

Dear Professor Earle:

Dr. Aydelotte would appreciate it if you would glance over this material and let him know if you have any suggestions or recommendations. He assumes there is no possibility of our having anything for Dr. Beck, but he wants to make sure.

Marie C. Eichelser

Dr. Maximilian Beck.
825 West 187 St
New York, N.Y.

February 21, 1940

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Through a misunderstanding on my part I wrote you on February 5, assuming that Dr. Stephen Duggan of the Institute of International Education had already sent you a letter of recommendation.

Today, however, I received this letter of introduction to you which Dr. Duggan wrote some days ago. I take the liberty of asking you whether and when I might come to see you and give you the letter personally.

Sincerely yours,

M. Beck

Dr. Maximilian Beck
825 West 187th Street
New York, N.Y.

February 29, 1940

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Enclosed I am sending you today the letter of introduction of Dr. Duggan.

The matter I wanted to talk over with you is this: The two Committees - the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars and the Oberlaender Trust - are willing to finance my work in this country, if an academic institution would either take me into its staff or sponsor my research work. I outlined two works which are entitled "Philosophical Nihilism - its Overcoming by Reestablishing the Realistic Concept of Recognition" and "Man of Tomorrow" which I send you enclosed with this letter.

I take the liberty of asking you whether you would favor my research project and propose it to your institute. Or, in case that should not be possible, could you recommend me to the philosophical Department of Princeton University?

Some weeks ago I sent you my papers and letters of recommendation of Professors Nikolai Hartmann (Berlin), Ernst von Aster (Istanbul), Theodor Litt (Leipzig), Albert Schweitzer (Lambarene) and Thomas Mann (Princeton). I am known in this country to Professors Niebuhr, Horace M. Friess, Herbert W. Schneider and Franz Boas of Columbia University, New York, McKeon, Mortimer Adler and Benjamin of Chicago University, Edgar S. Brightman of Boston University, Hocking of Harvard University and Blanchard of Swarthmore College.

I would be glad to meet you whenever it might be convenient to you.

Sincerely yours,

M. Beck

INSTITUTE of INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

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February 13, 1940

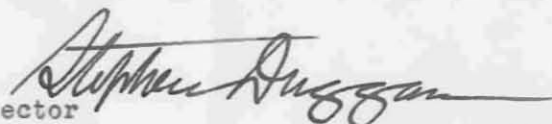
Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

This letter will introduce Dr. Maximilian Beck, a German philosopher who has been a grantee of the Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars during the past year at the International Institute of Social Research.

He is known to such authorities as Professor Paul Tillich of Union Theological Seminary and Professor Mortimer J. Adler of the Law School of the University of Chicago, while the International Institute of Social Research vouches for his "high reputation and high scholarly standing."

Sincerely yours,


Director

SD:OD

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

March 18, 1940

Dear Mr. Aydelotte:

I do not see any way in which the
Institute could utilize the services of a man
like Dr. Beck. I am also informed ^{By Professor Scoon} that there
is no opportunity for him at Princeton.



Edward Mead Earle

March 27, 1940

Dear Dr. Beck:

I have your communication and a letter from Dr. Duggan and have now had an opportunity to talk over possible openings here both with members of the faculty of the Institute and with one professor at Princeton University. I very much regret to say that there seems no opening at Princeton suited to your needs.

I am returning your papers in case you may need them elsewhere, but am keeping your name and address on file, and I shall let you know should I hear of anything in the future either here or elsewhere.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dr. Maximilian Beck
825 West 187th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

Maximilian Beck
255 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Conn.
May 25, 1941

Professor Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Professor Aydelotte:

I have spent this year as Honorary Fellow at Yale University and am now looking for an opportunity to teach at an American University. When I wrote you last year you promised to let me know should there be any possibilities either in Princeton or elsewhere. I know that the general situation has not improved, but I cannot give up the hope that there might be an opportunity at an American institution for a philosopher who likes the American distrust of all that contradicts the natural conviction of the common man and whose studies have been devoted to the reestablishing of a solid ideological basis, capable of resisting the destructive tendencies of totalitarianism.

This week I gave a lecture on Spengler in the Yale Philosophy Club; it was entitled "Must our civilisation decay, as Spengler predicted?" There might, perhaps, be an opportunity to repeat the lecture elsewhere.

Here at Yale I attended the seminars of professors Charles W. Hendel, Wilbur M. Urban, and F. S. Northrup, department of philosophy, and Professor Roland Bainton, Divinity School. They would be glad to give references on me.

Sincerely yours,



Maximilian Beck.

