

The Emergency Committee in Aid of Displaced Foreign Scholars

2 WEST 45TH STREET • NEW YORK CITY

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For Paufel
January 2, 1941

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

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I am about to leave for California but wish to reply to your letter regarding Dr. Ernst Kapp before departing. I met Dr. Kapp some weeks ago and have had him in mind; but openings for classicists are not many, and none has appeared as yet. I shall continue to look for an opportunity for him.

Sincerely yours,

Laurens H. Seelye
Laurens H. Seelye

LHS:LMR

December 24, 1940

Dear Seelye:

I should like to urge very strongly upon you some effort on behalf of Professor Ernst Kapp, who is at present living at 414 West 120th Street (Apt. 304), New York City. Kapp is a good man. I believe the Emergency Committee has expressed its willingness to make a contribution towards his support, and the Carl Schurz Foundation or the Oberlaender Trust is willing also to contribute. All that Kapp needs is an appointment with some institution, so that the institution can make a request for these contributions. In addition, I think some of Kapp's friends would, if necessary, put up small sums such as they could afford (from \$10 to \$25 a month each) to insure a modest livelihood for him.

Kapp is not eligible for Dr. Alvin Johnson's scheme because he is already in this country. The fact is that if he does not get some help he will not be here long, for he is likely to starve to death. He is at the moment down almost to his last dollar.

I expect there are full records concerning him in the office of the Emergency Committee, and these will give you a good idea of Kapp's quality. I have met him and can certify to his high character and personal charm.

It is only necessary to find some kind of an appointment for him in order to secure him a stipend, with no expense or only a very small expense to the institution concerned. If you could arrange that you would be saving a first-rate man from despair.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE

Dr. Laurens H. Seelye
Emergency Committee in Aid of
Displaced Foreign Scholars
2 West 45th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

Professor Ernst Kapp

OPINION

Scheidegg im Allgau
September 23rd 1937.

To the
Society for the Protection of Science and Learning,
London.

Gentlemen:

From my Hamburg colleague Professor Snell I hear that some remarks of mine on the work and scholarship of Professor Ernst Kapp might be of some use to you.

I should like to state beforehand that I have been collaborating with him very closely during his tenure of the chair of Classical Philology at Hamburg University and that we are bound by a common view of scholarship and an equal interest in the classics and philosophy. This may give me a certain bias in his favour, but on the other side it ought to enable me to understand and appreciate him more thoroughly. A true estimate of the quality and the scope of his scholarship is made rather difficult for those not in touch with him by the fact - which may appear to be a serious limitation and certainly is held to be in German academic circles - that he has published very little and has not written until now what may be called a big book. Most of his energy has been spent on his lectures with the result that these lectures as well as his "Seminararbeiten" may be taken to be original contributions to classical scholarship. So a true impression of the man and the scholar can only be got in the lecture-room or in private discussion of the subject he is treating at the time. To show that the impression I shall try to communicate later on is shared by others I should like to mention the experience of a young English classical scholar - an Oxford man and holder of a research fellowship of his College. Staying with me he had been listening to Professor Kapp developing his theory of the origin of the Saturnian verse. When I asked him what he thought about it his answer was: "He is almost a genius". Another English student - a Balliol man not inclined to exaggerated praise and in general a master of understatement had been a member of Professor Kapp's seminar during one of his terms in Hamburg. His summing up was: "It is most frightfully good."

Professor Kapp is a disciple of Ulrich von Wilamowitz, who was killed in the war, and has edited his well-known book on Sophoclean tragedy. I am writing in the Bavarian mountains, having no books, so I cannot enter into a detailed analysis of Professor Kapp's published work. He became Privatdozent in Munich with a thesis on Aristotelian problems. Among German classical scholars he is at present the highest authority on Aristotelian logic. He has worked out a new theory on the syllogism, published very concisely in an article in "Pauly-Wiseowa". Later on he has turned to Plato. The result was a new and very shrewd interpretation of the theory of ideas. Not long ago he has published an excellent paper on the practical Platonic attitude towards the Greek State, as it really existed, which full of weighty matter as it is, shows not only the condensed power and accomplished elegance of his style, but also his insight into the deeper implications of Platonism and Academic thought. Behind its scholarly detachment and almost disdainful restraint to a careful reader there will appear the clear and firm outlines of a true scholar's mind that has mastered the perturbing problems of his lonely position among surroundings not unlike in many ways to those the rising Academy had to cope with. A review of

