



[Solon J. Buck Papers.](#)

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Summary of Activities

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

OLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

Jan 1 1931

The accompanying statement is submitted for your correction or approval. It is one of many similar statements compiled in the course of this committee's survey of the activities of American agencies in collecting, preserving, listing, and publishing materials for research in the fields of the humanistic and social sciences. The statement is necessarily summary in character, but if it omits or inadequately describes any significant accomplishment, activity, or project along the lines indicated, it should be revised before publication.

For your guidance in this connection, the questions asked of all agencies may be repeated, in substance, as follows:

1. What subjects, fields, or types of material are you emphasizing in the development of research collections? Some indication of the character and extent of your present holdings of research material would be welcome, but the emphasis should be on growing and projected collections and any special provision made for their development.
2. Does the institution co-operate with any others of like purpose with a view of accomplishing jointly what one could not do alone, or of dividing the field of collection to avoid duplication?
3. Are you conducting any investigations or experiments, or employing other than generally recognized means, to prolong the life of such materials as newspapers, manuscripts, and maps, or to preserve the matter in them?
4. What catalogues, lists, or other guides to materials for research in your collections or elsewhere have been or are being compiled or published by your institution?
5. To what extent and through what mediums does the institution reproduce (in print, by photostat, or otherwise) source material as such?

If no reply is received in the near future we shall assume that our statement is satisfactory.

Very truly yours,

F. F. Holbrook
Investigator for the Committee
Historical Building, St. Paul

JAN 10 1931
JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
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CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 8, 1931.

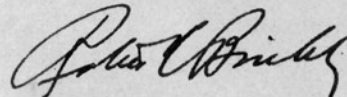
Professor Solon J. Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Buck:

Below is a quotation from a letter written
by Carl Louis Gregory, Motion Picture Engineer, New
Rochelle, New York.

"Ordinarily the motion picture industry makes
no distinction in the manner in which they store
dramatic pictures and cartoon comedies, etc. They
are placed in tin boxes in film storage vaults,
which correspond closely to the specifications
furnished by the Board of Underwriters, a copy
of which you can probably secure through your
insurance agent. The news reel companies usually
break up their news reels according to subject
and classify them in much the same manner as
clippings are classified in a newspaper morgue.
Any subject which might possibly be used again; such
as historical subjects, events concerning the lives
of prominent men, etc., are thus preserved, while
the transient events are kept for a short period
and then destroyed."

Very truly yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P

44-12-330

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

9th January 1931.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
RESEARCH OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH
COUNCIL AND THE AMERICAN COUNCIL OF
LEARNED SOCIETIES:

Gentlemen:

Enclosed will be found the project for an inventory of manuscripts relating to American history and literature.

The Committee voted at its last meeting that this should be sent to the members for an expression of their approval by mail.

By agreement with the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee, I ask that you send your votes directly to me for transmittal to the Secretary, as I am anxious to present the project to the American Council of Learned Societies at its annual meeting the end of this month, and that procedure will save time.

Very sincerely yours,



Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

JAN 12 1930

PROPOSED INVENTORY OF
MANUSCRIPTS IN THE UNITED STATES RELATING
TO AMERICAN HISTORY AND LITERATURE

This project has its inception in independent proposals of the Historical Manuscripts Commission of the American Historical Association and of the American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association.

A conference to discuss these plans was held in the Library of Congress on April 5, 1930, and reached an agreement as to the general character, scope, and method of the undertaking, as follows:

The inventorying of historical and literary materials should be carried on as a joint undertaking of students of American history and of American literature, and not as two separate enterprises.

It is recognized that the preparation of a complete and detailed catalogue of all manuscript materials in the United States relating to American history and literature would require resources of money and personnel far beyond the estimates of the present plan. It is believed, however, that the enterprise, as it is proposed to conduct it, on a relatively modest scale, will produce substantial results and will excellently serve all practical purposes.

It will be the purpose of the inventory to give some account of substantially all manuscript materials relating to American history and literature that are to be

found in public or semi-public depositories (exclusive of public archives) such as libraries, museums, educational institutions, historical and literary societies, etc. Manuscripts in constituted private collections, to which scholars are allowed access, are to be included, but no systematic effort is to be made to inventory miscellaneous manuscripts in private personal possession, although information respecting the location of such material may be gathered incidentally.

Materials of foreign origin or in foreign languages which fall within the scope of the undertaking should be included.

Photographs, photostats, and transcripts may be noted incidentally.

The inventory will include manuscripts relating to American literature and to all phases of American history - cultural, social, economic, political, religious, artistic, intellectual; for example, personal correspondence, manuscripts or fragments of literary works, biographical material, diaries, memoranda, commercial and business papers, manuscript drawings and sketches, and also printed ephemera, such as theatre and concert programmes, broadsides, etc., that may be assimilated to manuscript materials.

The treatment of such material will depend in part upon its importance, in part upon other circumstances. In some cases single documents may deserve and receive individual men-

tion, while in other cases a hundred, or a thousand, items may be summarily described in a single paragraph. The compilers will have constantly in mind the needs of the scholars who will use the inventory as a guide, or even only as a sort of first aid, in their search for source materials.

Method of compilation.

The first task of the compilers will be to bring together all existing available information respecting pertinent material. They must also inform themselves fully respecting all other cataloguing or inventorying activities in progress - local, regional, general, or by special categories - and must coördinate their own work with that done elsewhere or by other agencies.

The actual exploration will probably be carried on partly by correspondence, partly by means of personal visits and examinations, and partly through special agents whose temporary services may be secured for specific purposes.

These general specifications having been agreed upon in conference, more definite plans for the execution of the project have been formulated as follows, after study by delegates of the conference, by the Joint Committee of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, and by the authorities of the Library of Congress:

Direction and control.

The inventory will be prepared in the Library of Congress, under the control of the Librarian of Congress, and under the supervision of the Chief of the Division of Manuscripts.

Personnel.

The permanent staff should consist of two collaborators and one clerical assistant, to be appointed by the Librarian of Congress. One of the collaborators should be especially competent in the field of American history; the other in that of American literature. The collaborators should be enabled, as authorized by the Librarian of Congress, to employ such temporary assistance, both technical and clerical, for work in the field and at headquarters, as might be necessary.

Headquarters.

The Library of Congress will provide quarters for the undertaking, including office space, furniture, supplies, etc., as authorized by the Librarian.

Budget.

It is estimated that \$17,000 a year for a period of three to five years will be necessary for substantial accomplishment. Funds should be secured through the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies jointly, and transferred to the Library of Congress Gift Fund.

It is estimated that headquarters salaries would amount to \$9,400 annually, leaving \$7,600 for temporary assistance, chiefly in the field, and for expenses of travel.

Advisory Committee.

An advisory committee should be named jointly by the Modern Language Association and the American Historical Association.

January 13, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
907 Fifteenth St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:-

I have read with interest the plan for the "Proposed inventory of manuscripts in the United States relating to American history and literature," and I take pleasure in recording my vote in favor of supporting the project. I am very glad to know that the Library of Congress is willing to supervise the work, and, especially, that it is to be under the direction of Dr. Jameson.

On page 3 I note the statement that "photographs, photostats, and transcripts may be noted incidentally." It seems to me that such reproductions, of which the originals are not available in depositories in this country, should receive the same treatment they would if they were originals; and, even when the originals are available in this country, it is often of great importance for the student to know that photostats are to be found in a given library.

I do not like the word "relating" in the title. Would it not be better to call the project an "Inventory of manuscript material for American history and literature available in the United States?"

Sincerely yours

B/P

JAN 16 1931

Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio,
January 14, 1931.

Members of the Joint Committee
On Materials For Research.

Gentlemen:

The enclosed "Circular Number I" was sent on January 7th to forty-two of the learned publications. It will also be published in the Bulletin of The American Council of Learned Societies.

I also enclose a correction-sheet, to be attached to the Minutes of the Joint Committee, Second Meeting, Branford, Conn., September 12-13, 1930.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Secretary-Joint Committee on
Materials for Research

2 Enc.

Sensus

January 14, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I enclose herewith for your information and files copies of a number of letters that I have written. ✓

I find that we will need around 700 letter-heads for form letters that we are planning to get out in connection with the survey. We have about that number now, I think, perhaps a little less, and I wonder whether you can spare about 200 more soon. How many did you have printed? I think I suggested a thousand, but at that time I did not realize that we would need so many more for the survey. Before we have another printing, I want to try to devise a new layout for the letter-head.

I am enclosing also a copy of the memorandum from Cole and Johnson. This is the one that Leland gave Me in Boston. A couple of days later, Gras handed me the original; so I am sending this copy on to you for your files. ✓

You will be interested to know that Dixon R. Fox of Columbia and I have been appointed a committee of two of the American Historical Association to confer with Lydenberg, representing the Bibliographical Society of America, with regard to the revision of Larned's Literature of American History.

Thank you for your letter of January 6 concerning the distribution of census schedules. In this connection I am sending you herewith a list of the original schedules for Minnesota that were sent out by Census Bureau and are now in the possession of the Minnesota Historical Society. Some of these schedules are parts of volumes which, I judge, had been bound up with the population schedules, and the volumes, apparently, were torn apart at the time of the dispersion. It seems to me that an inventory should be made of all census schedules, state and national, available in the country. You may recall my statement to the effect that the United Research Company of Chicago was undertaking ✓

R.C.B. 1/14/31

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a survey of this sort. Some time ago, they sent me, at my request, the correspondence received in response to their inquiry. It is not very illuminating, however, for their letters were addressed to the secretaries of state, and these officials usually misunderstood them. I am going to make an abstract of the information contained in the correspondence before returning it, and I think I shall suggest to the company that I can supply them with the names of people in most of the states who would be more likely to furnish the desired information.

Your letter of January 8 concerning the preservation of motion picture films was also received. I will file it, along with other material, on this subject for future consideration.

Sincerely yours

SJB/SP

JAN 19 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
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ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
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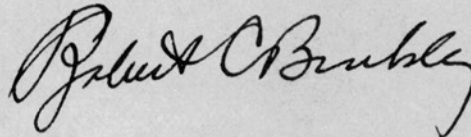
January 16, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

The enclosed list of institutions
which have received Census Schedules may be useful
to you in compiling your survey.

Sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P
Enc.

JAN 19 1931

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH

DECENTRALIZATION OF CENSUS SCHEDULES

The following information has been received in response to an inquiry made by the Secretary, as directed by the Joint Committee:

Schedules for Agriculture, Mortality, Industry, Social Statistics, and Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent classes, as returned at the censuses of 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880 (for all states except Oklahoma) were forwarded in 1918 and 1919 to libraries, historical societies and D.A.R. chapters. No other census schedules have been decentralized.

Robert C. Binkley,
Secretary

January 16, 1931.

JAN 19 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
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CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 17, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

Thank you for your very encouraging letter of January 14th and for the enclosures.

The 200 sheets of paper are going forward to you. And you have no doubt received the minutes of the Boston meeting.

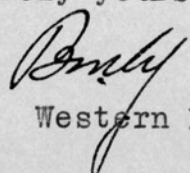
Your list of census schedules received from Washington indicates that the information they gave me on the subject was sketchy and incomplete. I enclose a copy of their letter, which makes it appear that all of the named schedules for all of the years were deposited in the various institutions. Evidently this is not the case. The additional decentralized schedules which are deposited in local offices are probably schedules which were never forwarded to Washington. I quote from Wright and Hunt "History and Growth of the United States Census":

"An examination of the census records on file in the Department of the Interior building shows that, in all probability, the provisions of law requiring the original returns of the first four enumerations to be transmitted to the Secretary of State were not fully complied with by the clerks of the district and superior courts, as in many instances the returns for the entire state or district are missing."

Moreover, as you doubtless know, down to 1890 there were duplicate schedules deposited with the clerks of county courts.

The exact status of these schedules ought to appear in the archive survey, which I hope you persuaded Ramsdell to undertake.

Very sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P
Enc.

JUL 21 1930

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, CALIFORNIA

18 July 1930

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

Dear Dr. Buck:

Of course I am delighted to serve on the
Committee.

I enclose a memorandum, a too tardy reply
to your letter and enclosures of June 25th. The
conclusion is an endorsement of part of Woodson's
scheme, but uncertainty as to that part of it which
has to do with the copying of archives.

||| Until September 1st I will be here at
Stanford University, address 550 Palo Alto Avenue,
Palo Alto, California. I am leaving Smith College
to teach next year at Western Reserve University,
taking over Professor Bourne's work. I hope to be
able to get to the September meeting. The later it
comes in September, the better for me.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Brinkley
T.

Enclosures.

JAN 16 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
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University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 14, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

This is my draft of the Minutes.

As soon as it has your correction
and approval, I will circulate copies to the other
members of the committee.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P

Enc.

JAN 22 1931

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

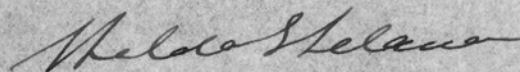
19th January 1931.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON
MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH:

Gentlemen:

All members of the Committee have approved the memorandum on the inventory of manuscript materials for American history and literature. A few members have made suggestions, which I have endeavored to incorporate in the final draft, copy of which is enclosed. This is going before the American Council of Learned Societies as a recommendation from the Joint Committee, and I understand that Dr. Lynd expects for his part to place it before the Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council at its next meeting.

Very sincerely yours,



Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

JAN 24 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
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2

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
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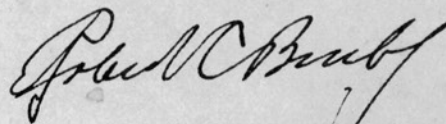
January 21, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I find that Professors Paterson and Tinker of the Psychology Department of University of Minnesota have apparatus all set up for the legibility experiments that I have in mind. I think I can arrange with them to help out the work on methods of reproduction, and I am sending you this note so that you can keep in touch with things.

Very sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P

JAN 24 1931

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CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 22, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

A letter from Leland, dated January 19th, informs me that all the members of the committee have approved the memorandum on a manuscript materials' inventory. I take it that this concludes our action on the matter, and that no further formalities are necessary.

As soon as you have had a chance to look over and correct the minutes of the last meeting, I will circulate them to the members who were not present, if you think it wise.

Shall we call it the 3rd meeting?

Very sincerely yours,

RC Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P

JAN 28 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
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H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 26, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

Did you decide to buy the Ansco apparatus?
I have assumed that you were waiting for my report
and that you didn't buy it.

I can see that the time is soon coming when
the manufacturers of photographic apparatus will hes-
itate to do more work for us free of charge. I am
working them as hard as I can by correspondence, to get
the maximum out of them. When the time comes that I
have all I can get, I will want to turn to someone with
scholarly interests who owns the Ansco and the Leica
outfit. The Library of Congress has the Lemare outfit.

If you have bought the Ansco, I know that I can
depend upon you. If not, do you happen to know of anyone
who has our kind of interest and who owns this apparatus?

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P

January 26, 1931

Prof. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I have received your communications of January 14, 21, and 22. I am sorry that the pressure of work connected with the annual meeting of the Minnesota Historical Society has prevented me from attending to them sooner.

Your draft of minutes of our meeting in Boston is returned herewith with some corrections noted. The following changes should also be made: no. 11, second paragraph, should read: "The League of Minnesota Municipalities has drafted an act to authorize the destruction of municipal documents with a similar provision for turning them over to the Historical Society if desired. A single act covering the whole matter and more clearly drawn would seem to be desirable." This should not be a separate paragraph but added to the first paragraph of eleven. No. 12 (4) should read: "Gerould of Princeton now asks for the assistance of the committee in promoting coöperation among libraries in the collection of the serial publications of foreign governments." No. 18, the last sentence, should read: "It was agreed that the matter of obtaining funds for a new edition of the catalog of railway material could come before the Joint Committee only when referred to it by a parent body."

I think the heading that you have used on the draft of the minutes is excellent. It certainly should not be referred to as the third, or any other meeting of the committee, for that might get us into trouble with the members who were not there. I think, however, that copies of these minutes should be sent to all members of the committee.

In looking over some of the correspondence recently I came across a letter from Lynd dated February 21, 1930, in which he said that C. W. New of McMaster University in Toronto and Schmeckebier at the Brookings Institution are said to be interested in the problem of the preservation of material; that the latter had prepared a

monograph on the subject and is engaged on another; and that it might be worth while for us to get in touch with them. As you are working on this problem, I will pass on the suggestion to you. I noted also in a letter from Dr. Wilson, president of the S.S.R.C., dated March 10, 1930, an intimation that all actions proposed by our committee should be passed upon by the committee on problems and policy in advance. I assume, therefore, that we have made an error of procedure in taking up the matter of the proposed archives survey with the Public Archives Commission of the A.H.A. without first getting permission from the committee on p. and p. The A.C.L.S. fortunately appears to be less addicted to red tape and perhaps we can assume that in this case we were acting as a committee of the A.C.L.S. rather than of the S.S.R.C. We must keep in mind this restriction in the future, however.

I shall get in touch with Professors Paterson and Tinker and endeavor to find out something about their legibility experiments.

Sincerely yours

SJB/H

Letter from Miss Allen recd.

FEB 2 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
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2

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
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January 29, 1931.

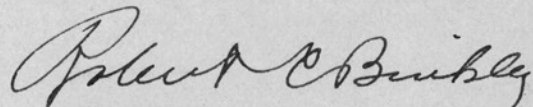
Professor Solon J. Buck,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Buck:

Thank you for your letter of the twenty-sixth.
I have straightened up the matter of the salary payment,
and enclose a voucher for January.

Do you think that the excerpt from Wilson's
letter intimating that all actions proposed by our
Committee should be passed upon by the Committee on
Problems and Policy in advance should be sent to the
members in a circular letter?

Very sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P

Enc.

FEB 2 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
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ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania
CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

January 30, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

The Ansco corporation has called a halt on the experiments which I was asking them to do and which they at first consented to do. I explained to them that these experiments are of practical use in sales policy, because it was upon them that your recommendation would be based. I also explained to them that these experiments and the report based on them would affect purchases by other institutions such as yours, and I did in fact cite your case as a practical instance.

Now I get from them a letter in which they say that "in the case of an individual instance like that of the Minnesota Historical Society which you mention, it would be much more practical and certainly less expensive for us if we were to ship the equipment on an approval basis, letting the people interested try the thing out for themselves and see whether it proves satisfactory."

As I am writing to them, this misses the whole point, which is that we want comparative data.

