



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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JAN 7 1918

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Librarian
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Buffalo, N. Y. Jan. 3, 1918.

S. J. Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul,
Minn.

My Dear Buck:

Prof. Lingelbach's stenographer took your remarks as on the enclosed sheets. Perhaps they are not as full as you would like to have them appear, or have not hit the points you want most emphasized, but I enclose them for your convenience and trust I may have your version at an early date.

I have written Montgomery about the committee on organization and told him that while I have no objection to your plan in itself, I feel that immediate results in the way of contributions and arousing of interest could come better from the plan along the lines of the enclosed sheet and, if you would agree to that for this year, we could fight out the general principle at the next Conference.

I arrived here yesterday and although I may have more to write later, I will end this letter now.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H. Shearer

Conference of Historical Societies.

1-Includes all historical societies per se; genealogical societies; numismatic societies; historical commissions, state departments of history; and hereditary patriotic societies, general, state and local.

2-Such societies as desire to further the progress of historical societies and their mutual interests shall contribute such amount as shall seem suitable to them in view of their resources, membership and interest. The suggested basis is one cent per member, (but not over \$10) with approximately \$5.00 for commissions and departments. From societies which desire to show interest but whose resources are small or ~~contributions~~ otherwise appropriated of any size are asked.

3-Societies and agencies of whatever kind which contribute as much as one cent per member, (or \$5 for commissions and departments) shall have a vote at the Annual Conference by proxy or delegate, or by mail.

4-Such publications as shall be issued by the Conference shall have a price set upon them at which the public can buy them. Contributing societies shall receive ^{copies} such number of copies ^{as they desire} ~~more than one~~, as their contribution shall be proportionate to the price.

January 7, 1918

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
The Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

Dear Shearer:-

I am in receipt of your letter of January 3. Instead of the stenographic report of my remarks you enclosed that of Prince's which I am sending back to you herewith. I shall be glad to revise mine when it is received.

With reference to the organization of the conference, I feel that the plan to be adopted is of less importance than that the decision, when reached, should be embodied in a clear, definite, and formal statement, so that everyone concerned will understand exactly what the arrangement is. Possibly it would be well to put this into the form of by-laws. Your statement, I take it, is merely intended as a proposition for discussion and presumably you did not expect to send it out to the societies in this form.

I still feel that when permanent organization is to be achieved, some less complicated and more definite system of dues would be desirable. The idea of asking every institution to contribute as much as it feels like seems to me to smack too much of charity. I am not sure but what a straight membership fee of one or two dollars for each and every organization would be the most satisfactory arrangement. Such organizations as might not feel able to make this payment, but were willing to make annual reports, might be enrolled as associate members.

On the whole I think it would be best for Montgomery to appoint some one beside me on the committee, for I am swamped with work at the present time.

Sincerely yours

January 19, 1918

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
The Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

Dear Shearer:-

I am in receipt of your note of
January 16 with the copy of my remarks enclosed.

You are still on the mailing list
for our Bulletin. The November issue will prob-
ably be distributed in a week or so.

I enclose herewith another letter
from the Women's Canadian Historical Society of
Ottawa. The money order which ^{was} sent was made
out to me personally, so I have cashed it and am
enclosing herewith my check for the same amount.

Sincerely yours

March 8, 1918

Dear Shearer:-

I have received the Proceedings of the Conference and have looked it over with much interest. I hope to be able to supply you with a copy of my remarks in time for inclusion in the final report. We will include the payment of dues to the Conference of \$4.15 in our next monthly budget of bills. I trust that you will be with us at the M. V. H. A. meeting if you can possibly arrange to do so.

Sincerely yours

Dr. A. H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York.

*Miss Robins
see name
about
this 1918.*

July 26, 1918

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

My dear Shearer:-

I presume that Leland has sent you some extra copies of the Proceedings of the twelfth annual Conference of Historical Societies. If so, and if you can spare it, I would like very much to receive one for my personal file.