Professor Ernst Kapp

Opinion of Emil Wolff (Continued)

a recent German thesis on Demokritos may be quoted as a specimen of Professor Kapp's critical shrewdness and his skill in textual interpretation. Another review - of a book of Professor Pasquali - contains a sketch of his very plausible explanation of the origin of the Saturnian verse. He had been led to it by the study of Cicero. But it is also a result of his keen interest in metrics. He has an exceptionally wide and exact knowledge of the history of metrics back to Bentley. This interest made his lecture on Plautus during his last term in Marburg. He is planning a comprehensive book on classical versification. Of other subjects treated in his lectures I ought at least to mention Menander, Thucydides and Homer.

This may give a fair idea of the scope of his work and his erudition. But what really matters is the general outlook by which his work is directed and the special type of classical scholarship it embodies.

I shall say without any hesitation - and I am weighing most carefully what I am going to say - that Professor Kapp belongs to the very small number of philologists who represent the most distinguished tradition of classical scholarship. Small as his published work may be, he is working in the true spirit of Bentley and Frederick August Wolf. His is an almost uncanny gift to reduce any problem to its most simple and essential elements and to read classical texts in a way that reveals the true meaning in its original simplicity and freshness. Combining critical shrewdness of the highest order with hard commonsense he has the open-mindedness and the complete freedom of preconceived notions indispensable to the genuine interpreter. The combined result of these qualities is a rare directness of vision which puts him into immediate contact with what may for brevity's sake be called historical reality.

I am speaking of personal experience and am only too well aware of the difficulty inherent in any attempt to make plausible to others a conviction which is founded on a series of rather subtle impressions. So I should like to add that Professor Schwartz has told me more than once that he had only been prevented from proposing Professor Kapp as his successor in Munich by the small number of his publications.

But after all it is not so much the future of Professor Kapp that matters as the continuation of a particular line of German classical scholarship of which he is one of the most distinguished and efficient representatives at the present time. German philology has reached a climax in the work of Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Professor Kapp surpasses all the scholars of his generation in his firm grasp of the master's fundamental conception of the aims and methods of classical scholarship. There is need to stress the dangers that are threatening the tradition of German scholarship at the present time. The finest achievements of the human mind are highly vulnerable at any time, because there will be always only a very few who are able to carry them on in the true spirit. For it does not matter so much that they are preserved as a precious, but dead heirloom; what really matters is that the living flame be kept burning. Professor Kapp is foremost among the few German Scholars who are trying hard to carry the burning torch through the night and the storm.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours faithfully
EMIL WOLFF

Professor of English Language and Culture
(Hamburg)

THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
66 W TWELFTH ST NEW YORK

September 23, 1940

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I am sorry but our present program
doesn't include taking care of men who
are already here, and so for the time
being Kapp is out.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvin Johnson".

Alvin Johnson
Director

AJ:EW

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

Kapp

September 20, 1940

Dear Dr. Johnson:

Is there any possibility of a place for Ernest Kapp in the University in Exile? Men who know him tell me that he is a classical philologist of high ability, who has made notable contributions to Aristotelian literature and to the history of Greek science. Von Fritz, who is a member of the staff at Columbia, was a pupil of Kapp and can tell you all about him. Kapp himself has a research appointment assisting Simkhovitz at Columbia this summer and would be available for a conference if you wish to see him, though I think it extremely likely that you have already met him.

From what I have heard of him it seems to me that he is a man of sufficient eminence to qualify under the program sponsored by the Emergency Committee.

