



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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JAN 15 1924

Department of History  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
SOUTHERN BRANCH  
855 NORTH VERMONT AVENUE  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

7

Jan 9, 1924.

Dear Mr. Bruck:-

Prof. August Krey is one of the men we are considering for a position in Medical History here. I have conflicting views regarding his success as a teacher and his abilities to do real creative work in scholarly production. Can you throw any light upon these aspects of the case? I'd appreciate any help you may be able to give.

Very truly yours,  
Frank J. Klingberg.

January 18, 1924

Professor Frank J. Klingberg  
University of California, Southern Branch  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Dr. Klingberg:-

We value Krey very highly in our department and would be extremely sorry to lose him.

Our fields of work are so diverse that I have not had opportunity for securing much information about his ability as a teacher. My impression is, however, from reports which have reached me and from my own acquaintance with him, which is intimate, that he is a very good teacher of small classes and of advanced students, but that he has not been entirely successful in lecturing to large classes of freshmen. This is not due to any lack of charm, for he is really very popular with the students, but rather to inability to express himself in the simple, direct, and forceful language which is necessary in order to be fully understood by freshmen in the large lecture classes.

He has had considerable experience in organization of classes and courses, and in administrative work for the college and the department. We consider him particularly valuable as an adviser of students and he has done more of this work, perhaps, than any other member of the department in recent years, handling all of the large group of history majors registered in the department of education. Besides his special field of medieval history, Krey has also interested himself in the subject of the teaching of history and has handled that work for us in a very satisfactory manner.

As to his ability to do creative work in scholarly productions, my answer must necessarily be somewhat indefinite. He has not produced much of anything as yet, but his time has been very much taken up with heavy teaching programs, and I understand that he has work of this sort under way. Here again our fields are so divergent that I am not very well qualified to judge him. My impression is that the work which he does will be scholarly in character; that his interpretations will be valuable; but that it will be somewhat lacking in organization and literary style and that its quantity will not be very great.

I ought to add that Krey has a very attractive personality and is well liked, both by the students and by his colleagues on the faculty. He is fond of golf and bridge, but does not neglect his teaching for them. To sum up then, I would say, that your institution will be fortunate and we will

F. J. K. 1/18/24--2

be unfortunate if you succeed in moving him, for, apart from teaching and scholarship, he would be a valuable all around man on any faculty.

Remember me to Parish of your department, and also to Hustvet if he is still there.

Sincerely yours

B/P

# The Campus Club

University of Minnesota

Minneapolis, Minn., October 25, 1924.

Dear Sir:

It is my privilege to write you at this time calling your especial attention to some important matters concerning the Campus Club.

No doubt you have seen the notice posted in the lounge of the Club to the effect that three vacancies occur on the Board of Directors this year. Three members are to be elected next month to fill these positions. This year promises to be an eventful one for the Club as well as a busy one for the members of the Board, and we sincerely hope that you will realize the importance of this election and cast your vote for three of the six members whose names appear below.

Election day is Tuesday, November 4th, and the polls will be open at the Club from 11 A. M. until the business meeting opens in the evening. You are, however, urged to vote by mail, using the enclosed ballot and envelopes. Please note that your ballot cannot be counted unless you sign the ballot envelope. The nominees are: F. K. Butters, C. Otto Rosendahl, Henry Rottschaefer, Colbert Searles, Thomas E. Stewart and John T. Tate.

The real importance of having a big turnout for the Annual Meeting has never been realized more fully than this year, and the Board would appreciate your showing your interest by a one hundred per cent attendance. Reports will be made on our financial condition, and on the status of a new club building, as well as upon all the conditions which have to do with the future of the Club. It is planned to start the annual meeting rather late in the evening, so that members who attend the University Concert may come to the meeting after the concert.

Since the date of the annual meeting coincides with that of the National Election, we have planned to have an "election party" after the meeting. A special wire has been installed for the purpose of receiving the election returns, and a supper will be served. This is also the time when the year's periodicals are to be sold by auction, and Dr. James Davies will again be the auctioneer. There will be bridge and billiards, as usual.

Note that there is to be but one party, instead of two as announced by the poster in the Club. The annual meeting and the election party occur on the same night, November 4th. Please let us know whether or not you will come, using the attached blank and sending it in as soon as possible. Note also, that if you are an "associate member"—that is, if you have not yet paid the full initiation fee—you are not eligible to vote for members of the Board, and no ballot is sent to you. This does not mean, however, that you are not wanted at the meeting and the party afterward. We want every member to attend who can possibly do so, no matter whether he is a "regular" or "associate" member.

Cordially yours,

C. H. ROGERS,  
Secretary.

# Phi Kappa Phi

Philadelphia, Pa., October 24, 1921

Dear Sir:

It is our pleasure to write you at this time with your respects.

We should like to have you at the time of the next meeting of the Board of Directors on the 27th of November. It is our hope that you will be able to attend.

