

April 28, 1934

Dr. A. H. Krappe
409 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Krappe:

Dr. Flexner wishes me to thank you
for the group of reprints which you were kind
enough to send him, showing the extent of your
researches.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

May 9, 1933

Dear Dr. Krappe:

I regret very greatly to say that unfortunately I have not yet received the package of reprints, but I have no doubt that they have simply been delayed in the mails. Please accept my thanks for your kindness.

I need not add that I thoroughly sympathize with your attitude regarding the Hitler regime. I have had scores of letters from German scholars, but unfortunately at the moment it is almost impossible to find an opening in the United States.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Dr. A. Haggerty Krappe
520 Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, New Mexico

AF:ESB

A. H. Krappe

520 Washington Ave.,
Las Vegas, N.M., May 4, 1933.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Let me thank you for your Bulletin No. 2 which I received a short time ago. I have tried to reciprocate by sending you a package of reprints, which I addressed to the New York office, forgetting that the centre of the Institute is now at Princeton. I venture to hope, however, that you have received it all the same.

In regard to the Bulletin, I am unfortunately altogether incompetent to pronounce upon questions pertaining to the particular field with which it deals. I have an impression, however, that the domain of theoretical mathematics, as opposed to applied mathematics, has not been very strongly cultivated in this country. The Institute will thus supply a long-felt want.

You will pardon me, I hope, if I venture to make a suggestion. I just read in the paper that Professor Leo Spitzer, of the University of Cologne, has been expelled from his chair by the Hitler régime. I do not know Professor Spitzer personally, though I have been in correspondence with him. I can truly say that I regard him as one of the most outstanding scholars in his particular field -- and here I am fully competent to speak, as I am familiar with most of his work. You will find his biography, of course, in Kürschner's Deutscher Gelehrtenkalender. If you could make him a suitable offer, no better man could be secured for the Institute or for Princeton University.

Let me make this additional statement: I am not a Jew and have, so far as I know, no Semitic ancestors. Yet there is nothing more odious to my mind than the campaign of religious persecution now going on in Germany. It calls forth the protests of all civilised human beings.

Please excuse my intrusion and believe me

Yours very sincerely,

A. Haggerty Krappe

A. Haggerty Krappe, Ph.D.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
Princeton, N.J.

February 9, 1933

Dear Professor Krappe:

I do not know how to thank you for your kindness in sending me a detailed bibliography of your work. I am amazed at the range and depth of your scholarship. As I wrote you previously, we are not at the moment going to attack this field, but I shall keep this memorandum and return to it whenever we do.

It is interesting to learn that you were once a pupil of James Rendel Harris. He was my own teacher during his professorship at the Johns Hopkins University.

Very sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor A. Haggerty Krappe
520 Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, New Mexico

AF:ESB

A. H. Krappe

520 Washington Ave.,
Las Vegas, N. Mex., February 5, 1933.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42d Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

I venture to place at your disposal my bibliography complete to the end of last year. I have to content myself with the typewritten form; for although I planned to have it printed, at the instance of some European friends, I do not now have the means.

You will note that the ground covered, though seemingly unusually wide, comprises, in the main, the kindred fields of Folk-Lore, Mythology, and Comparative Literature, to a certain extent Philology, the necessary basis for the former. Imperfect as this form is, I see no possibility of issuing a printed bibliography in the near future. I trust, however, that even so it may prove useful to you or scholars of your acquaintance working in this field.

It is probably superfluous to call your attention to the fact that, upon the whole, this field is but little cultivated in the United States of to-day, as I am practically the only pupil of the school of Sir James G. Frazer, Dr. James Rendel Harris, and the late Salomon Reinach living and working in this country. It is this fact which may excuse my presumption of mentioning my own name in connexion with theirs, although I know full well that my achievements, such as they are, must necessarily fall below the high standards set by the masters.

Reiterating the assurances of my keen interest in your generous enterprise, I beg to remain

Yours very respectfully,

A. Haggerty Krappe

A. Haggerty Krappe.

Alexander H. Krappe, Ph.D.,
Corresponding Member of
The Hispanic Society of America.

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December 28, 1932

Dr. A. H. Krappe
520 Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, New Mexico

My dear Dr. Krappe:

I desire to thank you for your note of the twenty-second and for the several papers which you were good enough to send Dr. Flexner. These have been received as well as the few you sent several weeks ago. Dr. Flexner wishes me to express his appreciation to you for them.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

Las Vegas, N. Mex.,

Dec. 22, 1932.

Dear Miss Bailey:

A short time ago I sent you a package with four off-prints of articles of mine. It gives me pleasure to send you to-day four others and trust that you will receive them and call Dr. Flexner's attention to them.