Yours sincerely,

FRANK AYDELOTTE, Director

Dr. Alvin Johnson
66 West 12th Street
New York City

FA/MCE

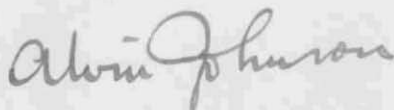
THE NEW SCHOOL
FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH
66 W TWELFTH ST NEW YORK

December 18, 1940

Dear Dr. Aydelotte:

I could see Professor Panofsky
but I am not sure how helpful it would be.
The plan under which I am working could not
possibly extend to the case of Professor
Ernest Kapp.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alvin Johnson".

Alvin Johnson
Director

AJ:EW

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

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WESTERN UNION

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DR FRANK AYDELOTTE=

INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY PRINCETON NJ=

above
DR JOHNSON IN WASHINGTON WILL COMMUNICATE WITH YOU WHEN HE
RETURNS THIS WEEK=

SARNIA MARQUAND SECRETARY.

*telephoned this
to Prof. Kapp
m.e.*

re: Ernst Kapp

Institute for Advanced Study

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COPY OF WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

December 16, 1940

Dr. Alvin Johnson
66 West Twelfth Street
New York City

Could you see Professor Panofsky of our faculty sometime this week to discuss further the case of Dr. Ernest Kapp Feel very strongly we should take action in this case Panofsky could conveniently call Wednesday between eleven and two or would come any later day this week Please wire reply

Frank Aydelotte

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Dr. Kapp

Place of New School

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A situation

Ernst

Ernst Kapp

414 West 120th Str. Apt 304

Tel. University) 4-6640 Ext. 121.

Walter Thomas will help

January 31, 1939

Dear Professor Stuart:

I have your fine letter of January 30, and I can see very easily that your joining me in asking Professor Kapp to come to Princeton might raise in his mind some hope that we should probably not be capable of realizing. Under these circumstances you are right not to participate.

Of course, I know perfectly well without your assurance that you have the deepest sympathy for Professor Kapp and for scores of other scholars whose fate has been so needless and so cruel.

I am going to have a talk with Professor Panofsky, who brought the matter of Professor Kapp to my attention, and see what steps, if any, we should take.

Let me say in conclusion that you must always be perfectly frank with me, and I shall promise to be always frank with you.

With all good wishes and very high regard,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Duane Reed Stuart
Department of Classics
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

AF/MCE

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY

PRINCETON NEW JERSEY

Department of Classics

January 30, 1939.

Dear Dr. Flexner:

Pressure of academic duties incident to this season of examinations has prevented me from promptly acknowledging your courtesy in calling to my attention the recommendations of Professor Ernst Kapp.

In reply to your letter may I confess that, in case Professor Kapp were to be invited to lecture in Princeton, my preference would be that the Institute stand sponsor for his coming? I do not doubt that various members of my department and perhaps of others might welcome the opportunity to hear so eminent a teacher and scholar.

I am sorry that I feel hesitant to join in any official way in an invitation to him, notwithstanding my deep sympathy for his lot and for the lots of other expatriated scholars whose cases have been brought to my attention.

I should deem myself culpable if any act of mine should inspire false hopes on the part of any of Professor Kapp's friends that the department might be able to consider obtaining his services. The truth is, we are not in need of any classical scholar whose interests lie in the field cultivated by Professor Kapp.

I have had to refuse so many possible incumbents that I have come to shrink from causing further disappointment.

I hope you will condone my frankness which I have dared to hope our pleasant personal relations may justify.

Very sincerely yours,

Luane Reed Stuart

January 21, 1939

Dear Professor Stuart:

My attention has been called recently to a Greek scholar, Professor Ernst Kapp, who is a grandson of Friedrich Kapp, who came to this country after the abortive German Revolution of 1848. The present Kapp was formerly professor of classics at the University of Hamburg, but was dismissed because his wife is half Jewish. He is himself, so I am told, a man of rare charm, and in his own special field of Aristotle is described to me as "a genius". I am sending you some letters which will convey some idea of the opinion held of him by foreign scholars.