Would you care to write to the Agfa Ansco Corporation (Mr. B.B. Snowden is the man with whom I have been corresponding) saying that I have spoken of the correspondence and that in your case and in the case of others similarly interested, the only trustworthy guide to purchase would be a report based upon an objective comparison of the competing kinds of apparatus.

It is hard to get these business men to see our point of view. The Leica people are a good deal more scientific, and they have (I think) a good deal more confidence in their instrument.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P
Enc.

P.S.— Enclosed is correspondence with Ansco, which I would ask you to kindly note and return.

FEB 4 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

SOLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

February 2, 1931.
(Dictated Jan. 31)

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

Dear Buck:

I discover that the Carnegie Foundation has appropriated \$425,000 to buy books for liberal arts libraries. They do not give money to the libraries, but they buy books for them and deliver the books.

It seems to me that here there is already set up and running the kind of purchasing agency which would be necessary if a cartel of larger libraries would wish to pool their purchasing orders for documents or other types of material requiring special treatment.

Should we undertake to sound Keppel on this?

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P
Copy to
Leland

February 3, 1931

Mr. B. B. Snowden
Agfa Ansco Corporation
Binghamton, New York

Dear Sir:

Professor H. C. Binkley of Western Reserve University, who is secretary of the above committee, has forwarded to me copies of his recent correspondence with you concerning photographic equipment for the reproduction of manuscripts, newspapers, etc., and I have read it with much interest. So many requests came before our committee for advice and assistance along these lines that we asked Mr. Binkley to make an investigation and prepare a report that could be used as a basis for advising institutions and individuals interested in obtaining equipment of this sort.

For example, the Minnesota Historical Society, of which I am the superintendent, expects to install equipment for the reproduction of manuscripts, maps, newspapers, etc., on films and also equipment for the use of such films by investigators. But we shall not do so until we can obtain comparative information about the various makes of equipment available and their appropriateness for our purposes.

I assure you that the Joint Committee and the two councils that it serves as well as many interested institutions and individuals will appreciate your cooperation with Mr. Binkley in such experiments as may be necessary to enable him to prepare a scientifically accurate report.

Sincerely yours

SJB/H

February 3, 1931

Prof. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I have your letters of January 26 and 30 concerning reproduction problems. A copy of a letter that I have just written to Snowden is enclosed herewith and I am returning also your correspondence with him. As you will note from my letter to him, we have not purchased an outfit as yet and do not intend to do so until we have more definite information. ✓

Such information as we have concerning the Ansco camera indicates that it takes pictures on a single frame only, and it seems to me that a double frame camera is essential.

Mr. D. A. Leonard, who represents the Ansco people here, suggested that we correspond with the Spencer Lens Company of Buffalo, New York. Miss Nute has done so and I am sending the correspondence to you herewith. Please return it at your early convenience, as the last letter has not been answered as yet. ✓

Have you had any correspondence with Martin of the Library of Congress concerning these matters? It seems to me that we should work in close coöperation with him. Any equipment for reading films that we may get should be so adjusted that it can be used with the Library of Congress films, as we shall undoubtedly want to borrow films from them from time to time. I have yet to learn any reason why the film with the sprocket holes is more satisfactory than the other varieties. Do you know which kind the Leica people use?

Perhaps I have already told you that Professor Lansing B. Bloom of the University of New Mexico has been making extensive use of the Leica equipment in the Mexican archives. He wrote me that it is less expensive and more portable than the Lemare, which he used in Spain for the Library of Congress, and that he got better results with it. Would it not be well for you to correspond with him?

While I appreciate the importance of exact scientific experiment it seems to me that what there is a most crying need for right now is

a report describing the different kinds of available equipment and indicating the ways in which each can or cannot be used on the basis of information available at present.

The University of Minnesota history department is thinking of installing a projector for film slides and it is possible that one of the Ansco cameras may be purchased with a view to using it in making such film slides from pictures, maps, etc. This, I understand, is the purpose for which the camera was originally designed and such of its work of this sort as I have seen seems to be excellent.

Sincerely yours

B/H

February 3, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
907 - 15th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

Your letter of January 14 concerning the proposed manuscript survey was duly received as was also your circular letter to members of the Joint Committee of January 19 enclosing copies of the revised plans. It seems to me that the project is very well worked out. I like especially the proposal that results of the survey should be made available as promptly as possible without waiting for its completion. I quite agree with Putnam and Jameson that it is unlikely that the work can be completed in five years, but I feel that even if it is never completed what is done will be all to the good provided it is published.

I should like to see ultimately some sort of a permanent organization built up that would continue indefinitely to assemble and publish information about manuscript material that comes to light, or more detailed information about material that may previously have been noted.

Did you have an opportunity to take up the matter of the reversion of the balance of Joint Committee funds? Miss Allen seems to think that the only way we can get the use of this money is for both councils to reappropriate it.

Sincerely yours

B/H

February 3, 1931

Prof. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I shall endeavor to reply to several of your letters. First to your letter of January 29. I have revised the vouchers that you enclosed for form and am sending them in for payment. Copies of them are enclosed herewith, and it will save me time if future vouchers can be made out in this form and sent to me in duplicate, as I need to preserve a copy here.

Is it your expectation to send through a bill for \$33.33 for secretarial services per month throughout the year? If so, we may have to ask for a supplementary appropriation. At any rate I should like some estimate as to probable expenses to be incurred under your direction during the year. What about the bill for the stationery? If I remember correctly, that has not been sent in as yet.

I do not think it necessary to send the excerpt from Wilson's letter with reference to our subordination to the committee on p. and p. to the other members of our committee, as none of them, except possibly Leland, would be likely to take any action to which exception could be taken. I shall take the matter up with Leland before long.

Your letters concerning reproduction problems will be answered separately.

Sincerely yours

B/H

FEB 11 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

SOLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

February 5, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I am returning herewith the correspondence with the Spencer Lens Company, *with many thanks.*

I have of course been in correspondence with Martin and with others, and think you may be interested in getting an idea of the results we are arriving at.

Only four types of photographic apparatus,--the EKA Ampligraph used by Martin, the Cinescope manufactured in Belgium, the Ansco, and the Leica,--require comparative study. The Spencer Delineascope is equipped for projection, but not for photography.

These four types of apparatus I plan to compare by finding first of all the total amount of printed matter that each can handle by the method of reduction and projected enlargement. This is the factor of resolving power, together with the factor of size of frame.

Then the second point will be convenience in operation. In getting material on this I am taking the addresses of as many users of all these kinds of apparatus as I can find, and asking them about the practical experience with the different types.

The exact scientific experimentation I am doing is necessary in order to test resolving power, because I want to rate these four cameras in order of their resolving power and in order of their convenience.

Another part of the report will have to do with the photostat,--its limitations and an analysis of its costs. Then the offset printing devices, of which there are at least four that require a separate report.

And finally the optical means of reading directly print that is too small for ordinary use.

I hope to get this work speeded up sufficiently so that the report will be about ready for our next meeting in September.

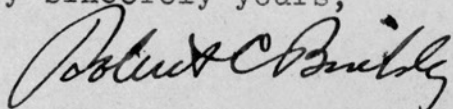
I am especially glad to receive any names that come to your attention of people who are using any of these devices for purposes

Page 2

Professor Solon J. Buck (cont.)

parallel to ours. I am writing to Bloom at New Mexico.

Very sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P
Enc.

P.S. -- Is any action of ours required on Gras's resolution of January 29th? Is it to be circulated and voted in the way that Leland's motion was?

FEB 7 1931

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

5th February 1931.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL AND THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH:

Gentlemen:

At the annual meeting of the American Council of Learned Societies held in New York City on January 31, 1931, the recommendation of the Joint Committee that the project for an inventory of manuscript materials for American history and literature be endorsed was adopted.

The Executive Committee has been authorized to seek support jointly with the Social Science Research Council for the undertaking. I understand that the project will go before the Committee on Problems and Policy of the Social Science Research Council in the near future.

Very sincerely yours,



Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

FEB 11 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

SOLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

February 5, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I owe you a historical explanation of my secretarial problem.

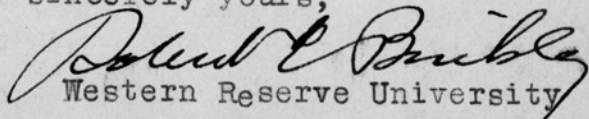
When I came here, I had my work done for a while without anyone regularly in the office. Then I told the university that I estimated that about one-third of a secretary's time would be taken by the work of the Joint Committee, and that if the university would pay six hundred dollars I would supply the three hundred dollars, and that any deficiency which might arise (if the contribution of the Joint Committee were less than three hundred) I would make up out of my own pocket.

The past three months' experience has shown that the proportion of time taken for Joint Committee work is more, rather than less than the one-third. Therefore I plan to send in a monthly bill for 33.33 up to and through the month of June. This would leave me a seventy-dollar deficit for work done in October and November. I would like to have this taken up by the Joint Committee also.

The bill for stationery has not come in yet from the university; but when it comes, it will be forwarded in regular form. The ten dollars for stamps leaves us a good supply on hand. The only other type of expense which is likely to come about would be this,--that some of the work done in the photographic research may have to be paid for. I am trying to get as much of this done free as is possible, and am writing about the state of that inquiry in another letter.

It would really have been impossible to define an amount necessary for secretarial expenses until experience had shown how far they were likely to run up. If this estimate is going to throw the budget of the Joint Committee off balance, I would wish to consider the possibility of making a personal contribution, before we appeal to the parent bodies on an item of this kind. Next year I hope you can put this on an appropriation basis.

Very sincerely yours,


Western Reserve University

RB/P

Summary of Activities

2/10/31

Mr. Buck:

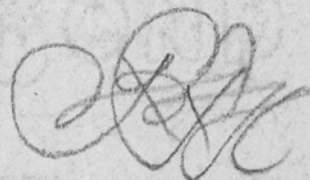
We have returns on 151 of the statements submitted to individual institutions, and responses to about 15 finer questionnaires or special inquiries.

In a few cases I am corresponding individually with representatives of the institutions, including, e.g., those of Harvard and the N.Y. Pub. Recs. Office.

I spent some time on the Winchell volume, as already reported.

With many of the corrected statements and with miscellaneous additional material in hand,

I am now concentrating on the compilation of new and the revision of old statements.



FEB 21 1931

Cleveland, Ohio,
February 19, 1931.

To the Members of the
Joint Committee on Materials for
Research:

The following report on paper durability
may be of interest to members of the committee:

"The Durability of Paper"
Report of the Special Committee set up
by the Library Association

The Library Association:
26- 27 Bedford Square, London, W.C.1
One Shilling, Net

Yours very truly,

Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University

And by
MHS,

MAR 1, 1931

*Enclosure
for 1*

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

February 27, 1931

To Members of Departments of History:

By the direction of the Executive Committee of the Association, I am undertaking to circularize the members of Departments of History in American universities with a view to determining projects of research of a post-doctoral character actually under way therein. The objects of this circular are three: to determine what are the existing tendencies in historical research, to reveal those areas most strikingly neglected in historical activity, and to procure information as to the most desirable tasks to be undertaken in the field of bibliographical aids and in the publication of source materials.

I am asking you therefore to fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it to me promptly. I need hardly say that the value of such an effort as I am now making will depend in no small degree upon the completeness of the data secured and that your full cooperation will be therefore most highly appreciated.

Yours very truly,

DEXTER PERKINS, Secretary

University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

See 3-14-31

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

1. What research projects have you at this date virtually completed and ready for publication?
2. What research projects have you under way and in what stage are they at present?
3. What research projects in your special field have not yet been undertaken and seem to you of special importance?
4. What bibliographical aids in your field are lacking and ought to be provided?
5. Have you any suggestions as to the publication of source materials through the agencies of the Association?
6. Indicate, if instances occur to you, cases of actual research being carried on which you think not likely to be reached by the enclosed circular.

Signature

Please return to Dexter Perkins, University of Rochester,
Rochester, New York

COPY

March 3, 1931

Prof. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I have had to neglect my correspondence on Joint Committee matters during the last month in order to get some other things done. With reference to the secretarial problem referred to in your letter of February 5, I think we had better let things run on as they are for the time being. My own solution of the secretarial problem has been to utilize members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society and pay them by the hour for work actually done. This amounts to considerably less than one-third of a person's time, even including the work done for Mr. Holbrook in connection with the survey. I take it, however, that your assistants aid you not only in the work properly chargeable to your position as secretary but also in connection with the various investigations that you are carrying on for the committee. It may later on be advisable to attempt to distinguish between these in order to avoid misunderstandings of the expenditures, but I think we can let the situation run for the present.

The principal problem is of course whether or not we will have enough money for the things that we want to do this year, and the answer depends to a large extent on the number of meetings of the committee that are held. It may be necessary for us to hold a meeting this spring, perhaps around the end of April, but if so I hope that we can dispense with a meeting in the summer or fall. Would it be possible for you to have a preliminary report on reproduction ready for a spring meeting?

Gras's resolution of January 29 is an enigma to me. I suppose it was adopted by the Conference of Secretaries of Constituent Societies at the time of the meeting of the council of the ACLS. I have asked Leland to investigate the matter and let me know more about it. It would seem that our proposition for having the subject of categories of materials for research discussed by the constituent societies has developed into a proposition for having the whole

[Another copy in general file]

R. C. B. - 3/3/31 - 2

field of our committee's activities so discussed. I suspect, however, that there is a misunderstanding in the matter and shall await further information.

Your two communications of February 19 transmitting the minutes of the "Interim Meeting" and a reference to a report on "The Durability of Paper" were duly received. I am sending for the report.

Sincerely yours

(Signed) Solon J. Buck

B/H

March 3, 1931

Prof. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I suspect that the plans of the Carnegie Foundation for purchasing books for liberal arts libraries are concerned with instructional needs rather than with those of research. It is quite possible, however, that the purchasing agency to be set up could be developed into one for purchasing research materials also. I should be very glad if you would find out more about this project and its possibilities.

Sincerely yours

B/H

March 13, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
907 Fifteenth St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:-

As I have to be in Pittsburgh on March 21 to deliver an address, and as the following week is vacation at the University of Minnesota, I am planning to spend part of that week at least in Washington, working on the Travel Bibliography in the Library of Congress. Could you conveniently arrange for me to stay at the Cosmos Club? If that is not feasible, I would be glad to have you suggest some good moderate-priced hotel that is conveniently located. I shall have to charge the expense from Pittsburgh on, and while in Washington, to the fund for the Travel Bibliography. I shall probably arrive in Washington some time Sunday, but may not get in until Monday morning. As I expect to leave here Wednesday night, I should like to have you address your reply to me in care of Professor John W. Oliver, University of Pittsburgh.

While in Washington, I shall want to talk over with you various matters concerning the work of the Joint Committee. I expect to bring with me some revised copy for the survey of agencies.

Sincerely yours

B/P

March 14, 1931

Professor Dexter Perkins
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York

Dear Perkins:-

My thoughts aroused by your questionnaire are much too extensive for the spaces that you have allowed; consequently I have written them separately, using the same numbers as were used in the questionnaire.

The results of this investigation should be of much interest to the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the two Councils. Might it not be worth while for some of the members of that Committee to look over the replies to the questionnaire?

Sincerely yours

B/P

See 2-27-31

Answers to the Questionnaire Concerning
Projects of Research

1. None.
2. a. A Bibliography of Travel in the United States from 1800 to 1900. This project is under the auspices of the American Historical Association and is supported by a grant to the Association from the ACLS. At the present time the titles have been assembled on cards and notes have been written for about one half of them. The completion of the notes, the location of copies in libraries, and the final compilation and revision will take at least a year and a half.

b. A Bibliography of Minnesota newspapers to 1901, and inventory of extant files. This project is supported in part by grants from the Graduate Research Fund of the University of Minnesota, and assistance is rendered by members of the staff of the Minnesota Historical Society. Practically all the data has now been assembled and about half of it has been written up. It is expected that the work will be ready for publication in about a year.
3. In the special field of "The West in American History" there are many important research projects that have not yet been undertaken. Two classes that might be suggested are comprehensive studies of phases of the westward movement, and intensive studies of the settlement and development of special areas. In the first class would fall such topics as the exploration of North America; the Indian as a factor in American history; land speculation and the disposition of the public domain; the part played by the fur-trade in the development of the continent; the westward movement of manufacturing; the transit of culture across the continent; and so on. In the second, class might be included studies of large physiographic areas such as the New England province, the Appalachian plateaus, or the Middle West, with a view to tracing as completely as possible the steps by which they were transformed from a wilderness to the abodes of a highly organized society. For the more intensive studies, however, very small areas should be taken; as, for example, a rural township in one of the western states, for which, by means of available census schedules and other data, it would be possible to

trace much more completely than has ever been done the creation of a rural community. Similarly, typical industrial areas could be selected for intensive study.

It is obvious, of course, that some work contributory to a number of these projects has already been done, or is under way. It is doubtful, however, if any of the projects, as a whole, are likely to be worked out in the near future, unless special aid is provided for them.

4. a. A revision of or a new work similar to Larned's Literature of American History. This seems to me to be the primary need for American history in the bibliographical field, for which provision has not yet been made.
- b. An inventory of manuscript materials for American history (non-archival) available in repositories throughout the United States.
- c. A union finding ^{and Index of} list of newspaper files. The Association of ~~College~~ ^{Journalists} is interested in this and the H. W. Wilson Company has indicated a desire to publish such a list.
- d. Calendars of material in the United States archives and of such great collections of papers as those of the American Home Missionary Society and the McCormick Historical Library.
- e. Calendars of indexes of selected newspaper files.
5. I believe that the American Historical Association should work out some plan for the systematic publication of (a) material in the United States archives; (b) American material in foreign archives; (c) non-archival material for American history. In the case of (a) the effort should be to get the United States government to do the publishing. Perhaps one of the best ways of doing this would be for the Association to develop a plan and to bring out one or more volumes that would illustrate its possibilities. The Association should also promote the publication of source material on a regional basis. In the Mississippi Valley, for example, most of the important early material is regional rather than state in character, and should not be split up into segments for publication by the state historical agencies.

It seems to me that the United States and American historical scholarship are behind most of the civilized world in the publication of source material, and I believe that the Association should do everything in its power to remedy this situation. It is my

opinion that the doing or the promotion of bibliographical work and the publication of documentary material is a more appropriate field for the Association, and, so far as American history is concerned, for the Councils and Foundations, than the promotion of cooperative research projects.

