

1941-1944

ROCKEFELLER

Foundations

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

Relations WOI

COLUMBIA

HARVARD

OXFORD

GENERAL (HUNTINGTON LIBRARY)

WRIGHT, LOUIS B.

Biographical

AYDELOTTE, F.

The source of this note is D File, American Civilization Study which was initiated in correspondence between Aydelotte and Wright. Originally the idea was Wright's writing from Huntington Library in 1941. It did not take rapidly, and there was a period of jockeying around. Dodds of Princeton was very much interested, and so also was Professor Chinard,

Professor of French at Princeton University. The original plan contemplated a group of seminars. Earle of the Institute was enthusiastic for a while about the seminars, but whether he became disinterested, or whether his work for the United States Navy during the war actually interrupted his concentration on the seminars is an open question. He did not pursue it. Ultimately, Stewart and Warren took it up. Ultimately, also, Aydelette, who had secured a promise from Louis Bamberger of \$75,000 to finance the seminars for one year on the basis of the budget, died. Aydelette at first is not dubious about what is in his will, but later on he says that since the legacy is only residual, it will not be possible to count upon it for the \$75,000. As will be apparent from the file, the Rockefeller Foundation firmly rejected aid twice, and caused Aydelette to endeavor to make the seminars a cooperative effort as between the various universities involved. There is no evidence that the seminars were ever held or that the program materialized. The file simply shows that the subject spun out into nothing at the end of 1944.

(Could it have been that Wright promoted the seminars with the idea of strengthening his position with the Huntington Trustees. Correspondence at the beginning of the subject indicates that he needs strengthening with his Trustees, and is not sure of his position. In the middle of the discussions, he asks Aydelette to reassure his trustees as to the importance of the project.)

Documents on this subject are filed with this note in the Vertical File under "W" for Wright, Louis B.

D File, American Civilization Study