Inasmuch as Professor Kapp is now in this country, living at Larchmont, I wonder what you would think of our bringing him down here to give a lecture, which might enable the classical group here to form some impression of his achievements and personality. Should this meet with your approval I should of course take the matter up with President Dodds, but I will not bother him with it otherwise.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

ABRAHAM FLEXNER

Professor Duane Reed Stuart
Princeton University
Princeton, New Jersey

ERNST KAPP.

TESTIMONIAL

(Translation)

Firenze, 11 20.IX.1937.
Lungarno Vespucci 4.

ERNST KAPP has as his special field of research the history of Greek philosophy and he has devoted himself particularly to contributing to the most difficult and most technical part of Greek philosophy. His articles in Pauly-Wissowa on sillogistica and similar arguments are such that nobody else could have written them, but already his dissertation formulated in a new and fertile manner the problem of the relations between the different ethics of Aristotle, and his article on the young Socrates, quite apart from its explanation of a difficult passage in Aristotle, I have found particularly useful for my researches on Platonic epistles. Especially important are the studies which he has published in the form of reviews in the Gnomon, both those referring to the problem of ethics and those on Thucydides. The one on Thucydides is an extremely original contribution. It must not be believed, however, that the activities of this scholar are confined to Greek prose, philosophical and historical. The edition of the posthumous work of Tycho v. Wilamowitz on tragedy presupposes a very precise knowledge of this literary genius, and he has given very useful contributions, particularly integrations recently of the dramatic fragments in Strasburg, published by Snell.

Some people will have wondered that he reviewed in the GGA my work on Saturn. I must confess that the review has revealed to me a Kapp who has thought profoundly on the problems of the beginnings of the antique metre.

I feel it is characteristic of this scholar that he is able to grasp rapidly every new problem, and this faculty fits him admirably for the integration of papyri. He has given good proof of his skill in this Snell's book.

I know from Hamburg students that he has given lectures on the most varied arguments, and has always been able to hold their attention.

GIORGIO PASQUALI.

E. Kapp.

Opinion.

Ernst Kapp, zuletzt o.oe. Professor der classischen Philologie an der Universitaet Hamburg, wurde mir zuerst bekannt als anfangender Student in Goettingen; nach einer langen Unterbrechung traf ich ihn in Freiburg wieder, wo er bei mir promovierte. Dort begann ein reger persoenlicher Verkehr; als ich nach Strassburg ging, plante er sich dort zu habilitieren. Der Krieg machte diese Projecte unmoeglich, statt dessen habilitierte er sich in Muenchen, wo er als Lehrer mit grossem Erfolg wirkte und uns ein wichtiger Helfer war.. Unser Verkehr begann von neuem; ich war dabei keineswegs nur der Gebende, im Gegenteil, war er es, der neue, ja bis auf die Fundamente gehende Gedanken vorbrachte. Er ist von Beginn an seine eigenen Wege gegangen; schon seine Dissertation ueber die Eudemische Ethik des Aristoteles, in der er das bis dahin falsch aufgefasste Werk unabhaengig von W. Jaeger dem Verstaendnis erschloss, ist eine Leistung, die mir neu und ueberraschend war. Ebenso seine in Muenchen reifenden Untersuchungen der aristotelischen Logik, durch die er das Raetsel des aristotelischen Syllogismus loeste; sie wueerden Aufsehen erregt und auch auf die Fachphilosophie staerker gewirkt haben, wenn er sie nicht in einem Artikel der Pauly-Wissowa'schen R.E. versteckt haette.

Ein zweites, im Zusammenhang mit dem Unterricht von ihm in Angriff genommenes Gebiet ist die Metrik. Er begann mit Untersuchungen ueber Aristoxenos und ist dann zu Anschauungen gelangt, die vermutlich eine ganz neue Auffassung der antiken Versmasse begruenden werden; die Rezension von Pasqualis Buch ueber den Saturnier eroeffnet weite, von ~~Raxaxian~~ der opinio recepta total abweichende Perspektiven. Aus diesen Eroberungen auf zwei weit auseinanderliegenden Gebieten darf aber nicht gefolgert werden, dass er sich aus der Wissenschaft Specialitaeten aussucht um sich auf sie zu beschraenken. Er ist ein universaler Philologe, dem kein wichtiges Gebiet fremd ist und der sich ueberall ein selbstaendiges Urtheil bildet.