6. I would suggest that a copy of your circular and questionnaire be sent to Dr. Grace L. Hute, curator of manuscripts, Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul.

March 14, 1931

March 16, 1931

Mr. H. M. Lydenberg
Assistant Director
New York Public Library
5th Ave. & 42 St.,
New York City

Dear Mr. Lydenberg:-

Herewith I am returning to you the Progress Reports of the Bureau of Standards on the durability of Paper. These should have gone back long ago, and I apologise for not returning them before this. The investigation is a very interesting one, and I hope that the final results of it may be made widely available.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Encl. ✓
prog. rep.

March ¹⁶~~28~~, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

I am sending through the vouchers just received from your secretary. I have discovered that Miss Allen prefers to have the vouchers on full sized sheets of typewriter paper, so it might be well for you to ask your secretary to use such sheets in the future.

The Scientific American for January, 1931, contains an article, page 31, by R. P. Walton entitled "Preserving Newspaper Files" that might be of some interest to you.

Under separate cover I am sending you two pamphlets of considerable interest. If you can find time to wade through the one from the ALA Committee on Bibliography you will discover that this committee is considering some of the same problems that we discussed at our conference in Boston. The account of the Illinois Archives Division is undoubtedly the work of Miss Margaret C. Norton, who has charge of the archives under the Secretary of State. Please keep track of these pamphlets. They need not be returned to me as I have access to copies here, but we might want to circulate them among the members of the committee

Sincerely yours

SJB:s

MAR 20 1931

Cleveland, Ohio,
March 17, 1931.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON RESEARCH MATERIALS:

Following is an extract from a letter of March 12th, 1931 received from Mr. J.I. Crabtree, President of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers, 33 West 42 St., New York, New York.

"At the suggestion of Mr. Will Hays of the Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America Inc., I am in the process of appointing a committee to make recommendations on the storage of historical films and shall be glad to forward to you a list of the committee members as soon as the make-up is complete."

Mr. Crabtree has also sent to this office a reprint of an article of which he is the joint author with Mr. C.E. Ives, entitled "The Storage of Valuable Motion Picture Film". This is reprinted from the Journal of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers Vol. XV, Number 3, 1930, pp. 289-305.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Secretary

COPY

Society of Motion Picture Engineers
General Office
33 West 42 St.
New York, N.Y.

March 12, 1931.

Mr. Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Mr. Binkley:

Some time ago you wrote me with regard to film preservation and unfortunately I overlooked replying to your letter.

I hasten to state that to the best of my knowledge the motion picture industry is making no particular effort to preserve films of historical interest. The films concerned are stored in the vaults of the various producing companies. I think, however, that Mr. Tarbottom Armstrong of the University of Southern California is making an effort to assemble films of historical interest.

With regard to the best methods of preserving motion picture film, this involves (a) prevention of the decomposition of the film, and (b) suitable fire protection.

Chemical decomposition can be retarded very materially by storing the film at a reasonably low temperature, say, around 50 F. The Eastman Kodak Company has constructed a vault for the storage of valuable film which is so designed that in the event of an internal fire, not more than one roll of film will be destroyed.

We are enclosing a copy of a reprint describing this storage vault.

At the suggestion of Mr. Will Hays of the Motion Picture Producers & Distributors of America, Inc., I am in the process of appointing a committee to make recommendations on the storage of historical films and shall be glad to forward to you a list of the committee members as soon as the make-up is complete.

Yours sincerely,

J. I. Crabtree (signed)
President.

JIC: IJS

Enc.

Copies to Mr. Harris
Mr. Kurlander

COPY FOR PROFESSOR SOLON J. BUCK

March 16, 1931.

Mr. J. I. Crabtree,
Society of Motion Picture Engineers,
33 West 42nd Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Crabtree:

Thank you for your letter of March 12th and
for the enclosed reprint.

I am delighted to hear of the appointment of
the committee of which you speak, and venture to express
the hope that it will maintain some kind of liaison with
our Joint Committee on Research Materials.

I enclose a circular of our joint committee, which
indicates about what we are doing.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley (signed)

Western Reserve University

RB/P

MAR 20 1931

The New York Public Library

Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations

Permanently

DS

OFFICE OF THE
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR
5TH AVENUE & 42ND STREET

New York, March 18, 1931.

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

Dear Dr. Buck:

Let me acknowledge with thanks receipt of your letter of March 16th and of the progress reports on the impermanence of records. I expect to go down to Washington early next month to get more details on the investigation.

Very truly yours,

H. M. Lydenberg

H. M. Lydenberg,
Assistant Director.

Business Records

MAR 27 1931
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

GEORGE F. BAKER FOUNDATION

SOLDIERS FIELD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

March 25, 1931

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

Dear Dr. Buck:

I am sending to you under cover a pamphlet entitled
A Critical Guide to Business History which contains some
samples of the work that we are doing. The particular part
of the work illustrated is banking. Of course it is a mere
fragment.

We are anxious at this stage to have criticism and
advice. If you notice anything that you think should be
changed, please write down on the margin your suggestions
and return the pamphlet to me at your convenience.

It is perhaps needless to say that such an enter-
prise will be spread over a period of several years. A real
beginning has been made but it is little more than a
beginning.

Sincerely yours,

N. S. B. Gras,

N. S. B. Gras
Professor of Business History

Enclosure
NSBG/EBN

March 25, 1931

Mr. Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

My dear Mr. Binkley:

Mr. Buck is absent for a number of days in the East, and I am replying in his place to your letter of March 17. I am sure he will be interested, as I have been, in learning of the plan of the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors of America for preserving their historical films.

Mr. Buck may wish to reply to you personally when he returns.

Yours sincerely,

GLN/A

APR 6 1931

COPY FOR SOLON J. BUCK

Level, Coop -

April 2, 1931.

The Carnegie Foundation,
522 Fifth Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Gentlemen:

I have noticed that one of the enterprises undertaken by the Carnegie Foundation has been the purchasing of books for college libraries.

In this effort I do not doubt that you have built up a purchasing agency of some importance. Would it be worth while to explore the possibility of using this purchasing agency to acquire books, documents, and periodicals of a research importance, in connection with interlibrary cooperative acquisition plans?

The basis to be considered would be that libraries would pay for their books and whatever was a just proportion of the cost of the purchasing agency. It is not a question of asking for funds, but only a question of using an existing institution rather than setting up a new institution to duplicate it.

Do you think this matter is worth further discussion?

I take the liberty of enclosing marked copy of the minutes of the last meeting of our committee, at which the problem of cooperative acquisition was discussed.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley.
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, O.

RB/P
Enc.

April 4, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

I spent most of last week in Washington, and had conferences with various people about the committee work. Leland and I agreed that it will not be necessary to have a meeting of the committee before fall; perhaps we could have it at the same time and place as last year. Would that suit your convenience? Leland wants to withdraw from the committee and have another representative of the Humanities appointed. He says that he will attend the meetings and take as much interest in the work as if he were a member.

of the L. of C.
Tom Martin showed me the Lemare copying camera; their apparatus for printing photostats from films; and the projecting apparatus fixed up for them by the Spencer Lens Co. The principal advantages of the Lemare camera over the Leica seem to be the facts that it uses films without perforation, and that the films can be bought in large quantities at reduced rates. The Leica, on the other hand, has the advantage of being more compact, and it can be loaded in daylight. I should think the Lemare would be more satisfactory for permanent installation and the Leica for carrying about the country.

I also saw demonstrated at the Library of Congress an addressing machine that has been equipped for printing cards by the ~~multi-graph process, or rather~~ mimeograph process. This is made by the Elliot Company of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The machine is called the Elliot Addressing System. Mr. Kletch, who has charge of the Union Catalogues, gave me a booklet advertising the Rectigraph, which is a competitor of the Photostat, and I am sending this to you under separate cover. There seems to be a difference of opinion in the Library of Congress as to the relative merits of the two machines. Mr. Kletch is also interested in the "Mimeoform Service," a circular of which I am enclosing herewith. He says that this Service is able to set up either ~~typewriter~~ type or print type with justified lines, and to run it off by multi-graph process, or, if larger editions are desired, to use offset printing. This is much less expensive than ordinary printing, and the results, judged from the samples he showed me, are very good.

R.O B. 4/4/31 -- 2

As I knew of no one personally who might meet your need for an instructor, I spoke about the matter to Steefel, and turned your letter over to Shippee, who is chairman of our department. You will probably hear from one or both of them.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Encl.
cir.

April 4, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

With reference to the letterhead, I am sending you herewith a sheet of our first stationery for comparison with what we are now using, and I am also enclosing a letterhead of the Minnesota Historical Society. You will note that in the first stationery, the top line was in considerably larger type than in that we now using. I would suggest that such larger type be used, or perhaps the style that is used for the first line of the MHS stationery. The names of the two councils are also in somewhat larger type in the original stationery. I do not think there is much choice here between the two sizes, but I believe it would be desirable to have the line "Social Science Research Council" spaced out by the use of thin spaces between the letters and wider spaces between the words, so as to make that line the same length as the line "American Council of Learned Societies." The names of members, on the other hand, were in considerably smaller type in the original stationery, and I think this is much better. Perhaps it would be feasible to use type as small as that used for the names in the MHS letterhead.

It will not be desirable to get any very large quantity of stationery, as there will probably be some changes in the membership of the committee for next year.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Encl.
2 letterheads

APR 11 1931

COPY FOR PROFESSOR SOLON J. BUCK

coll. book.

April 8, 1931.

Mr. Robert M. Lester,
Carnegie Corporation of New York,
522 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Mr. Lester:

I quite understand that the present purchasing agency maintained by the Carnegie Corporation could not undertake to purchase books for organizations which have not received grants. as a matter of information

Your experience will, however, be useful, even though your institution may be unable to function in other capacities. Libraries which are purchasing research materials find themselves in the presence of a limited supply, an irregular supply, and a market which is largely a matter of luck. To the extent that you are purchasing books out of print, you have the same situation. How do you decide upon priority, where a number of libraries have orders with you for an out-of-print book and one copy comes in?

Also as to the administrative cost, or rather the proportion that the administrative cost bears to the amount of book money that you spend. You speak of it as being perplexing and expensive. But so, alas, is the acquisition department of a university library.

Do you operate through a limited number of European agents, and do you receive large discounts?

These three questions -- priority, cost of administration, and discount, -- cover, I think, the principal things which we would be glad to know of at the present time regarding your experience.

Very sincerely yours,

RB/P

Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

APR 20 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

OLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

April 18, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I think it would be a very good idea to have the meeting at the same time and place as last year.

Your report on your visit to Washington is extremely interesting. It rather surprises me to discover how many of the people to whom I write are deeply interested in methods of copying, other than printing. I gather from a letter from the Columbia University Press that the university press people will be very glad to have the expense of some of their publication cut by the more general use among scholars of these other methods of reproducing materials.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University

RB/P

APR 24 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

SOLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

April 22, 1931.

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

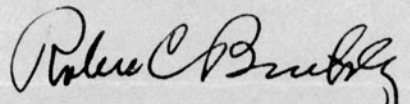
Dear Buck:

Professors Paterson and Tinker of the University of Minnesota have formulated the psychological problem involved in reducing print when photostatic and offset printing methods are to be used.

I think it is important that this problem should be solved, because we have to be able to decide what reductions are permissible, as otherwise our cost factor is completely wild.

I enclose the letter from Professors Paterson and Tinker of April 20th, with my reply. And you will note that they estimate a cost of \$56.50 for carrying out the experiment. I think this should have your authorization.

Very sincerely yours,



Western Reserve University

RB/P
Enc.

P.S. -- I also enclose my letter of March 5th to Paterson and Tinker.

Copy for Solon J. Buck

March 5, 1931.

The Tinker & Paterson Psychology Company.

Gentlemen:

The fact that has to be discovered in one way or another by the photographers and the psychologists is this. What is the psychological loss suffered when reproductions are made in reduced sizes? This is a very important financial aspect when the prospect of reproducing newspapers is concerned, for every reduction in linear diameter reduces the area of photostat paper and hence the cost of materials by the square of the linear diameter. The only reason for sending positives and negatives was that they come from the photostat machine in that way. There is a limit to the amount of reduction which is possible directly in one operation from newspaper to photostat paper. The lower reductions down towards 26 must necessarily be positives. The higher reductions can be made at one operation as negatives. The two questions you set up, having to do with positive and negative reading values are of secondary importance.

The main thing (from our standpoint) is to know how far can we safely reduce in copying newspapers without loss of legibility and to know how fast this loss of legibility accompanies reduction in size.

I doubt whether the difference between positive and negative would be important enough to be a very material factor in this. But if you think it would be important, then we must consider exploring it also. If the study is best confined to positives or negatives, it would be better to stick to the positives, because in that case your results will be equally applicable to reductions made by the offset printing process.

In your study of legibility, what allowance do you make for field of vision? One of the practical limits of legibility is the ability of the eye to skip quickly over unimportant matter and to see a considerable number of words before it at once.

I think I can best put the problem before you in the terms which it has, practically speaking. Could you then suggest how we can answer the question as to what photostatic reductions are most desirable when we have a rising cost curve and a falling legibility curve?

Very sincerely yours,

RB/P

Western Reserve University

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

Department of Psychology

April 20, 1931.

Dr. Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Dr. Binkley:

At last we believe we have straightened out the necessary preliminaries so that we can propose a definite research project for your consideration.

Problem I. Influence of Size of Planographic (or Photostatic) Reductions on Speed of Reading (Legibility). It is proposed to test speed of reading 7 point, 12-1/2 pica, set solid, printed on newsprint paper stock (Mergenthaler Ionic Type) when reproduced at natural size (no reduction) in comparison with reproductions of .8, 15, and .3. We are arranging to have the Minneapolis Journal print our test copies (Forms A and B) in regular newspaper form on regular newsprint paper stock. These two pieces of test material will then be reproduced by a local company (Dahms Photo Print Shop) who will forward bill for same to your committee if you approve of our project. We will require 800 reproductions. If these are to be photostats the cost will be 128.00. If these are to be planographic copies (offset printing process) the cost will be 31.50. From the point of view of cost we advise authorizing us to proceed by the offset process. Also, from the point of view of legibility we would advise the offset process.

Dr. Robert C. Binkley (cont.)

We propose to apply the tests to approximately 360 college students, to score the tests, tabulate results, statistically analyze the same and submit report to your committee showing comparative legibility of the various reductions indicated above. Costs for this phase of the work will run about 25.00 which will pay for the clerical and stenographic service needed.

Sincerely yours,

Donald G. Paterson (signed)

Miles A. Tinker (signed)

April 22, 1931.

Professor Donald G. Paterson,
Professor Miles A. Tinker,
University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gentlemen:

Thank you for your letter of April 20th. By all means let us count on using the planographic copies.

I am much impressed by the transmutation that has taken place when my problem is reduced into terms of experimental psychology.

I have written to Professor Buck, who is chairman of our committee, asking him to authorize the expenditure of \$56.50.

What is the correlation between speed of reading and eye strain? Is your test of speed of reading-legibility equivalent to a test of eye strain in reading, or would that require another type of test?

Let me add an expression of my hearty thanks for what you have done.

Very sincerely yours,

RB/P
Copy for S.J.B.

Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

APR 27 1931

bull. conf.

Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio,
April 24, 1931.

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH.

Gentlemen:

In connection with the problem of library cooperation in purchasing government documents in order to avoid the raising of prices, the following fact is of interest.

The Carnegie Corporation is assisting a certain number of college libraries to fill their shelves by undertaking to supply them with books. The large-scale purchasing of these books is done through William Warner Bishop, librarian of the University of Michigan.

But the bulk buying has been undertaken only to diminish bookkeeping costs, and is not extended to the purchase of out-of-print books.

The following is an excerpt from a letter from the librarian's office at the University of Michigan:

"The purchase of out-of-print books is a very delicate matter. Any attempt at large scale purchasing of these books would lead to an immediate increase in price. Therefore, we have decided to instruct the colleges to order such books on their own funds through their own sources."

The theory of the Carnegie Corporation that cooperation in purchasing will raise, rather than hold down, prices of out-of-print books is the reverse of the assumption made by our Joint Committee at its interim meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Secretary of the Joint Committee

RB/P

April 24, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:

Mr. D. A. Leonard, who represents the Spencer Lens Company and the Agfa-Ansco Corporation in this vicinity, informs me that there are two American made cameras that take pictures on motion picture film with the frame arranged lengthwise of the film. These are the Identograph and the Wilson cameras, and they are used primarily for making pictures of people for identification purposes. He thought, however, that they could readily be adapted for photographing manuscripts. He could not give me the names of the manufacturers but said that they could be obtained from the Pako Corporation, 1006 Lyndale Avenue North, Minneapolis. The Universal Still Film Copying Camera made by the Agfa-Ansco Corporation uses motion picture films, but has the frames arranged crosswise of the films. It uses a view finder instead of mechanical adjustments.

Sincerely yours

SJB/S

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, April 24, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

I had just finished reading your letter of April 22 and the enclosures when Professor Patterson called me on the telephone and asked me to look over the work that has been done. I have intended, for some time, to get in touch with him about this work, but my one day a week on the Campus is usually so crowded that I have little time for extras. I shall not be there again until May 7 but I shall make a special effort to look over this work at that time.

I told Patterson that he might go ahead with the work as planned and the committee would take care of the expense in accordance with his letter to you. No provision has been made for this in our budget for the current quarter, but I don't think there will be any difficulty in arranging for it. We shall have to restrict our expenditures elsewhere in order to make up for it, but I feel that a project like this that is under way should be completed. We had better not start anything else this year that is going to cost money, however, unless we get a special appropriation for it.

Sincerely yours

- B/P

APR 28 1931

COPY FOR PROFESSOR SOLON J. BUCK

April 25, 1931.

Dr. Thomas P. Martin,
Assistant Chief,
Manuscripts Division,
Library of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Martin:

I have just seen a little apparatus which has been developed by a man named Kennedy after a great many expensive experiments, and which is used by him for copying whole court-houses full of volumes of public records.

