



western union

Telegram

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1972 OCT 31 PM 4 47

FRANZ BIBFELDTFEST SWIFT HALL ROOM 101

1025 EAST 58TH ST

CHICAGO ILL 60611

WE SEND FRATERNAL GREETINGS ON THE DAY WHICH HONORS A GREAT
THEOLOGIAN, HUMANITARIAN, PATRIOT, BON VIVANT, AND CONNOISSEUR
OF LIVERWURST AND LIEBFRAUMILCH. ONE OF THE HIGH MOMENTS FOR
OUR UNIVERSITY WAS THE THREE MONTHS PROF BIBFELDT SPENT HERE
AS A STUDENT BEFORE THE UNFORTUNATE CIRCUMSTANCES CONCERNING
PROF. KLEINDENKT'S WIFE. MAY ALL OF YOU CONTINUE IN THAT TRADITION
WHICH MAKES FRANZ BIBFELDT'S THEOLOGY MORE RELEVANT THAN LIFE
ITSELF

PROF JOHANN MUELLER UNIVERSITAT SCHWEINFURT

Read to the
Spring Conference
on Liturgy and
Religious Studies
sponsored by the
Franz Pfeiffer Society
of the Divinity School,
Univ. of Chicago
May 1, 1979.

Kyde Park, 1.

Q May 1, 1966


Dear Jill,

It is a bright sunny spring morning, Franz is away on a lecture tour, and your note, ~~just~~ which arrived yesterday, is before me. I must admit that many thoughts, over many years, have begun to crystallize around our brief conversation last fall after Franz's Divinity School lecture. You asked, only for the sake of conversation, I'm sure, what my life was like as the wife of so noted and sought-after a theologian. My perfunctory answer sparked a playful push from you, "But, Hilda, what do you think about Theologically. Are you weary, at all, of the men discussing the Logos and the women babies and school-board problems? Don't you ever wish you could ~~enter into~~ ^{join} the circle around your husband as a participant and not just a provider of cheese dips?"

You hit upon a sore point. Yes, I had wished I could use my mind. I tried to say something to Franz. He took me in his arms and said "After so many years of being so good a wife, where do such ideas come from? Are you not my best audience? Do I not try out all my new ideas with you first?"

I subsided, of course, remembering my role as echo and occasionally as critic. Anyway, I began reflecting further. I picked up a ~~volume of~~ ~~Theology~~ a favorite little volume of Franz's, Karl Barth's The Faith of the Church, p. 45 and read a bit. Then I tried substituting all feminine words for the masculine ones. Try it! See what it does to you! At first I laughed at myself. Then a spark of long suppressed anger began to catch fire. Why am I laughing? Why is everything male? How did women get pushed so far behind and below?

I Thought back to Genesis, and the very first verses. What is masculine / feminine here? In That dark, formless void, was not the matrix present? In those waters over which the Spirit moved, was there not potent life? I tried to think of a new way to say it, drawing heavily on readings and conversations with Micea, but letting my women's intuition ~~do~~ work as well as memory and mind. I am a mother, my womb a matrix for life. My husband is a father, a ~~stirrer~~ of husbandman of my fertile soil. Let us go behind ^{all-encompassing} creation once again. In the beginning was the Matrix who felt compassion grow powerfully within her ~~for the~~ as ~~the~~ Order, yet unenlivened, descended in search of being. Matrix called Order to her and embraced him. Of her compassion and order's need, life stirred. There, I thought, why not? Why should

not the feminine engenderer be called matrix
 rather than chaos? Why should not
 Matrix be God rather than Sky - Father?
 What, after all, is order ~~without disorder~~?
 all by its lonesome self? What poems
 were written by law? ~~What laws were~~
~~how do~~ Why should anyone aspire
 for greatness unless a potency yearns for
 expression and allows itself to be stirred?
 Are the shaping hands of this world male
 or female? 

I then warmed to my theme and conceived
 of order as a perfect square. There it lay,
 Perfect, and perfectly uninspired and uninspiring.
 Poor order. Poor male principle. What you need
 my little block, is a dose of chaos! What you
 need, little Father-in-potency, is a Mother
 to make you swell out of your ^{cloud}-mind.
~~What~~ I shall call you out and up. You

shall lose your upright control and enter the ecstasy of my dream of becoming and so together we shall find life and new life shall grow in me from us!

