



[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.

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

June 3, 1916.

My dear Buck :-

You know the University has failed to get several of the big men for our college which had been sought for next year. The result may be the distribution of several instructors among departments which have a specially heavy burden of teaching, especially of Freshmen. The history dept. is many just one. We should, I think, want a man who, if kept, would develop in American history, but for the first year he would have to be general utility man. Have you any suggestions? It is late to do anything of this sort, but we don't want to miss any chances coming our way, and I want to get

hold of all the possibilities just as soon as possible. Have written to Ford. Salary would be from \$1200 to \$1500.

Sincerely,

A B White.

426 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
June 3, 1916.

Professor Albert B. White,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Professor White:

I arrived here last night, and about 9:30 learned of a telegram from Dean Johnston asking me for the vote of the committee in the Fieldhouse case for faculty meeting last night. As it was too late to get a telegram to him for the meeting, I did not see as there was anything I could do. Certainly you and the other members of the committee could have given him the information about the vote. I am writing him today, however. As you know, should it be a question of reconsideration on the part of the committee, my vote would be against reconsideration, but should reconsideration be decided upon, I would vote as before.

I had a pleasant trip down here, although it took a day longer than I had anticipated.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:MJ

426 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
June 6, 1916.

Professor A. B. White,
University of Minnesota,
St. Paul, Minnesota:

My dear White:

I have your letter of June 3 and am delighted to know that there is a possibility of our having another instructor next year. It seems to me the pressing need of more work in American history ought to be a strong argument in favor of the arrangement. ^{feel sure that} I ~~have~~ thought Wayne E. Stevens, who is taking his doctor's degree here, is exactly the man we want. He wrote his master's thesis under my direction two years ago, and is the best all around graduate student with whom I have come in contact. He is not here just now, but will be back in a few days and I will have a talk with him. I would not hesitate for a moment to stake my reputation on his making good and developing into just the man we want to handle the general courses in American history. Everyone here is very enthusiastic about him. He has been given

Professor A. B. White - 2

an instructorship here for next year at \$1000, but with the understanding that he would be released in case something better turned up. Alvord thinks Illinois would go up to \$1200 to hold him, but there is no future for him here, as there might be at Minnesota. I hope you won't decide on anyone else without giving him very careful consideration, and I should like to have you look into some of his work.

His master's thesis was on the "Opposition to the Civil War in Illinois" and his doctor's thesis deals with the fur trade in the Northwest. He had an article in a recent issue of the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society. If I am not mistaken, Notestein met him at the Chicago meeting of the American Historical Association.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:MJ

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

Professor A. B. White,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Professor White:

I have just had a talk with Stevens, and he is very much interested in the possible position at Minnesota. I very much wish that you could meet him and talk with him, because I am sure you would find his personality very attractive. It seems to me that he is one of the few people whom one can recommend with absolutely no qualifications. He has turned over to me copies of his master's and doctor's theses, and I will be glad to send them on to you if you desire to look them over. He leaves tonight for Chicago, but will be back here for Commencement about the middle of next week. Should you desire to reach him in Chicago, address Mr. Wayne E. Stevens, care of Chicago Historical Society.

I wish this matter had come up before I left, for I could have told you about Stevens so much better than I can write it. I have talked with Notestein and Krey about him and they both know how I feel.

I have attended some dozen or more examinations, and I am sure that Stevens' examination two years ago was by far the best of any I have heard. The men here, and especially Greene, tell me that he has grown in ability during the last two years.

He is only twenty-four years old, but he has a great deal of dignity and self possession, and I am convinced that his youth would not be a handicap.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:MJ

The University of Minnesota

Minneapolis

June 16, 1916.

My dear Buck :-

Hope before you receive this you will have received my night letter & got into communication with Stevens. Only got a letter from Ford this morn (he has been out to Detroit to a meeting of the Medical Ass'n. where he read a paper - I suppose about the Mayo affiliation). I hesitated to act finally till I heard from him, as he spoke about Morrison of Harvard.

The following excerpt from Ford's letter shows the basis and understanding upon which Stevens must come. I have gone over each point with the Dean and have his approval.