His apparatus for reading back is excellent. The pages of the New York Times which you copied for me, and which came out so badly in the enlargement, showed up perfectly in his projecting apparatus. This projecting apparatus is worked upon an extremely interesting principle. The reader has a small Leica projector in front of him. The projector sends the beam of light against a mirror which reflects back to a plate of focusing glass in front of the reader's eye. The idea of having the mirror interposed between the projector and the projected image solved the principal problem that comes up in this type of work. Instead of using the ordinary ground glass which is used for projection with transmitted light, Mr. Kennedy has a piece of the very best focussing glass made by the Eastman Company. Instead of using an ordinary mirror, he has a mirror with the surface on top, which saves an extra distortion. His apparatus is so contrived that it throws only a small portion of the manuscript upon the screen, but the same principle could easily be extended to provide for the reading of larger manuscripts. The most interesting thing he has invented is his photographing machine. It takes a maximum of eighteen by twenty-two inches. The focussing is done much more delicately than is possible with the Leica, and the focus locks in place. The exposure is controlled by an electric motor, which gives exactly one-thirty-fifth of a minute exposure to the film. The operator stands before the apparatus, slips a volume under the glass, turns the pages. After turning a page, he brings down the glass. When the glass gets down to the last notch, it releases a catch, makes the exposure. And then when the exposure is made, a bell rings. The operator picks up the glass and turns another page. His camera takes a loading of 400 feet. His workmen can do 300 exposures, that is to say, 600 pages an hour, or ten of the big volumes of records a day. Before inventing and developing his own camera, this man tried all the other schemes.

While the apparatus he has is adapted principally to the

Dr. Thomas P. Martin (cont.)

copying of public records, it is also capable of serving us, practically without modification. His application for patents are pending.

Thank you again for the information in your last letter.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

RB/P

Copy to Solon J. Buck

Leland

April 27, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
American Council of Learned Societies
907 - 15th Street
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

I was glad to learn from your letter of April 8 that the Social Science Research Council had endorsed the proposal for an inventory of manuscripts. In this connection you will be interested to know that the Pacific Northwest Library Association has just published a Union List of Manuscripts in Libraries of the Pacific Northwest (58 pages). Copies of this are for sale by the treasurer, Miss Ora L. Maxwell, Spokane Public Library, at one dollar.

I have written to Ramsdell that I do not think Elegen could undertake the proposed archives manual. I have suggested to him as another possibility Miss Margaret C. Norton, who has charge of the archives division of the Illinois State Library. This division has just published a thirty-two page pamphlet containing an excellent account of its activities. This appears under the name of William J. Stratton, secretary of state, but I am quite sure that it is the work of Miss Norton.

I find that I carried off the letter from H. H. B. Meyer, with an enclosure, which you handed to me while I was in Washington, and I am returning it herewith. I enclose also a copy of a letter that I have just written to Lynd concerning the proposed conference of librarians and specialists. The action of the committee on public administration in dropping their plan for such a conference in their special field clears the way, I think, for the calling of a general conference under the auspices of our committee.

My recent visit to Washington was a very pleasant one and I appreciate deeply the large part that you had in making it so. It is possible that I may be in a position to visit Washington more frequently in the future. The Pittsburgh people have made me the

offer but I have not yet decided whether or not to accept.

Sincerely yours

B/H

Encs.

P.S. The reports of discussion at the conference of secretaries has just reached my desk and I have not had opportunity to read them as yet. I am reminded, however, that I learned recently that Shippee, who is chairman of the program committee for the next A.H.A. meeting, has heard nothing about the proposed conference on materials for research in connection with that meeting. I had supposed that the suggestion would come to him through Dexter Perkins. It has to come very soon, however, as his plans for the program are well advanced.

I trust that a copy of the report of discussion at the conference of secretaries on materials for research has been or will be sent to each member of the Joint Committee.

MAY 1 1931

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH
OF THE
AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES
AND THE
SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH COUNCIL

Buck, Buck
ROBERT C. BINKLEY, Secretary
Western Reserve University

NORMAN S. B. GRAS
Harvard University

SOLON J. BUCK, Chairman
Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul

WALDO G. LELAND
American Council of Learned Societies

H. M. LYDENBERG
New York Public Library

ARTHUR H. QUINN
University of Pennsylvania

CLARK WISSLER
American Museum of Natural History

April 29, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I heartily approve of the principles of your letter of April 24th. As our task unfolds, this is logically the next step. We will start feeling our way with the librarians. Then by the time our categories of materials information is compiled, we will be able to visualize definitely the practical problems of getting concrete results, for of course cooperation among libraries will enter as an element in all our planning upon all subjects.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

RB/P

June 10, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

When do you think we had better have the next meeting of our committee? Might it not be well to have it in New York the latter part of September? It might be a little difficult for me to get away at the time we met last year.

Under separate cover I am sending you a copy of "Newspapers in Libraries of Metropolitan Chicago" for use in connection with your prospective survey of the situation with reference to newspapers. I gathered this in the last time I was in Chicago.

Miss Allen, comptroller of the SSRC, writes me that "all vouchers for payment on account of the April budget of your committee" should be in as soon as possible after June 30. I would suggest that you have your secretary send her bill to me a few days before the end of the month.

Sincerely yours

B/P

JUN 17 1931
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

June 15, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

Thank you for the survey, "Newspapers in Libraries of Metropolitan Chicago". I hope the Wilson Company will take up newspapers when they finish their government document job.

I enclose the letter from Paterson and Tinker, with the three bills which they would like to have paid by check as follows:

To J.E. Walkup, Minneapolis...	8.05
To Dahms Photo Print Company, Minneapolis.....	31.50
To Donald G. Paterson and Miles A. Tinker.....	16.95

I also enclose the final statement from the university here for my secretarial services. This includes the item from October 7 to November 30th, which I should have put in before January 1st, but failed to do. It also includes the June salary. I will have no regular secretary after June. But I hope that at our next meeting we can make some provision in the budget for this.

I will have the bill for a few dollars of photographic supplies, which I will try to get to you before July 1st.

As to the time of meeting. Our schools begin here on September 22nd. I think it quite possible that we could work more efficiently in New York than at Branford, because there will be no one there but ourselves.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Robert C. Binkley

RB/P
Enc.

JUN 20 1931

Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio,
June 17, 1931.

Members of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research.

✓ Professor Solon J. Buck,
Professor Norman S. B. Gras,
Dr. Waldo G. Leland,
Mr. H. M. Lydenberg,
Mr. Robert S. Lynd,
Professor Arthur H. Quinn,
Mr. Clark Wissler.

MEMORANDUM ON PRESERVATION OF NEWS-REEL FILMS

The Kinogram, Paramount Publix, Pathé, and Universal news-reel firms keep all negatives of their news-reels permanently in their vaults, where they are catalogued. The positives are destroyed when their exhibition value is gone, and the silver is retrieved from them. These companies all report that they have an effective cataloguing system, by which they can keep track of their negatives.

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Secretary, Joint Committee on
Materials for Research

RB/P

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, June 18, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

The receipt of your letter of June 15 with enclosures has caused me to check up on the financial situation of the Joint Committee, with sad results as you will note from the enclosed statement. I am very much embarrassed and I do not know what to do about it except to lay the matter before the officers of the two Councils and ask for a further appropriation. Even if they are willing to grant it, however, there is so much red tape involved that it will probably be nearly the end of the year before it is available.

It is my fault, of course, for not keeping a better check on the situation. I should have realized that when you proposed to pay \$33.33 a month for clerical services, it would use up the whole allotment in the budget for that purpose, and leave nothing for our work here. I ought also to have turned down the Patterson and Tinker proposition on the ground that there was no provision for it in the budget.

As it now stands, the bills that are to go through at the end of this month will bring the total expenditures for the year up to about fourteen hundred dollars, and I will need another hundred dollars for Holbrook and his typist in July to complete the survey. That will use up the whole appropriation and leave us nothing for the expenses of a meeting, which I am now estimating at \$250 instead of \$300, because of my prospective move to Pittsburgh, and nothing for clerical assistance and miscellaneous expenses for the remainder of the year.

It is very unfortunate that your bill for clerical services rendered last year was not sent in before the first of January. Had that been done it would have been paid out of last year's appropriation, over one hundred dollars of which lapsed at the end of the year.

Can you send me a brief statement about the work that you are doing for the Joint Committee -- the progress that has been made, how long it will take, and how much it will cost to complete it, and what you expect the final outcome will be? Something of this sort will probably help me to convince the officers of the Councils that our expenditures have been justified, and that a further appropriation should be made.

R. C. B. - 6/18/31 -- 2

If funds can be obtained for the expenses of a meeting, would September 18 and 19 suit your convenience?

Sincerely yours

B/P

Encl.
statement

MEMORANDUM ON SECRETARIAL EXPENSES AND EXPENSES
IN PREPARING REPORT ON MATERIALS OF RESEARCH

Expenses incurred under my direction in connection with the work of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research have been principally in connection with the report on available means of reproducing research materials.

There has been some correspondence with the members of the committee on several matters,--especially those relating to library cooperation, preservation of moving picture film, and paper preservation.

A circular of the Joint Committee (Circular No. 1) was prepared and circulated among a list of forty-two learned periodicals.

Correspondence with moving-picture people on film preservation and correspondence with government officials on the census schedules has been carried on.

The minutes of two meetings have been prepared and circulated in mimeographed form.

✓ These have been the incidental secretarial duties performed out of the fund. The bulk of the time, however, has gone into exploration of the field of reproduction of materials. The following basic methods of reproducing research materials are being subjected to cooperative investigation:

1. PRINTING AND REGULAR COMMERCIAL PUBLICATION
2. REPRODUCTION ON THE MINEOGRAPH PRINCIPLE
WHETHER BY STENCIL OR BY METAL TYPE
3. REPRODUCTION ON THE OFFSET PRINTING PRINCIPLE,
OF WHICH THERE ARE THE FOLLOWING MAIN VARIETIES:
 - A. Rotaprint
 - B. Coxhead Press
 - C. Directoplate
 - D. "Lithoprint"
 - E. Dry Lithoprint

A great variety of methods are available, and the whole technology of printing is under very rapid revision by virtue of various combinations and applications of the photographic and offset principles.

These methods are all members of the printing family and are quite distinct from another class of reproducing methods based directly upon photography.

4. PHOTOGRAPHY -- PHOTOSTAT

Of the photographic method, the photostat is the most important. Two kinds of apparatus,--photostat and rectigraph,--have been compared. The use of the photostat principle involves two other problems. Since the cost of paper is the limiting factor in the use of the photostat, the problem arises how far it is possible to make reductions in reproducing research materials. The amount of reduction which is practicable for reading with the naked eye has been made the subject of a study by Professors Paterson and Tinker of the University of Minnesota Psychology Department. This study was made at a cost of fifty-six dollars.

Aside from reductions to be read by the naked eye, there

is the possible use of optical apparatus to read printing which is not easily legible with the naked eye. The offerings of various optical firms who are manufacturing reading glasses, and especially the apparatus designed by Admiral Fiske (known as the Fiskoscope) have been studied in this connection.

5. PHOTOGRAPHY -- FILMSLIDE

Finally there is that branch of the subject which has been developed in the archives department of the Library of Congress and which has to do with the reproduction of research materials upon moving picture film,--to be read by projection if necessary, or to be transferred to full size photoostat paper. Two principal types of apparatus have been developed in this connection. One is a small camera holding a five-foot roll of moving-picture film, of which there are four makes accessible; a comparison of these is being made. Another is a new invention for doing this work on a large scale. Two builds of machines are available for comparison,--Filmo-graph and the Kennedy apparatus. Both have been developed for copying public records. Both are in the initial stages of development from the standpoint of business organization. The use of small-scale photography in the reproduction of documents requires also the use of a projection apparatus. While a great many of these are on the market, the two which have been selected for comparative study are those manufactured by the Leitz Co. and by the Spencer Lens Co. Three kinds of cameras and these two projectors have been loaned to me. I shall expect to study the other camera when I am in Washington this summer. Most of the work of this project has been done except the comparing of the miniature photography apparatus, samples of which have been loaned to me by the makers. Film for these experiments has been purchased and a number of exposures taken, but there will be additional charges of from three to ten dollars for developing. 3

JUN 25 1931

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

3

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

June 22, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

I have certainly done more than my share to create the budget difficulty. I should have straightened out the account before January 1st.

I feel that whatever happens, we must not forego the meeting, and if necessary I am prepared to pay my own expenses to get there. I suppose the simplest thing is to apply for the additional two hundred and fifty dollars. If we encounter some obstacles from the standpoint of policy, -namely, an unwillingness to increase the amount available to us until next year, -perhaps we can get Western Reserve University to carry our credit until our funds are available this fall. We will then put on the budget a deficiency appropriation to cover this indebtedness. This treatment might in any case be given to that item due Western Reserve University for services prior to January 1st. That would save almost seventy dollars, or at least postpone the reckoning regarding this seventy dollars until later.

* I enclose a separate statement of the use made of the secretarial appropriation, together with an estimate of additional expenses likely to be incurred.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley

Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

Enc.

*See Ref. file
6-22-31*

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

June 22, 1931.

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

Dear Buck:

The additional bills mentioned in my letter
of June 15th are as follows:

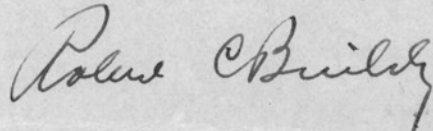
To be paid to Western Reserve University.....12.41
{ Ground Glass.....2.00}
{ For Film.....8.14}
{ Express on
Leica equipment...2.27)

As per vouchers attached, to be paid to
myself.....1.44
(Express charges on Leica and
Ansco equipment for testing
purposes)

Advance for stamps.....2.00

15.85

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

Enc.

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, June 25, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

Your letter of June 22 with enclosures has just been received, and I am sending through the bills. I was very glad to have your statement about the work that you have been doing, as I have been somewhat in the dark about it myself. I am sending this statement on to Lynd. If you have any other copies of it, I wish you would send me another one for my files and also send one to Mortimer Graves, assistant secretary ACLS, 907 Fifteenth St., Washington, D. C. Leland is abroad now and Graves is in charge.

I feel that the work you are doing is very valuable and well worth what it costs. I have suggested to the officers of the two councils that some way be found, if possible, to provide an additional five hundred dollars for the committee for the present year. I think we had better wait and see what happens before making any other suggestions.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, June 29, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

* Some time ago at the request of Lynd, I prepared a report of the Joint Committee for the year ending June 1. I intended to send a copy of this to you but am not sure that I did so. At any rate, a copy is enclosed herewith.

Sincerely yours

B/P

Encl.
rept.

** See Minutes + Reports
file 6-1-311*

Probability

Minnesota Historical Society
St. Paul, June 29, 1931

Mr. William W. Bishop, Librarian
University of Michigan
Ann Arbor, Michigan

Dear Mr. Bishop:-

*Sent to
Bemisley //
to be
returned
& filed
with
Gurney
material.*

Mr. Holbrook has shown me your letter of May 7 relating to the problem of preserving modern newspapers. I quite agree with you that it is a very serious problem, and our committee plans to give it careful consideration. My own opinion is at present that the solution will be found in micro-photography. I believe we will find that it will be less expensive to make miniature photographs on films or plates of a file of newspapers than it is to bind the originals themselves. I think the permanence of wood pulp papers when properly cared for has been underestimated by some, and I feel sure that files of current newspapers, if kept in the dark and not too much used, will last until science has developed a means of reproducing them inexpensively, and in a form that will require much less space for storage than do the present volumes.

Sincerely yours

B/P

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, LITERATURE, AND THE ARTS
MINNEAPOLIS

9

DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY

June 30, 1931

Professor Solon J. Buck
Department of History

Dear Professor Buck:

I am enclosing three
copies of the report sent to Dr. Binkley.
We can furnish you with several more of
these if you care to have them.

Sincerely yours,

Miles A. Tinker

Miles A. Tinker

MAT:G

D. instability

JUL 6 1931

Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio,
July 1, 1931.

Members of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research.

✓ Professor Solon J. Buck,
Professor Norman S. B. Gras,
Dr. Waldo G. Leland,
Mr. H. M. Lydenberg,
Mr. Robert S. Lynd,
Professor Arthur H. Quinn,
Mr. Clark Wissler.

NOTE ON STANDARDIZATION OF PAPER

At the Second Technical Conference of the
Printing Industry, March 16-17, 1931, the Group
Conference on the Need for Standardization of Sizes,
Quality and Permanence of Paper held a general
discussion on "the desirability of standardizing
the quality and permanence of paper, -- but as there
was a wide variance of opinion, and as the time for
adjournment was at hand, no action was taken."

Very truly yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Secretary, Joint Committee on
Materials for Research

RB/P

A survey of activities

JOINT COMMITTEE SURVEY OF ACTIVITIES

July 1, 1931

Mr. Buck:

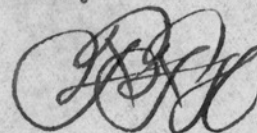
The following unfinished tasks can be done before August 1:

Writing or revision of a few accounts of agencies grouped by states, reports of which are daily expected; of about 11 of the national ~~or~~ regional agencies, 38 of which are already covered; and of miscellaneous members of the national group.

Revision of the introduction to the first report, the amount of work involved depending on how thorough a statistical analysis is made of methods and results.

Proof-reading the larger part of the report, assembling the five sets, paging, and providing a table of contents.

Completion of additional entries for the List of Guides, on the basis of rough notes taken in the course of the survey.



My vacation address is c/o Mrs. Caroline Hier, Raymond, Minn.

July 27, 1931

Prof. N. S. B. Gras
South Hero, Vermont

Dear Gras:

I hope you will accept my humble apologies for not having written to you before, and especially for my neglect of your request for suggestions with reference to your Critical Guide to Business History. I have looked over the pamphlet with much interest and it seems to me that the guide will be an extremely valuable work. The plan, so far as I could make it out from this section, seems excellent and the only criticism I have to offer is that nos. 240 to 243 inclusive would seem to me to be in the nature of primary sources rather than non-primary work (on more careful examination I see this does not apply to no. 242). At any rate these are contemporary works and would be primary sources from some points of view.

I received the minutes of the discussion by the Mediaeval Academy and have also seen those of the discussion at the Conference of Secretaries. I am somewhat surprised to observe that these discussions appear to be ranging about most anywhere within the field of the work of our Joint Committee instead of being confined to the consideration of what are the categories of material used or needed in the different disciplines. I am inclined to think that the discussions would be more profitable if confined to the single subject.

If we have a meeting of the Joint Committee this fall it will probably be late in September or in October, possibly later still. The facts are that we have used up all our funds and cannot have a meeting at all unless the Council makes further funds available. I anticipate this will be done, but it may take some time to unwind the red tape.