Yours very sincerely,

A. H. Krappe.

November 4, 1932

Dr. A. H. Krappe
520 Washington Avenue
Las Vegas, New Mexico

Dear Dr. Krappe:

Thank you for your letter of October 28
and for the copies of recent studies of yours, which
I shall bring to Dr. Flexner's attention as soon
as possible.

Very truly yours,

RAYMOND S. BAWLEY

Assistant Secretary

A. H. Krappe

NEW MEXICO NORMAL UNIVERSITY
LAS VEGAS, NEW MEXICO

Ave.
520 Washington ~~Street~~,
Las Vegas, N. Mex., October 28, 1932.

Miss Esther S. Bailey,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42nd Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Bailey:

Under separate cover I am sending to the Institute
some offprints of recent studies of mine. You will oblige me
by drawing them to the attention of Dr. Flexner when a suitable
occasion presents itself.

With kind regards,

Yours very sincerely,

A. H. Krappe

A. H. Krappe,

A. H. Krappe

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF HIGHER STUDIES
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

Jan. 10, 1932

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

Dear Dr Flexner,

I am writing to call your attention to Dr Alexander Haggerty Krappe as a man eminently qualified for a professorship in the Institute for Advanced study. Krappe is probably the most eminent folklorist in America, and one of the most ~~eminent~~ eminent men in the world in this particular field. He has written a dozen or so books, and hundreds of articles, although he is still a comparatively young man. His erudition is enormous, and he seems to have an unlimited capacity for hard work. He is purely and solely a research man, and has proved himself wholly incompetent to teach undergraduates. On top of this, he has bad table manners and serious personal ~~defici~~ deficiencies which make him *persona non grata* to almost everybody, I am sorry to say. He is not a man of independent means, and his case is the most unfortunate one I know of. In Germany he would by now be a professor, and his personal idiosyncrasies would be ignored. But he happens to be an American, and we have no institutions where a man like him can be used. I think he would be possible at Johns Hopkins, it is true, although I have my doubts; but we have no professorship of folklore here, and no money to found

such a professorship. Moreover, our Academic Council could hardly be brought to elect him, even if a chair were available; he has insulted or offended more than one of their number! It has occurred to me, in the circumstances, that you might think him worth your while. He is a big man, mind you; otherwise I should not be writing to you about him. He is not a personal friend of mine, let me add - I have only a slight acquaintance with him. But I am familiar with his writings. If you seek opinions on this side the Atlantic, I suspect you will get strongly negative results - most American professors regard him as "simply impossible, you know." Europe however would give you a different verdict.

Dr Reuben Steinbach tells me he had a pleasant talk with you in the fall. I hope you will be able to give him a Fellowship when you get started.

I enclose a clipping which ought to interest you.

Sincerely yours,

Kemp Malone

At a recent meeting of the American Association of University Professors, Professor Henderson, physiologist and former chairman of the Yale Chapter of the A. A. U. P., gave some enlightening figures showing how different universities paid their professors and instructors.

Hopkins Leads

The following were the figures as to the proportion of university income paid to professors: Johns Hopkins, leading all other universities, paid 65 per cent of the university income to professors; University of Chicago came next with 52 per cent; Princeton, 42 per cent; at Yale 40 per cent ten years ago, 34 per cent last year with an income three times as large as that of ten years ago; at Harvard, where "the fire of learning was lit," according to Professor Henderson, the salaries have dropped to the lowest proportion: from 24 per cent five years ago to 23 per cent last year.

Building Costs High

Professor Henderson explained these poor conditions are due to the enormous cost of keeping up university buildings. Quoting from *Time* magazine, Professor Henderson said, in speaking of one university, "by 1945 I suppose it will be necessary to stop paying professors' salaries altogether so that the wages of the president, the janitors, the window washers, and the scrubbers can be met."

January 12, 1932

Dear Professor Malone:

Thank you very much for your kind letter in reference to Professor Krappe, with whom I have already been in correspondence. I can assure you that no personal idiosyncrasy will have the slightest bearing upon the possibility of his connection with the Institute. I expect to deal with "prima donnas" in scholarship, and I know that no two of them are alike. The Hopkins used to be a place where men of this kind were welcome, for example, Sylvester, who was an extraordinarily queer duck, but nobody thought his oddities a disqualification.

American institutions are, alas, becoming more and more conventionalized. A very scholarly Austrian received an appointment in Duke University. At the close of a social function - so I am told - in bidding his hostess adieu he raised her hand to his lips, whereupon he was fired.

Many thanks also for the clipping and for the charming Christmas card, which we received from you and your wife.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Professor Kemp Malone
Department of English
The Johns Hopkins University
Baltimore, Maryland

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

AF:ESB

A. H. Krappe

56 Westland Ave.,
Boston, Mass., June 9, 1931.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th. I can understand perfectly that the work of organization should take a considerable amount of time, particularly if it is your purpose to build up an institution markedly different from those which in this country go under the name of 'universities'.