In the beginning was Matrix and the Ordering Word was with her and in her, The daughter Wisdom grew to birth, sprang to earth to play among ~~men~~^{us}, creating, calling into being and into responsibility, offering the fruit of knowledge and the glory of growing into women and men who know themselves as images of the procreators Matrix and Logos, who together are a God-head-breathing Love.

~~The~~ My pen has run away with me. Franz would be shocked. But I am

strangely elated. Why not such a myth instead of the Marduk-dominated Enuma Elish? But, for the sake of the sanity and peace of our household and to protect the world ~~Franz~~ that supports Franz, I beg of you to keep this letter to yourself until such a time and occasion as it may be appreciated.

~~Franz~~ As you know, Franz and I are beginning a series of lectures around Europe which will make correspondence difficult. I shall, however, be delighted to have your response to my outpouring.

Best wishes always,

Hilda Bibfeldt.

P.S. Excuse this paper. My thoughts were too large for my "properly feminine" linen bond note-paper. And the yellow fits the bright sunshine this May morning!

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May 1, 1974.

Kyde Park, 1.

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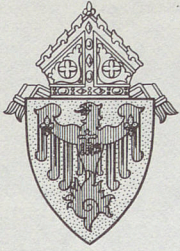
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ARCHDIOCESE OF CHICAGO

POST OFFICE BOX 1979

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60690

Office of the Chancellor
312/787-2315

October 22, 1971

Reverend John M. Miller
Fourth Presbyterian Church
866 North Michigan Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Dear Reverend Miller:

It was good to see you again at the Presbyterian offices last Wednesday. I took your memorandum home with me and have been thinking about it over the past few days. Frankly, I hope I have an opportunity to be of service to you on some other issue in the near future but am afraid I am going to "strike out" on this one. I understand that your suggestion is [REDACTED] and that Dr. Marty would understand it in that sense. However, I do not feel we could ask the Pope to become involved at this time.

Assuring you of my cordial best wishes and looking forward to seeing you again, I am

Sincerely,

Reverend Edward M. Egan
Co-Chancellor

EME:cp

Oh well, I tried.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 12, 1980

Daniel J. Boorstin
Librarian of Congress
The Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Boorstin:-

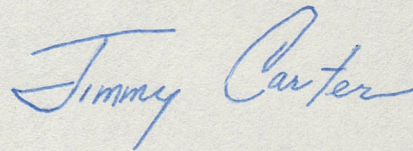
You are, of course, not the first to suggest that Bibfeldt be presented the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroic work in the Swiss Resistance Movement during World War II. I have received the suggestion from many of his admirers--from distinguished theologians and humble, everyday Americans alike--since entering the Oval Office. Many to whom I have mentioned the possibility seemed surprised that it had not already been done by a previous administration.

The last time Franz stopped by the White House, I put it to him directly. His response was typical of him: "No, no," he said, "it cannot be! Why to me and not to Sartre?" Isn't that just like him?

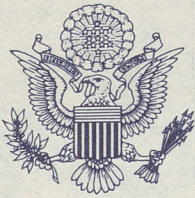
Nevertheless, I was very much moved by your stirring appeal on his behalf; and after discussing it with Rosalyn and Amy, I have decided to act decisively on this matter. I am making it one of the very first priorities in my second administration and will send forward the necessary paperwork shortly after inauguration.

Thank you, on his behalf, for making the suggestion and for making it so nobly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PS. I enjoyed our little chat at the reception last Tuesday. I hope that, after the campaign, you and Ruth can come over for a quiet evening with Rosalyn and me. There is much to discuss.



President's Commission for a National Agenda
for the Eighties

744 Jackson Place, NW, Washington, DC 20006

October 8, 1980

Commissioner Martin Marty
University of Chicago Divinity School
Swift Hall, Room 222
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Martin:

I want to explain to you personally the reason that the Executive Committee decided to postpone the October 17 Commission meeting to November 7.