I think that your idea of listing in the appendix all societies which have reported at any time is an excellent one, and I am sure that the list will be very useful to our exchange department.

Cordially yours

B/P

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DEC 21 1918

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Assistant Librarian

Buffalo, N. Y. Dec 19 1918

Dr S J Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
St Paul, Minn.

My dear Dr Buck:-

Harding has materially strengthened the Conference program by adding you. Would you write Dutcher your particular phase of the discussion? I trust you will have something to say along the line of the books and posters, which the Historical Society has made an effort to secure, that is, irrespective of gifts, what such a society would feel justified in purchasing; but do not let this suggestion restrict you at all.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H. Shearer

S/B

December 23, 1918

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Crosvener Library
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Shearer:-

I appreciate very much having been put on the program for the Conference of Historical Societies, but unfortunately it will be impossible for me to attend the meeting at Cleveland this year.

Sincerely yours

January 15, 1919

Dr. A. H. Shearer, Librarian
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Shearer:-

My attention has recently been called to the two numbers of the Bulletin published by your library, and I have looked them over with very great interest.

I want to congratulate you upon the inauguration of this publication, which will prove, I believe, to be a valuable means of promoting the interests of your institution. I was particularly interested to observe how many problems we have in common. Your decision to change to the Library of Congress classification helps to make me feel that we were justified in making a similar decision several years ago, in spite of the fact that our progress in the work of reclassifying is very, very slow.

I expect to pass through Buffalo next summer and shall certainly pay a visit to your library, for I am sure that I could pick up a number of pointers which would be valuable to us.

Sincerely yours

B/P

February 7, 1919

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Shearer:-

My plans for the summer are not sufficiently definite as yet for me to state positively whether or not it would be possible for me to appear on the program at the meeting of the American Library Association. It is possible that I might arrange to be there the latter part of the week and if so, I would be glad to assist in any way possible.

My fiance is an instructor in rhetoric in the University, but her home is in Brooklyn. We are planning to leave here as soon as possible after the close of the University, going by way of the lakes to Buffalo and taking my car along. We will then drive east, do some motoring in the Berkshires, and drive all the way back.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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Buffalo, N. Y. Jan 18 1919

Dr Solon J Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
St Paul, Minn.

My dear Dr Buck:-

Thank you for your appreciation of our Bulletin. I am glad to know about your change in classification because the inherent difficulties of a change of any kind are sometimes increased by a theoretical opposition to the L C system.

If your personal plans permit, do you think you could speak at the American Library Assn., which meets at Asbury Park the week of June 23rd, on the same subject which the Conference of Historical Societies was to have discussed at Cleveland? It is even possible that the Conference of Historical Societies will be asked to hold its sessions at that time. As I wrote you before, I do not know by what method you were secured for the Cleveland program as Harding did not write me. Whatever it was I hope you can speak on the subject at this later meeting. At any rate I shall hope to see you on your way through Buffalo next summer.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H Shearer

S/B

And of course I am interested in the question of your marriage & offer congratulations. I am wondering if she is an Eastern girl, or whether the wedding trip is to be Eastward. Please append some more information to your last business letter. At any rate, you are on the right track.

February 11, 1919

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Shearer:-

This morning the First National Bank, through which the business of the Minnesota Historical Society is conducted, notified us that they had never received the cancelled check, number 9386, for \$4.15, which was sent to you as secretary last April in payment of our dues to the Conference of Historical Societies.

We have the receipted bill for this amount, but I am wondering if the check itself was ever deposited. If so, it seems strange that it has not been returned to the bank by this time. We will appreciate it if you will let us hear from you concerning this at your early convenience.

Sincerely yours

B

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Buffalo, N. Y. Feb 15 1919

Dr S J Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
St Paul, Minn.

My dear Dr Buck:-

With reference to your letter of Feb 11th I cannot find as yet the check for \$4 15.[^] I acknowledge all checks but for a while held them as I had no immediate use for the money, I shall make a thorough search in the hopes of finding this. I am sorry to have caused this trouble already.