Meanwhile I venture to hope that you will be able to derive a certain amount of satisfaction from my books, more especially the great work of Dr. Eisler and for the translation of which I have been in a measure responsible. Should you desire to see, some time in the future, my complete bibliography I shall be pleased indeed to place it at your disposal.

Yours sincerely,

A. H. Krappe

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42nd Street,
New York, N.Y.

June 6, 1931

Dear Dr. Krappe:

Returning to town, I find the books you have been good enough to send me. I am sorry to say that there is no immediate prospect that concrete steps will be taken in the organization of the Institute for Advanced Study within the next year or two. I have received so many suggestions that it will take me a considerable period to digest the material which I have and to arrive at any conclusions.

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Dr. A. H. Krappe
56 Westland Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

AF:ESB

Acknowledged
May 11, 1931
L.S.B.

56 Westland Ave.,
Boston, Mass., May 8, 1931.

A. H. Krappe

Miss Esther S. Bailey,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42nd Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Miss Bailey:

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 7th.

When I go to New York it will probably be with the interview with Dr. Flexner as my chief object, and the choice of the day will therefore not depend upon other factors. I shall then follow your suggestion and write to Dr. Flexner from Boston, trusting that you will be able to arrange a satisfactory, i.e. not hurried, interview.

Some time ago I requested the Institute of French Studies to place at your disposal a copy of my book Balor with the Evil Eye. I venture to hope that you have received it. Kindly place it with my other books and papers. To-day I am asking my English publishers, Messrs. Methuen, to send you a copy of my book The Science of Folk-Lore, and you should receive it within three weeks. I am also having a copy of my French volume Mythologie Universelle sent to you. They all should be in your possession well before June 15th.

Yours very sincerely,

A. H. Krappe

May 7, 1931

Dr. A. Haggerty Krappe
56 Westland Avenue
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Dr. Krappe:

Replying to your letter of May 6,
Dr. Flexner will return to his office next month.
He will probably be here regularly from June 15
till early in July. If you are to be in New York
about that time, I suggest that you write Dr. Flexner
a day or two in advance in order that I may make a
definite appointment for you. I shall of course
bring your book and letters to his attention
promptly upon his return.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

Krappe

56 Westland Ave.,
Boston, Mass., May 6, 1931.

Miss Esther S. Bailey,
The Institute for Advanced Study,
100 East 42nd Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

I received, some eight weeks ago, your letter acknowledging receipt of the complimentary copy of my book The Messiah Jesus and John the Baptist, which I had placed at the disposal of Dr. Flexner. I also received your Bulletin No. 1 and have read it with much care and a good deal of interest.

As I should like to submit to Dr. Flexner a portion of my scholarly articles that have appeared in this country and in Europe but do not like to encumber your office, I should appreciate your advice as to the date of Dr. Flexner's return to the States. I am also looking forward to a personal interview, if such can be arranged without undue inconvenience to Dr. Flexner.

Very truly yours,

A. Haggerty Krappe.

March 5, 1931

Dr. A. H. Krappe
52 Charlesgate East
Boston, Massachusetts

My dear Dr. Krappe:

In behalf of Dr. Flexner who is now in Europe permit me to thank you for your letter of February 27 and for the copy of The Messiah Jesus and John the Baptist, which you so kindly sent him. He will probably not return to America until early in the summer.

As far as the Institute for Advanced Study is concerned, it will be some time before the actual work is started. Indeed, the subjects to be studied have not yet been determined. I am sure Dr. Flexner will be glad to keep you informed as the project develops.

Very truly yours,

ESTHER S. BAILEY

Assistant Secretary

52 Charlesgate East,
Boston, Mass., February 27, 1931.

A. H. Krappe

Dear Sir,

As a keen admirer of your recent book on the American university I am reading you, under separate cover, a volume just off the press (in England) in the appearance of which, in English dress, I have a large responsibility. I believe you will be interested in the subject.

Since I am exclusively a student of literature, folklore and the history of religions, I am far from certain whether my personal acquaintance could be of any value to you. Yet should you find some spare time to meet a former student of the late Prof. Thielack of the University of Berlin, I should certainly regard your invitation as a personal favour.

I might add, to avoid all misunderstanding, that I am very much interested in your scheme of a genuine American university, your Institute of Advanced Study, and should probably be happy to co-operate with you, if my character and accomplishments, modest as they are, should seem to furnish the necessary guarantee.

Believe me, dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

Abagay Trappe.

Dr. Abraham Flexner,
61, Broadway,
New York, N. Y.