"I remember meeting Stevens at the meeting. He is a very likable and excellent appearing young chap. I should regard him wholly an experiment from the standpoint we have in mind of a strong first-class Am. Hist. appointment, and given all due allowance for satisfactory growth still possibly requiring more years than we can wait in order to have our strength in that field evident within & without the college. Personally I should be delighted if he was the man for History 3, but when it comes to advanced work & strengthening the graduate school his wholly western training & in Western history promises progress only in the field Buck occupies. — If in addition to such

The University of Minnesota

Minneapolis

a promising instructor we could add later
someone with a view to advanced work -
especially in Am. Hist. in the later period
and from another standpoint it would be
excellent. What with Hist. V and divisions
of other work there is full use for an instructor
at once of the Stevens type & salary, but we
could not hold out to him, with these ideas
in mind, the full possibilities and all
possible advancement in Am. Hist. free from
any possibility of an appointment in this field
that would not outrank his. — With
our needs of instructional assistance in
two or three courses we can give him greater
assurance of permanency of appointment than
Illinois, or of its chances at least, but his
first appointment should be strictly a one
year appointment with no assurances about
a free field in Am. Hist."

Personally I hope very much that Stevens
will accept the \$1300 offer I made in the telegram
sent you. Of course no assurances can be
given for the year following, especially as the
President insists that these new instructorships
may all have to terminate at the end of next year.
But I believe if our needs continue and Stevens
is a success, he will be retained & get more
money. — If you find that Stevens wants
the place let us know how to address him
(or even if he is seriously considering it) for

The University of Minnesota

Minneapolis

I think the Dean intends to write him the formal offer, stating conditions; which will, however, be those contained in this letter.

I thank you most heartily for your help in this matter and furnishing such full information, letters of recommendation, etc. If we get Stevens we have made a most unexpected and, I believe, a valuable addition to our history department.

Sincerely,

A. D. White.

Ford adds in another part of the letter ---
"we can give him (Stevens) more prospects than he has there with Greene, Alvord, Cole & to a certain extent Robertson - all in Am. Hist. ahead of him".

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

June 10, 1916.

My dear Buck:-

Green's letter of recommendation came this morning. Have just been talking the matter over with the Dean and the question has come up whether Stevens has had any teaching experience, - high school or the like. This may not be a sine qua non, but surely has to be considered. How old is he? The main points in his vita would interest us. As there seems to be no immediate haste I think I shall make no definite offer until I hear from Fred again.

Sincerely,

A. B. White.

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

June 9, 1916.

My dear Buck:

What you say of Stevens sounds
very good to me and I have just got
Ford's letter of recommendation which is
very strong. I have sent both letters to Ford
who is to interview a Harvard instructor named
Morison. I have told Ford that I am inclined
to go after your man. I made it clear,
did I not, that the first year he would have
to teach in courses 1-2 & 3-4 as well as a
section in 5-6 and that it is strictly a
one-year appointment? I feel sure that

Johnston hopes we may keep him beyond that;
if our registration increases, as it is likely to,
it seems to me we must. But the President
insists that not a trace of assurance beyond
one year is to be given to any of these new
instructors.

Hastily,
Wm. White

Hope we shall get the questions, that Key
wrote to you about, on time. Tomorrow
is our last day of grace.

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM



NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

GEORGE W. E. ATKINS, VICE-PRESIDENT

BELVIDERE BROOKS, VICE-PRESIDENT

CLASS OF SERVICE	SYMBOL
Day Message	
Day Letter	Blue
Night Message	Nite
Night Letter	N L

If none of these three symbols appears after the check (number of words) this is a day message. Otherwise its character is indicated by the symbol appearing after the check.

RECEIVED AT

31 CH M 47 NL

MINNEAPOLIS MINN JUNE 16 1916

S J BUCK

416 LINCOLN HALL URBANA ILLS ILLS-

AM RECOMMENDING STEVENS FOR INSTRUCTOR FOR ONE YEAR THIRTEEN
HUNDRED DOLLARS TEACHING IN ELEMENTARY EUROPEAN ENGLIS AND AMERICAN
HISTORY BUDGET PROVIDES FOR THIS POSITION FOR ONLY ONE YEAR
ACTION NEXT YEAR DEPENDS ON CONDITION THEN IF REAPPOINTED ADVANCEMENT
WILL DEPEND ON SUCCESS OF HIS WORK LETTER FOLLOWS

A B WHITE

545PM

426 Lincoln Hall
Urbana, Illinois
June 17, 1916

Professor A. B. White,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

My dear Mr. White:

I was very glad indeed after receiving your telegram this morning about Stevens. I showed it to him at once, and he has indicated that he will accept. He has also informed Green, who was anxious to know the outcome as soon as possible. I am quite sure that we have made no mistake. Stevens is here now and can be reached at 426 Lincoln Hall.