On October 2 the Executive Committee met all day and exhaustively reviewed the initial staff draft of the final Commission Report. The draft was, in my opinion, a good first cut at an extremely difficult task, that of melding into a common framework the analyses and conclusions of the nine panels. After eight hours of discussion, however, the Executive Committee and I felt that we needed one more re-draft before we would feel comfortable in submitting a preliminary document to the Commission. Accordingly, we have scheduled another day of discussion for the chairpersons of the Panels on October 17. It is my hope and belief that we shall emerge from that meeting with a draft that is worthy of your careful attention.

I should like to assure each of you that I intend to provide opportunity for all Commission members to air their views regarding the Draft Report before we go to press. There are now two full Commission meetings scheduled--November 7 and December 5--and if it becomes obvious that we need additional discussion I shall not hesitate to add more meetings to the schedule during November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "W. McGill", is written over the typed name.

William J. McGill
Chairman

18 Cambridge Way
Piedmont, CA 94611
March 23, 1981

University of Chicago
5801 Ellis Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Gentlemen:

"CONVERSATION AT CHICAGO", on Sunday, March 22,
was DISGUSTING. And from a Divinity School!

Very truly yours,

Hester Robinson

Hester Robinson
(Mrs. Jack Robinson)

5 Thoms

143

18 Cambridge Way
Piedmont, CA 94611
March 23, 1981

University of Chicago
5801 Ellis Ave
Chicago, Illinois 60637

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA 94305

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

October 6, 1988

Dear Sirs:

You will find enclosed my check [#] 3154
in the amount of \$137.00 for the following
two books listed in Origen, an authentic
church father (Marty Marty told me
about your knowledge of the Great
Fictitious Lutheran Confessional
writers), oh, no, it was Jerry
Brauer! For the enclosed check
I should like to receive from you
(where do you find these things?)

1. Item no. 198-

Spiz, Life in two worlds.

(I am not a narcissist, but
have no copies & would like
to give one to my two years

(over):
Thanks!

old grandson who, like Pelikan,
even reads Greek & Latin at Thotage!

and

No. 217 Philip Watson, Let
God be God!

If you get a big order
from The Stanford Library, you
may bless or curse me, for I have
asked The Stanford U. Library to
check on 98 items in your
catalog & order them, if we
do not have them. Whether
they will or not or will do so
in time, I have no way of
knowing. But we keep trying.

— Jew Spitz

P.S. Please put your name on the
catalogs. I hate writing letters to
Dear Sirs & Fictional Professors!

April 4, 1975

Mr. Franz Bibfeldt
c/o Father Ed Brennan
St. Basil's Center of Christian Renewal
3990 Giddings Road
Pontiac, Michigan 48057

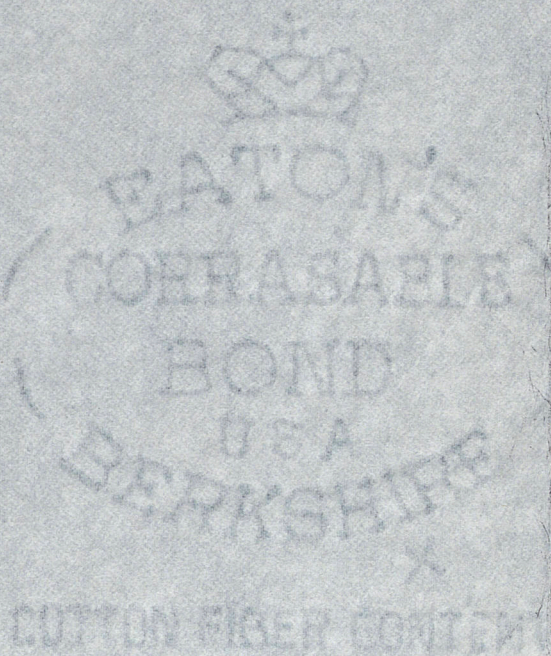
Dear Franz:

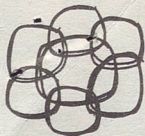
Yes and no.