June 16, 1941

Dear Mr. Beck:

Please pardon my delay in answering your letter of May 25th. I regret to say that I know of no opportunity at the moment for which I could suggest your name. I am sure that your best chance would be through some of the men with whom you have been working at Yale and who can recommend you on the basis of personal knowledge.

Yours sincerely,

Maximilian Beck, Esq.
255 Whitney Avenue
New Haven, Conn.

PA:MR

Name: Maximilian Beck

Date and Place of Birth: 2/14/1887, Pilsen, Czechoslovakia.

Citizenship - Naturalized American.

Marital Status: Wife living; one son.

Academic training: Graduate studies at the University of Munich, Germany. Ph.D., University of Munich, 1915. Research Fellow, Yale University, 1941-1944. Travel: Active participation in Paris, 1937, on IXe Congrès International de Philosophie, International Congress of Aesthetics, and International Congress of Population.

Teaching experience: Masaryk Volkshochschule, Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1934-35, philosophy. Yale University, 1940-41, special series of lectures on "A Defense of the Common Man" with individual titles as follows: The Responsibility of Philosophy Today; The Spiritual Crisis in Economic Life; A Defense of the Ideals of the Common Man; The Power of Reason vs. the Power of Facts. Series of lectures, philosophy, Vassar College, Smith College, 1941-42. Single lectures at Union Theological Seminary and Columbia University, 1942. Wilson College Guest Scholar, 1943-44; Assistant Professor of Philosophy, 1944-45.

Membership in learned and professional societies: Psychologische Vereinigung, Munich, 1910-1920. Cercle Philosophique de Prague, 1934-38, charter member. International Phenomenological Society, charter member. American Society for Aesthetics, active member. American Society for the Advancement of Education, active member. American Philosophical Association, proposed for active membership and approved by Executive Committee; ratification to take place at business meeting which was postponed on account of the war.

Publications: Ph.D. thesis, 1916, on Logical Implications, Wesen und Wert, 2 volumes, 1925, Berlin. Psychologie, 1938, Leiden, Holland. Philosophie und Politik, 1938, Zurich, Switzerland. Philosophische Hefte, editor, 1928-1936, Berlin and Prague. And numerous articles in German, French, British, Czech, American and Spanish journals and magazines. Psychologie forthcoming in Spanish translation under the supervision of Professor Francesco Romero of the University of Buenos Aires. Review of Helmut Kuhn's Freedom Forgotten and Remembered, published in Review of Religion, April, 1944. "Philosophical Problems Implied in the Present World Crisis", published in Approaches to World Peace by Harper and Brothers, 1944. Review of Laurence Stapleton's Justice and World Society, published in October, 1944, in Christianity and Society. "Existentialism", published in Philosophy and Phenomenological Research, 1944. "Are Value Judgments Unscientific?", published in The Philosophical Review, 1945. "Science and Education", published in The Modern Schoolman, 1945.

Church Affiliation: Church of Christ, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

Copy

The American Philosophical Association

Commission on the Function of Philosophy in Liberal Education

Office of the Secretary
327 Hall of Graduate Studies
Yale University
New Haven, Connecticut

March 25, 1945

Dear President Havens:

Dr. Maximilian Beck came to Yale just prior to my assuming the chairmanship of Philosophy and he had the title of Visiting Fellow in Philosophy. His own fields of study are the theory of value, metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of religion, and philosophical anthropology. There was no room for Dr. Beck to take over any teaching in these fields, though I associated him with myself, unofficially, in several courses, notably in some joint graduate seminars to which he made great and significant contributions.

In this country, if I may speak unofficially to you, there is an orthodoxy in philosophy in spite of all the claims to free inquiry. It is a position that no position remains long enough to be taught as a doctrine, and that to argue in philosophy for a conviction (even if it is reached by the most careful reflection and philosophic method) is to be not a philosopher but a preacher or social reformer, etc. A great deal of what passes for the theory of value in this country misses the whole point of the idea of "good" or "right" in philosophy, that is, in the great tradition of philosophy. It is the thought of this tradition that is still permeating our literature and forming part of the education of the modern mind, because it is great thought. But today we are still mixed up in our universities and colleges over the meaning of value, and, consequently, over the meaning of morality, religion, civilized life, etc. In this confusion Dr. Beck sees clearly the point of attack. He comes out for "objective values" in aesthetics, ethics, and the philosophy of religion. He has a realistic, not a "subjectivist", conception of knowledge and of what knowledge is of. He has a clear-sighted, constructive philosophy of life and existence. These are the things I valued in my association with him. He is as free and courageous a thinker as any of my colleagues, and really more courageous, for he is stemming a tide that is still very strong.