Fuer die Philologie, wie sie seit dem vorigen Jahrhundert in Deutschland betrieben wurde, ist mit Kapps Entlassung eine einzigartige Zukunftshoffnung zerschlagen. Es bleibt nur der Wunsch uebrig, dass er eine Staette findet, wo er seine Taetigkeit als Forscher und Lehrer fortsetzen kann; nach besten deutschen Ueberlieferungen ist bei ihm das eine vom andern nicht zu trennen.

Muenchen 10.11.37

E. Schwartz (Signed).

ERNST KAPPOPINION

According to the unanimous judgment of the best classical scholars of Germany the rank of Professor Ernst Kapp's accomplishments is very high, despite the regrettable fact that the size of his published work is disappointingly slender. But he has made up for it to a certain extent by the masterly qualities of every line that has come from his pen. Experts in the studies of Greek philosophy regard him as one of the most experienced and independent connoisseurs of that subject and also non-specialists are deeply impressed by the wide learning and the lucid and original methods of his articles. Professor Kapp is by no means a narrow specialist. Some of his articles deal with matters quite remote from ancient philosophy. Thus his uncommon efficiency as a university teacher - a well-known fact in German academic circles - was certainly due to the wide range of his interests and the solidity of his knowledge no less than to the suggestive power of a superior mind. I am firmly convinced that it would be a serious loss to classical studies at large, if Professor Kapp could not be enabled to continue his work.

EDUARD FRAENKEL

Corpus Christi College,
OXFORD,
September 19th, 1937.

PROFESSOR E. KAPP.

OPINION.

86 Edgewood Avenue,
Larchmont, N. Y.

September 22, 1937.

Dear Mr. Adams,

.....

I feel a little embarrassed to recommend a man who for some time has been my teacher and who is so superior in knowledge and in all scholarly accomplishments to myself. I realize, however, that in spite of this I may perhaps be able to make a contribution to his appreciation. For since his extreme modesty has prevented him from publishing very much his name is not so widely known as it otherwise would certainly be; and only those who had the privilege to attend his lectures and courses and to listen to his private conversations about the most different subjects in the field of Classics can possibly have a full knowledge of his superior qualities.

I know Professor Kapp personally since 1921. As a student at Munich I attended his lectures about Greek Logic and about several platonic dialogs. Later on, as his colleague I heard him talk about Platon and Aristotle, about Cicero and his relation to Greek philosophy, about the work of Thucydides and about Greek metrics, one of the most difficult if not the most difficult subject in the field of Classics. I always found him full of the most original and most illuminating ideas, and the most striking thing was that whenever I myself or one of the other scholars present challenged his opinions and tried to show that he was wrong, in the end everybody had to acknowledge that he had been right. In the field of Greek metrics particularly he had not only developed an entirely new method to solve a great many puzzling problems, but he also displayed a unique knowledge of the history of modern theories of ancient metrics and was able to point out the reasons why earlier scholars in their attempt to solve certain problems had gone astray and by what they had been misled.

The few articles he published are absolutely first rate. This Thesis about Aristotles Ethics proved for the first time that the so called Eudemean Ethics which had been considered as spurious were not only genuine but an earlier version of Aristotle's ethical work. This is now universally acknowledged and gave the starting point for W.W.Jaegers famous work on the development of Aristotle. His article "Syllogistik" in the "Realencyclopaedie des classischen Altertums" throws an entirely new light on the origins and the development of Greek logic and his lecture on "Platon und die Akademie" which was printed in Mnemosyne III, 4 (1936) discusses the position of the philosopher and the scholar in the state.

VON FRITZ.

Prof. Ernst Kapp.Opinions.

Prof. Dr. E. Howald
Zuerich (Schweiz)
Titlisstr.28.