Your letter of Feb 7th was very interesting. I will bear you in mind for the A L A meeting but the more interesting news at the end of your letter was very acceptable. I hope that we are in Buffalo when you ^(return) come through and will expect you to stop with us as long as you can. I was in Washington last week and saw Mr Leland and we spoke of you and your future and agreed that you were making a wise move.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H Shearer

S/B

Feb 25
x I found the check; with others I had not immediately cashed as I wanted no money at the time. Very sorry

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JAN 19 1918

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Buffalo, N. Y. Jan. 16, 1918.

S. J. Buch,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul,
Minn.

My Dear Buck:

I enclose the real copy of your speech. I have written Montgomery again about the Committee, together with your remarks. Thank you for your enclosures. I am wondering if I will still be favored with the Minnesota Historical Bulletin?

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H. Shearer

Discussion by Solon J. Buck

University of Minnesota.

Historical Society

Read sections of a paper delivered before the librarians
of the state of Minnesota.

The average person thinks of History as something
dealing with the past, and having no connection with the
present. The chief function of History is to enable us to
see the present.

Complete files of newspaper publishers are often
destroyed by neglect and fires, and therefore should be kept
by local historical societies and libraries. Especially
while the country is at war all the contemporary literature
in circulation should be kept for future reference. A great
deal can be done by the state historical societies in the way
of encouraging public libraries to keep files of all local
papers. Some societies and libraries have a number of large
envelopes in which are kept clippings from newspapers. In
Minnesota an index was started after the war began, and they
have collected over five hundred papers from April first to
August first. Another thing is to collect all posters and
programs of various meetings. These can be used later for
exhibition purposes. There are a great many pictures too
that are worthy of permanent preservation. The number of

organizations engaged in war activities is beyond count. Small organizations existed during the Civil War, but the records they kept have all disappeared. Another thing that should be done is to preserve letters from men in the military service, and in this way we can secure knowledge of the situation and of camp life. However, these are only a few suggestions of the great variety of material which could and should be collected and given to a librarian or to the secretary of a historical society which serves a certain community.

To sum up then, secure as much publicity as possible, and let the community know that your society is collecting all current literature on the war. In this way you can get the co-operation of the people in saving everything that is of value in the way of current literature. The newspaper men are of great importance. The society should arrange with these men to save all such material for the librarian of the society to look over. Then comes the question of how to care for this material. It should be cared for in the same way as any other material, and stored away where it will be safe. As the material comes in, the institution will be enabled to decide what materials are worthy of being preserved, and what are not. No state society can perform this work for a state. It is distinctly the duty of the state historical society to collect this material, and to urge other institutions and organizations within the state to cooperate in this work. It should also urge local public libraries to enter upon the filing and collecting of materials of this sort. This is the kind of work being done

in Minnesota, and many have become enthusiastic about it. While the war material is the principle consideration at the present time, it is to be hoped that the work of collecting current material will not be abandoned after the close of the war.

✓

April 30, 1919

Dr. A. H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

My dear Shearer:-

In looking over some papers recently, I came across the stenographic report of my remarks at the meeting of the Conference of Historical Societies in December, 1917. Apparently I was too busy at the time this arrived to do anything with it. Has the copy for the final report of this Conference gone to press yet? and if not do you want me to revise this material for inclusion therein?

I find that it will be impossible for me to attend the A. L. A. meeting. I expect to leave here Sunday, June 29, to be married in Duluth, June 30, and to take the boat the next day for Buffalo, arriving there July 5. Will you be there at that time? If not, I will try to see you on the way back in the early part of August.

Sincerely yours

B/P

MAY 21 1919

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Buffalo, N. Y.

May 19 1919

Prof S J Buck
Minnesota Historical Society
St Paul, Minn.