Prof. S. J. Buck, (21)

Lib. 219

Yours very truly,  
S. J. Buck

The next meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on the 27th of November at 10:00 A.M. in the Library. It is our hope that you will be able to attend.

Very truly yours,  
S. J. Buck

Yours very truly,  
S. J. Buck

Sincerely yours,

S. J. BUCK

Lib. 219

OFFICERS

C. H. ROGERS, PRESIDENT  
M. C. SNEED, V. PRESIDENT  
J. T. TATE, SECRETARY  
LEE I. SMITH, TREASURER

**Campus Club**  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
January 20th, 1925

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

E. T. BELL  
E. W. DAVIS  
F. K. BUTTERS  
COLBERT SEARLES

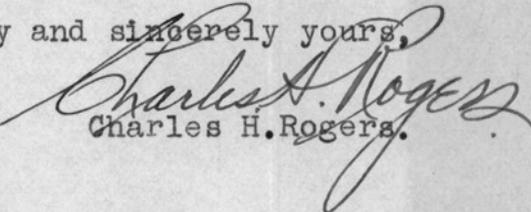
Professor S. J. Buck,  
Department of History,  
University of Minnesota.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Professor Buck:

I have just been advised that you wish to contribute \$25.00 to the Furnishing and Equipment Fund of the New Campus Club. The Board of Directors have asked me to express their appreciation for your generous support.

Enclosed please find card on which we would like to have a statement from you as to the most convenient manner in which you would like to pay this donation.

Again thanking you, I remain  
Cordially and sincerely yours,

  
Charles H. Rogers.

CHRJ

To the Members of the Campus Club

At a special meeting of the Campus Club Thursday, January 22, 1925, it was unanimously voted to authorize the Board of Directors to levy an assessment on the entire membership of \$15 for regular members, \$10 for associate members and \$5 for non resident members, with the following exemptions:

- I. regular members who have already contributed \$15 or more
- II. associate members who have voluntarily contributed \$10 or more
- III. non resident members who have voluntarily contributed \$5 or more

This assessment is to be paid in five equal monthly installments.

In accordance with the above, the first installment of this assessment has been added to your statement this month.

Yours very truly

The Campus Club

JAN 20 1925

MIAMI UNIVERSITY  
OXFORD, OHIO

January 17, 1925.

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

Dear Buck:-

Could you get in touch with Turner at your very earliest convenience and sound him out on the proposition of accepting the Presidency of the M. V. H. A. should it be tendered to him? The committee is agreed to this, in event that it is acceptable to him. I hope to get this matter ironed out as early as possible because it takes a good while to get things through the committee by correspondence.

Yours as ever,

*C. E. Carter*

✓  
January 20, 1925

Professor C. E. Carter  
Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Carter:-

I have your letter of January 17 and am writing at once to Turner. I will let you know as soon as I hear from him and I shall write to you in the near future about the executive committee. If I remember correctly you asked me some questions about who had served on the committee, etc.

We had our annual meeting yesterday and have not yet recovered from the spasm.

Sincerely yours

B/P

February 5, 1925

Professor Clarence E. Carter  
Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Carter:-

I am sending you herewith a letter which I have just received from Turner. I am not sure that he understands that his presidential address would come next year instead of this, but I do not feel that I can do anything more about it. Perhaps if you would write to him now, as chairman of the committee, explaining this point and also telling him that his ordinary paper, such as he indicates his willingness to read, would be entirely acceptable as a presidential address, he might be induced to change his mind. ✓

I think it possible that the program committee has been trying to get him on for the Detroit session but I have no definite information about this.

I am just getting our Biennial Report ready for the press and as soon as that is out of the way I shall go into the matter of the executive committee and write you again.

I will appreciate it if you will return Turner's letter to me after you are through with it, as I shall want to reply to it when the matter is definitely settled.

Sincerely yours

B/P

P. S. It occurs to me that it might be well also to tell Turner that the 1926 meeting will be in Springfield, Illinois, so that his attendance would not involve a long journey. Moreover, in case his health should make it inadvisable for him to attend, we would still have the honor of having his name on our list of presidents.

February 21, 1925

Professor Clarence E. Carter  
Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio

Dear Carter:-

Some time ago I promised to write you my ideas about the nominations for the executive committee of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association.

On looking into the matter, I find that the committee at present consists of Lindley, Quaife, Boucher, Connelley, myself and Barker as ex-presidents; Hodder and Mrs. Paine, officers; and Cole, Dr. Schmidt, Shambaugh, Gittinger, Bende, Shortridge, Viles, Bond and Rothert as elected members. The terms of Cole, Schmidt and Shambaugh expire this year.

My choices for these positions, in the order named, would be Hicks of Nebraska, Schafer of Wisconsin, and Marshall of St. Louis. Both Schafer and Marshall are historical society men so that Mrs. Paine could not complain of lack of representation for that element, but at the same time they are men with the ~~academic~~ <sup>academic</sup> point of view.

