, Washington

CLARENCE W. BOWEN, *Treasurer*, New York

EVARTS B. GREENE, *Secretary of the Council*, Urbana, Ill.

PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

VICTOR H. PALTSITS, *Chairman*, New York

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, Urbana, Ill.

CHARLES M. ANDREWS, New Haven, Conn.

SOLOM J. BUCK, Minneapolis, Minn.

GEORGE S. GODARD, Hartford, Conn.

THOMAS M. OWEN, Montgomery, Ala.

A. S. SALLEY, JR., Columbia, S. C.

Office of the Chairman

~~1855 Morris Avenue, New York~~

2240 Grand Concourse

New York, N. Y.

May 31, 1916

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I am sending herewith a ^hcarbon copy of the report for 1915 and, if you approve of it, will you kindly send me at once your consent to attach your name to it, so that no delay may occur in putting it through the Publication Committee?

As you are also a member of the Commission for 1916, will you be good enough to tell me what ideas you have for a programme for the next conference of archivists, to be held at Cincinnati in December? What subjects do you believe we should take up, and whom do you recommend as persons to present them? If the subjects permit of discussion, who, in your judgment, is best fitted to discuss them among persons who are likely to be present?

Dr.S.J.Buck

May 31, 1916 -- 2

I want ideas from my associates. It is the duty of the chairman to carry out the consensus of opinion of his colleagues. If we are not to have the chairman do all the thinking and all the work, and if we are to do something that is worth while, it is up to you to help. Verbum sat Sapienti!

Sincerely yours,

Victor H. Paltits,

Chairman

P/L

426 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
June 7, 1916.

Mr. Victor Paltsits,
2240 Grand Concourse,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Paltsits:

I am spending a few weeks here finishing up some work for the Illinois Centennial Commission. Alvord showed me your letter to him of May 31 and the report of the Public Archives Commission for 1915. I presume you have sent a similar report to me in Minnesota. To save time I will write you at once that the report has my hearty approval.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:MJ

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Organized in September, 1884. Incorporated by Act of Congress, 1889.)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS, *Chairman*,
2240 Grand Concourse, New York, N. Y.

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, Urbana, Ill.
SOLON J. BUCK, Minneapolis, Minn.
JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, Washington, D. C.

GEORGE S. GODARD, Hartford, Conn.
CHARLES MOORE, Detroit, Mich.
THOMAS M. OWEN, Montgomery, Ala.

June 14, 1916

Dear Buck:

If you have any ideas for the next Conference of Archivists, please send them to me at once. I expect shortly to discuss the subject with Leland here and the programme committee is already urging me for a report.

Sincerely yours,
Victor H. Paltits

426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois
June 17, 1916

Mr. Victor Paltsits
2240 Grand Concourse,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Paltsits:

I haven't time at present to give much thought to the Conference of Archivists and it occurs to me that the best thing we can do is to push the work on the Manual of Economy and perhaps have some additional chapters presented as _____ at the conference.

papers
I am working under great pressure, trying to get out a volume for the Illinois Centennial Commission. I saw the proof of Keller's report on the Minnesota Archives recently and I feel that it is a creditable piece of work.

Sincerely yours,

May 23, 1917

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits
476 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

My dear Paltsits:-

The Report of the Public Archives Commission has my hearty approval, and you are hereby authorized to affix my name thereto.

With reference to the summary of legislation, it occurs to me that more explanation and less quotation of legal verbiage would be an improvement. Particularly is this true, when the act in question is an amendment of another act which is not quoted.

Sincerely yours

SEP 21 1917

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Organized in September, 1884. Incorporated by Act of Congress, 1889.)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS, *Chairman*,
2240 Grand Concourse, New York, N. Y.

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, Urbana, Ill.
SOLON J. BUCK, Minneapolis, Minn.
JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, Washington, D. C.

George N. Fuller, Detroit
GEORGE S. GODARD, Hartford, Conn.
~~EDWARD WOODRUFF, Indianapolis, Ind.~~
THOMAS M. OWEN, Montgomery, Ala.

September 17, 1917.

Dear Dr. Buck:

I have delayed writing to the members of the Commission with respect to the next conference of archivists on account of the uncertainties of the war. After some waiting, incident to the vacation season, I have had some correspondence with the Secretary of the American Historical Association, to learn how we would fit in at the December meeting. He has made a proposal which seems to have merit and I wish you would let me know at once your sentiments in regard to the plan. Mr. Leland asks:

" How would it do for the Philadelphia Conference to make it a joint affair between the Historical Manuscripts Commission and the Public Archives Commission, and devote attention to the collection of war materials? By that time I shall have published a pamphlet, through the Committee on Public Information, which will contain suggestions respecting the collection of material relating to the history of the war. I should like very much to have a thorough discussion of this with a view to preparing another and larger edition. At such a conference I think we might take up: One, the preservation of national records; two, the preservation of state records; three, the preservation of local records; four, the collection and preservation of miscellaneous fugitive material, largely of local interest.

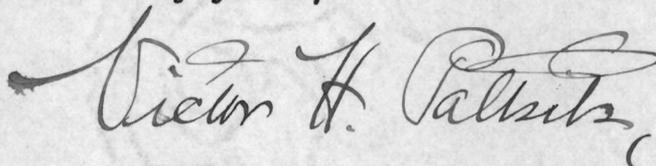
Dr. Buck, 2.

