

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

Philosophy

January 11, 1937.

Dr. Gordon H. Clark,
410 E. Illinois Street,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

Thanks for your Christmas letter, which, owing to the economical closing of the mail office, did not reach me till January 4. Let me then return belated new Year's wishes for these retarded Christmas greetings.

As I look over the program of your work, I am relieved to find that Satan is likely to find no work for your hands to do; not, that is, if he waits for them to be idle. And how the "writing" can progress, without such a schedule regressing, is more than I can imagine. You must have - what they call - the strength of the devil, even though you do not exercise it in his behalf.

What can I tell you of Francis and Chester, pending such time as they may be ready to tell you about themselves? Of Chester, I have the unpleasant news to communicate that he is in hospital, recovering (favorably, I am glad to hear) from an operation for appendicitis. Before undergoing the operation, he had, I know, something "in press" (the de Benneville press), but just how far he had progressed, I shall not know until his new pages are released. Francis is well and flourishing, in that aggressively celibate and comfortable monastery, the University Club. On showing him your letter, he said that he had "at last put something on paper", and promised to let us look over it -- which is something I should look forward to with interest, even if what he had on paper concerning Augustine had nothing to do with a work in whose progress I am interested. Augustine has always both attracted and baffled me -- "and not you alone", you will say.



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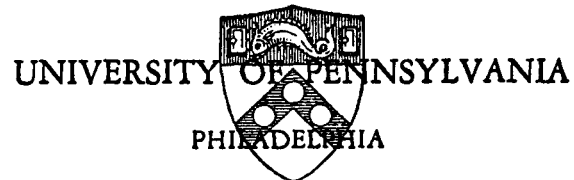
Philosophy

But I will suggest both to Chester and to Francis that they send you their pages as soon as they shall have come from "press".

You say, "And all the while I wonder where I shall be next year"; and repeat some fairly cheerful news transmitted through the Williams. I think that news is fairly to be depended on, though I have heard very little even in the way of definite gossip. But I do feel that "things are looking up". Now, Gordon, I wish you would formulate (and Smith asks me to add his wish to mine) what you would be willing to have us say in your name to the budget authorities. That we should go on urging your advance in rank and pay, using the most forceful arguments we could think of, goes without saying. Can we say, that unless you have better assurances as to the future than the past could give you reason to expect, you would rather not return? Or can we advance something less in the way of an ultimatum, but unmistakably in the way of a reserve? If you were not to come back, we should be utterly up a stump in the matter of finding any successor even half-way acceptable to the department, as continuing a tradition of sound scholarship in the field you cultivate. But, you know it to be a cardinal principle with us that the interest of the member comes before that of the group in all our planning. Tell us, as soon as may be, just how far you are willing to have us go.

As for the work on "analogy in philosophy", I can well imagine it will have to wait. Let it. It is (at least in the sense I suggested in my last letter) a fascinating subject. But the history is a more profitable one, particularly if we get it on the market soon. So be as patient as you are (incurably) industrious.

This letter is all full of shop. But let me take room at the end to send greetings from "house to house". It is not, I suppose, as flattering as it might be; but, between ourselves, Mrs. Singer generally refers to you as, "you mean the father of that baby? - or perhaps, the husband of the mother of "that baby". Don't feel hurt



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though. That's the way all fathers of handsome babies fare at the hands of the mothers of this world. They don't know any better, poor things. At any rate, don't fail to give my lady's love to your lady and her baby.

Sincerely,

Edgar A. Snider, Jr.

Wheaton College
Wheaton, Ill.
January 23rd 1937.

Dr. Edgar A. Singer, Jr.
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Dr. Singer,

The quiet humor of your letters, as well as of your conversation, is always a source of enjoyment. And perhaps the womanly intuition of Mrs. Singer in referring to me as the father of that baby is more instinctively flattering than you seem to believe. Indeed I am afraid that I have become a very fond papa and cannot refrain from enclosing the latest snap-shot.