Curiously enough my attention was first attracted to him by something not theoretical at all, an essay on Walt Whitman which has genuine insight and originality. In working with him to perfect his English expression I became aware of the wonderfully wholesome and downright philosophy of Dr. Beck himself, and that is why I eventually had him appointed a Research Fellow to stay on two years after the conclusion of his other fellowship. All this time he was developing his powers of using English. He wrote numerous small articles which were published and a book which is still in need of some shaping up before it can be published.

2

The place for Dr. Beck is in some institution of learning where the dice are not loaded against him from the start (philosophically) so that he will not need to struggle with unbelieving colleagues but can devote himself to the philosopher's true art, which is to sit down with young men and women and discuss those ultimate questions of life and existence on which they are thinking and trying to gain some light. He deals with essential matters. He believes in "the common man". He believes in something real and significant in the world, and he believes in God. I can't write such things to a professor of philosophy these days without making most of them smile. I would add, he believes in American principles, and he knows what they mean, in the light of a European experience and by the help of the poetry of Whitman, which was a boyhood love of his in Czechoslovakia. Here is a man who has something to teach. My students used to go to talk with him in his apartments - they found something they wanted.

Through my experience with the Commission on the Function of Philosophy in Liberal Education I know how many presidents, deans, and public-spirited citizens are wanting philosophy to be available to our youth, philosophy as they can appreciate it, dealing with great, central issues of human life and not with the technicalities interesting only to esoteric, small groups. To those who want a philosopher of that type I can recommend Dr. Beck. We need men who think like him. More than thinking, we need his perceptions, culture, and judgments. I have not found his judgment in art, music, or literature to fail. His "culture" is fine and rich. He will contribute greatly wherever he may be, and I hope he can be used as a teacher.

Yours sincerely,

Charles W. Hendel

WILSON COLLEGE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

March 26, 1945

The purpose of this letter is to engage your interest in a distinguished philosopher whom the war has brought to this country. He is Dr. Maximilian Beck, a native of Czechoslovakia, for four years a research fellow at Yale, and during the present year a member of the Philosophy Department at this College. He has served as a substitute for a member of our Department on sabbatical leave, and we would unhesitatingly keep him if we could.

Dr. Beck is a scholar of distinction, some of whose publications you will find listed on the enclosed sheet of information. He has had approximately two years of normal teaching experience, has gained confidence steadily, and is now ready to undertake a full share of an undergraduate or graduate curriculum. He is unusually pleasant personally, in good health, a dependable and cooperative colleague and altogether an asset to any faculty. He is deeply interested in his students and their problems. He is definitely not the type of foreign scholar who wants only to be left alone. He has shown himself adaptable and instantly appreciative of American values and American academic procedures with no trace whatsoever of "superiority".

Dr. Beck's wife was born in Germany. She is a delightful person, a student in her own right, and like her husband, has a good command of English. Their son, a graduate of Cornell, is now enrolled in the Fletcher School of Diplomacy.

The accompanying letter, written to me by Professor Charles W. Hendel, Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at Yale, will tell you better than I can why we are both eager that Dr. Beck find a permanent or even temporary opening. I urge that you find a moment to read his statement and hope very much that there will be a post for which you can consider Dr. Beck.

Very truly yours,

Paul Swain Havens,
President

WILSON COLLEGE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 9, 1945

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute of Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Aydelotte:

I want to say a few words about a certain Dr. Maximilian Beck and to ask your advice. Beck is a distinguished Czechoslovakian philosopher who came to this country with his wife and son in 1938. He somehow became acquainted with Hendel at Yale and was for approximately four years a research fellow there. He came to us as a guest scholar of our faculty and staff for the second semester of the year 1943-44 supported out of a Guest Scholar Fund to which we all contribute and the aim of which is to assist in a small way some distinguished foreign scholar displaced by the war from his native country. We liked him so much that when the head of our Philosophy Department went on sabbatical leave this year we invited him to return as substitute.

The enclosed pages I have sent out with Hendel's cooperation to approximately 150 of the best colleges and universities, and replies are now coming in. It occurred to me - rather tardily, I confess - that in many respects Beck is exactly the kind of man who might interest you at the Institute. He is by talent and training a scholar rather than a teacher, although his teaching has been successful. He is deeply interested at the moment in the possibility of a group of philosophers, perhaps even a philosophical "institute", for the study of telothetics. His view is that a great deal of energy has been devoted to the discovery of new means in technology and applied sciences but that very little study has been devoted to the science of ends.

I know very little about the details of the program at the Institute of Advanced Study, and I write with some hesitation, but if you would be willing to see Beck and talk with him, I can assure you at least of a very pleasant experience; and I should think that you might discover in him something that would be of interest to the Institute.