Among those who have served on the committee within the last three years and, therefore, presumably ought not to be considered now are Ramsdell (1922), Way (1922), Ford (1923), Sweet (1923), Miss Mitchell (1923), Fuller (1924), Shoemaker (1924), Cochran (1924). The dates indicate when their terms expired.

It has become somewhat customary for the committee to nominate someone from the state in which the meeting is held. I doubt if it is feasible to do this this year, however. As indicated above Fuller has just gone off from the committee. Phillips is not a member, and Van Tyne, although a member, has never attended a meeting. I understand that Randolph Adams, the librarian of Clements Library, is a very able young man, but he has just come to the west and is not a member unless he has joined very recently. C. M. Burton has never attended a meeting of the association and I think that Quaife's position as editor gives the Burton Historical Collections sufficient recognition.

Two other names which occur to me as worthy of consideration are those of Hockett and Libby. As you doubtless know, ex-presidents cease to be ex-officio members of the committee after five years, but it has been customary to elect certain ones from time to time in order to retain their services; thus Alvord and Shambaugh both served as elected members of the committee after their terms as ex-presidents expired. Libby is in the same situation and might well be considered.

C. E. C. 2/21/25--2

As for the presidency, if Turner definitely refuses, I think that my first choice would be Cole. Of course he is young enough to wait a few years, but available timber is rather scarce. Perhaps it might be well to nominate Woodburn. His name has been considered a number of times but he has never done anything special in the field of western history; recently he has shown considerable interest in the association, however. There will probably be a strong movement in favor of Schafer. I like him very much and think that he ought to be made president in the near future -- perhaps next year. In view, however, of the fact that he has only recently come to the valley, I think it would be better to put him on the executive committee for a year or two before making him president.

I have written very freely in this letter and you will understand, of course, that it is confidential. I do not feel very keenly about any particular individual with the exception of Hicks who, I am sure, would be a very valuable member of the committee, but I am, as you know, very anxious that the element on the committee having the professional point of view be strengthened as much as possible.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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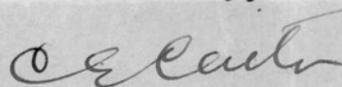
MIAMI UNIVERSITY  
OXFORD, OHIO  
February 23, 1925.

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

Dear Buck:-

I am returning herewith Turner's letter. I do not believe that the other members of the Committee agree that it would be wise to press the matter any further. Both of them have suggested the name of Woodburn. I have nothing in particular against him but I do not feel altogether certain that his interest has been sufficient. I suppose, however, that in default of any other choice presenting itself he will probably be chosen.

Yours sincerely,



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

Central Northwest Regional Survey

~~DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE~~  
~~BUREAU FOR RESEARCH IN GOVERNMENT~~

February 24, 1928

Professor S. J. Buck  
Department of History  
University of Minnesota

Dear Professor Buck:

The time has come in the development of the work of the Central Northwest Regional Survey, when it is desirable to prepare a comprehensive plan to cover the work of the survey for several years in advance. Already, in this academic year, funds have been made available for starting the work on the atlas, and for commencing a study of the transportation problem. These two specific projects will, of course, be carried forward into next year, and thereafter until completed.

At the same time, it is desirable to be preparing also to work upon other problems in the field. This note is being sent you, therefore, in the hope that you may have some concrete suggestions as to other projects to be undertaken. If you have formulated any project, or if you know of anyone who has done so, but who has not received a letter like this, please let the committee know about it. In stating the project, may I ask that you please indicate briefly the method in which the work could probably best be done, and the general nature of the results which might be expected of the work. If financial aid is desirable or necessary, please specify as nearly as you can the amount needed, and the purpose for which it would be expended.

May I ask, also, that you please inform me of any work with which you are familiar now definitely under way, either as an individual research project, or in seminars and other groups, which would be of interest to the regional survey committee.

Hoping that you may have some things to suggest and report, and that the committee may be of some assistance to you, I am,

Very truly yours,

*Wm. Anderson*

Wm. Anderson

WA:NM

DANA H. FERRIN  
SECRETARY



THE CENTURY CO.  
353 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December 11, 1926

Professor Solon J. Buck  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Buck:

It is gratifying to hear from Dr. Munro that you and Mr. Shippee are disposed to distribute your proposed volume on the History of the West to the Century Historical Series, of which Dr. Munro is editor. A book on the West, and especially one by you and Mr. Shippee will work very nicely into our Series and selling plans, so that it is a pleasure to send you enclosed three signed copies of a contract.

As you will see, this is our usual form contract, one used with all of our authors, whether of trade books or texts such as you and Professor Shippee are contemplating. For this reason some of the articles do not particularly apply in your case. If for some reason any point is not entirely clear to you and Professor Shippee, I shall be very glad of an opportunity to explain. If, on the other hand, it meets with your approval, please sign all three copies and pass them to Professor Shippee for his signature. A copy should be retained for each of your files, and the third copy returned to me.