Sincerely yours,

426 Lincoln Hall,
Urbana, Illinois,
June 21, 1916.

Professor A. B. White,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Mr. White:

Greene has just asked me to write you to the effect that if Stevens could receive his formal appointment as soon as possible, it would smoothe matters over for him in handling the matter with the Dean and President here. Stevens has your letter which seemed to me and to him sufficiently definite and conclusive, and he was quite willing to tender his resignation here on the strength of it, but Greene is very cautious and would like to have you or Dean Johnston wire a definite notice of the appointment, unless, of course, the formal notice is already on the way when you get this.

Conger, of Knox College, has just been in to see me. He is here today attending conference. He tells me that Miss Carr is an "A No. 1" student, and thinks we are very lucky to get her.

I expect to be back in St. Paul by Friday of next week, and will want to have a talk with you about Stevens' work.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:MJ

July 19, 1916

Professor A. B. White
325 Sixth Ave. S. E.
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. White:-

I am sending you enclosed some sheets of ✓
the Folkebladet, a Norwegian paper, containing an article
in English by Theodore C. Blegen, on the Minnesota Historical
Society. This article deals especially with the society's
activities in the field of Scandinavian-American history.

Sincerely yours

February 8, 1917

My dear Mr. White:-

At the request of my good friend, General Le Duc, I am sending copies of his pamphlet entitled "Convince the World of the Reality of Life after Death" to a number of University men. Should you care to acknowledge it to the General at Hastings, Minnesota, with such comment as you might see fit to make, I am sure that he would appreciate it.

General Le Duc is still vigorous, mentally and physically, at the ripe old age of ninety-four.

Sincerely yours

May 26, 1917

Professor A. B. White
110 Library Building
Minneapolis, Minn.

My dear Mr. White:-

The oral examination of Miss Lucetta Bissell for the masters' degree will take place next Wednesday, May 30, at nine A. M. in room 218 Library Building.

According to the instructions issued from the office of the graduate school, the examining committee consists of the thesis committee, the instructors with whom the candidate has taken work, and the chairman of the major department.

Very truly yours

May 26, 1917

Professor A. B. White
110 Library Building
University of Minnesota, Minneapolis

My dear Mr. White:-

The oral examination of Miss Eleanor Raymond for the masters' degree will take place next Wednesday, May 30, at eight A. M. in room 218, Library Building.

According to the instructions issued from the office of the graduate school, the examining committee consists of the thesis committee, the instructors with whom the candidate has taken work, and the chairman of the major department.

Very truly yours

AUG 20 1917

Rowe, Mass., }
Aug. 17, 1917. }

My dear Buck:-

Your letter just received. Since I heard of Stevens' appointment from Potstein (strangely Stevens himself has not written me for about three weeks) I have sent out letters of inquiry to Harkins, G. B. Adams, Mr. Laughlin, C. Keegan, & Becker. We can either appoint an instructor at Stevens' present salary or get two \$600 teaching assistants. I am very doubtful of getting good people so late as this - a thing we all foresaw, but we wanted to do the utmost for Stevens.

I am distinctly interested in your suggestion and would like to have you develop it a little more. Have you got your man (or woman) in mind, and how much teaching would he have time to do. Of present indications

are reliable we shall need
all the teaching force for
Hists. 1-2 and 3-4 that we
planned for. We had
nine hours of Stevens'
time for division work.
Of course his individual
work course in Am. History
drops. Anyway, that was
perhaps more to give him
a chance to prove himself
in his special field than
because there was a desperate
demand for it.

Am sorry I cannot give
you Shirle's address. Could
you not reach him through
the address to be found in
his application on file with
Mrs. Pierce?