I am sorry that Chester has had to undergo an operation. Last summer he mentioned the possibility, but was delaying because of the expense. Your encouraging news implies that the delay did not cause any serious complications. By this time, I trust, he is well recovered.

Under separate cover I am sending the chapter on The Hellenistic Age. You have already read about the first forty pages, but they could no doubt profit again by your criticisms. The section on Plotinus is awful. But Dr. Husik says Plotinus is awful anyway. If you can suggest diverting filler, I should be only too glad to include it. Will you kindly show the chapter to Francis, Chester, and to Dr. Husik if he cares to examine it, as I hope he will. The criticisms may be returned to me with page and paragraph references, without returning the chapter. There is little chance of confusion.

As for next years possibilities, your suggestion of something in the way of a reserve though less than an ultimatum seems the best policy. For since I should like to come back, I do not want a bluff called. You need not tell the administration that I do not want to stay at Wheaton unless I have to. There are attractions here, and it is the definition of "have to" which is difficult. The friendship and inspiration of the philosophy department at Penn is invaluable; the truly pleasant friendship here is not philosophical and solitude brings the risk of stagnation. The house on St. Mark's Square is another reason for wishing to stay in Phila, and there are still others.

On the other hand, to return as an instructor again savors of disgrace; in fact remaining twelve years an instructor is almost a disgrace. Then again there are two persons who dislike Dr. Smith and are for that reason, I judge, disinclined to favor the philosophy department. The same two love me no more, and church affiliations lead one of them to wish for and to work for, both in the civil courts and in private, my embarrassment whether financial

professional, or personal. Only a promotion can insure some degree of stability; and if I do not accept a promotion from Wheaton, and if I cannot obtain one at Penn, I cannot guess where the next avenue of advancement may be.

At any rate, with full recognition and appreciation of your previous efforts to obtain a promotion, it now seems highly desirable, not to say necessary practically, to have a definite commitment from the administration in order to come to a decision.

Give my best regards to everyone in the office, and thank de Benneville for sending me the first part of the fifth Ennead.

Cordially yours,



THE COLLEGE

Philosophy

February 15, 1937.

Dr. Gordon H. Clark,
410 E. Illinois Avenue,
Wheaton, Illinois.

Dear Gordon:

When one clear-headed fellow has to tell another how things turned out, when things did turn out exactly opposite to the way both fellows wanted them to, the best thing is to be as blunt as possible.

Smith did not wait for the accustomed season to take up with Dean and Vice-Provost the problem which your letter formulated so conservatively, and which was our problem no less than yours. To neither of us was it new except in one detail; but that detail was important. You were no longer in the position of one who had no choice of his own, but must leave his future entirely to the decision of others. But we understood that you were no more anxious than we were to see that choice forced into a decision unfavorable to the maintaining of old relations. And so matters were presented, as I know from Smith, and with that understanding were discussed.

Gordon, I am sorry to say the attitude of the administration remains absolutely unchanged; and not only does it show no promise of changing; but gives every promise of not changing. The reasons, whatever they are, are the same: I could not formulate them accurately if I would and therefore will not try to analyse them at all. For it is not to analyse them to repeat what you already know, that they have nothing to do with your scholarship, your integrity, your honor. On the contrary, I suspect that if these reasons were known to you, you would take the deepest of them to be an honor to you. But whatever they are, there they are, and are to the best of our belief unshakable. Smith



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reports that the last word of the administration was:
"Advise Dr. Clark to remain where he is".

Of course, there is no question of the door being closed to you should you wish to return. But who could wish it under these conditions? Or rather, who could wish it for you, however much one might wish it for one's own sake? None of the department could urge that you throw your own interests so to the winds as to reject all your present opportunities in order not to break a departmental connection which we hope is as pleasant to you as it is both pleasant and valuable to us.