I sincerely hope that you and Mr. Shippee will always feel free to call upon The Century Co. if it develops that in any way we can be of service.

Sincerely yours,

*Dana H. Ferrin*

DHF:R

December 24, 1926

Mr. Dana H. Ferrin, Secretary  
The Century Company  
353 Fourth Avenue  
New York City

My dear Mr. Ferrin:-

Your letter of December 11, with the copies of the contract for our proposed History of the West, went to my University office, which I have not been using of late, and consequently I did not see it until a day or two ago. I have not had a chance to see Mr. Shippee since then, but will take the matter up with him at the first opportunity.

I presume that Professor Munro made it clear to you that this book is not written as yet and that it may take us two or three years to complete it.

Sincerely yours

SJB/B

DEC 29 1926

DANA H. FERRIN  
SECRETARY



THE CENTURY CO.  
353 FOURTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

December 27, 1926

Professor Solon J. Buck, Superintendent  
Minnesota Historical Society  
St. Paul, Minnesota

My dear Professor Buck:

I am sorry that I misdirected the envelope containing the proposed contracts with you and Mr. Shippee. I am glad to know that the letter finally reached your hands. Yes, I quite understand that your manuscript is not completed, and that it would take you and your collaborator some little time to prepare it for publication.

With best wishes for the next year,

Sincerely yours,

*Dana H. Ferrin*

DHF:R



THE CENTURY CO.

EDUCATIONAL BOOK DEPARTMENT

# Agreement

B

THE CENTURY CO.

and

Solon J. Buck

and

Lester B. Shippee

For the Publication of

History of the West  
or similar title

December 10, 1926

*[This book was never written. S.J.B. 8-31-46]*

**M**emorandum of Agreement made in New York City this            tenth            day of            December, A. D. 1926, between { Solon J. Buck and Lester B. Shippee, first parties, and THE CENTURY CO., a corporation, second party.

FIRST. The first parties, being the joint authors and proprietors of a work the subject or title of which is            History of the West, or similar title,

grant to the second party the exclusive right of publication of said work, with all rights of copyright, translation and abridgment, during the full term of the copyright of the same and all renewals thereof, the first parties agreeing to make application at the proper time for all renewals that may be obtainable. The first parties stipulate that they are the sole owners of said work and have full power to make this grant, and that said work contains no matter which is an infringement of any other copyright or which is libelous. The first parties and their legal representatives will hold harmless and defend the second party against any claim, suit, or recovery on account of any infringement or any libelous matter in said work.

SECOND. The second party agrees to publish said work in book form at its own cost and in such style and manner as it shall deem most expedient, and to pay to the first parties or their legal representatives, as a royalty, a sum equal to -----ten----- per cent. of the retail price of all copies sold by it until the sale has reached three thousand copies, twelve per cent. on the next two thousand copies, and fifteen per cent. thereafter.

The second party may arrange at any time after one year from the date of publication of the regular edition for a reprint or cheap edition, any profits from said edition to be divided equally between the two parties. No royalty shall be paid on copies which may be destroyed by fire or water, or given away, or sold at or below cost.

THIRD. If expenses for author's alterations and alterations that the second party deems necessary to avoid infringement or libel after the type is set up, other than such corrections of errors as are necessary to make the proof conform to the copy, shall exceed ten per cent. of the cost of composition, such excess shall be charged to the first parties. If an index is required for said work, it shall be prepared by, or at the expense of, the first parties. If any tax be laid upon said work, it shall be borne equally by both parties.

FOURTH. The second party may publish or permit others to publish such selections from said work as it thinks proper to benefit its sale without compensation; but any revenue from the publication of selections or from translations shall be divided equally in lieu of royalty between the parties hereto.

FIFTH. The second party agrees to make up and render to the first parties a full account of the sales of said book up to the 31st day of March and 30th day of September in each year, said statements of account to be rendered during the months of April and October, and payment of any royalty or copyright ascertained to be then due shall be made during the following months, namely, May and November.

SIXTH. The second party may arrange for such foreign copyright protection as may be practicable by the issue of advance copies of the work in Great Britain; the second party is authorized to arrange for English or other foreign editions, including Canadian; and it is agreed that, in lieu of royalty, any sums received by the second party as profits on such editions shall be equally divided between the first and second parties to this agreement.

SEVENTH. If at any time after the expiration of five years from the date of first publication the demand for said book shall not be sufficient in the opinion of the second party to render its further publication profitable under this contract, the second party shall upon payment of all amounts then due to the first parties thereunder have the right to terminate this contract. And

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should at any time the second party let the said work remain out of print for six months or more, then the first parties may cancel this contract upon giving two months' notice in writing. In case of a cancellation of this contract by either party under this clause, the first parties shall have the option to purchase the plates and stock at a valuation not to exceed cost, but the first parties failing to purchase within three months after written notice has been given, the second party may destroy the plates and dispose of any copies on hand at any price obtainable. The illustrations, if any, produced at the expense of the second party shall remain its property.

