

Public Affairs Television, Inc.

Bill Moyers

January 17, 1994

Dear Marty:

I wanted you to be the first to know that I am leaving broadcast journalism. And I wanted you to be the first of my references in my application for graduate work in PreRapture Bibfeldtian Syllogisms at the Newtonian Academy of Dramatics in Cobb County, Georgia. I will make the move as soon as I complete the 97-part series for PBS on "Bibfeldt's Life and Times -- the Adolescent Years", which, it should please you, may also become a movie once it can be firmly established that Bibfeldt, while doing research on original sin, was indeed Oprah's lover during her earlier incarnation as Albert Schweitzer's interpreter in their Quest for the Hysterical Jesus (whom, it will also please you to know, has definitely been identified as an early guest on Donahue, where he admitted to a liaison with Bibfeldt's second wife's first cousin, Bessie, who, research now shows, was the co-author of Bibfeldt's Third Treatise on Mythology in the Minds of Jerry Falwell). In the meantime, Judith and I are very much enjoying the Bibfeldtian Chants which you sent, based on the manuscripts of Bibfeldt's Grandfather Gregory, after whom a famous actor was named when Bibfeldt was called upon to circumscribe him by the theologian's good friend, Rabbi Ezra O'Connor of St. Patrick's Cathedral of St. John's Divinity in New York City, proving (as if proof were needed) the profound insight of Bibfeldt's Primary Corollary: "In an age of convergence, things converge."

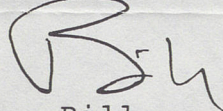
I intend to arrive at seminary with only one book -- your splendid single volume commentary on Bibfeldt -- and a pair of shoelaces, one white, one black, in keeping with Bibfeldt's Secondary

Corollary, "When things converge, tie them down."

I am counting on you to speak at my commencement and urge you to start now research on Bibfeldt's theological underpinnings for assault weaponry, a subject dear to the hearts of the good people of Cobb County. Expect a warm welcome.

In the meantime, and on another note, thank you not only for the Bibfeldt Encyclopedia but for the book done by your son and you. I took it to my son, Cope, this past weekend in Atlanta, and we enjoyed reading the meditations and contemplating the photographs together. It is a beautiful work and touched us both.

Love to Harriet.


Bill

facsimile

TRANSMITTAL

to: Martin Marty
fax #: 708-447-9508
re: The Bibfeldt (sic) Book
date: January 19, 1995
pages: 1, including cover sheet.

Marty,

I have just finished reading the collected essays on the great Frantz Bibfeld. While there is some (but not much) value in the essays, I want to record my horror at discovering a glaring omission in your bibliography and in the references of all of the essays. Not once is there mention of my doctoral dissertation "Frantz Bibfeld and the Contemporary Historical Dilemma," submitted (but not accepted) to Branchwater Kentucky University in 1977 and published in 1979 by Vain Press. If you, Brauer, and the other contributors to The Unrelieved Paradox--you who call yourselves scholars!--had bothered to read my work, you would know that I demonstrated decisively that (by a careful reading of watermarks) the proper spelling of the names is Frantz and Bibfeld, that (on Billy Graham's epistemological principle of "I talked to him this morning") Bibfeld's existence is self-demonstrating, and that (on the basis of a post-modernist interpretive strategy of subversion) "both/and" really means "absolutely one but not the other" in Bibfeld's thought. I am sick and tired of the Chicago School trying to monopolize the scholarship on the 20th century's greatest theologian. I only hope that some scholarly journal will invite me to review your book of essays so that I can call attention to this Chicago parochialism.

Conrad Cherry

From the desk of...

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January 23, 1995

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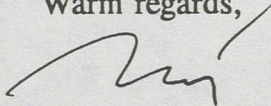
Dear Prof. Cherry:

I showed your letter protesting the Chicago monopoly to President Hugo Sonnenschein. He was last seen on his knees, with tears filling his eyes, imploring: "Please IUPUI, please SRAC, please Newt, please anyone, take this Bibfeldt thing off our hands, disrupt the hegemony of Chicago Bibfeldtians, and let me never hear of it again. At least not until tomorrow."

As he was being led off we tried to make contact with Bibfeld(t) or Bibfel(d)t, as the case may be. But he is publicity shy. Why does not the Center quarterly demolish Chicago scholarship on this subject?

Otherwise, all is well.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Marty', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martin E. Marty FAX 708 447 9508