I have been having a
vacation in one sense -- not
in another. Have done a fair
amount of research, under
changed surroundings to be
sure. Have also been doing
some reading for my
lectures next year in the
nineteenth & twentieth Century

End of History 3-4 - that
venerable much-discussed
course now completing its
metamorphosis. Sadly
I have been writing letters
most of the time, and
heavily wish I had
"stenographic privileges".
Ford's decision about next
year still hangs fire.

Hastily,

A. Q. White.

August 23, 1917

Professor Albert B. White

Rose, Massachusetts

My dear Mr. White:-

In connection with my search for a librarian, I have learned of two men who might be available and suitable for an instructorship in the Department. One of these is Dr. W. F. Galpin of Muskegon, Michigan, who has his degree from Pennsylvania, I think, and has been at Columbia during the summer. His field of work, I understand, is European history. His name was given me by Dr. Hicks of Hamline, who thought it quite probable that he may have been drafted. I have not had any correspondence with him direct.

The other is Dr. E. M. Coulter, Connelly Springs, North Carolina, who took his degree at Wisconsin last June. Hicks also called my attention to him, and I have had a letter from him and one from Fish, who speaks very highly of him. It seems to me that Ford could easily find out about these men and other possible candidates from the men in Washington.

Now that Ford has definitely decided not to return, I suppose we will have to make still another appointment of some sort. Krey was in from Minnetonka yesterday, and we talked things over to some extent. He told me of your correspondence with Barker.

I am glad to know that the possibility of a joint arrangement between the Department and the Society appeals to you. In case we decide to appoint a man as librarian whose training has been in history, I think it would be advantageous to both institutions to arrange for him to give one course or a seminar at the University. Possibly it might be well to defer this for a year or two, as he will have his hands full in looking after the transfer of the library to the new building, and its reorganization. This would not have any bearing, however, on taking care of Stevens' work, with the exception possibly of the proposed advanced course in American History, as I would not want to spare enough of the time of our librarian to permit him to handle sections.

Mrs. Pierce is on her vacation so that

A. B. W. 8/22/17--2

I am unable to get Shirk's address from her. Stevens told me, however, that his home is at Milledgeville, Illinois, and I have written to him there hoping that it will be forwarded if he is not there.

I was very much surprised to learn that you had not heard from Stevens about his appointment, for he told me that he was intending to telegraph you. I am sure he had it in mind to let you know immediately.

I suppose that any appointments which are made in the Department now will be temporary in character. I certainly hope that we will be in a position to offer Stevens a reappointment when he comes back, and I think that we ought to give him this chance to prove himself, if possible.

Sincerely yours

August 15, 1917

Professor Albert B. White
Rowe, Massachusetts

My dear Professor White:-

I have been intending to write you a few lines all summer, but war activities and other things have kept me on the jump most of the time. Krey read me parts of an interesting letter which he received from you, and Mr. Ford wrote of visiting you a week or two ago.

I doubt not you are enjoying a very pleasant summer, and I can hardly help envying you and my other friends who are off on vacations, when I contemplate the extent and variety of work which is staring me in the face all the time.

You have doubtless heard before this from Stevens to the effect that he has received a commission as second lieutenant in the Intelligence Service, which I take to be a very good appointment and one which will give him opportunity to make use of his special qualifications. He expects to go to New Mexico after a brief furlough.

I suppose that it is the plan to carry his work next year by means of assistants, is it not? In this connection, it occurred to me that we might possibly make some advantageous arrangement between the University and the Historical Society. We expect to appoint a librarian, and I have about decided to secure a man who is trained in history rather than one who is trained in library science. Such a man would doubtless welcome the opportunity to do some teaching in the University if it could be arranged.

The Krays are spending a month at Lake Minnetonka. Mrs. Krey has been sick for several weeks. Krey's sister is with them.

Do you happen to know or can you tell me how I can find out the address of Mr. Shirk, who is to be one of our assistants next year? It occurs to me that he might like to take the room at our house which

A. B. W. 8/15/17--2

Stevens has had during the past year, and I would like to get into communication with him about it.

I have had several letters from Shippee this summer, and have been trying to find a house for him to live in. He expects to come on about the first of September, although I have informed him that the University does not open until October 10.

I expect you will not be back until about the first of October, will you?

Sincerely yours