EIGHTH. The first parties agree that they will not, without the consent in writing of the second party, write, print, or publish, or cause to be written, printed, or published in the United States or elsewhere, during the continuance of this agreement, any other edition of the said work, revised, enlarged, abridged, or otherwise, or any book of a similar character tending to interfere with or injure the sale of the said work covered by this agreement.

NINTH. The second party shall only be required to take the same care of property belonging to the first parties in its hands under this agreement that it does of similar property of its own; nor shall it be responsible for the safety of such property unless it shall receive from the owners a written request to keep the same insured at their expense.

TENTH. The second party shall furnish to the first parties, free of charge, six copies of the work (regular trade edition, cloth binding), and additional copies, if desired for their own use, at the lowest trade discount. It is understood and agreed that copies thus purchased shall not be sold again.

ELEVENTH. This contract may be assigned by either party, but only as a whole, and no part of their respective interests shall be assigned by either party without the other's consent in writing. No assignment of the first parties shall be valid, as against the second party, unless and until the second party shall have received due evidence thereof in writing.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the first parties have hereto set their hands and seals; and the second party has affixed its seal and caused its President to subscribe its name hereunto on the date first above written.

*Solon J. Buck*

*Lester B. Shippee*



The Century Co.  
By *W. Morgan Shuster*  
PRESIDENT

1742

HENRY E. CHAMBERS

429-433 Bourbon Street

New Orleans, La.

Managing Editor,  
Mississippi Valley Historical  
REVIEW, Minneapolis, Minn.

October 27, 1923.

Dear Sir:-

With the exception of a rat-like squeak from a St. Louis paper, keyed to precisely the same bibliographical motif, the review of my MISSISSIPPI VALLEY BEGINNINGS appearing in your September issue is the one and only discordant note thrust into a great chorus of remarkably unanimous commendation with which competent and accredited critics and the public press in every part of the country have greeted the volume in which your reviewer seems to see nothing of good.

When I contemplate these eighty or ninety expressions of appreciation from really authoritative sources, I entertain some doubt as to whether or not this particular review is to be taken seriously. It bears evidence of having been so motivated by a sense-of-injury complex that its perversions and distortions might well be regarded as psychopathological symptoms perfectly natural to the case, and dismissed accordingly with commiseration.

But the fact that you have dignified it by giving it space in your pages, possibly entitles it to some consideration however little. I take it, Mr. Editor, that it must have passed your portals in an unguarded moment, for I cannot believe that a publication sustained and maintained by a clientele of so high and intelligent a status as that of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association, would, under ordinary circumstances, publish anything so splenetic in its origin and expression, so unfair in its attitude and view-point, (if it is to be taken with any seriousness), so dishonest and insincere in its inferences.

The review begins with a sneer of would-be disparagement: Seventy-thousand words leaded into a bulky volume, give a slight and episodic account of Mississippi Valley history from De Soto to 1860.

As if the number of words, or the thickness or thinness of a volume has anything to do with the merits or demerits of a book's contents! As if "slight" and "bulky" could be mentioned in the same breath with a due regard to the congruities!

If slight is meant in the sense of absence of minute detail characteristic of treatises intended for specializing students, then your reviewer reveals himself as either unfair or dishonest in his inferences, or as ignorant of the meaning of words, - very singular in one who sets himself up to be an authority on English as well as history.

The title page tells him that the work is an outline. Does he not know what an outline of a given subject is; that, perforce, it must be comparatively slight in its relation to fuller and complete treatises? Why does he ignore the preface in which disclaimer is made that the subject is thoroughly and completely covered, - that states only "the broad brush-strokes of an impressionist are employed"?

Episodical! Is not the whole past history of the Valley crowded with episodes? Is it a literary crime to take cognizance of these episodes, appreciate their dramatic qualities and present them vividly so as to grip the interest of the lay reader and lead him to further knowledge of his country's past?

The style is dramatic and vivid, but effects are attained by apostrophe, alliteration, inversion and other devices of questionable character or taste? Astounding! Does he, in his super-knowledge of the English language, realize what this assertion means? Would he have readers believe that apostrophe, alliteration and inversion are not rhetorical figures of approved usage legitimately employed to break the monotony of what would otherwise be merely a succession of dry statements?

He charges the employment of imaginary speeches as among the devices of questionable character employed by me. There are only two such in the book. Let him study the psychology of those two speeches and see if they are not in perfect keeping with the accompanying action, and more admirably expressive of the reason for said action than mere statement could give.