My prospective move to Pittsburgh is one of the reasons why I have neglected my correspondence so badly of late. My principal position there will be that of director of the Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey, which is financed mainly by the Buhl Foundation and administered by a Board made up jointly of representatives of the University of Pittsburgh and the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania. I shall rank as a professor of history in the University and teach not more than one course, and I shall also have general supervision over the work of the Historical Society, which is a very small institution. I hope

N. S. B. Gras - 7/27/31 - 2

that most of my time can be devoted to research and the direction of research. I shall have a research staff of four or five people.

You may be interested to know that I expect that much of our efforts will be expended in the field of business and industrial history. Pittsburgh of course has an outstanding place in this field and I believe that the opportunities there are very great. I am counting on your advice and coöperation in this work.

I am trying now to wind up my work here so as to get away for a couple of weeks on the north shore of Lake Superior before we leave for Pittsburgh during the last week in August. We have rented a house there, but we have not disposed of our place in Minneapolis as yet. I have given up hopes of selling it and am trying to rent it.

Sincerely yours

B/H

July 30, 1931

Mr. Miles A. Tinker
Department of Psychology
University of Minnesota
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Mr. Tinker:

I have been so busy this month that I have neglected to acknowledge the three copies of the report by you and Patterson on "The Effect of Reductions in Size of Newspaper Print on Legibility." They were duly received, however, and I have examined the report with interest. I assume that Binkley has been supplied with all the copies that he needs and I do not think that I shall have need for any more.

Sincerely yours

B/H

July 30, 1931

Professor Robert C. Binkley
Western Reserve University
Cleveland, Ohio

Dear Binkley:-

I was glad to receive your memorandum on expenses, as it gives me a more definite idea of the work you have been carrying on than I had before. I have received from Tinker two copies of the report on "The Effect of Reductions in Size of Newspaper Print on Legibility." I suppose from the scientific point of view, such elaborate experiments are necessary, but from the practical point of view the same conclusions can be reached by any intelligent person after a brief examination of the various reductions.

The survey of agencies will be completed within a week, and I am planning to send a copy to you. Will you be at Western Reserve; and, if not, where shall we send it; or shall we hold it until you get back?

A letter from Miss Allen indicates that some provision will be made for the further financing of the Committee, but I have had no definite information as yet. If we meet this fall, I think probably it will be in October, and in New York City.

I shall be away some during August, but mail addressed to me here will reach me. After September 1, my address will be Historical Society, of Western Pennsylvania, Bigelow Boulevard and Parkman Ave., Pittsburgh.

Sincerely yours

B/P

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

4
file.

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

9 September, 1931

Dear Buck:

I have been looking through the Buck-Hobbrook report and finding it a mine of information. I hope we can put it into print soon in a provisional edition. It should help library authorities to think more broadly about their own policies or lack of them, and it gives us our indispensable guidance.

I am putting all my time in now whipping my report into shape, for I would like to have it circulated before the meeting.

Hoping you like Pittsburg,

Sincerely

Arlet C. Bulley

file
September 23, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:-

Your letter of September 9th was duly received but this is the first opportunity that I have had to reply to it.

I am very glad to note that Holbrook's report meets with your approval. It seems to me that it ought to be useful in a number of ways and I hope that it can be printed in the near future. Copies were sent to the officers of the two councils at the same time the copy was sent to you but nothing has been heard from either of them about it as yet. I wrote to Leland the other day and urged speedy action. If too much time elapses before it is brought out, it will require a great deal of revision because changes are taking place rapidly.

I am glad to know that your report is approaching completion and would like to receive a copy of it as soon as it is ready.

Leland seems to think that it may be best for us not to have a meeting until January, when, presumably, the next appropriation would be available, but I am inclined to think that we can make some arrangement for a meeting in October.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

5
OCT 14 1931

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

October 13, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania,
Bigelow Blvd. and Parkman Ave.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

The Edwards Company has offered to make, free of charge, one hundred copies of ~~this~~ report. I think that we should accept this, with the provision that sample pages by other processes should be included. So I would like to have a page done by the Mime-O-Form and one by the Coxhead process. The cost would be very slight, -- about two dollars or less for one-hundred pages, *by each process*. The result would be to put before the reader's eye a much more concrete example of what he can expect.

*1 c. total
\$4.00*

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

October 22, 1931.

Mr. Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

I am sorry not to have replied
before this to your letter of October 14.

By all means go ahead with your
plan of having copies of your report printed by
the Edwards Company, together with sample pages
of the other processes. I have not had time to
check up on the finances, but I am sure that we
can take care of the expense in some way.

Do you have a carbon copy of
the report that you could send to me in the mean-
time? If not, I can wait, of course, but I am
very eager to see this report.

Enclosed you will find copies
of some letters which will indicate to you that
the Joint Committee is not quite dead.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

B:R
Enc.

*to Ireland
Woodworth
+ Gerould*

C
O
P
Y

NOV - 4 1931

October 22, 1931.

Dr. Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary,
American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth St.,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Leland:

The suggestion about getting support for completing the calendar for Brazilian manuscripts brings us to a question of policy upon which I think my report on methods of reproduction will have some bearing.

These projects can be made self-supporting in editions of less than 300 at normal library prices, if the profession is willing to accept offset press reproductions of type-script. I think we ought to be able to organize a market which would automatically finance the book expense of any project; the clerical expense of the author and editor would be a different thing.

This is hardly a precise reply to the particular proposition of Dr. Nachbin's calendar, but indicates the kind of responsibility our committee might take in organizing and correlating institutions. I am sure that we will get many more proposals of this kind.

For the present the only thing we can do about them is to try to get funds for each particular project on its own merits. Ultimately there should be a procedure which would bring into existence a fully organized subscription market to finance any project approved by appropriate specialists.

I hope to get a carbon copy of my survey of methods into your hands shortly. It is now in charge of the typist.

Sincerely yours,

RB/P

Robert C. Binkley

(signed)

*See Binkley to Binkley
11-5-31 in
General file*

October 22, 1931.

Dr. Robert S. Woodworth,
President Social Science Research Council,
230 Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Woodworth:

I have your letter of October 19, and am very glad to know that the Committee on Problems and Policy of the SSRC is in favor of publishing Mr. Holbrook's Survey of Activities of Agencies with reference to materials for research.

I do not know what would be the attitude of the American Library Association toward the publication of this report. I had thought that perhaps it might be brought out directly as a publication of our Committee, or of the two Councils; or that perhaps Dr. Leland would be willing to have it published by the ACLS.

It would not be necessary, it seems to me, to issue a very large edition, and possibly some form of offset printing would be cheaper, and satisfactory. Or, it might even be multigraphed. Copies should be available for all the institutions represented in the report, and to a limited number of scholars. Any such report, of course, is out of date within a short time after it is published, especially if it serves its purpose of promoting greater activity and new developments on the part of the institutions concerned. There would be no point, therefore, it seems to me in having a reserve stock for future distribution.

When publication is finally decided upon, Mr. Holbrook and I would like a few weeks in which to make a final revision of the copy.

Sincerely yours,

*Copy 1703 to Gerald
enclosed*

Solon J. Buck

B:H

Copy to Mr. Leland and Mr. Binkley.

^{to}
Copy for Mr. Binkley.

October 22, 1931.

Mr. Waldo G. Leland,
Secretary American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

I was glad to receive your letter of October 13, and I hope that you have had, or will soon have, time to look over ~~the~~ Holbrook's survey. I regret that it did not come up to ~~the~~ Schlesinger's expectations, and I appreciate your explaining to him ^{that} a detailed report of as broad a scope as this one would have required years instead of months for its preparation.

I have just received a letter from Dr. Woodworth to the effect that the Committee on Problems and Policy of the SSRC considers that the survey is a valuable document and should be published. A copy of my reply is enclosed herewith. ✓

I have not had time as yet to check over the situation with reference to the funds available for the Joint Committee and the desirability of further appropriations for the present year. I hope to do so before long, however, and to write you again in the near future.

Thank you very much for the copy of your bulletin on publication by learned societies. I have read part of it with much interest, and shall read more of it as soon as I can find the time.

I do not see much prospect of my getting to Washington, or any where else, in the near future. The work of re-organizing the Historical Society, installing equipment in its building, getting its collections into condition for use, and getting the survey underway, is going to confine me to my desk apparently for some time to come. We are making progress, however, and I hope in the course of time to do some research myself.

A. P. James, of our staff, is now in Washington surveying materials for western Pennsylvania history preparatory to a trip abroad, and he will probably call upon you some time. Any assistance you can give him will be much appreciated, of course.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

S. J. B. to G. would include

Copy to Mr. Binkley.

October 30, 1931.

Dr. Waldo G. Leland, Secretary,
American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

I am glad to know that you are contemplating the publication of the Survey made for the Joint Committee, and also that you are asking for an additional appropriation of \$100. I have had no reply to letters addressed to the SSRC for some time, and do not know what the prospects are there. Have you been informed as to who, if anyone, has been appointed to the Committee in the place of Wisslar, who resigned some time ago?

In the copy of the minutes of the April 30th meeting of the Executive Council of the ACLS I note that the project for a Bibliography of the Printed Maps of America Prior to 1850, submitted by Karpinski, was referred to the Advisory Board for study and report. Is this project likely to come before our Joint Committee for consideration?

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck,
Chairman.

B:H

Nov., 1931

Joint Com. Survey Activities

The report as it now stands, Nov. 12, 1931, includes separate statements about 423 agencies, and general statements in which 275 other agencies are mentioned by name.

I would recommend that copies of the report when published be distributed at least among the more important of the agencies referred to in it - say to 200 of them, and that if possible copies be sent to all. A covering letter might perhaps serve to secure the attention of many who might otherwise overlook their institutions' interest in the report.

As for the making of final corrections and additions, I believe at least two weeks should be allowed.

DPH

7
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

NOV - 4 1931

November 3, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
The Western Pennsylvania Historical
Survey,
Historical Building,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Professor Buck:

1. Binkley
file
Mr. Binkley asked me to send you the
enclosed copy of a letter to Mr. Leland. [*4 Oct. 22*]

Mr. Binkley also has asked me to give
you some idea as to when I would have a copy
of his report on methods of reproducing research
materials ready to send to you. I am sorry that
I cannot tell you definitely, but am working on
this between the university work and hope to have
it in your hands soon.

Sincerely yours,

Clara Pfister

Secretary to Robert C. Binkley

Enc.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOV 10 1931

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

November 5, 1931

Dear Buck:

December 4th is all right for the meeting. I'm glad we're printing
your
/survey. As to the process to be used, fortunately my section
on offset methods is typed, and I am enclosing it. Will you mind
holding it as your copy, to be followed by the later pages as
soon as typed. I don't think you should retype the report, but ~~print it~~
by photo-lithography
reduce it, one half size, to a 6 x 9 inch book. If the typewriter
was clean- as it was, to judge from the carbon, the result will
be satisfactory and very cheap, as my table indicates.

Sincerely, Robert C. Binkley

Copy ^{to} ~~for~~ Mr. Binkley

November 5, 1931.

Dr. Waldo G. Leland,
907 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

I was glad to learn from your letter of November 2 that an additional \$300 will be available for the Joint Committee, and I think it desirable for us to have a meeting in a few weeks. What would you think of selecting Saturday, December 4, as the date - in New York of course - with the understanding that we would continue on Sunday if necessary? I am assuming that you will attend the meeting if possible, and want to select a date that would suit your convenience.

I trust that you will keep in mind the desirability of making an appropriation from the ACLS for the Committee for next year to match the rest of the appropriation already made by the SSRC. It would be desirable that this be done in time so that the Committee will not be without funds during the first month or two of 1932.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

Copy ^{to} ~~for~~ Mr. Binkley

November 5, 1931.

Dr. Robert S. Woodworth,
President Social Science Research Council,
230 Park Avenue,
New York City.

My dear Dr. Woodworth:

As I understand from Dr. Leland that an additional \$300 has been made available by the two Councils for the Joint Committee on Materials for Research, we are planning to hold a meeting in the near future.

Would it be feasible for us to meet in your offices in New York, and do you know of any objection to Saturday, December 4, as the date, with the idea that we would continue on Sunday if necessary? We would like very much to have you, or the permanent secretary of the SSRC, or both of you, attend the meeting if possible.

Several months ago you wrote me that Dr. Wisaler had resigned as a member of the Committee, and we had some correspondence with reference to his successor. Has any appointment been made as yet? If so, I should like to be supplied with the name and address of the new member. If not, I trust that the matter may be settled in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

5
November 5, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

X I have received two communications from your secretary, one enclosing a bill which will be sent through the next time I am sending bills in, and the other enclosing a copy of your letter of October 22 to Leland.

I was very much interested in this letter for several reasons. In the first place, it contains the first reference I have seen to a proposed calendar of Brazilian manuscripts, and I am wondering where the proposition comes from and why it has not come to my attention. In the second place, your suggestion of organizing a market for small editions of bibliographies, and similar tools, seems to me a very promising one, and I hope it can be developed.

I was glad to note that a copy of your report on methods of reproducing materials will be ready in the near future.

Leland plans to bring out our Survey of Activities by some method of sub-printing. He writes me that he has asked Mr. Graves, his assistant, who is especially informed on such matters, to make a study to determine the best method of reproducing the report. If it is to be done by a reproduction of typescript it will be necessary either to do a lot of clipping and pasting or to re-type the entire work.

You will be interested to know that an additional sum of \$300 has been made available for the Committee, which will make it possible for us to hold a meeting in the near future. What would you think of selecting Saturday, December 4, as the date for the meeting - in New York of course - with the understanding that we will continue on Sunday if necessary?

Sincerely yours,

* In Reprod. file

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

JAN 7 1932

NOV 14 1931

1

183 Widener Library,
Cambridge, Mass.
Nov. 10, 1931.

Supt Selou J. Buck,
Western Pa. Historical Society,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

I am chairman of a sub-committee on research planning, & I know that you can help me out on some of the items included on the enclosed list. Would you be willing to write me at as much length as your time & patience permits, especially on the questions listed under Group II? I know that your work on the Alford Commission has given you much experience & information that most of us on the Committee seem to lack.

Sincerely,

J.D. Hicks

Perhaps you have some printed or mimeographed materials that would be pertinent.

November 10, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

Your note of November 4 enclosing a section of your report has just been received. I have not had time to read the section as yet, but am writing to ask whether or not a copy of this has been sent to Leland, ~~as yet~~. If not, I shall probably want to send this on to him in order that he may use it in reaching a decision with reference to the format for printing our survey.

Since writing you last I have had a letter from Leland from which it appears that he is now inclined to think a new copy should be made on large paper, and single-spaced; and then reproduced by planograph. This would mean a considerable reduction in the number of pages to be reproduced.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

3
NOV 13 1931

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

November 12, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

I have just had a long conference with Mr. Power, the technical man of Edwards Brothers, and have spoken to him of my suggestion that the survey should be reproduced in a form directly derived from your prepared typescript.

Two such forms are available. One is a reduced book size, 5-3/8 X 8-1/2; the other, four pages in one, 8-1/2 X 11. Mr. Power has very kindly consented to make some free samples of these and forward them to you, together with his prices for editions. The samples ought to reach you in a day or two.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

November 12, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

Yesterday being a holiday I stayed at home and, among other things, read the section of your report that you had sent to me. This is merely to state that I am very much pleased with the report, and feel that it will be a valuable document. The only suggestion I have to offer (and it is probably unnecessary) is that at the end you include a summary with definite recommendations for action by the Committee and for the procedure of institutions and individuals interested in the reproduction of materials.

Leland has decided to have the Survey reproduced by the planograph, and it will serve to illustrate to the members of the Committee one of the methods of reproduction. In view of the fact that he had already reached a decision I concluded not to send on to him the section of your report, but to keep it here.

I trust that the copies to be reproduced by Edwards Bros. (if I remember correctly) will be available by December 5. It would be desirable, of course, to have copies in the hands of all members of the Committee in advance of the meeting.

As you will note from the enclosed copy of a letter to Leland, Laurence V. Coleman is now a member of the Committee in the place of Wissler.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

Copy ^{to} ~~for~~ Mr. Binkley

November 12, 1931.

Dr. R. S. Woodworth,
230 Park Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Doctor Woodworth:

You were quite right in concluding that it was Saturday and Sunday, December 5 and 6, that I had in mind for the meeting of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research. I miscalculated and thought that December 4 would be on Saturday.

The proposed date appears to be satisfactory to Leland, and to Binkley, the Secretary of the Committee, and I am planning to notify the other members in the near future of the meeting on that date.

We shall be very glad to take advantage of your kind offer to make suitable arrangements for a meeting place in New York in case your own room should not be available.

I am glad to have the information concerning the appointment of Mr. Coleman as a member of the Committee, and I shall get in touch with him soon.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B/H

Copy ^{to} ~~for~~ Mr. Binkley.

November 12, 1931.

Dr. Waldo G. Leland,
907 Fifteenth St.,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

In writing you with reference to the proposed date for the meeting of the Joint Committee I miscalculated the days on my calendar. Instead of December 4, which is Friday, I should have said December 5, which is Saturday, it being my idea that we could continue in session on Sunday if necessary.

Dr. Woodworth informs me that there is a tentative appointment for a conference in their room on those dates, but that if the room should not be available they would make suitable arrangements for us at the Columbia University Faculty Club, or elsewhere. The proposed date is satisfactory to Binkley, and unless I hear some objection to it very soon I shall consider it as definitely settled, and get out notices accordingly.

I was much interested in the news concerning Professor Hardeck. Even if he should attend the meeting, however, I very much hope that you will be there. My observation in past meetings has been that you have regularly been the most effective member of the Committee.

With reference to the reports of the discussion at the meeting of the Mediaeval Academy on materials for research - I would suggest that copies be sent now to each member of the Joint Committee, unless that has already been done, and that the matter of the disposition of the remaining copies be considered at the meeting of the Committee.