Prof. Kapp ist einer der besten Kenner der griechischen Philosophie in Deutschland, speziell der Akademie und des Peripatos; schon seine Erstlingsarbeit ueber die aristotelischen Ethiken verraeht den Meister. Es gehoert zu Kapps Eigentuemlichkeiten, dass er von sich aus nicht das Beduerfnis empfindet, die Ergebnisse seiner Forschung zu veroeffentlichen. Es braucht immer einen aeusseren Anstoss dazu, wie den Auftrag zu einer Rezension oder zu einem Artikel in der Realencyclopaedie. Diese Gelegenheitsartikel sind aber jeweils kleine Meisterwerke; man fuehlt, aus welcher tiefer Kenntniss der Materie heraus Kapp eine Spezialfrage anzupacken versteht. Vor allem waere die Besprechung des Buches von H. Langerbeek "Doxis epirysmie" im Gnomon 1936 zu erwaechnen, die in der Abwehr einer recht dilettantischen Arbeit sorgfaeltig die Fragestellung, die eigentlich haette behandelt werden sollen, aufstellt und so fuer eine erneute Bearbeitung des Problems der demokratischen Ethik den Weg bahnt. Ueberhaupt ist die methodische Sicherheit Kapps bewunderungswuerdig, die z.B. auch in einer Rezension zu Tage tritt, die seinem Arbeitsgebiet eigentlich ganz fern liegt, naemlich ueber das Buechlein von Pasquali, Preistoria dellepoesia Romana (Goett.Gel. Anz. 1936). Die imponierendste Leistung aber ist der Artikel 'Syllogistik' in der Real-Encyclopaedie (1931). In unuebertrefflicher Weise wird die Entstehung der aristotelischen Syllogistik aus dem Gespraech nachgewiesen und damit die Seltsamkeit dieser Logik verstaendlich gemacht in Verwendung der modernen Erkenntnisse ueber die geschichtliche Reihenfolge der Schriften des Aristoteles. Es ist nicht der Denkvorgang in einem einzelnen Individuum, der von der Syllogistik erfasst wird, sondern in einem Gespraech werden die Praemissen zu einem vorhandenen Schlusssatz gesucht. Diese Erkenntnis ist philosophiegeschichtlich von einzigartiger Bedeutung. Wie immer bei Kapp tauscht die Anspruchslosigkeit des Auftretens ueber die Wichtigkeit des Gebotenen leicht hinweg.

Zuerich, den 24.Sept. 1937.

ERNST HOWALD.

Prof. Dr. M. Leumann
Zuerich (Schweiz)
Signastr.9.

Den vorausgehenden mehr aus persoenlicher Ferne gegebenen Ausfuehrungen, die die wissenschaftlichen Qualitaeten von Herrn Kapp ausgezeichnet charakterisieren, erlaube ich mir aufgrund engerer Beruehrung besonders waehrend unserer gemeinsamen Muenchener Privatdozententaetigkeit 1922-1927 noch folgende Bemerkungen beizufuegen. Herr Kapp ist erfuehlt von den Problemen seiner Wissenschaft, nicht nur von denen der alten Philosophie, sondern beispielsweise von denen der epischen und lyrischen Dichtung und der Tragoedie; seine eindringende Vertrautheit mit letzterer kann man erahnen, wenn man das Buch seines fruehverstorbenen Freundes Tycho v. Wilamowitz "Die dramatische Technik des Sophokles" in die Hand nimmt, das Kapp fuer den Druck abgeschlossen und herausgegeben hat. -- Aber in Gespraechen haben seine Bekannten, in Vorlesungen seine Schueler, in Vortraegen (wie dem in der Mnemosyne 1936, 227-246 abgedruckten ueber Platon und die Akademie) auch ein weiterer Kreis dankbar von den Fruechten seiner ungewoehnlichen Gelehrsamkeit gezehrt. Herr Kapp ist nicht nur ein ausserordentlich scharfsinniger und tiefschuerfender Philologe, sondern er erwirbt sich auch rein menschlich die aufrichtigste Sympathie durch seine Lebenswuerdigkeit, Offenheit und Weltaufgeschlossenheit.