Warm regards,

Martin E. Marty
Associate Dean

MEM:dlm





ST. BASIL'S CENTER OF
CHRISTIAN RENEWAL

3990 GIDDINGS ROAD • PONTIAC • MICHIGAN • 48057
(313) 373-5474

3-20-75

Dear Martin,

At the moment I am visiting
the people at St. Basil's Center —
a little respite, you know. They
have spoken about the New School
of Religion and have asked me to
participate as one of the professors
in '76. Since I know you, and
am told you have been here,
I thought I'd ask your advice —
should I or should I not? I think
what attracted the people here
most was my famous book
"The Relieved Paradox".
You remember that one, don't you?
Hoping to hear from you
soon and to receive your
opinion.

Gratefully -

Franz Biefeldt

Feb. 15, '88

Hi Marty!

The Bibbelfelt family tree includes
a musical branch, personified by
GUNTHER BIBBEFELT — (cousin? brother? of
Hans ~~the~~ I'm not sure which — could even
be a grand- or great-grandchild.) I
realize that this is shocking news — fast
breaking story in genealogical circles —
~~this was only~~ the music of Gunther was only
recently found, bound in a collection &
hidden behind a loose panel in a
mountain chalet in Switzerland.
Gunther lived in the chalet most of his
tragically short 37 years, under the
assumed name Brunther Goodfett.
He was very reclusive — so much so that
he would not tell people his real name,
opting instead to tell his pseudonym,
at which he would not respond as

he felt that if ~~any~~ a person couldn't even call him by his ^{REAL} name he didn't owe them a response.

He didn't have many friends.

When historians finally made the connection between Brunner Goodfett & Gunther Bibbfelt, (17 historians, to be exact), they rushed to the chalet to research this latest edition to the Bibbfelt Folio (as those in the know refer to it). Besides his renowned reclusivity & his music, Gunther was also known for his affection for knot-holes. He collected panelling & lumber with holes, ~~in~~ a collection that numbered a staggering 642 holes (indexed by Gunther B. himself).

And besides, the contest in which I entered stipulated all entrants needed to use a pseudonym. The name "Bibbfelt" came to mind!

Thanks for the loan of a good name!

— Todd Atkins —

Blunt Ellis & Loewi
Incorporated

Westmoreland Building
9933 Lawler Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077
Telephone 312/676-4700
Chicago 312/583-4567

Member New York Stock Exchange

John F. Schaeffer
Vice President Sales



May 11, 1983

Dr. Martin Marty
The Divinity School
University of Chicago
1025 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Marty:

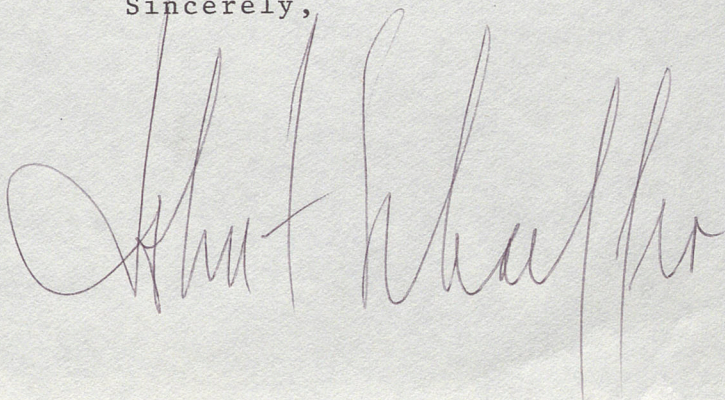
I find it unfortunate that you are the prime mover in the ongoing attempt to ridicule Dr. Bibfeldt.

I had the unforgettable thrill of meeting Franz in 1957 in a remote fishing village in northeastern Greece. We were both headed for Mt. Athos and found a common ground in our mutual quest for serenity. He hinted to me of a most trying experience in his life (I believe with a woman of lesser morality) that had brought him to the holy mountain.

I'll never forget the morning we both saw the immortal peninsula..from a fishing boat at the dawn's early light. Overcome with the sheer majesty of the moment, Franz dove in the water and headed for Athos.

I never saw him again but a Baptist friend of mine swears he saw Franz in a discotheque in Peoria around 1972. Nevertheless, for those of us seeking truth, Dr. Bibfeldt lives.