You have available, of course, the names and addresses of all members of the Committee except the successor to Dr. Wissler. Dr. Woodworth informs me that Mr. Laurence V. Coleman of the American Association of Museums, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., has been appointed to fill this vacancy and has accepted. I had supposed that you would be consulted about the appointment before it was made, but apparently that was overlooked.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:II

*Is an letter from
Leland see "Survey" file*

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOV 13 1931

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

November 12, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

I assumed that Leland had written to you as to the Brazilian manuscripts. It may be that in cases like that, he intended to have me circularize the whole committee. We can reach an agreement on matters of that kind at our next meeting.

procedural
A project which deserves our attention at the next meeting has come up here in Cleveland. I got the Cleveland Public Library interested in the problem of business history. They want some guidance in it. I wish there were a manual of some kind which could be given to them. This would be another item for our series of manuals that we are discussing. One or two other items of information that I have picked up, - mostly in the field of small scale publication. A negro Mason tells of an eighteenth century letter book by the founder of negro masonry in this country. A member of the Public Library staff has compiled a bibliography of translations of Polish literature. The dean of the Law School here tells us that the reprints of rare volumes of statutes or court reports are being sold at absurdly high prices.

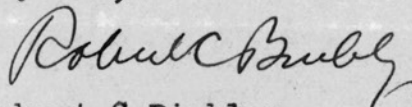
The idea that is developing in my mind in consequence of this survey and which I referred to in that letter to Leland runs something like this. Any group of ~~one to three~~ ^{one to three} hundred in any field who are willing to organize themselves and are able to purchase photo-offset typescript material at normal book prices can gain complete control of publication in their field and eliminate commercial restrictions. The interests which ought to be brought together to create groups of this kind are of course the libraries, but in connection with them the academic groups which are interested in securing an easy publishing avenue. In every set-up there will be three interests to be considered: that of the research scholar in securing publication, of the library in building up its collection within the given field, and of the body of scholars in that field in seeing to it that they are protected from trash.

The organizing of these groups would in each case involve the fixing of responsibility for passing upon the merits of a work, the absolute assurance that the work thus passed upon would be purchased, and an arrangement for the easy distribution of the product and collection of money. The editorial responsibility

Professor Solon J. Buck (cont.)

(I mean by that such matters as the correctness of footnotes, uniformities of spelling and all that business) would be up to the author. Every author or every editor or discoverer of new manuscripts would be assured of an opportunity to reach all of his colleagues who are interested in his line. Where there is already a publishing fund being administered (as in the case of the Medieval Academy) this kind of service could be added to that which it is already doing. Where no such organization exists (as in the Law School) it could be created.

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

P.S. As to the meeting, December 4th falls on a Friday; I presume the meeting will be on December 5th, *but the 4th is all right too*

I have not sent a copy of the partial report to Leland. Would you mind sending on the pages I sent you? I want to get the whole thing finished and in both of your hands as soon as possible.

R.C.B.

November 14, 1931.

Dr. John D. Hicks,
183 Widener Library,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Hicks:

Your letter of November 10 has just come in, and I am planning to write you more fully after I have had time to study the subject. My curiosity is aroused, however, as to what Committee, or Agency, is responsible for this investigation. You speak of "a sub-committee on research planning", but do not say what it is a sub-committee of. Is it a Harvard project, or one of the AHA; or an activity of one of the Councils?

The Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the two Councils, of which I am chairman, will have two reports available in a few weeks which should be of value in your investigation. One of them is a general survey of agencies and their activities with reference to materials for research in the social sciences and the humanities in the United States compiled by Holbrook under my direction, and the other is a report on methods of reproducing materials for research and making them available to the scholar, which has been prepared by R. C. Binkley, of Western Reserve, who is the secretary of our Committee.

I am extremely busy just now re-organizing and getting things started here, and I have a lot to do in connection with a meeting of the Joint Committee which will probably take place in New York on December 5, but I am very much interested in your problem and shall look up some material that I have bearing on it and write you more fully as soon as possible.

I trust that you are enjoying your year in the effete east. We are gradually getting acclimated in Pittsburgh.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

November 14, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

It seems to be advisable to have a meeting of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research in the near future, and I have tentatively selected Saturday, December 5, as the date, with the thought that if necessary we could continue on Sunday. The meeting will be held in New York city, and you will be notified later as to the exact place and time. I hope that it will be possible for you to be present on that date.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

November 18, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

Your two letters of November 12 were duly received.

I understand that Gras is bringing out some kind of a guide, or bibliography, in the field of business history. Possibly this will meet the need of the Cleveland Public Library.

Your idea about organizing groups for the purchase of reproduced material seems to me to be an excellent one, and I trust that you will be prepared to present it to the Committee with definite suggestions as to just what the Committee might do to advance it.

We have started the work of making a new copy of the Survey for reproduction by offset process. The plan is at present that this copy when completed will be sent to Leland and reproduced by the planograph under his direction. It will be possible, however, I suppose, to change this plan if any good reason for doing so appears before the work of copying is completed.

The samples, which you tell me that Edwards Brothers are sending, have not been received as yet, but I shall be very glad to look them over when they come.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

NOV 30 1931

ESTABLISHED 1893

EDWARDS BROTHERS

INCORPORATED

LITHOPRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS

ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN

November 19, 1931

Dear Professor:

Lithoprinting is less expensive than mimeographing despite its superiority in accuracy and readability. This is a startling statement but let me prove it to you.

The key to the whole solution is the amount of reading material a Lithoprinted page contains as compared with a mimeographed page:

A manuscript of 50,000 words requires 100 pages of mimeographing as compared with 60 pages of Lithoprinting; the cost of 200 copies of this material may be as much as 25 per cent less for Lithoprinting.

Sheet "A" is the typewritten master copy of which "B" is a Photo-Lithoprinted reproduction. You will note that these pages contain approximately 840 words whereas an average mimeographed page contains but 500 words.

Please notice the clarity of type in the accompanying Photo-Lithoprinted pages of History. This type of work is most useful in textbooks and manuals, and its appearance and accuracy far surpasses that which is procured through the mimeograph process.

May we quote you on the next edition of your class material?

Yours very truly,

J W Edwards

EDWARDS BROTHERS, Inc.

JWE:ES

4. The first national government evolved: the Articles of Confederation
 - (1) the war government: powers assumed by the Continental Congress
 - (2) the Articles of Confederation
 - delay in adoption by Congress
 - precedents: colonial governments, state constitutions, theories of government, practices of Congress
 - provisions: powers delegated to Congress; absence of executive
 - (3) the delay in ratification

5. Financing the war

- (1) borrowings
 - in America: by states, by Congress
 - abroad: French government; bankers, Dutch and French
 - extent and importance of loans
- (2) taxation: limited amount, states only
- (3) paper money: effects
- (4) relation of financial problem of government to revolutionary doctrines

6. Effect of the war on prosperity

- (1) increase of internal trade: high prices
- (2) prosperity of farmers: sales to both American and British armies
- (3) special effect of British occupation on the occupied areas
- (4) foreign trade diverted
 - British isles closed, French isles open to American ships
 - privateering
- (5) general spirit of speculation

7. Interstate conflicts: the western lands

- (1) pre-war interstate conflicts settled by Congress; conflicts unsettled
- (2) new conflicts over the West
 - the conflicting claims
 - Maryland's demand for cession to Congress
 - Cessions by New York and Virginia
- (3) significance of land cessions
 - sentiment of nationality enhanced
 - power of Congress increased

8. Settling the West

- (1) Westward movement in war-time
 - new settlements: Nashboro
 - increase of population on frontier
- (2) independent frontier republics
 - Westsylvania, 1776: yields to Virginia and Pennsylvania

- Watauga, becomes Washington County, North Carolina
- Vermont, maintains independence

9. Religious movements hastened by independence

- (1) denominations separating from mother churches in England
 - Episcopalians
 - Methodists
 - Catholics
- (2) weakening of state church systems: progress of religious freedom
- (3) progress of Deism and atheism

9. Compare the problem faced by the Loyalists, 1775-1776, with that of Gen. Robert E. Lee in 1861

10. Compare the experiences of the Loyalists in the Revolutionary War with those of the "Copperheads" in the Civil War; with those of the pro-Germans in 1917-1918.

11. Were the Loyalists who left the United States voluntary ex-patriates or involuntary exiles? Did the United States in the Revolution commit a blunder comparable to the Spanish exiling of Jews and Moors in the 16th and 17th centuries, and the French driving out the Huguenots in the 18th?

12. What were the powers of the Continental Congress during the war? Was it created by the state governments, or did it create them?

* * * * *

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* * * * *

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

Nov. 19, 1931

NOV 20 1931

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dear Buck:

The only point in using the scheme I suggested for reproducing the report was to save the extra typing charge. It could be done that way just as well on the Planograph as by Edwards. You put four pages in one, thus getting two column legibility on an 8 1/2 by 11 page. This is my own invention; the offset printers seem to prefer to have the manuscript retyped, but I don't think they get much more legibility that way.

If the retyping is already on foot, there is no point in considering my suggestion.

Sincerely,

Robert C Binkley
Robert C. Binkley

P.S. - They should have killed the special page headings leaving the columns continuous.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (2)

of publishing manuscript materials for history. At the outset attention was about equally divided between the two tasks, the results of each occupying considerable space in the annual reports of the association, but for many years the commission confined its attention largely to publication, as witness the extensive bodies of correspondence, diaries, and papers of public men, such as Calhoun, Chase, Bayard, and Austin, that have appeared and are still appearing in the reports of the association. Latterly, in part because of an accumulation of such material ready and waiting for publication, the commission has turned again to its other task. In a recent report to the association it submitted a project for inventorying manuscript materials for American history in public depositories, other than archives, and in private hands in the United States. This project was subsequently called to the attention of the American Council of Learned Societies, and is now being promoted under the auspices of the latter in combination with a similar project advanced by the American Literature Group of the Modern Language Association, as related in the accompanying statements of the activities of these bodies.

A sub-committee of the Historical Manuscripts Commission, on manuscripts from Europe, is coöperating with the Institute of Historical Research of London and other British agencies in a move to provide a clearing house of information on the migration of historical manuscripts, the location of

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (3)

paleographical facsimiles, and related matters, and has several times, perhaps experimentally, noted current American acquisitions of foreign manuscripts in the annual reports of the association.

The Committee on Bibliography has brought forth a small check list of collections relating to European history in American libraries, and a guide to historical literature, or a broad compendium of information on the most important works of historical scholars (1931).

The Committee on British Bibliography has in preparation in coöperation with a British committee, a bibliography of modern British history, the American part of which deals with the late Tudor and early Stuart periods.

A special committee is at work on the preparation, for publication, of a bibliography of American travel and description, 1600-1900, with prospects of completion in the near future.

The Conference of Historical Societies, a body closely affiliated with the association, occasionally engages in enterprises of a more or less bibliographical nature, as in its publication of a handbook of American historical societies which in a measure serves as a guide to collections, and in its compilation, in part, of a calendar of material in French archives relating to the Mississippi Valley, a work since completed and published by the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (4)

The current literature in its field is covered quarterly in the association's American Historical Review, and annually, though several years behind in publication; in the Writings in American History, which are compiled with the assistance of the association and published in volumes supplemental to its annual reports. It is at present conducting a survey as to what other bibliographical projects are particularly needed and it will shortly embark on other enterprises as the result of this survey.

The association publishes much important source material in the Review, and in its annual reports, as indicated in the foregoing account of the work of the Historical Manuscripts Commission. The latter, it may be noted further, has considered the printing, upon resumption of its publication activities, of the papers of General Nathanael Greene, of the Southern Confederacy, and of Henry Callister. Among other long-standing activities of the association in this field may be noted also its promotion, through its Committee on the Documentary Publications of the U. S. Government, of source publication projects such as those now under way or contemplated by the Department of State and the Washington Bicentennial Commission.

A noteworthy extension of the association's activities in this direction follows upon its recent acquisition of two special funds, the Griswold Fund of \$25,000, which is to be devoted to the preparation of materials illustrative of the legal history of the United States in the colonial period, and

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION (5)

the Beveridge Fund, which is expected eventually to reach \$100,000 and is to be devoted to the preparation of one or more volumes of materials illustrative of the state of public opinion in the United States before the Civil War. The first project undertaken under the latter fund, a collection of "Southern Editorials on Secession, 1860-61," is in an advanced stage of preparation, and the committee in charge announces that it will give consideration to other worth while projects for the collecting and editing of source material in the field now somewhat more generally defined as that of neglected phases of American history, especially the field of sectional relations and the slavery controversy.

The association is a constituent member of the American Council of Learned Societies and of the Social Science Research Council, and is represented on the International Committee of Historical Sciences, which meets annually, thus far in some European cultural center. The association aims at a million dollar endowment fund, of which somewhat over a quarter has been subscribed, and at the establishment of a permanent secretariat.

NOV 23 1931

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1727
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 1780
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, 1812
AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, 1842
AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1869
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, 1879
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS, 1880
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884

AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION, 1900
AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1902
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, 1904
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1904
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1905
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1924
MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925

20th November 1931.

Dear Buck:

I am returning the first 39 pages of Binkley's report, which is very informing and well organized. Graves and I have both read it with much interest.

Very sincerely yours,



Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
4338 Bigelow Blvd.,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Encl.

28 November, 1931

Dear Leland:

I enclose a carbon copy of my survey, which includes recommendations as part V. I wonder whether you will have time to consider it from the standpoint of foreign relations. The project for the organization of purchasing power in connection with selection and production of research publications is presented in my report as if America were an isolated domain in scholarship. Perhaps the Europeans don't want to have us force the things that interest us down their throats. Perhaps a separate venture, with a distinct ~~system~~ financial set-up, could be formed to take care of foreign demand, as well as demand from stray purchasers who are not in the controlling organization.

I enclose carbon copies of my letters to Buck and Lydenberg.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Binkley

Dr. Waldo G. Leland
American Council of Learned Societies
907 15th St. Washington, D. C.

28 November, 1931

Dear Lydenberg:

I enclose a carbon copy of my survey, which includes recommendations as part V. I wonder if you could find time to consider it from the standpoint of library practice.

The two things that it is especially important to get your views upon are the matters of film slide photography and the correlation of purchasing power with production. I have asked Leland to consider the foreign relations angle. If you could consider the ~~as~~ library point of view, we ought to be able to get some constructive thinking done.

It will be a great pleasure to see you again,

Sincerely,

Mr. H. M. Lydenberg
New York Public Library
New York City

Robert C. Binkley

*Lydenberg's copy
can't go off for
a few days RCB*

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

NOV 30 1931

7

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FLORA STONE MATHER COLLEGE

28 November, 1931

Dear Buck:

I enclose complete carbon copy of my survey, which includes recommendations as part V. I am sending a copy to Leland and to Lydenberg, asking Leland to study the foreign relations angle, and Lydenberg the library angle, especially in respect of the project of coordinating production and purchasing.

I have a suggestion as to the publishing of your report. Could it not include as a foreword an account of the general problem of the Joint Committee -- something similar to the first two paragraphs of our Circular No. I. I sent mine off last night without such a foreword, and immediately regretted it. I think one of our greatest problems will be to bring a wide circle of scholars to enter into our point of view, and a kind of standardized foreword to our surveys would help.

I hope you will put the matter of secretarial expenses for me upon the agenda. I have been using the university's time all fall. I told them that the situation would be regularized after our meeting. I think we had to act as we did last year, and go ahead spending the money without a vote of the committee, but it would be better this year to allot a definite sum. The question of what ~~ixshoulkxcircula~~ kinds of communications I should circulate among the members should also come up.

You will note that the recommendations include a definite step to be taken with your Survey -- it should be analyzed into lists under head of various fields. The grouping must be worked out inductively, because no one knows at present exactly what a "field" is so far as acquisition policies are concerned. Perhaps each list in a field could then be submitted for additions to persons who would be able to fill in lacunae. An acquisition problem will usually be best approached with a list of interested parties in hand.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Binkley
Robert C. Binkley

Professor Solon J. Buck
Historical Survey of Western Pennsylvania
Pittsburg, Pa.

November 30, 1931.

Professor Robert C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

Your letter of November 28 with your report has just come in, and I shall look over the report at the first opportunity.

Your suggestion for the inclusion of some account of the Joint Committee and its work as a foreword to the Survey seems to me excellent. I had been thinking a little along that line but had not quite made up my mind. I now think that I will do it.

I quite agree with you that we should have a definite understanding with reference to secretarial and other expenses for next year, and shall bring the matter before the Committee. The meeting is now definitely fixed for Saturday, December 5, at 9:30 A. M. in the office of the Social Science Research Council, 230 Park Avenue, New York City.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

DEC 3 1931

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1727
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 1780
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, 1812
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AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1869
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, 1879
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS, 1880
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

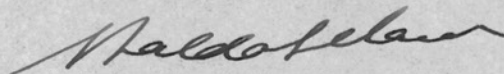
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION, 1900
AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1902
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, 1904
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1904
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1905
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1924
MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925

2d December 1931.

Dear Buck:

I have received Binkley's report and ran over it last night, but not as carefully as I should wish, because the typing was very faint and my eyes were tired. However, I have read with considerable care the part that he especially wished me to, and shall be prepared to discuss it. He has included an astonishing amount of information and suggestion in the report, which is one of the most valuable things that I have seen for a long time.

Very sincerely yours,


Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 2, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland, Permanent Secretary,
American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth Street, Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:-

I am gradually coming to the conclusion that I had better resign as chairman of the Joint Committee. It is clear that I will not be able to devote much time and energy to the work of the committee during the next two years. If I continue as chairman, some arrangement will have to be made whereby Binkley and other members of the committee do the work, and I am inclined to think that it would be best for me to step down and have Binkley, perhaps, appointed chairman. It is quite evident that he has more time and energy to devote to the work than any of the rest of us. I should be glad to remain a member of the committee if desired.

I am not sure that this letter will reach you before you leave Washington but if it does, you will know something of my state of mind in advance of the meeting.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

12/3/31 Copy sent to Dr. Leland c/o Harvard Club, N.Y.C.

DEC 5 1931

AMERICAN · HISTORICAL · ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED · 1884 · INCORPORATED · BY · THE · CONGRESS · 1889

GENERAL · OFFICES · 40 · B · STREET · S · W · WASHINGTON · D · C

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CHARLES · A · BEARD · SECOND · VICE · PRESIDENT

DEXTER · PERKINS · SECRETARY

CONSTANTINE · E · MCGUIRE · TREASURER

PATTY · W · WASHINGTON · ASSISTANT

SECRETARY · TREASURER

LOWELL · J · RAGATZ · EDITOR

December 3, 1931

Professor S. J. Buck
Historical Building
Pittsburg, Pennsylvania..

Dear Steve:-

I hope that the impressiveness of the program will continue when it is actually pulled off. Right now I am beginning to get some of the comments on it, complimentary and other wise - however, that is a part of the job.