Sentences are often crude, verbose and ungrammatical. A happier style would go far to redeem the book. Mere jaundiced expression of opinion, malicious in its inferences. He offers no specific instances or proofs. Knowing that the readers of his utterances, probably, have not the work itself at hand, he makes his bold, opinionated assertions with apparent impunity. A pill and not a pen seems to be what the patient needs.

Opposed to his viewpoint, let me cite a very few of the innumerable counter opinions that are on record regarding his "style", and these "crude, verbose, ungrammatical sentences":

" . . . a fine literary style not always found in historical writings." Providence, Journal.

" . . . a diction and a nervous style that at time becomes really fine writing." Pittsburg Dispatch.

" . . . the excellent prose of the author". Portland Oregonian.

" . . . a great story, . . . a delightful writer." Syracuse Standard.

" The style is particularly pleasing, - -, a tonic to the reader." Texarkanian.

"The author's style is brilliant and dramatic, witty and illuminating," Rochester Democratic-Chronicle.

ably  
". . . By and large, the store is/told." New York Evening Post.

". . . the eloquence and adequacy of the author's vocabulary." Louisville Courier-Journal.

But why multiply further. Is it possible that all these can be wrong and only your reviewer right? Truly, then, a Solomon has come to judgment.

"The narrative shows a larger quota of error than can be excused in this age of historical writing." He then points out four upon which judgment is formed: "northwestern" for what should be northeastern; "Monroe" for Madison, an error of two in each of two dates.

Four errors and proof-reading oversights in a work of 400 pages! Is not that a remarkably low score for the first edition of any historical work of that size? Has your reviewer examined critically the first editions of the really great among America's historians? Has he, himself, ever published anything of like dimensions, absolutely free from flaw or error in its first printing? It has been my privilege to help in a modest way in the elimination of errors from the first editions of a number of our leading historians, including Henry Adams, Woodrow Wilson, Albert Bushnell Hart, Hamis Taylor, John Fiske and others. My letter files show numerous expressions of appreciation for service rendered along such lines.

It is perfectly proper that errors should be pointed out in reviewing any published book. This makes for truth and accuracy in subsequent editions. Only ignorance, or the impulse to "show off" by "knocking" the other fellow, or the pessimism that sees only the hole in a doughnut and ignores its substance can inspire a reviewer to condemn a work written with the best of intentions, simply because of a few errors of proof reading appearing in its first issuance from press.

The bibliography lists no sources and few monographs. Wilful misrepresentation, or a display of very hazy ideas as to what "sources" really are.

The reviewer further states that neither bibliography nor text shows familiarity with the works of five writers upon Mississippi Valley history mentioning them by name. True, very true, in regard to four of them. I do not find them in the up-to-the-minute Syllabus of the History of the Americas, just issued by the University of California, that contains rather a complete list of contributors to every phase of American history, including that of the Mississippi Valley. I do not find them listed in quite a number of library collections to which I have and have had access. The fifth, - is listed in my bibliography, two of his works being of the caliber and content justifying the inclusion. Is this not misrepresentation on the part of your reviewer?

The four writers referred to are contributors to the published proceedings and publications of various historical societies, - state and national. These are listed by me whether the individual contributors are or are not. Does not this fact reveal insincerity verg-

ing upon dishonesty or studied perversion of the truth?

It would seem, Mr. Editor, that, according to this reviewer, a coterie of writers of more or less merit, apotheosized by him, have pre-empted to themselves the whole vast domain of the Valley's history. An outsider must either keep off the grass or approach in fear and trembling with divers and sundry tow-tows and genuflections, scattering his deferential tributes of footnote and bibliographic references before the shrine of these high gods of historical decision. Otherwise, his ears will be bombarded with the din of self-appointed claqueurs to his great discomfiture, - if you get what I mean.

When the N. Y. Literary Review of unquestioned authority pronounces this work of mine as "more scientific than Parkman; more comprehensive than Roosevelt; more captivating than....." (the greatest of the triumvirate that have written upon early western history, whose name I omit because of his still being alive and because of the high esteem in which I hold him); when the N. Y. Times devotes almost a page to its analysis and eulogy of the work; when the Minneapolis Journal defines in detail the equipment of an ideal historian and then asserts that "We find these qualifications in Mr. C. to an extraordinary degree;" when I see great universities putting the work in their courses in American history and upon their library shelves; when I read the dozens of letters from heads of great history departments in these same universities, congratulating the author upon a work well done, - when I consider all these, I return to my doubts as to whether this review should have been taken seriously, notwithstanding its appearance in your excellent publication; or whether it would not have been wiser to let it,

" . . . . . pass me by,  
As the idle winds which I regard not."

Henry E. Chambers

May 4, 1926

Chicago Daily News  
Chicago, Illinois

Gentlemen:-

Some time ago you were kind enough to send me a copy of your book entitled World Chancelleries. I have been away from home since it came in, but I have just returned and had opportunity to examine the book.

I am very glad indeed to have it and want to thank you for your courtesy in sending it to me.