Sincerely,



7

Blunt Ellis & Loewi
Incorporated

Westmoreland Building
9933 Lawler Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60077
Telephone 312/676-4700
Chicago 312/583-4567

Member New York Stock Exchange

John F. Schaeffer
Vice President Sales

C

May 11, 1983

Dr. Martin Marty
The Divinity School
University of Chicago
1025 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois

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Sincerely,

John F. Schaeffer

GLADYS S. LEWIS
14501 NORTH WESTERN AVENUE
EDMOND, OKLAHOMA 73013

(405) 755-8811

May 22, 1992

Professor Martin E. Marty
The University of Chicago
The Divinity School
Swift Hall
1025 East 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Professor Marty,

I was a member of the Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Seminar which you directed March 21-25, 1988, entitled "Religion and the Combat Zone of Values: Principles and Case Studies," at the University of Oklahoma. Although we corresponded afterward, and you sent me the delightful accounts of the (a)historical (de)constructive adventures of the great scholar, Franz Bibfeldt, and his wife, Hilda, I mention our specific encounter to enable you to place me in the crowd who claim you as friend after one or two interactions.

My purpose in writing is to put in your hands, for your eyes only, this copy of my initial manuscript submission to The University of Chicago Press. I am not asking you to intervene or intercede in any way; rather, I simply wanted you to be aware that I have done this. After all, Editor Thomas may be a golf or bridge companion of Franz Bibfeldt. Surely such an intellectual as Professor Bibfeldt has some form of relaxation.

Since we last communicated, a number of significant events have transpired. Perhaps of more dramatic dimensions, my prophecy of the split of the Southern Baptist Convention proceeds on course, in spite of the protestations of my young Muskogee attorney friend who was a member of our seminar in 1988. But of a more personal nature (although my denominational history is certainly personal to me) I did complete my Ph.D. work and am now a full-time faculty member at the University of Central Oklahoma in Edmond. From your travels in Oklahoma, you may recognize my school as the Edmond campus previously named Central State University. (I think the Regents had a slow afternoon a couple of years ago and decided to change the university's name.) And I note from my University of Chicago Press catalogs, as far as your events are concerned your editorship of the three volume opus on fundamentalism is in production. I have just ordered the first volume, Fundamentalisms Observed.

During my dissertation research, I read about six of your books and cited specifically from Pilgrims in Their Own Land: 500 Years of Religion in America and Righteous Empire: The Protestant

Experience in America. As you may suppose, the manuscript of the accompanying query to The University of Chicago Press is the revision of my dissertation. I have assumed a university press will be the most indicated publisher for it. However, if you have thoughts or suggestions to the contrary and the time to make them to me, I would receive them gratefully.

I have always intended to let you know that both Franz and Hilda Bibfeldt have penetrated the massive texts of literature. I found their work helpful in the most interesting place: Tudor Renaissance devotional writings. In 1988, while researching a paper which I entitled "Queen Katherine Parr's Writings: Transforming Reform," I recognized the obvious parallels between their work and the efforts which certain fifteenth-century mystics attempted in their writings. On the sixth page of that paper I wrote:

The period from the end of the thirteenth century to the beginning of the fifteenth century witnessed the golden age of mystical literature in the vernacular when men and women all over Europe were called to the heights of prayer and union with God and wrote about the experience (Davis 18-20).¹⁰

I enclose a copy of the page which contains note ten together with the works cited page as documentation of Bibfeldt's entrance as an authority into the discipline of literature. I feel sure this knowledge will hold great significance for you.

Thanks for receiving this packet. I continue to cherish the many insights and gems of intellectual phrasing from the week of your instruction. As I looked through my file on "Marty, Martin E." material from that time to get your address, I chuckled again over some of your comments about the zones of religious and moral conflict ("a fanatic is one who knows what the Lord would do if the Lord had all the facts"--"Tim LaHaye invented the secular humanism infidel to have for escapism from realistic conflict"). I nodded over others ("a heretic believes what everybody else believes, but a little earlier"--"conservatism is in the South, fundamentalism is from the North; Southern Baptists were not a fundamentalism, they turned fundamentalism"). I trust all goes well with you, your work, and your family.