As to the Round Table, I do not think you need to be alarmed. It was Leland's suggestion that we have a leader and judging from the correspondence I have had with him the idea was that a group interested in this subject would gather in a small room and talk things over. You, as leader, would likely be the one to start off the discussion and prod it along from time to time. So far as I know there is no intention of having a series of papers or in any other way making a very formal occasion of it. It is to be presumed that there will be a few people who will have sufficient interest in that subject and willing to sit down and talk matters over. Leland probably thinks that the results of the discussion will be sufficiently important to be taken down because he wanted to know if there was money for a stenographer. I told him that the program committee had

AMERICAN · HISTORICAL · ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED · 1884 · INCORPORATED · BY · THE · CONGRESS · 1889

GENERAL · OFFICES · 40 · B · STREET · S · W · WASHINGTON · D · C

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LOWELL · J · RAGATZ · EDITOR

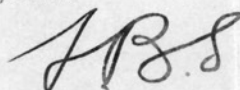
-2-

no money and that I doubted if the Committee on Local Arrangements could do any better.

I am glad that you are planning to spend another day or so up here and I hope that we will have an opportunity to see you, at least occasionally, if not frequently.

Best regards to Bess and the family.

Sincerely yours



LBS:E

JOINT COMMITTEE ON MATERIALS FOR RESEARCH

AGENDA - Dec. 5, 1931

- 1 - Report to S. S. R. C.
- 2 - Circular No. 1
- 3 - Status of survey of activities
- 4 - Authorization for publication of reports
- 5 - Publication of legal history material
- 6 - Calendar of American Home Missionary papers
- 7 - Additional support to Virginia collection project
- 8 - Proposed handbook of state government organization
- 9 - Depository library legislation
- 10 - Preservation of Census material
- 11 - Proposed conference on collection of foreign documents (library co-operation)
- 12 - Report on reproduction of material
- 13 - ~~Survey of activities~~
- 14 - List of bibliographies
- 15 - Union list of newspaper files - *summary of situation*
- 16 - Subject-index to the publications of learned societies
- ✓ 17 - Collection of material on land tenure
- 18 - Bibliography of British West Indies
- 19 - Collection of material on Mexican Revolution
- 20 - Revision of Larned, Literature of American History
- X 21 - Status of manuscript inventory project
- 22 - Clearing house of information on reproductions
- 23 - Distribution of census schedules *summary of original census materials*
- 24 - Handbooks of collection of minor materials
- 25 - Proposed survey of archives situation
- 26 - Preservation of material:
 - A - Preservative for old paper
 - B - Paper standards
 - C - Preservation of motion picture films
- 27 - Distribution of material on historic sites
- 28 - Categories of material
- X 29 - Proposed inventory of Brazilian manuscripts
- X 30 - Proposed bibliography of maps
- 31 - Destruction of materials
- 32 - Regional activities
- 33 - Finances of committee
- 34 - Reorganization of committee
- 35 - Budget and plans

Revised to S. S. R. C.

*[This is reproduced in the Minutes,
for which see Minutes and Reports
file.]*

December 7, 1931

Professor Lester B. Shippoe,
History Department, University of Minnesota,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Dear Lester:-

I am glad to know the situation with reference to the proposed Round Table on materials for research. This thing had its origin with the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the two councils. At our first meeting we decided that a study ought to be made to ascertain the categories of materials used in the different social sciences and humanities and, particularly, to call attention to types that are not generally recognized as such or used as much as they ought to be. Gras was appointed chairman of a sub-committee to do some preliminary work on this matter, and by means of a questionnaire he collected some information and opinions which he embodied in a preliminary report.

At the second meeting of the Joint Committee in September 1930, it was decided to ask the various constituent societies of the councils to hold discussions of the subject from their point of view at one of their annual meetings. In order to get this started the matter was presented by Gras to the conference of secretaries of constituent societies of the A C L S and that conference adopted a resolution asking the societies to arrange for such discussions. The secretaries, however, in drafting their resolution, missed the essential point, - that the discussion should be confined to a consideration of categories, and the resolution seems to open the door to discussions of anything relating to materials for research.

At the meeting of the Joint Committee in New York Saturday, Gras reported that the Mediaeval Academy had already held its discussion and that such discussions had been arranged for the historical, economic and sociological societies. In most cases, apparently, people have been or are being asked to take part in the discussions from different points of view and provision is made for a stenographic report.

I think that, if our Round Table is to amount to anything, arrangements will have to be made in advance for several people to take part in the discussion. I am writing to Gras about this and, after hearing from him, I shall probably try to round up a few discussers. I think that I shall also arrange for someone to make a stenographic record of the discussion at the expense of the Joint Committee.

My trip to New York for the meeting Saturday was a very rapid one. I was gone from Pittsburgh not over thirty-two hours, consequently did not have time to take in a show in New York.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

SJB:AM

DEC 8 1931

CABLE ADDRESS: ACOLS

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIESEXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION, 1900
AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1902
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, 1904
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1904
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1905
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1924
MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1727
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 1780
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, 1812
AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, 1842
AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1869
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, 1879
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS, 1880
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884

7th December 1931.

Dear Buck:

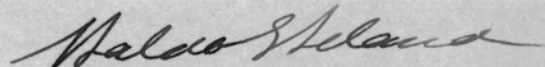
* I thought we had a very good meeting, even though we had to leave a good many matters to be dealt with later.

If you feel that it is quite impossible for you to continue as Chairman, I am inclined to think that the best arrangement is to have Binkley take your place, and to provide him with sufficient clerical assistance so that he can devote a good deal of time and attention to the duties of the job.

I should hope that you would continue to be a member of the Committee, for your experience and advice would be enormously useful.

If Binkley had sufficient clerical assistance there would be no need of appointing any member of the Committee as secretary. I suggest, therefore, that you correspond with Woodworth about this, unless you prefer to have me do so.

Very sincerely yours,

Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

[For minutes of meeting of 12-5-31,
see Minutes and Reports file]

December 9, 1931.

Professor N. S. B. Gras,
Harvard University,
School of Business Administration,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Gras:

I am somewhat disturbed to discover that the responsibility for the Round Table on "Categories of Material for Historical Research" at the AHA meeting seems to rest on me. Shippee, as Chairman of the program committee, wrote me recently and asked if I would preside. At least that is my recollection of it. I agreed to do so, but have been put down instead as Leader of the discussion, and I find that no one else has been asked to take part in it. I am inclined to think that the affair will be a fizzle unless arrangements are made in advance for a number of people to participate in the discussion. I should like to have your opinion on this point, and if you think advance arrangements advisable I would welcome suggestions as to people who might be asked to participate from different points of view. I assume that you do not expect to be in Minneapolis.

I have tendered my resignation as Chairman of the Joint Committee and have recommended that Binkley be designated as Chairman. I am finding it necessary to reduce the number of activities in which I am engaged. I have indicated, however, a willingness to remain a member of the Committee if desired.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

December 9, 1931.

Dr. Robert S. Woodworth, President,
Social Science Research Council,
230 Park Avenue, New York City.

Dear Dr. Woodworth:

The Joint Committee on Materials for Research had a good meeting last Saturday and made considerable progress with its work. You will receive a copy of the minutes and reports of special recommendations from the secretary, Mr. Binkley. The Committee felt that it would probably be necessary to hold another meeting in the spring, and it is the expectation that this meeting will be in Washington.

In view of the pressure of the work involved in reorganizing historical activities and setting up a research project here, I feel that it will not be feasible for me to continue to act as Chairman of the Committee, and I hereby present my resignation. I am very greatly interested in the work, and believe that it is distinctly worth while, but I have not enough time available to do a good job and am not willing to do it badly. I should be glad, however, if desired, to remain a member of the Committee.

I would suggest that Mr. R. C. Binkley, of Western Reserve University, who has been serving as secretary of the Committee, is fully conversant with its activities, and has shown exceptional ability for work of this sort, be made the Chairman of the Committee. If he is given adequate clerical assistance, which the Committee favors, I think it will be unnecessary to designate a secretary.

I should be glad to be relieved of the Chairmanship as soon as it can be arranged.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

December 9, 1931.

Dr. Waldo G. Leland, Permanent Secretary,
American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth Street, Washington, D. C.

Dear Leland:

I have definitely decided to tender my resignation as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research, and have written Dr. Woodworth to that effect. I have, also, suggested to him that Binkley be made the Chairman of the Committee. I should be glad, as I have indicated, to remain a member of the Committee if desired, and to continue to do all that I can to help along its work.

I spent Saturday evening with Binkley but did not intimate to him that he might be appointed Chairman. He is contemplating taking a year off from Western Reserve ~~for~~ work with Shotwell, and I do not know how that might affect our plans. If he accepts the Chairmanship I agree with you that it would probably be best to dispense with a separate Secretary. It would be advisable, however, for him to farm out as many items as possible to other members of the Committee and to outsiders. Thus when a project comes in and needs investigation, or following up, he could assign it to some other member of the Committee instead of handling it himself as has been my practice.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

December 14, 1931.

Professor Evarts B. Greene, Chairman,
American Historical Association,
608 Fayerweather Hall, Columbia University,
New York City.

Dear Greene:

After the meeting of our Joint Committee on December 5, I turned all the papers over to R. C. Binkley of Western Reserve, our secretary, as I am resigning from the Chairmanship on account of the pressure of other work. Doubtless you will receive complete information as to the action of the Committee on the Legal History project from Binkley in a few days. ~~We~~ cannot give you the exact phraseology of the resolution adopted as I have not received the minutes yet, but the gist of it is that the Committee recommended that the Council make a small grant, I think it was \$300, to enable your group to make an advance canvas for subscriptions, and that further subvention for publication be dependent upon obtaining a considerable portion of the publication cost through advance subscription.

I infer from your letter that you are probably not going to Minneapolis. If this is so I am very sorry as I had hoped to have a talk with you there.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

B:H

December 15, 1931.

Professor John D. Hicks,
History Department, Harvard University,
Boston, Mass.

Dear Hicks:

* Since writing you before I have been through carefully several times your "Report of the American History Conference on Research", and I find it very interesting and suggestive. I wonder if you had access to the replies to the questionnaire sent out by Dexter Perkins last February. On a chance that you did not, I am sending you herewith a copy of my reply with the accompanying letter^s. As this is the only copy I have I will appreciate it if you will return it to me for my files. ✓

And now I will give you such comments as occur to me on the report.

I. a. b. - Your emphasis on "cultural contributions of immigrant groups" appeals to me very strongly. I feel that in particular the contribution of the South European element has been neglected, and I hope to make a study along these lines one of the features of our survey. As for neglected areas in American history, it seems to me that regional history in general is neglected, and that the history of the Appalachian plateau has been much more neglected than that of the south.

V. c. - The Alvord Commission is not undertaking a survey of sources, but merely the publication of selected documentary material. A survey of nonarchival manuscript material for American history and literature has been planned, however, has been approved by our Joint Committee and by the two Councils, which have undertaken to raise the money for it. This has a bearing also on number three of your recommendations.

Binkley's report on Methods of Reproducing Research Materials is now out, and I am asking him to send a copy to you. Holbrook's Survey of Agencies and Their Activities will probably not be out until early in January. I shall see to it that you receive a copy.

I hope that you are planning to attend the meeting

* See Minutes & Reports file

- 2 -

in Minneapolis as I would like to talk over some of these matters with you. I am resigning the Chairmanship of the Joint Committee, but my interest in these matters will still be strong.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H
Enc.

December 15, 1931.

Professor R. C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

If you have not already done so, I wish you would send a copy of your report to Professor John D. Hicks, History Department, Harvard University. Don't forget that you are to send me another copy. I wonder if you have seen the "Report of the American History Conference on Research Planning Held at the University of Chicago, November 7, 8, 1931". Hicks, who was Chairman of this Conference, has sent me a copy of the report and it is a very interesting document, a considerable part of it being devoted to materials for research. If you do not have, and cannot get a copy of it from him, let me know and I will lend you the copy that I have.

I suppose you received one of Dexter Perkins' Questionnaires sent out last February to members of departments of history inquiring about research projects, materials, tools, etc. I understand that the Questionnaire and the group conferences that have been, or are being, held are parts of the activity of the AHA in surveying the research situation in history under a grant from the SSRC. It seems to me that the replies to the Questionnaire, or such of them as contain valuable suggestions with reference to materials, tools, etc. ought to be looked over by someone on behalf of the Joint Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

GEORGE F. BAKER FOUNDATION

DEC 18 1931

SOLDIERS FIELD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

December 16, 1931

Mr. Solon J. Buck
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey
Historical Building
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Buck:

I am not surprised that you want to be rid of the burden of guiding the Joint Committee on Materials for Research. The amount of work that that Committee might do is colossal. At the same time the proportion of its work which might some day be translated into actuality is probably small. I agree with you that Binkley's interest in the subject would probably justify his appointment as chairman.

As to the persons who might discuss the subject which you have at hand, I suggest Perkins of North Dakota, Shippee, Schaffer, and Ford. These all have somewhat different backgrounds and could very ably participate in the discussion.

Sincerely yours,

N. S. B. Gras

N. S. B. Gras
Professor of Business History

NSBG/EBN

*Examined
categories
holder*

[Signature]

coll. book.

Copy for Mr. Bink

16 December, 1931

Mr. James Thayer Gerould
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Mr. Gerould:

I enclose a carbon copy of my letter to President Woodworth of the Social Science Research Council.

As I let my mind play over the problem I can see as the concrete result of cooperative planning principally new lists - selections from the great number of titles in the check list - with each selection of titles constituting a useful and consistent body of research materials. For instance, there would be the kind of material for financial studies, for legal studies, for studies of political history, or for research in agriculture and food supply. The Michigan Law School would want legal materials, Princeton financial, the Food Research Institute at Stanford agricultural, and so forth. Political history can be divided either by country or by period. The classifying of material in what we might call "acquisition lists" could furnish a basis for exchange among institutions, to the end that all collections would be rationalized.

The work at the Bureau of Standards on paper deterioration introduced a factor which we may have to consider, namely the condition of the air in the place chosen as a depository for a category of documents. Paper deterioration in air like that of New York City, which abounds in chemical impurities, is very rapid.

I am sending you two copies of our Survey of Methods of Reproducing Research Materials. If you have time to go over it and let me have your criticisms I should appreciate your help very much. This is a very small edition, which we wish to have thoroughly criticised and amended before we bring out a larger one. I feel all the more free to trouble you with this because I think that some of the conclusions may affect policies in acquiring serial government documents.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y Joint Committee on Materials for
Research.

Ball, book

Copy for Mr. Binkley

DEC 1 1931

16 December, 1931

Professor Robert S. Woodworth, President
Social Science Research Council
New York City

Dear Professor Woodworth:

The Joint Committee on Materials for Research, at its meeting on December 5th, took the following action in connection with a problem laid before it by Mr. Gerould of Princeton:

"The Joint Committee recommends to the Social Science Research Council that it appropriate three hundred dollars to be used in organizing a small Conference to outline a program for library cooperation in the acquisition of serial publications of foreign governments."

May I add a word of explanation showing the relation of this problem to the total field. The rational distribution of research materials, and effective allocation of responsibility for gathering them, require library cooperation, specialization and division of field. This is a general problem, to be approached through particular cases. Now the particular case which arises is brought up by Mr. Gerould, because he fears that the result of the completion of the check list of serial government documents will be a competition among buyers which will unduly raise prices. Discussion in the Joint Committee indicated that many difficulties will be encountered in dividing the field among libraries and making sure that the libraries which accept responsibilities actually carry them out. There is the further prospect that some of the new methods of reproducing research materials will find a place in the picture. Altogether, it appeared that the problem was sufficiently difficult and at the same time sufficiently definite, so that its solution would make the solution of other problems of similar character much easier.

Would you wish to have more information about this proposal laid before you?

Very sincerely yours,

Professor Robert S. Woodworth,
President
Social Science Research Council
New York City

Robert C. Binkley, Sec'y.
Joint Committee on Materials for
Research

Copy to Buck

DEC 18 1931

16 December, 1931

Mr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Putnam:

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of a Survey of Methods of Reproducing Research Materials, prepared for the Joint Committee on Materials for Research of the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies.

One of the methods surveyed in this book is the film slide method. On page 102 and 107, also 121 there is reference to the strange result of a comparison of the Leica with the Lemare equipment. Tests made by myself and Dr. Martin seem to indicate a difference in resolving power so great that the advantage of the larger size of film used in the Lemare equipment is lost. This is a matter of great importance in deciding which equipment ought to be recommended to libraries for purchase.

I am writing to you to ask whether you think it would be well to have the Bureau of Standards check these results which Dr. Martin and I obtained, and whether you would care to ask them to do it. The members of the Joint Committee thought that the Bureau might be willing to make the test free of charge for the Library of Congress. But if it is necessary to make a small appropriation the Joint Committee can find the funds.

If, while you are glancing through the survey, any criticism occur to you, I would be very glad to have them for incorporation in the next printing.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert G. Binkley, Sec'y.
Joint Committee on Materials for Research.

Copy for Mr. Buck DEC 19 1931

December 17, 1931.

Professor Robert S. Woodworth,
President,
Social Science Research Council,
230 Park Ave.,
New York, New York.

Dear Professor Woodworth:

In your letter of May 18, 1931 you laid before the Joint Committee on Materials for Research a project presented by Dr. Everts B. Greene for a "Proposed Series of Texts Illustrating American Legal History".

At the meeting of the Joint Committee held on December 5, 1931 the following action was taken on this proposal:

1. In a general plan for the improvement of materials for research in American History, source materials for American Legal History should have an important place.
2. Attention is called to the need for including materials bearing on the substance as well as the form.
3. The Joint Committee recommends to the Social Science Research Council that a sum not to exceed three-hundred dollars be made available to the American Historical Association, Committee on Legal History, which is the committee in charge of the project for a series of texts illustrating American Legal History, -- this sum to be used for the purpose of conducting a preliminary canvas of the prospective market to secure advance subscriptions. It is understood that support for publication be contingent upon obtaining a substantial part of the costs of publication through advance subscriptions.

Discussion brought out the opinion that among the groups to be canvassed are the American Bar Association, the local Bar Associations of the localities concerned, the State and Law Libraries, the American Historical Association, and there was expressed the opinion that some of these associations might be induced to canvas their own members.

Professor Robert S. Woodworth (cont.)