Very truly yours

SJB/B

Dec. 22, 1924

Dr. Buck:

Due to illness I missed your examination last Saturday. At ten o'clock on Saturday I came to your office, but you were not in the office, as I had to take an examination for Mr. Harding's course also that morning. I explained the situation to Mr. Harding. We agreed to take the exam in his course this morning, which I did; and with the supposition that I could take your's in the afternoon of Monday Dec. 22.

I was too ill to see further about your exam - so I think that you must have found this hour inconvenient for you because of your other duties - I trust that you will only hand in an incomplete until I can take the exam immediately after school begins in January.

I am sorry to cause this extra work for you. If I may take the exam the first thing Monday or Tuesday I promise not to find out the questions so that the final can be used. I give you my word of honor upon this point. Thank you. on. bob 2:10 P.M.

Dr. Buck,

Personal

Copy

THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Dec. 24, 1924

My dear Miss Cole:

The impression I get from the reports of your work this fall, moves me to a wholly friendly suggestion that you put aside the idea of a degree. Do what you can - you have clearly undertaken too much - and be happy and justified by the personal pleasure and profit it gives you.

Sincerely

Copt to her  
instructors

(Signed) Guy Stanton Ford

JUL 6 1925

LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL  
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## Historical Bureau

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July 2nd,  
1925.

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

Dear Buck:

As chairman of the program committee of the M.V. H.A. for the Christmas meeting at Ann Arbor and the spring meeting at Springfield, I write to ask you to let me know whether you could recommend any reader and subject for either meeting, or both.

We are going to try an experiment at the spring meeting, namely, to get some outstanding article which might well be the basis of a discussion published in the Mississippi Valley Historical Review for March, and devote at least part of one session to a discussion of this paper by those who have been designated, and perhaps by others.

If we could get up a scientific article and a scientific discussion equal to or better than the miscellaneous discussion with which you may be familiar at former meetings, dealing with the Kansas- Nebraska bill, I believe the meeting would make a hit. Have you any suggestions along this line?

Very truly yours,

*Christopher B. Coleman*  
Director

CBC-HC

F. S. CROFTS  
100 EAST 17TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

October 21, 1924

Dr. S. J. Buck,  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Buck:

At the expiration of my contract with Harper & Brothers I accepted as my interest in the department \$26,000 in cash and \$65,000 in notes, payable at regular intervals over a period of about two years. I am now going into the publishing business for myself with the intention of specializing in college text books and the more serious type of general books. I know that you can give me some good advice and I should be grateful to receive any suggestions regarding books or authors.

With personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

*F. S. Crofts*

October 28, 1924

Mr. F. C. Crofts  
100 East 17 St.,  
New York City

Dear Crofts:-

I am much interested in the news contained in your note of October 21. You have my best wishes for the success of the new venture.

I have a number of things in mind myself for publication and hope to be in a position to say something definite about some of them before long. The only thing which I have in immediate prospect is a book of "Stories of Minnesota History," designed primarily for use in the fourth grades of Minnesota schools. I do not know whether you expect to enter the educational field or not, but, if so, you might be interested in this in spite of its local appeal, as our State Department of Education recommends the teaching of Minnesota history in the fourth grade and at present there is no suitable material available. There ought also to be considerable sale for the book outside of the schools if it is properly handled.

I shall keep you in mind and let you know whenever I hear of anything which might be of interest to you.

Sincerely yours

B/P

COLLEGE HOUSE

F. S. Crofts & Co.  
*P u b l i s h e r s*  
201 West 13th St.  
New York

November 3, 1924

Dear Buck:

I have held your good letter of October 28th until I had definite plans for a trip to Minneapolis. I expect to be there on Tuesday and Wednesday, November 11 and 12th, and am looking forward to seeing you at that time.

Sincerely yours,

*F. S. Crofts*

Mr. S. J. Buck,  
University of Minnesota,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

FSC-g

# Announcement

## COLLEGE HOUSE

*Watkins 1039*

*201 West Thirteenth Street*

is open now. A cordial welcome awaits you there and we hope you will drop in to see us soon.

We might make a note at this time of the progress we are making in our new venture and state that of the first manuscripts received one is already on press.

F. S. Crofts & Co.  
*Publishers of  
College Text Books*

*New York*



F. S. Crofts & Co., Publishers  
The College House  
Sixty-Six Fifth Avenue  
New York

May 11, 1926

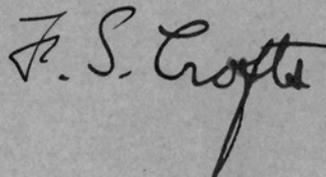
Mr. S. J. Buck  
Library, Columbia University  
New York City

Dear Buck:

A copy of the Minnesota history has reached me and I assume it was sent at your suggestion. It's format is most attractive.