Sincerely,

Gladys S. Lewis

Gladys S. Lewis

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
210 North Broadway - St. Louis 2, Missouri

27 February, 1975

The Reverend Dr. Franz Bibfeldt
c/o The Reverend Dr. Martin E. Marty
The Divinity School
The University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Dr. Bibfeldt:

Since my retirement as Executive Secretary of the International Lutheran Implement Dealers Association of North America, I have done volunteer work for the Kingdom in the area of keeping tabs on the thinking of theologians who are working in our circles.

The other day a friend of mine told me of you. I regret to say that I had never heard about you, and I don't know whether you're Lutheran or not which, if you are not, I am not interested in what you believe but if you are I would very much like to know for the record where you stand on the Virgin Birth, the Flood, Jonah and the whale, Job, and Adam and Eve. If you will be so kind as to advise me on these matters I will grade you on the scale which we use to measure orthodoxy and include your name and rating in our next Digest of Lutheran Theologians.

Very sincerely,

G.G.

G.G.

313 Main Street
Xanadu, Nebraska 76543



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

BERKELEY • DAVIS • IRVINE • LOS ANGELES • RIVERSIDE • SAN DIEGO • SAN FRANCISCO



SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF RHETORIC

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

6 June 1983

Dr. Franz Bibfeldt, Jr.
c/o Professor Martin Marty
School of Divinity
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Professor Marty:

I write on behalf of my distinguished colleague, Professor Franz Pknöeurdt, Visiting Professor (on leave) in this department. As Professor Pknöeurdt has, at the moment, stepped away from campus, he has asked me to write to ask if you would give his best wishes and expressions of sincere admiration to Dr. Bibfeldt. Bibfeldt's pathbreaking studies have, of course, had a great influence on Pknöeurdt's recent work, and Professor Pknöeurdt would greatly enjoy the possibility of exploring some joint efforts in the area of criticism-transcendence. Perhaps a fruitful collaboration on Professor Pknöeurdt's latest research effort: "Zen Hermeneutic and Feminist Formgeschichte: Toward a Theory of Non-Reception," might be arranged. A reciprocal series of lectures might also be arranged to the mutual benefit of our two departments. I suspect in the latter case that the expenses to be borne by the departments would turn out to be very slight, but the additions to the stock of human knowledge--who can say? I enclose a copy of Professor Pknöeurdt's vita. In addition to the items listed there, he is also a member of many learned societies who send material to this department via bulk mail. Thank you for your help in this matter. In the event that it may have entered your mind that this letter might be a prank by one of Professor Pknöeurdt's students, you may verify my bona fides with Professor Eric Hamp of the Chicago Linguistics department.

Yours, for the advancement
of knowledge,

Daniel F. Melia
Associate Professor
for Professor Franz Pknöeurdt

DFM:pm

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

1025 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637

Swift Hall

June 22, 1983

Professor Daniel F. Melia
University of California, Berkeley
Department of Rhetoric
Berkeley, California 94720

Dear Professor Melia:

What you sent me is hardly believable but it will go
in the Bibfeldt archives where it is certain to be
believed. Our professor friends must stay in touch!

Warm regards,

Martin E. Marty

MEM/ra

Dictated by Dr. Martin and signed in his absence.

Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary

2121 Sheridan Road
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Telephone: Area Code 312/866-3900

August 11, 1983

Dr. Jerald Brauer, Chairman
The Bibfeldt Foundation
The Divinity School
University of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Dr. Brauer,

I would like to approach the Bibfeldt Foundation for a sabbatical grant to write an authoritative biography of Franz Bibfeldt.

Currently I am Librarian at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, and I believe that our library holds a distinct place in Bibfeldtistica. We have here at Garrett-Evangelical, I believe, the smallest non-extant collection of Bibfeldt materials anywhere in the world. My letter to the archives in Reykjavik remains unanswered, but careful Bibfeldt research reveals that The Icelandic Archives contain not even one reference to the life of Franz Bibfeldt. I can assume therefore, by Bibfeldt's own logic (*Respondeo ergo sum*) that our library's collection is slightly smaller than that making us the world's smallest Bibfeldt collection in the entire world.

You may well ask, Dr Brauer, "But does this not hinder your attempt to write a biography of Bibfeldt?" And my reply is not, at all. For as Franz was so wont to say, "Living is simply dying upside down."