Zuerich, den 24. Sept. 1937

M. LEUMANN.

ERNST KAPP.

OPINION

Rijksuniversiteit Te Leiden
Faculteit Der Letteren En Wijsbegeerte.

Leiden, 18 September 1937.

To the Board of the Society for the Protection
of Science and Learning
London.

Dear Sir.

Prof. Bruno Snell, of Hamburg University, informs me, our mutual friend, Prof. Kapp, his colleague of the same Institute, has to leave his country in order to find elsewhere a new working-ground for his abilities as a qualified and distinguished classic scholar.

Now in my function as managing editor of our Classic Review, Mnemosyne, I have been happy to publish an article of Prof. Kapp in our periodical (Mnem. Ser. III, vol. 4, 1936/7, p. 227-246: Platon und die Wissenschaft), so that personally I am able to testify, how great are his merits in the field of classic, esp. Greek philology, and how profound his learning. Moreover at the International School of Philosophy at Amersfoort (Holland), which organizes every year a congress of philosophical - in the widest sense - and also philological interest, I have myself made the acquaintance of Kapp, in order to make out, where lie the central merits and special capacity of his learning. Not only I have been led to value his qualities most highly, but also the general impression made by his contribution to the scientific results of this congress and above all his demeanour and his pure personality has been first rate; my friend and colleague of Leyden University, Prof. B.A. van Groningen, who as a Greek scholar occupies here the chair of Cebet now, will, if you like to hear his testimony also, undoubtedly subscribe fully to the views expressed overhead.

I am convinced, not only the personal interests of my friend would be saved, if you could find the means necessary to benefit by the undeniable qualities of Prof. Kapp, but also the general standing of hellenic science in your country will be best served in this way.

Yours sincerely,

F. MULLER.

Professor of Latin Language and
Literature at Leyden University.

E. Kapp.Opinion.

Professor Dr. E. Kapp wurde vor 10 Jahren an die Hamburger Universitaet berufen. Seitdem habe ich auf das engste mit ihm zusammengearbeitet, und habe aus der Naehе beobachtet, wie fruchtbar seine Lehrtaetigkeit gewesen ist. Ich zoegere danach nicht zu behaupten, dass Herr Kapp einer der glaenzendsten Philologen und einer der besten Lehrer ist, die wir heute besitzen. Die grosse Weite seiner wissenschaftlichen Interessen und der Umfang der von ihm gewonnenen Erkenntnisse kommt nicht annaehernd in seinen Veroeffentlichungen zum Ausdruck. Der hervorstechende Zug seiner wissenschaftlichen Arbeit ist die Selbstaeendigkeit seines Fragens; ich habe es nie erlebt, dass er einem ihm vorliegenden Stoff nicht ganz neue und wesentliche Erkenntnisse abgewonnen haette.

Hamburg, 15.9.37

Bruno Snell (Signed)

Professor Ernst Kapp.

OPINION

Scheidegg im Allgau
September 23rd 1937.

To the
Society for the Protection of Science
and Learning.
London.

Gentlemen,

From my Hamburg colleague Professor Snell I hear that some remarks of mine on the work and scholarship of Professor Ernst Kapp might be of some use to you.

I should like to state beforehand that I have been collaborating with him very closely during his tenure of the chair of Classical Philology at Hamburg University and that we are bound by a common view of scholarship and an equal interest in the classics and philosophy. This may give me a certain bias in his favour, but on the other side it ought to enable me to understand and appreciate him more thoroughly. A true estimate of the quality and the scope of his scholarship is made rather difficult for those not in touch with him by the fact - which may appear to be a serious limitation and certainly is held to be in German academic circles - that he has published very little and has not written until now what may be called a big book. Most of his energy has been spent on his lectures with the result that these lectures as well as his "Seminarübungen" may be taken to be original contributions to classical scholarship. So a true impression of the man and the scholar can only be got in the lecture-room or in private discussion of the subject he is treating at the time. To show that the impression I shall try to communicate later on is shared by others I should like to mention the experience of a young English classical scholar - an Oxford man and holder of a research fellowship of his College. Staying with me he had been listening to Professor Kapp developing his theory of the origin of the Saturnian verse. When I asked him what he thought about it his answer was: "He is almost a genius". Another English student - a Balliol man not inclined to exaggerated praise and in general a master of understatement had been a member of Professor Kapp's seminar during one of his terms in Hamburg. His summing up was: "It is most frightfully good."