With kindest regards to you and Mrs.
Aydelotte, I am

Very sincerely yours,
Paul Swain Havens
Paul Swain Havens,
President

April 10, 1945

Dear Havens:

I should be glad to talk to Beck but I must say frankly that I do not see any prospect of an opening for him at the Institute. We have to be rigorous in following our principle of not inviting people here whose researches do not have a close connection with the work being done by the members of our faculty. As you will see by our latest bulletin which I am sending you under separate cover, Beck's field lies rather outside our scope.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

President Paul Swain Havens
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

PA:KK

Dr. Maximilian Beck

Wilson College

Chambersburg, Pa.

April 23, 1945

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

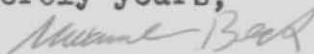
Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Director, The Institute
for Advanced Study
Princeton, N.J.

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

President Havens informed me of your reply to his circular letter. I should be very happy if you would give me an opportunity to talk to you in the near future. Although I don't want to impose any particular time upon you, I should like to mention that, because of the schedule at Wilson College, the best time for me to come to Princeton would be Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

Many thanks in advance.

Sincerely yours,



Maximilian Beck

April 25, 1945

Dear Professor Beck:

I have your letter and shall be very glad to see you. If you should be coming East for other purposes, it would give me great pleasure if you could have tea with me on Tuesday afternoon, May twenty-second, at 4:30.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

Professor Maximilian Beck
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

FA:KK

Dr. Maximilian Beck
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

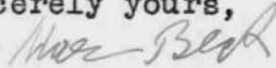
April 26, 1945

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
The Institute for
Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Audelotte:

I thank you for the appointment
you gave me. I shall be happy to see
you on Tuesday afternoon, May twenty-
second, at 4.30.

Sincerely yours,



Maximilian Beck

**WILSON COLLEGE
CHAMBERSBURG, PA.**

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

April 26, 1945

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Institute of Advanced Study
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Aydelotte:

Dr. Maximilian Beck tells me that he has written you to suggest a visit at Princeton within the next week or two. He has seen your letter stating that you doubt very much whether there is any opening at the Institute, but I have encouraged him to see you since I think you would enjoy meeting him and he you. He is a man of real distinction and reputation in his field. If there is nothing at the Institute, he would appreciate any other suggestion which you could make.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

Paul Swain Havens

Paul Swain Havens,
President

April 27th 1945

Dear Havens:

I have your letter of April twenty-sixth and have written to Dr. Beck that I could see him on May twenty-second.

I hope he is not making a trip especially for the purpose of talking with me, since the chance of his getting an appointment here is so remote that it really would not justify the trouble and expense.

I shall of course be very glad to see him and to talk with him, but I should not like him to come with the expectation that his visit would result in an appointment at the Institute.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

President Paul Swain Havens
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

FA:KK

May 23, 1945

President Paul S. Havens
Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

Dear Havens:

I had an interesting conversation with Dr. Beck yesterday. I am sorry to say that there is no possible opportunity for him at the Institute but I hope very much that you will be able to find for him a teaching position in some college or university. Since his wife has an appointment at the University of Pennsylvania, one of the colleges around Philadelphia would be the ideal place. It might help him if you were able to give him a recommendation on the basis of his work at Wilson College. I think it might be useful if you wrote a letter to the Presidents of Pennsylvania, Temple, Swarthmore, Haverford and Bryn Mawr.

Yours sincerely,

Frank Aydelotte

FA:jsr

Maximilian Beck

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Department of Philosophy

March 15, 1946

Urbana, Illinois

Dr. Frank Aydelotte
Director, Institute for Advanced Studies
Princeton, New Jersey

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

Perhaps you remember that my visiting professorship which I held here this year cannot be prolonged. And since there is no opening for a permanent position, I should like to ask you whether you know of a position at another institution.

I think this year has been a very profitable one. I was happy to realize that there is genuine interest in philosophy, even among students who are dedicated to science, medicine and engineering. I hope I shall not be disappointed in my desire to continue elsewhere on a more stable basis.

Very sincerely yours,



Maximilian Beck

March 19, 1946

Dr. Maximilian Beck
Department of Philosophy
University of Illinois
Urbana, Illinois

Dear Dr. Beck:

Thank you for your letter of March 15th asking
for Dr. Aydelotte's assistance in finding you a
permanent position. At the present time Dr. Aydelotte
is abroad but I shall be glad to bring your letter
to his attention when he returns to Princeton early
in May.

Yours sincerely,

Jane S. Richardson
Secretary to Dr. Aydelotte