My sabbatical proposal is to produce a major bibliographic index to all of Bibfeldt's primary source material, and to produce an authoritative biography for the general reader. My proposal follows:

I. TRAVEL \$27,511.94

First I will visit Bibfeldt's birthplace and interview citizens in that fair city. I believe that there is still much to be learned from the Bibfeldt's neighbors--things that they have kept secret to this day.

Secondly I will travel to Oak Island in Nova Scotia and reopen the great mystery treasure pit. It is my firm conviction after years of Bibfeldt research that Franz led a small community of followers to Oak Island and that shortly before he died, his followers placed his diaries and

manuscripts in the great treasure hole. I am confident that with the aid of your research grant, that within one year we will have in our hands, the original handwritten manuscript notes from "Either/or and/or Both/And" and "The Crooked Way". And yes, do I dare say it, the original notes from Franz's first work "The Relieved Paradox" will at long last be available to the scholarly world. Early investigation has already shown that the words, Respondo ergo sum were engraved on one of the oak timbers removed from the treasure hold at Oak Island.

My theory is that Franz Bibfeldt was run out of his native community over a theological controversy involving re-baptism when some of his followers began to practice re-circumcision. He and his followers escaped to Oak Island where they lived for a period of time and amazingly left with no trace save for the evidence which I possess which makes me confident that the Bibfeldt manuscripts are located here.

II. RESEARCH

\$ 15,527.82

My research is based on the assumption that Robin W. Loven is simply wrong in his "The Breakdown of Consciousness and the Origins of the Quadrilateral Mind" when he states that Bibfeldt was able psychologically and physiologically to hold two contradictory opinions in perfect unity. Even if this is true, it is evident that Loven did not take into account the Gnostic references in Bibfeldt's "The Problem of the Year Zero". Also Glenn Holland like Loven has failed to read the correspondence of Bibfeldt contained on the French Post Card Collection a collection which I studied while doing research in the Bangor Maine Seminary Library Archives. It may well be true, as my own colleague points out, that I have not yet read Loven's or Holland's articles on Bibfeldt, but that has never stopped me from arguing with someone before.

I believe that Martin Marty has put his finger on the answer to the mystery surrounding Bibfeldt's birth when he said, "Bibfeldt has tended to show up one year ^uearly or one year late for everything." My biography will show that Bibfeldt's date of birth was actually one year later than he anticipated.

III. PUBLICATION

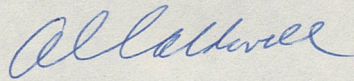
I am confident that either Oxford, Cambridge, or University of Chicago Press will publish the biography and that sales will quickly recover the cost of the grant.

IV. SUMMARY

In effect, I am asking the Bibfeldt Foundation for an Advance of \$43,039.76 against anticipated sales of the Biography. It is my plan to sign over the royalties to the Bibfeldt Foundation to be used in a way which would best exemplify the principles for which Franz Bibfeldt stood.

I anxiously wait for your reply, knowing that the Spirit of Franz Bibfeldt will direct the Foundation Directors in their decision on this matter of grave importance to me.

Sincerely,



Alva R. Caldwell

Librarian and Part-time lecturer in Bibfeldt Studi

cc Martin Marty

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE DIVINITY SCHOOL

1025 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO • ILLINOIS 60637

Swift Hall

January 4, 1984

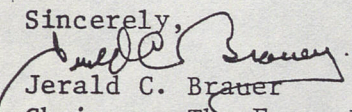
Professor Al Caldwell
The United Library
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary
2121 Sheridan Road
Evanston, Illinois 60201

Dear Professor Caldwell:

In behalf of the Franz Bibfeldt Foundation I want to thank you profusely for your most generous gift to the work of the Foundation. I note the conditions of your request and assure you that the Foundation will make every effort to abide by your wishes. We are delighted that you are concerned that we pursue every effort in locating and purchasing first editions of Bibfeldt's works. After an arduous search for Bibfeldt original editions, the remaining funds might be used to purchase books. On the other hand, it might be wiser to use the income from the money invested as an endowment so as to encourage graduate fellowships in Bibfeldt studies. Unless we hear to the contrary from you, the board will pick up that question at its next meeting and make what we hope you will consider to be a proper judgment.