I saw Mrs. Buck in Minneapolis and she told me she was expecting you soon. When you return I shall hope to see you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "F. S. Crofts". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

FSC-k

January 26, 1925

Professor Hayes Baker-Crothers  
Dartmouth College  
Hanover, New Hampshire

Dear Crothers:-

I want to thank you very much for having a copy of your Problems of Citizenship sent to me. As a matter of fact I finally received two copies. The first one did not reach me until about ten days after I had received a letter from the publishers announcing that it was being sent. In the meantime I wrote them to inquire as to the method of transportation and they promptly sent another copy.

They have now asked me to give the second copy to some one else and I am turning it over to Professor Shippee, who, I am sure, will be interested in it. I looked through the book with much interest and read some parts of it. It must represent a great deal of work and ought to lay the foundation for interesting discussions.

Sincerely yours

B/P

June 10, 1925

Hon. William E. Culkin  
410 Court House  
Duluth, Minnesota

My dear Mr. Culkin:-

Mrs. Buck and I have written a book for children, Stories of Early Minnesota, which Macmillans are publishing. We are now working on the illustrations. For the story on Duluth we would like pictures of the gorge of the St. Louis River and of Duluth Harbor and St. Louis Bay as seen from the heights. We wonder if you could get these pictures for us, either from your files or in post card form. If you can send something to us, we shall be grateful. Anything sent from your files will be used with care and returned as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours

B/P

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DULUTH, MINN.,

March 27, 1926.

Mr. Solon J. Buck  
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Friend:

Am writing this to you because I rely on your judgment and am confident of your good will.

Am putting in my time as usual, forenoons on newspaper editorial work and afternoons at the local historical office. I could do some more work and I have been wondering if I could get on the staff of the State University as a part time lecturer on Minnesota or Upper Mississippi Valley history. I have done nothing to bring this about and am not inclined to do so without your approval.

I have no college degree and the nearest thing I have to it is a grade and high school education, a very wide experience in all sorts of affairs, and admission to practice and actual practice in all the courts of the United States, from the supreme Court at Washington down. As perhaps you have surmised, I retired from the law practice some time since, although I had a good business, on account of some dullness of my hearing.

I know I could fill such a place as I speak of reasonably well, because it would not take me long, with my present equipment, to familiarize myself with any particular field. Besides that, I have in the last few years learned what I was never strong on before, and learned it in large measure from yourself. I refer to the high value of accuracy. If you do not think it would be judicious or possible for me to get on the regular historical staff of the University, there might be a chance for me to get an assignment with the University Extensions. The University might put in lectures at its extensions at stated times without having regular classes.

Please excuse my taking this up with you, but I have had the matter on my mind and did not care to move in it without your advice. I do not know your New York address and am, therefore, sending this to St. Paul with the request that it be forwarded.

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DULUTH, MINN.,

Mr. S.J.B. -- 3/27/26 -- 2

I hope that you are putting your new work over and will be back with the Minnesota Historical Society at the end of the year. I note with pleasure, from a newspaper item, that Mr. Congdon of Duluth has accepted a place on one of your committees. Our St. Louis County Historical Society is working away as usual.

Yours very sincerely,

Wm E Culkis

CHIEFTAIN BOND

April 5, 1926

Mr. William E. Gulkin, President  
St. Louis County Historical Society  
410 Court House  
Duluth, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Gulkin:

I have given considerable thought to your letter of March 27 and am going to write to you very frankly as I know that you would want me to.

I would not advise you to try to secure an appointment at the University because I am quite certain that you would not be successful, and the reason for this is that, with the exception of certain technical subjects, the University employs on its faculty only people who have been through the mill of graduate work and received the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. In the History Department, for example, there are about a dozen people ranging in rank from instructors to full professors, but every one of them has had at least three years of professional training in the graduate schools and has the Ph.D degree. While it is conceivable, of course, that a man might be an excellent teacher of history to college students without ever having had college or graduate work himself, just as it is conceivable that a man might be an excellent lawyer without ever having had a formal course in a law school, nevertheless insistence upon professional preparation has seemed to be the best way to raise and maintain standards.

The extension work given by the University is of two sorts. In the first place, there are classes taught by regular members of the faculty and in which the students get credit toward graduation. Then there is the public lecture system managed by the Extension Department, which is a sort of Chautauqua or lyceum, and in this work people who are not regular members of the faculty are frequently used; that is, their offerings are listed and they are sent

Mr. William E. Culkin - 2

April 5

out by the Extension Department if there is any demand for their services. It would appear, however, that there are few communities in Minnesota that are willing to pay anything for a lecture in history. The University does not pay the lecturers itself but merely acts as an agency to supply them to the local communities.

I wish that some plan might be worked out that would provide you with more work for the St. Louis County Historical Society or else that your services might be used in promoting the organization of societies in other parts of the state.

I am having some very interesting experiences here but shall be glad to get back to Minnesota.

Sincerely yours,

SJB:W