Professor Kapp is a disciple of Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Professor Schwartz. He was the friend of Tycho von Wilamowitz, who was killed in the war, and has edited his well-known book on Sophoclean tragedy. I am writing in the Bavarian mountains, having no books, so I cannot enter into a detailed analysis of Professor Kapp's published work. He became Privatdozent in Munich with a thesis on Aristotelian problems. Among German classical scholars he is at present the highest authority on Aristotelian logic. He has worked out a new theory on the syllogism, published very concisely in an article in "Pauly-Wissowa". Later on he has turned to Plato. The result was a new and very shrewd interpretation of the theory of ideas. Not long ago he has published an excellent paper on the practical Platonic attitude towards the Greek State, as it really existed, which full of weighty matter as it is, shows not only the condensed power and accomplished elegance of his style, but also his insight into the deeper implications of Platonis and Academic thought. Behind its scholarly detachment and almost disdainful restraint to the careful reader there will appear the clear and firm outlines of a true scholar's mind that has mastered the perturbing problems of his lonely position among surroundings not unlike in many ways to those the rising Academy had to cope with. A review of a recent German

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thesis on Demokritos may be quoted as a specimen of Professor Kapp's critical shrewdness and his skill in textual interpretation. Another review - of a book of Professor Pasquali - contains a sketch of his very plausible explanation of the origin of the Saturnian verse. He had been led to it by the study of Cicero. But it is also a result of his keen interest in metrics. He has an exceptionally wide and exact knowledge of the history of metrics back to Bentley. This interest made him lecture on Plautus during his last term in Marburg. He is planning a comprehensive book on classical versification. Of other subjects treated in his lectures I ought at least to mention Menander, Thucydides and Homer.

This may give a fair idea of the scope of his work and his erudition. But what really matters is the general outlook by which his work is directed and the special type of classical scholarship it embodies.

I shall say without any hesitation - and I am weighing most carefully what I am going to say - that Professor Kapp belongs to the very small number of philologists who represent the most distinguished tradition of classical scholarship. Small as his published work may be, he is working in the true spirit of Bentley and Friedrich August Wolf. His is an almost uncanny gift to reduce any problem to its most simple and essential elements and to read classical texts in a way that reveals the true meaning in its original simplicity and freshness. Combining critical shrewdness of the highest order with hard commonsense he has the open-mindedness and the complete freedom of preconceived notions indispensable to the genuine interpreter. The combined result of these qualities is a rare directness of vision which puts him into immediate contact with what may for brevity's sake be called historical reality.

I am speaking of personal experience and am only too well aware of the difficulty inherent in any attempt to make plausible to others a conviction which is founded on a series of rather subtle impressions. So I should like to add that Professor Schwartz has told me more than once that he had only been prevented from proposing Professor Kapp as his successor in Munich by the small number of his publications.

But after all it is not so much the future of Professor Kapp that matters as the continuation of a particular line of German classical scholarship of which he is one of the most distinguished and efficient representatives at the present time. German philology has reached a climax in the work of Ulrich von Wilamowitz and Professor Kapp surpasses all the scholars of his generation in his firm grasp of the master's fundamental conception of the aims and methods of classical scholarship. There is need to stress the dangers that are threatening the tradition of German scholarship at the present time. The finest achievements of the human mind are highly vulnerable at any time, because there will be always only a very few who are able to carry them on in the true spirit. For it does not matter so much that they are preserved as a precious, but dead heirloom; what really matters is that the living flame be kept burning. Professor Kapp is foremost among the few German scholars who are trying hard to carry the burning torch through the night and the storm.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully

EMIL WOLFF

Professor of English Language and Culture
(Hamburg)