Again, let me express our profound gratitude for your generous gift of \$1.11. You will be pleased to know that this is the first cash gift received by the Foundation, though we have been the recipients of many gifts in kind. Incidentally, could we request that you rewrite the check, which is returned herewith, and make it out to the Divinity School of the University of Chicago, and in the lower left hand corner please write "Annual Bibfeldt Gift." In that way you will receive tax exemption. Government regulations are so strict concerning the Bibfeldt Foundation that we cannot operate in any other fashion and keep our books straight for the purposes of IRS. As you know, we are a large and complex organization and have carefully worked out our fiscal responsibilities to the government. As you said concerning your gift, "I believe Franz would want it that way."

Sincerely,


Jerald C. Brauer
Chairman, The Franz Bibfeldt
Foundation

JCB/mgh
enclosure

cc: Martin E. Marty

COPY

December 16, 1987

Mr. Wayne Bornholdt
1022 College Avenue
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Wayne:

Thanks so much for the exhibitor's badge. It goes into the file.
Be sure to contact me towards spring to find out the date of this
year's Bibfeldt festival. I look forward to seeing you then.

Warm regards,

Martin E. Marty

MEM/jl

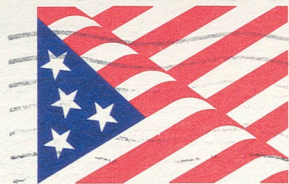
Dictated by Dr. Marty but signed in his absence.



LEON MULLER - FREE THINKER
3735 South Winchester Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60609-2039



THE FREETHINKER



USA 19

MARTIN MARTY

Divine Nonsense School

University of Chicago

5801 South Ellis Avenue

Chicago, Illinois

60637

1 April 1992

Martin Marty:

Re: THE FREETHINKER: IN GOOD WE TRUST!

Your published 1992 April Fool Day report pertaining to fictitious, controversial theologian Franz Bibfeldt asserting "theologians, like gods, are easier to control if we invent them" stimulates fresh thought associations of THE FREETHINKER reflecting on man as the only earthly creature that creates a god in his own image and worships the creator.

Thoughtfully for goodness sake,

Leon Muller

LEON MULLER -- THE FREETHINKER
Intellectual Property# 1989.761
Chicago Historical Society

EMORY UNIVERSITY

Candler School of Theology

Atlanta, Georgia 30322

September 6, 1988

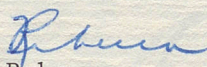
Mr. Martin E. Marty
University of Chicago Divinity School
Swift Hall
1025 E. 58th Street
Chicago, Illinois 60637

Dear Marty:

Plans for the Bibfeldt session are moving along slowly and with sustained disorganization (with the exception of Robin Lovin who deserves a special Bibfeldt award!). When you were in Atlanta last spring you mentioned that you might be able to get some Bibfeldt memorabilia together. I know it's late now, but I wanted to inquire to see if this might still be possible. A slide show might be out of the question, unless there is one prepared, but something to look at would be wonderful.

You still have several weeks before school starts, I imagine. Ours started today. I am doing a large class in systematic theology on Barth, Tillich and Liberation Thought. It's fun! I sent the manuscript in I was working on a month ago, and am now gearing up for a project in theological education.

Best wishes,


Rebecca

RC:skt

PPleae phone her today.

If they do want the slide show, I should hear this week, and we'll get right at it. I note the program says there'll be one, so I can provide. (No expense; Bibfeldt is always free). But I don't want to take the pictures if they do not plan to use them. Greet her.

Marty

(404) 727-6324
~~8172~~
727-4016

636-0317

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

FOR Dr. Mark

DATE 10/19 TIME 11²⁰ A.M.
P.M.

M Becky Chopp just

OF called back

PHONE _____

AREA CODE

NUMBER

EXTENSION

TELEPHONED		PLEASE CALL	
CAME TO SEE YOU		WILL CALL AGAIN	
WANTS TO SEE YOU		RUSH	
RETURNED YOUR CALL		SPECIAL ATTENTION	

MESSAGE Yes - would like

slide - she did send a

letter about this which

you'll probably receive

today or tomorrow!

SIGNED JL

LITHO IN U.S.A.

TOPS  FORM 3002P