

August 12, 1939

Dear Fred:

Thank you for your kind letter of August 7. I think you are not only right that your Trustees will have to have a full discussion of the problems of the exiles, but I should go further and see whether the various agencies - your own, Fosdick's, Duggan's, The Oberlaender Trust, etc. - might not have a general conference and agree, not necessarily on a uniform policy but either on a uniform policy or some policy to which each of the organizations in question would adhere. I have, for example, approached Duggan and Thomas in connection with Windelband, and Duggan has promised a grant provided he gets a permanent post in this country. Such a grant is useless in the case of a man who has to return to Germany.

The question is a most perplexing and harassing one, and I am sure you are perplexed and harassed even more than persons like myself.

Don't bother or let Dollard bother about Robinson's future. I made it clear to him when he resigned from Cincinnati that we could not have any responsibility for his future after his grant expired, and he was like, for example, a new Ph. D., willing to shoulder his own

President Keppel

August 12, 1939

2

responsibilities. That I think is the line which we must take in making grants that expire at the end of a single year or two years.

With all good wishes and appreciation of your sympathetic attitude,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

President Frederick P. Keppel
Carnegie Corporation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

AF/MCE

August 12, 1939

~~Referred to Professor Earle by~~

CARNEGIE CORPORATION
OF NEW YORK
522 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

August 7, 1939

Dr. Abraham Flexner
The Institute for Advanced Study
20 Nassau Street
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Abraham:

Many thanks for your letter of July 29. Eventually I think our Trustees must have a full discussion of this whole problem of exiled scholars and their possible re-establishment in this country, and determine what, if any, part we may have in the proceedings. Until such a time as they outline for us a general policy on this question, I am afraid that it is not in order for us to consider specific cases such as that of Professor Windelband. He sounds like a thoroughly good person and I hope you will find in some other quarter funds for his year here. I presume that you have already thought of approaching Thomas of the Oberlaender Trust and Stephen Duggan.

Dollard's only reaction to the substitution of Robinson for Heckscher was to express the hope that Robinson, having now resigned his post at Cincinnati, does not find himself on the end of the limb when the coming year's grant expires.

Sincerely yours,

F. P. Keppel

FPK5vh

December 2, 1938

Dear Keppel:

Formal acknowledgment of the appropriation of \$5,500 for the benefit of Messrs. Clement and Starr is going to the treasurer under separate cover, but I do not wish our transactions to have an entirely formal character.

What you have done for us is really deeply appreciated, for it has enabled us to help where otherwise help from us would have had to be declined, and I know how much the opportunities made possible by you mean to those who are profiting by them.

President Dodds and I have been discussing this week the refugee problem, which is taking on a new character, for it now involves not only Jews but Catholics and Protestants, among them some of the best European scholars and scientists and of course a large number of men who do not belong in this classification and for whom we are endeavoring to work out some solution which will be humane and yet avoid competition with our own young scholars and scientists. The pressure is terrible. Who would have believed that we could ever have lived to see such things?

With all good wishes and renewed thanks,

Ever sincerely,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Dr. F. P. Keppel
Carnegie Corporation of New York
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City

AF:ESB

January 22, 1937

Dear President Keppel:

Under date of October 31, 1936, I wrote you a letter requesting an appropriation of \$25,000 a year for three years for the purpose of enabling the Institute for Advanced Study to take advantage of conditions which exist now in order that we may round out the School of Humanistic Studies so that it will be on a par with the School of Mathematics which has attracted the attention of advanced students from all over the world. The men who come here are not men who require the sort of teaching that is widely available in graduate schools. They need informal contact with original scholars whom they can stimulate and guide. This very morning, for example, an associate professor of mathematics at Harvard University, one of the most promising of the younger American mathematicians, came to see me for the purpose of telling me that the half year which he had already spent here had not only enabled him to complete work which had been held up by his teaching responsibilities at Harvard but had opened up to him new vistas in the direction of teaching and research. A generation ago those of us who went to Germany found such opportunities in that country, but under existing circumstances these opportunities have almost disappeared. The responsibility of America not only for itself but for certain European countries is therefore greater than it has ever been, and its opportunities are correspondingly great

President Keppel

January 22, 1937

2

because of the large number of scholars of the highest rank whose services can now be procured. What I have written pertains to the request which I made in my letter of October 31 for a grant of \$25,000 for a three-year period by the end of which time I have ample assurance that the sum will be capitalized.

I am writing the present note, however, by way of anticipating a portion of that request. We had expected to invite one of the most distinguished Greek scholars at Oxford, Professor Wade-Gery, to Princeton for a year. There appeared to be no doubt that he could secure a year's leave of absence for year after next. In a letter received this morning, however, he informs us that, while he cannot procure leave for year after next, he can procure such leave for the coming year. His line of study fits in closely with the work which is being pursued both in the Institute and Princeton University, and I should like therefore to know whether it is possible for you to procure from your Executive Committee an assurance of an amount not to exceed \$10,000 during the coming year (1937-1938) which will enable me to inform him promptly that we can extend to him the invitation in question for the coming year. Should your Executive Committee act favorably on this request, the amount asked for, namely, \$10,000, would of course be subtracted from the amount which I am asking for next year so that the request for next year would be for an appropriation of \$15,000 for the first year (1937-1938) and \$25,000 for the two years thereafter.

In all these matters President Dodds and I work in the closest cooperation, and I have his authority to say that no request which I have made of you is in any wise unwelcome to Princeton University.

If any more detailed information is necessary, I shall be happy to furnish it to you, but I am sure you will understand that scholars of such distinction enjoy wide latitude in the methods and work which they pursue. It may

President Keppel

January 22, 1937

3

be perhaps not without point to add that it is understood throughout the Institute that no professor engages in remunerative work outside the Institute, though many of them have participated in scientific collaboration with other institutions.

Very sincerely yours,

President F. P. Keppel
Carnegie Corporation
522 Fifth Avenue
New York City.

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB