

December 24, 1939

Professor Miller Burrows
American Schools of
Oriental Research
404 Prospect Street
New Haven, Conn.

Dear Miller:

The enclosed letter speaks for itself. I certainly think it is the limit. I received this letter by Special Delivery late yesterday afternoon. I confess that I think it somewhat irresponsible of Olmstead and of Rev. Virginia to have acted in this wise. First, an urgent telegram from Olmstead to you; then as a result of your letter to me which, to be sure, left the decision completely in my hands; my cancelling an announced New York lecture for this Chicago lecture; and then this very calm way of saying that they think January 3 to be an unsuitable date. I had made all sorts of dates in New York for Helen and myself which I cancelled when I decided to accept the Chicago engagement, broke other engagements in Cincinnati, in a word, changed my complete program in order to accommodate Olmstead and the North Shore Baptist Church. I still have had no personal answer from Olmstead with regard to the telegram that I sent him last Tuesday. I think it is a very unbusiness-like and irresponsible way for him and them to act. I am, frankly, quite peeved.

Having now made another series of dates in Cincinnati I think, if you would not mind, I shall now stay in Cincinnati and not come to New York for December 27. Naturally, I should not refuse to come if you urged me to, but on the whole I should enjoy the rest at home.

Will you please convey to the members of the Board of Trustees and to the representatives of the Corporation my very best regards and cordial greetings. Will you furthermore please take some public opportunity of thanking them in my behalf for the very many courtesies and acts of hospitality with which they have showered me during this lecture trip.

I am delighted that Engberg is to be elected as Director of the Jerusalem school in my place. From what I have seen of him and of his wife, I am certain that our School is fortunate in having him and her available.

Professor Millar ^{Answers}--2

Some copies of the Annual came yesterday afternoon and I am delighted with the appearance of the book. AGAIN my warmest thanks to you for all your trouble with the editing of this volume. I have written two chapters of the popular book but will not be able to complete the other two chapters before I leave. I shall write one or both of them on the boat or, in any event, promise to send two chapters more within a month after I shall have returned to Jerusalem. There is some conflict in my mind as to whether or not it would be better, considered from all angles, if this popular book were to be published by the Schools or by some private publisher, say such as Revell who published Albright's book.

By separate mail I am sending you a picture of my baby which I promised to send to Irene. Cordial greetings to both of you and to Edwin, I am as ever

Sincerely yours,

NG:jp

Helson Black