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June 22, 1950

Letter, Mortimer Graves to Owen Lattimore

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Summary:

Mortimer Graves of the American Council for Learned Societies responds to Owen Lattimore's request for financial support to bring a Xinjiang specialist to the United States.

Original Language:

English

Contents:

Original Scan



American Council of Learned Societies

MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF ACADEMIES

1219 SIXTEENTH STREET, N. W., WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

June 22, 1950

3331 Dent Place, NW

Mr. Owen Lattimore, Director
 Page School of International Relations
 Johns Hopkins University
 Baltimore 18, Md.

Dear Owen:

Nobody can say too strongly that it is high time we started some American work in the languages and cultures of Central Asia. An expansion westward from your Mongol work is certainly in order, and the Turkish of Sinkiang would seem to be a next normal step. There is something tragic about it if there could not be found the few dollars that would be required to bring a couple of Turkestanis here. Our Language Committee has no money at the moment. On the other hand it is proposing a major program of producing descriptive and basic materials in about fifty languages, and if this is financed, I see no reason why Central Asiatic Turkish should not be in the picture, nor any reason why that phase of the Committee's work could not be done at JHU. But this is in the future.

I should be perfectly willing to cooperate with you in exploring the possibilities of an ad hoc grant from one of the foundations - Rockefeller, Carnegie or Viking Fund. Unless you have some reason for believing differently, my first feeling is that any of them might be willing to look sympathetically at the study. I know that the State Department people here feel very strongly that their cooperation with you on Mongol has been a success, and I am sure we can get their backing even though it might be provided clandestinely in this present political situation.

Do you know how President Bronk feels about the matter? Would he take the leadership in going up to a foundation, or is he just a wee bit timid at the present moment? Of course I should like to see Hopkins take a hold of this whole problem with a firm hand and stepping in in an effort to get real money for personnel, including a good anthropologist and equipment.

Incidentally, could not we get Bronk to buy Gordon Bowles as the anthropologist? Three years is long enough for anybody to take the

Mr. Owen Lattimore

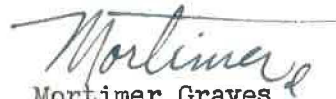
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kicking that a scholar does in Gordon's present post, and to my mind a change would be good for everybody.

I am perfectly willing to take the lead and write Marshall, Fahs, Dollard and Gardiner, but I don't want to cross any wires. I could write any of them on a completely personal basis, of course, without implicating either Hopkins or the Council. For I shall not be satisfied until we have an active American development in study of the Central Asiatic Turks.

Cordially,



Mortimer Graves
Administrative Secretary