With these more vital things weighing on my mind, I am not in the mood to say all that I should like to say on the Hellenistic Period. Only this much: you are quite mistaken about it. It is just as fine as the rest of your writing; and if you feel it to be more difficult for the reader, the answer is: were it not so, it would be less true to the Hellenistic Period. I am handing it on to Francis: he is, I understand, about ready to "tie on" to it. But he will no doubt tell you of all that himself.

Very sincerely yours,

Edgar A. Snider, Jr.

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Philosophy

February 11, 1940

Dear Gordon:

This is perfect, as usual.
The more I think of it, the more I
feel that the final and complete
Typescript should go directly
from your hands to Crofts. Con-
fident as I may be that the pages
are in the right order, there is no
use of running the risk of some
error in advancement. I'll hold the
copy until I hear from you, and
not time will be lost if I wait

all I have received back to you at once.

I may have mimeographs of the chapters to which you refer. If so, I will send them to you. The sequel to Reginald mechanism etc. was really published before the article: it was an address to the International Congress of 1930, and is published in the proceedings of that year. But I have just reworked the definition of the producer-product relation with great care; and will either throw it into an article, or include it with Mrs. DODD'S in the Experimentalist.

Good luck! I am glad the source book is so nearly ready for press.

Yours
E. S. H.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA
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Philosophy

December 19, 1948

Dear Gordon:

If I had written you as often as I have thought of you, and wondered about you, your mail would have been rather heavy. But there comes a time when one really does "want to know" about one's old friends, and then one lets oneself go. What I now want particularly to know is this. Some time this fall, I received a letter from a faculty-member at Maryland, asking me what I thought of you. Well, I thought a lot of you, as you may guess. It is true, I thought you too good for the job (though I didn't tell him that), which seemed to me to give little scope to your splendid scholarship. But you had told me that you

were unhappy at Wheaton - of which I did not wonder - and I thought you might care to consider an offer that might be pleasant enough, though it did not promise to use more than a modicum of what you have to give. I have heard nothing more - did anything come of it?

I am enjoying having your admiring student Tomkins in my Kant seminars. From him, I learned that you had resigned your chair at W., with something of your reasons for doing so. A very unreserved "something", yet one that seemed to me so intelligible (knowing you) that I fancy it was not far from what you would have said - and probably amplified - yourself. At any rate, the situation it pictures at W. would repeat one that has so often marked the history of Trinity in one after another of its denominational expressions. A moment when a period marked by the efforts of studious theologians to give reasons for the faith that is in them, is followed by one in which certain devout souls want more needs of feelingful faith, and less of thoughtful reasons. See, e.g., the emergence of "Pietism" within the Lutheran communion.



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Philosophy

Philadelphia

well, Graham, what I have always hoped
is that you could find a niche (I thought
you had found it in our department)
where your history, though not shared
by your colleagues, had nothing to do
with the concerns of your scholarship,
or your classes of Kirkman's notebook -
Latin - that is to say, your real work
to a department of philology. The
battle was - I suppose - and will be
therefore, that an earnest exposure
history will offend those pursuing, and
equal conservatism, an optimistic history,
and perhaps learning are saving must that
the whole history of the human world
after such.

All I can say is, if you see a
chance of emulating yourself with
a real university, is the capacity of

a real scholar, and a real interpreter
of history, call on me for all that
"letters" can do.

Meanwhile, Merry Lucas from
Mrs. Siegel and me to Mrs. Gordon, you,
and the baby - Helen's baby - whether or
not any longer a baby. Our babies are
far from home; Edgar, a captain of marines,
Richard, a lieutenant in medical corps,
naval aviation. But E. is getting home
for Lucas, dear Lucia.

Always yours,

E. A.

P.S. I am sending you a recent reprint
just "to recall old times in the shop".
In return, when next year writes me,
please sign your full name. I want
to paste the autographs that I cannot
have directly inscribed in the pre-
sentation copy of the Verbschrift.

E. A.

...considerable again eaten.



Chicago Tribune

BOSS FARLEY—"Now, now, Franklin! Don't get jittery, nothing can lick your golden voice and my golden treasure"

Feb 7. 1936

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