My dear Buck:-

The Asbury Park meeting will be very interesting because the New York Public, the Library of Congress, Hamilton College, Yale and the New York Historical will discuss their War collections, but it is not so important because we will have the same discussion next Christmas at Cleveland and it will be more in the line of the Historical Societies, so you are excused from Asbury Park. Your other engagements seem to me to be much more important. We hope to be in Buffalo on July 5th and trust you will plan to look in on us for as great a length of time as you can spare. You will not, of course, neglect Niagara Falls. *Mr Shearer will prepare the blue room for you.*

In your last History Bulletin you speak of buying a Photostat. We are going to buy some such machine soon but the John Crerar advises the Cameragraph and the Rectograph is highly recommended locally. Have you any argument you can mention to us for the Photostat.

Yours sincerely,

Augustus H Shearer

S/B

May 20, 1919

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

My dear Shearer:-

I am glad to know that you are to be at home on July 5, but I am afraid it will not be possible for us to spare more than a few hours in Buffalo at that time. Naturally Miss Hawthorn's mother wants us to get to Brooklyn as soon as possible. It may be that we can stop over a little longer on our way back. At any rate I want to take the time to talk over a number of matters with you and to take a look at your library. I fear we will have to forego the pleasure of Niagara Falls.

The photostat which we purchased is a second hand machine, secured from the Wisconsin Historical Society. They disposed of it because they wanted to get a larger machine of the same type for certain newspaper work which they were planning to undertake. I investigated two or three other machines about two years ago, and came to the conclusion that the photostat would be the most satisfactory for our purpose. I think that Quaife has made a much more exhaustive investigation of the subject and I was influenced to a considerable extent by his opinion and experience.

I don't know enough, however, about the technical operation of the machines or the differences between them to really present any arguments on the subject. I do know that our machine has done quite satisfactory work since we succeeded, after innumerable trials, in getting a mercury tube that would work.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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AUG 21 1919

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Buffalo, N. Y.

Aug 19

Dear Buck,

Ever since July 5 I have thought of writing you, but inertia has been my daily companion. We had the fatted calf in the pen, and the guest room fixed up, phoned the steamship company, and found the boat had arrived, and then concluded as evening drew on apace that you had travelled by some other route. Anyhow here are our belated congratulations; you are now worthy of citizenship in full. I happened to mention your preferring marriage to library meetings at the A. S. A. and they put it in the daily convention paper. Am sorry we missed you last Saturday. Perhaps if I had written you before, the machine would

have behaved.

Aside from personal reflections, I would have been glad to talk with you. I see Wilson is querying whether to index your Bulletin - quite a triumph. Your annual report interested me in several particulars. Let me ask if you count maps according to "sheets" or if one map consists of 32 sheets, you count it as "1"? We count furniture and fixtures under operation and maintenance; you put it with books under Equipment. - And so on.

No mail came for you.

I hope to see you in December.

Sincerely,

Augustus W. Sweeney

September 5, 1919

Dr. Augustus H. Shearer
Grosvenor Library
Buffalo, New York

Dear Shearer:-

I felt very guilty upon receipt of your letter of August 19 for having failed to let you know of our change of plans. I somehow was under the impression that I had written you to the effect that our stop would probably be on the return trip, but doubtless I failed to do so. I am sure, however, that you will be willing to excuse this dereliction on my part under the circumstances.

I am, of course, very much pleased to learn that Wilson is considering the inclusion of our Bulletin in his index. It was news to me.

With reference to your question as to how we count maps, my reply will be very simple. We don't. Our map collection is still in the chaotic state in which it was before we moved into the new building, and there isn't much prospect of our being able to do anything with it until we get more help.

I am very busy just now as you may imagine, catching up back work, doing some work for the attorney general on a disputed boundary case, and above all, moving our Lares and Penates into our new apartment. I trust that you and I will have an opportunity before long of meeting each others wives and getting acquainted all around.

Cordially yours

B/P