9-17-17.

"The point is that with so many boards and commissions and councils there is a vast amount of correspondence and archive material being gathered together which will be of the greatest conceivable value to the future historian; but many of these boards are composed of voluntary workers in crowded quarters and there is going to be a great temptation to destroy material the value of which will not be properly realized. It seems to me that this matter is of great importance in the interest of American history and one that we should take up at an early date."

Awaiting your prompt advice, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Victor H. Palmiter". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name "Chairman.".

Chairman.

L-R.

September 21, 1917

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits
2340 Grand Concourse
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Paltsits:-

Leland's suggestion for the next conference of archivists meets with my entire approval. The subject which he proposes has been engaging my attention to a considerable extent and I should certainly be very glad to hear it discussed at the conference.

I am hoping that the Conference of Historical Societies will also devote a part of its session to a consideration of the problems involved in the collection of war material.

At the meeting of our State Library Association next month, I expect to talk on "Historical Preparedness", in which I shall deal with the desirability of collecting local miscellaneous war material and make suggestions to the librarians as to ways and means.

Sincerely yours

OCT 20 1917

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Organized in September, 1884. Incorporated by Act of Congress, 1889.)

2

PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS, *Chairman*,
2240 Grand Concourse, New York, N. Y.

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, Urbana, Ill.
SOLON J. BUCK, Minneapolis, Minn.
JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, Washington, D. C.

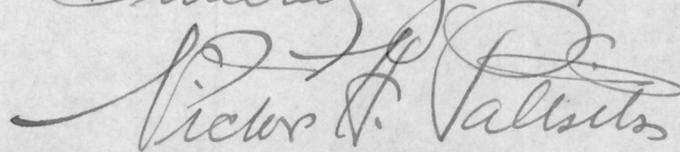
GEORGE S. GODARD, Hartford, Conn.
CHARLES MOORE, Detroit, Mich.
THOMAS M. OWEN, Montgomery, Ala.

October 16, 1917

Dear Dr. Buck:

Returning to the recent correspondence with respect to our next conference of archivists, I am now asking you to prepare a paper on "War Archives of the States", to take up twenty minutes' time, and to be followed by discussion. "States" means, of course, also the cities, etc. which are producing official war archives. The preservation and coördination of official materials is meant. Other materials, such as manuscripts and fugitive paper, likely to fall to the lot of historical societies, libraries, and individual collectors, will be discussed by the Historical Manuscripts Commission.

Will you do it and will you kindly send me an early answer? Any suggestions will be welcome, too.

Sincerely yours,

Victor H. Paltits
Chairman

October 20, 1917

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits
2240 Grand Concourse
New York, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Paltsits:-

I am in receipt of your letter of October 18, and am very much tempted, but I regret to say that it would be absolutely impossible for me to undertake the preparation of a paper between now and Christmas. I have all sorts of matters on my hands, some of which have been sadly neglected, and in the course of about two weeks, we expect to start moving into the new building, which will mean a lot more work.

I am very much interested in the subject, but I am sure that there are other people who are more competent to write a paper on it than am I, and who would have more time to do justice to it. One name ~~which occurs to me at the present time~~ is that of Connor of North Carolina.

I will be very glad to take part in the discussion of this subject if you desire me to do so, and I regret very much the impossibility of my preparing the paper.

Sincerely yours

NOV 15 1917
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

(Organized in September, 1884. Incorporated by Act of Congress, 1889.)

PUBLIC ARCHIVES COMMISSION

VICTOR HUGO PALTSITS, *Chairman*,
2240 Grand Concourse, New York, N. Y.

CLARENCE W. ALVORD, Urbana, Ill.
SOLON J. BUCK, Minneapolis, Minn.
JOHN C. FITZPATRICK, Washington, D. C.

11
GEORGE S. GODARD, Hartford, Conn.
CHARLES MOORE, Detroit, Mich.
THOMAS M. OWEN, Montgomery, Ala.

November 12, 1917

Dr. Solon J. Buck, Superintendent
Minnesota Historical Society
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Dr. Buck:

I enclose herewith a prospectus of a paper which Mr. Waldo G. Leland will read at the forthcoming conference of archivists. It gives a good idea of what the Public Archives Commission hopes may be thoroughly discussed in any direction in which you may have interest. I am writing, therefore, to ask you to participate in the discussions of this very important programme, and it will be helpful to me if you could let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Yours very truly,

Chairman

November 15, 1917

Mr. Victor H. Paltsits
2240 Grand Concourse
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Paltsits:-

I am in receipt of your letter of November 12 enclosing the prospectus of Leland's paper. I shall be very glad, indeed, to take part in the discussion, provided I go to Philadelphia. I shall certainly take in the meeting if I can possibly make it, but we are going to be moving into our new building at that time, and circumstances may be such as to make it impossible for me to get away.

I enclose herewith copies of a letter just received from the secretary of the Washington State Historical Society and of my reply. I wonder if it would be worth while to look into this matter further and endeavor to find out what departments, if any, are thus disposing of "worthless papers".

Sincerely yours