It seemed to be the opinion of the Joint Committee that this was an exceptionally strong project which could be used to show the possibilities of this method of financing. A survey of the use of revolving funds just completed by the A.C.L.S. has shown the tendency of such funds to become frozen in unsold volumes. A survey of methods of reproducing research materials has shown the possibilities that are open for the reorganization of the scholarly market by the correlation of purchasing power and publishing. The Facsimile Text Society has been an experiment along this line; its experience has revealed the existence of certain pitfalls which should be avoided.

I have sent a copy of the minutes to Professor Greene.

Very sincerely yours,

A. C. B.

Secretary of Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RS/P

DEC 31 1931

AMERICAN · HISTORICAL · ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZED · 1884 · INCORPORATED · BY · THE · CONGRESS · 1889

GENERAL · OFFICES · 40 · B · STREET · S · W · WASHINGTON · D · C

COMMITTEE ON LEGAL HISTORY

CHARLES M. ANDREWS
CARROLL T. BOND

JOHN DICKINSON
FELIX FRANKFURTER

EVARTS B. GREENE, CHAIRMAN
602 FAYERWEATHER HALL, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

RICHARD B. MORRIS, SECRETARY
1795 RIVERSIDE DRIVE, NEW YORK CITY

December 18, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania
Bigelow Boulevard and Parkman Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Dear Buck:

I am obliged to you for the information contained in your letter of December 14th. I have not as yet heard from Binkley, but probably I shall before long. I am not quite sure whether the arrangement proposed is going to be practicable.

I am sorry not to have the chance of seeing you at Minneapolis, but under the present circumstances I do not think I can manage it.

With best wishes for the holiday season, I am

Sincerely yours,

E. B. Greene

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

DEC 31 1931

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1727
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 1780
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, 1812
AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, 1842
AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1869
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, 1879
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS, 1880
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

19th December 1931.

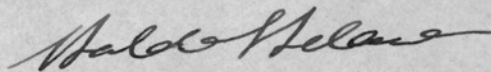
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885
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AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1902
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, 1904
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1904
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1905
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1924
MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925

Dear Buck:

I think I have not acknowledged your letter of December 9. I do so now, simply to say that I very much regret your decision not to continue as Chairman of the Joint Committee.

I have written to Dr. Woodworth, expressing the view that Binkley would make an admirable successor, and saying also that I hope you will remain a member of the Committee. I think that the Committee is getting into its stride now, thanks to your skillful management and also to Binkley's interest and enthusiasm.

Very sincerely yours,



Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 21, 1931.

Dr. Grace L. Nute,
Minnesota Historical Society,
St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dear Miss Nute:

I hope you will attend the round table on "Categories of Materials for Historical Research" in room "C" at the Nicollet hotel on Monday at 2:30, and will take part in the discussion. I am especially anxious to have information brought out about types of materials that are not ordinarily used, or thought of, in connection with historical research. For example, the land office papers, manuscript census schedules, etc.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck.

B:H

December 21, 1931.

Professor R. C. Binkley,
Western Reserve University,
Cleveland, Ohio.

Dear Binkley:

I have now received six copies of the minutes of our recent meeting, and carbons of numerous letters written by you, for all of which I thank you. Your expense account was also received and sent in some time ago, and I have received a bunch of vouchers from your University to cover the Joint Committee's share of your secretary's salary. I will take care of the one for December, and then turn the others over to my successor.

There are a couple of minor corrections that might be made in the minutes. On page three, item two, you state that the project "came before the Joint Committee as a result of the correspondence between Matthew Spinka ... and the chairman." The project was submitted to us by Leland on behalf of the ACLS, and was developed by correspondence between Spinka and me.

On page four, item number seven, I would suggest that the second paragraph be changed to read "It was voted that the committee recommend to the Council the appointment of a representative as requested." The point is that our action was in the nature of an advisory recommendation, rather than a request.

I have a suggestion for the revised edition of your "Methods of Reproducing Research Materials." It is that you include more definite suggestions with reference to the preparation of material for reproduction by the offset process, i.e., ~~the~~ ^{our} typewritten copy. Perhaps a reference to "Edwards' Standard Lithoprint Models," a copy of which I have just received, would serve the purpose. If I had had this, or had known about it, when I started work on the final copy of the Survey for reproduction, we could have done a better job and perhaps have saved some money. As our copy has been prepared I feel that it is necessary to have the pages of the book not less than 7 x 9 in order that the text may be easily legible. Edwards' Brothers have so far failed to bid on that size of reproduction, trying to persuade me instead to use the smaller size. I have a very good bid, however, from a Pittsburgh firm that does offset work.

I trust that you are going to Minneapolis, and

that you will attend the round table conference on Categories of Materials on Monday afternoon. I shall count on you to take part in the discussion. If you can round up anyone else for the discussion I shall appreciate it very much. I am making arrangements for a stenographer to take down the discussion at the expense of the Joint Committee.

Sincerely yours,

Solon J. Buck

B:H

Bull; Buck

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEC 28 1931

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dec. 23, 1931.

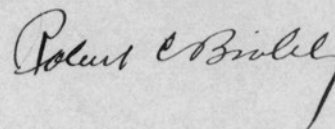
Professor Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

I think that Lydenberg's letter of December 14th proposing a procedure for gathering more information before calling the conference that Gerould wants ought to be taken very seriously.

Would you advise me to send a copy of the letter to Gerould (with Lydenberg's permission) and ask him what he would think of postponing the meeting which we have decided upon until after the information which Lydenberg suggests has been collected by Miss Gregory?

Sincerely yours,



Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEC 28 1931

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

December 22, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

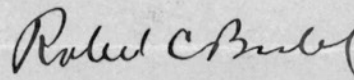
Dear Buck:

The enclosed copies indicate that the debris of our December 5th meeting has been cleared away.

And we are now in a position to consider problems of the next meeting. I wonder whether we couldn't begin to prepare for the next meeting in something of this fashion: -- that we take up separate items of the agenda between ourselves, decide upon the documentary material which each member of the Joint Committee should have in order that his thought may be most usefully contributed, and reproduce this material in carbon copies or by mimeograph. If by mimeograph, this material could become an annex to the Minutes, making our whole decision much clearer to those concerned; and then point by point as we accumulate prepared agenda items we can approach the decision of when to call a meeting.

Among the material which seems to be ripe for this treatment is the census material -- that is, especially correspondence with Stuart A. Rice (Item 10 on your agenda list). It isn't clear to me what Rice wants us to do, other than to pass a resolution similar to the one that he has passed. You have analyzed the census material. Is there something that we should circulate as a basis of discussion at the next meeting?

Very sincerely yours,



Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RB/P

December 22, 1931.

Professor Robert T. Crane,
Permanent Secretary,
Social Science Research Council,
230 Park Ave.,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Professor Crane:

The enclosed letter from the president of the A.L.A. to the secretary of the S.S.R.C. was discussed at the meeting of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research.

The Joint Committee voted, as the Minutes indicate, to request that the S.S.R.C. appoint a representative to the A.L.A. Committee on Depository Library Legislation.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RB/P

Enc.
Copy to
Mr. Buck

Professor Robert T. Crane,
Permanent Secretary,
Social Science Research Council,
330 Park Avenue,
New York, New York.

Dear Professor Crane:

The Joint Committee on Materials for Research
at its meeting on December 5th decided that the prepara-
tion of a handbook on State Governments did not fall
within its province.

I enclose the papers concerning this.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RB/P

Enc.

Copy to
Mr. Bubbk

December 22, 1931.

Professor Frank Luther Mott,
University of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa.

Dear Professor Mott:

The problem of a Union List of Newspapers, as suggested by your correspondence with the Chairman of the Joint Committee, was discussed at the meeting of the Joint Committee on December 5th.

The discussion brought out clearly the fact that the only obstacle to the preparation of this Union List is the lack of money. Mr. Lydenberg thought that twenty-five thousand dollars would be needed.

I enclose a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of December 5th.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RB/P

Copy for Mr.
Buck.

MSS inventory

Copy for Professor Buck

December 22, 1931.

Mr. Matthew Spinka,
Librarian,
The Chicago Theological Seminary,
5757 University Ave.,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Spinka:

I enclose a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research, in which the problem of the cataloging of the papers of the American Home Missionary Society was discussed.

A project has been organized to describe all manuscript sources available in the country on American history of literature, the description to be accomplished under the direction of the Library of Congress. The collection of the American Home Missionary Society will undoubtedly be included in this general description, which will make it known in its relation to the total equipment of the whole country among the historical scholars who can use it.

The preparation of a calendar is a different problem, as your correspondence with the Chairman has already proved. In the calendaring of the papers of the American Fur Company, an organization of the historical societies interested in possessing copies of the calendars accomplished the work. It is this method which the Joint Committee thought most fitting for the treatment of the American Home Missionary Society papers.

Very sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Sec'y of the Joint Committee
on Materials for Research

RB/P

Enc.

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

DEC 30 1931

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Newton Lower Falls,
Massachusetts

December 23, 1931

Dear Buck:

Your letter of the 18th reaches me in New England where I shall be until the night of the 26th. I think however that I can answer it, thanks to annotations that Mr. Graves has made on it as it passed through the office.

1 The circular is printed in BULLETIN 15, pp. 73-77.

2. I am sorry to say that we neglected to have offprints made, so there are none available. A supply could be had by planographing at a small cost.

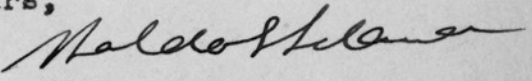
3. According to the Kirby prices, if planographed in Washington, 750 copies would cost \$2.50 per page, or \$445.50. (700 copies would probably be \$433.62). This price is for wired pamphlets. Mr. Graves thinks that the price if stitched would be about \$500. You probably have a somewhat better price from Connell, and I think that I should let them do the job. It is worth something to us to get a line on different companies in a new kind of work such as this.

4. It hardly seems worth while, to me, to have the plates held. In a very short time the survey will be out of date except as a list of agencies, and if it were to be reissued it should be revised first. I should rather order an oversupply now. I should think, however, that 800 would be ample, and I had rather supposed that 750 would suffice. It is cheaper, however, to be a little lavish at this point than to sail too close to the wind (how lavishness and sailing into the wind can offset each other in a figure of speech is a question into which I will not go just now).

This will hardly reach you in time to be of any use before you start for Minneapolis. I hope that the meetings will be most successful. The ACLS will be represented at your conference by Mr. John Marshall, our newly appointed editor.

This typing is personally mine, like the type writer. The Executive Offices should not be held responsible.

Most sincerely yours,


Waldo G. Leland

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Historical Building
Pittsburgh, Pa.

WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

DEC 28 1931

COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Dec. 23, 1931.

Professor Solon J. Buck,
Western Pennsylvania Historical Survey,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Buck:

Thank you for the corrections of the Minutes, which I am making on my master copy and will put on any Minutes circulated in the future.

I think your suggestion about definite advice on preparation of material for reproduction by the offset process is a good one. The reason for the difference of quotations on the 7 x 9 size as well as for the difference in format is this: The large Harris press prints a number of pages at a time and has an area which divides equally into a 7 x 9 size. The smaller size used by Edwards is a sheet 11 x 17, which does not economically divide into the 7 x 9 size. That is probably why Edwards was so reluctant to bid on the 7 x 9.

✓ Would you mind giving me the name of your Pittsburgh firm, for I would like to get lower quotations than I have on the large size offset press if possible.

I am afraid that I won't be able to go to Minneapolis.

I have sent five copies of the Survey to you, and have also sent out most of the necessary copies to the collaborators. I still have a few copies left, so that if any strategic points to place them occur to you, let me know by all means.

Sincerely yours,

Robert C. Binkley
Robert C. Binkley

RB/P

Social Science Research Council

DEC 28 1931

MEMBERS

American Anthropological Association

RALPH LINTON, UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
ALFRED M. TOZZER, HARVARD UNIVERSITY
EDWARD SAPIR, YALE UNIVERSITY

American Economic Association

MAX HANDMAN, UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
HARRY A. MILLIS, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ALBERT B. WOLFE, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

American Historical Association

GUY S. FORD, UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
CARL WITTKER, OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
ARTHUR M. SCHLESINGER, HARVARD UNIVERSITY

American Political Science Association

CHARLES E. MERRIAM, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
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CAROLYN E. ALLEN, CONTROLLER

230 Park Avenue
New York City

Cable Address: SOCSCIENCE, New York

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ISAIAH BOWMAN, AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
CHARLES H. JUDD, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
ADOLF MEYER, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
C.-E. A. WINSLOW, YALE UNIVERSITY

December 24, 1931

Dr. Solon J. Buck
Western Pennsylvania Historical Society
Bigelow Boulevard
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

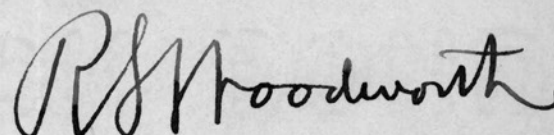
Dear Dr. Buck:

On receipt of your letter of December 9th expressing your desire to be relieved of the duties of chairman of the Joint Committee on Materials for Research and on following correspondence with Dr. Leland of the American Council of Learned Societies, I have consulted our Executive Committee and by their authority accept your resignation with much appreciation for your work as chairman. We have also agreed with the American Council of Learned Societies to the appointment of Mr. Binkley as your successor.

I inferred from your letter that you would be able to continue as a member of the committee and sincerely hope that you will do so.

Very truly yours,

RSW/set



Scholars Plan Research Work Extension in U.S.

Joint Committee of Social Science and American Councils Starts Program

Material To Be Surveyed

Organizing and Preserving Documents Major Problem

The nation's research facilities will be organized and extended through a joint committee set up by the Social Science Research Council and the American Council of Learned Societies, it was announced yesterday.

A survey will be made of America's total equipment for research in the social sciences and humanities. The plan is to review the work of the libraries, historical societies, research institutions, museums and archives, as if they constituted "one vast national enterprise committed to the common purpose of providing materials for research." Dr. Solon J. Buck, of St. Paul, Minn., is chairman of the project.

"In the past thirty years," the announcement reads, "there has been an extraordinary increase in America's investment in research materials, an enormous expansion of libraries, archives and museums; and still the need for materials has outrun the available resources. Scholars have included in their interests a wider range of documentation. The output of printed matter increases in geometrical ratio, so that libraries must count on doubling their capacity every twenty years. The whole problem has been further complicated by the increased use of perishable material in printing."

Broad Survey Planned

The committee will make a survey of all research activities—collecting, organizing, preserving, indexing, cataloguing, and of the agencies engaged in assembling data.

It will also explore neglected categories of material which are not adequately classified at present, though having considerable research value. The returns from an inquiry addressed to scholars in various fields have been summarized by Dr. Norman S. B. Gras, of Harvard University, in a report which indicates that few research workers have given much thought to the

possible expansion of materials in their own fields.

Dr. Gras has prepared a memorandum which develops the thesis that destruction is the necessary accompaniment of preservation. He points out that "if repositories keep on growing there may come a time when they will be as threatening to our civilization as the graveyards of China."

Manuscripts To Be Inventoried

A project for an inventory of manuscript material for American history and literature has been approved by both councils, and funds are being sought to finance the work. The question of methods for the reproduction of materials by photographic processes has been referred to Professor Robert C. Binkley, of Western Reserve University, and he is conducting an investigation along this line for the committee.

He is also studying the distribution of original United States census schedules, and has undertaken a study of the policies of libraries and research institutions relating to the collection, preservation and indexing of newspaper files. The problems of paper permanence and the preservation of disintegrating newspapers are being studied by the United States Bureau of Standards, under a grant from the Carnegie Corporation.

The joint committee further advocates the advisability of a survey of the condition of local archives throughout the country, an activity which it says should come under the supervision of the public archives commission of the American Historical Association.

A start has already been made toward the compilation of a bibliography of catalog, lists, calendars, corpora and of source materials. The announcement points out that during the last thirty years there has been a tremendous increase in America's investment in research materials and that, in spite of an enormous expansion of libraries, archives and museums, still the need for materials has outrun the available resources.

The survey and collection of Virginia by the University of Virginia, approved by the committee and supported for the initial year by a grant from the Carnegie Corporation, will be financed for the year by the university.

On the joint committee, in addition to Dr. Buck, Dr. Gras and Dr. Binkley are L. V. Coleman, of the American Association of Museums; H. M. Lydenberg, of the New York Public Library; Professor Kenneth B. Murdock, of Harvard University; Professor A. H. Quinn, of the University of Pennsylvania, and Professor Clark Wissler, of the American Museum of Natural History.

N.Y. Herald Tribune
Dec. 27, 1931

AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

MEMBER OF THE
INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, 1727
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, 1780
AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY, 1812
AMERICAN ORIENTAL SOCIETY, 1842
AMERICAN PHILOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1869
ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA, 1879
SOCIETY OF BIBLICAL LITERATURE AND EXEGESIS, 1880
MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, 1883
AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, 1884

EXECUTIVE OFFICES
907 FIFTEENTH STREET
WASHINGTON, D. C.

28th December 1931.

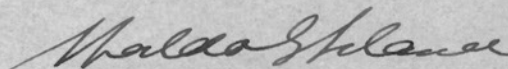
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, 1885
AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION, 1900
AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION, 1902
AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION, 1904
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1904
AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL SOCIETY, 1905
HISTORY OF SCIENCE SOCIETY, 1924
LINGUISTIC SOCIETY OF AMERICA, 1924
MEDIAEVAL ACADEMY OF AMERICA, 1925

Dear Buck:

The SSRC has done its part towards the appointment of Binkley as Chairman in your place. I shall ask our Executive Committee to take similar action at its meeting on January 3. Then notification will be sent to Binkley.

I think you would do well to accept the bid of The Connell Company.

Very sincerely yours,


Waldo G. Leland,
Permanent Secretary.

Dr. Solon J. Buck,
Historical Building,
4338 Bigelow Boulevard,
Pittsburgh, Pa.

December 29, 1931

Dr. Waldo G. Leland, Permanent Secretary,
American Council of Learned Societies,
907 Fifteenth Street,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Leland:-

Permit me to acknowledge yours of the 28th to Dr. Buck, who is now at the A. H. A. Convention in Minneapolis, and to add that the bid of the Connell Company is accepted and the completed copy in their hands. Since the making of plates will occupy them until Dr. Buck's return and until further word, perhaps, is received from you, questions as to the size of the edition and as to a choice between sewing and wire-stitching have been left open. The printer has promised to make up dummies to assist in deciding the latter point.

Very truly yours,

Franklin F. Holbrook

FFH:AM