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ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

March 31, 1913.

Professor Robert M. Lovett,

University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Professor Lovett:-

I want to take the liberty of saying a few words in behalf of Professor Cross of North Carolina, who is, I believe, being considered by you for a position in your department.

Professor Cross is a man of great industry and conscientiousness, and his knowledge is very extensive, especially in the field of Celtic. In English he is also widely read, and he knows much more than is usual among modern professors of English of French, Spanish, Italian, and German literatures. On the score of scholarship I think he is a very exceptional man.

Professor Cross' personality is also an attractive one. He is a sympathetic man and possesses tact and adaptability, and is a persuasive teacher. He is a man of high standards, but he is not arbitrary, and I think he is wholly successful in his relations with his students.

I have known Professor Cross for the last eight or ten years and I think him a very promising man and regard any institution fortunate that can get a man of his earnestness and energy, and I recommend him without any qualification whatever.

I shall be very glad to write further about Professor Cross, if you think there is any point on which I can do so.

Very truly yours,

Sidney Lanier

Professor of English

St. John's College
Annapolis, Maryland
Department of English

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Very truly yours,

Professor of English

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

31 Mar. '13

Dear Rob,

T. P. Cross, not knowing that Manly had already consulted me, has asked me to send you a line about him. Of course you already know my opinion about him. I believe in him strongly both as a man & as a scholar. I should rank him certainly among the half dozen most promising scholars that I have ever taught, & I want very much to see him in a place where his special attainments will count.

I hope all is well with you. Our love to you all.

Yours ever,

F. N. R.

Professor R. M. Lovett.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

March 31, 1913.

Dear Professor Lovett,

I hear you are considering Professor T. P. Cross for an appointment in English & Celtic, and I want to say a word.

I have known Cross for many years and regard him as one of our ablest men. There is no question of the thoroughness of his scholarship or of his fundamental qualities as a man. I have complete faith in his quality all round. His defects you will see at a glance — and overestimate. His Southern speech is obvious, but is constantly decreasing: I see no other hindrance to his academic success.

If I can work anything as a prophet, Cross will be a distinguished scholar — & pretty soon. His zeal is amazing & well directed. Don't lose him.

Yours sincerely,

W. A. Neilson.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

7

University of North Carolina,

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 26th, 1913.

My dear Professor Lovett;-

I am greatly obliged for your letter of the 21st instant, which, however, because of my absence in Raleigh at a meeting of the North Carolina Folklore Society, did not reach me immediately upon its arrival here. I found that although it would be possible for me to leave any time during the current week, it was highly desirable from the point of view of the university that I should be present at the annual dinner of the Harvard Club of North Carolina, to be given in Durham on Thursday night (the 27th). I had also arranged to entertain Professor Kittredge in Chapel Hill on the 28th. For these reasons I was desirous of making the journey to Chicago next week instead of this. I found that I shall be able to get away on Thursday, April 3d, and arrive in Chicago on the 5th. The main facts in the case I embodied in a "night-letter" to you last night, at the same time requesting you to wire me at once your preference in the matter, so that, if necessary, I might be able to leave to-day. It is possible that our none too reliable telegraph system may have failed in its duty and that the message was delayed. It is now 11:30 p.m., and as no answer has arrived, I am writing this. I shall have to leave Chapel Hill to-morrow morning to meet an engagementin Durham; so, in case no answer reaches me by 11:00 a.m., I shall wire you again.

As you suggest, it is quite important from my point of view that the matter be settled as soon as possible. This is my first year of service at the University of North Carolina, and I feel that if any change is

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to be made, I should give the authorities as much time as possible to look for a successor. Moreover, I have for some weeks held an option for the rent of part of a house in a very desirable section of the town, and I fear I shall not be able to ~~hold~~ keep the matter open much longer. I shall therefore be greatly obliged if you will telegraph me your wishes, in case you have not already done so by the time this reaches you.

Though you are good enough to say that certain members of your English department know of my work, you will pardon me for stating a few facts, some of which may have escaped your attention.

With regard to my work in Celtic philology. I took all the Celtic courses offered at Harvard (Old and Middle Irish, Old and Middle Welsh), and did some additional reading in the Celtic Conference, a club composed of Professors Robinson and Kittredge, and several other persons interested in Irish. I studied Irish palaeography in the School of Irish Learning, in Dublin.

I also attended a course of lectures on Celtic religion by Professor Robinson, of Harvard, and another on Celtic archaeology by Professor Kuno Meyer, now of the University of Berlin.

On the side of literature my work has been more extensive. My dissertation, entitled "Mediaeval Romance as Illustrated by Early Irish Literature", laid out the ground and presented a considerable amount of material bearing on the much disputed question of the Celtic origins of mediaeval (especially Arthurian) romance. The authorities at Harvard considered the work promising enough to justify its continuance, and they accordingly sent me abroad to ~~continue~~ pursue my studies and investigation. After remaining in the British Isles and in France for somewhat ~~more~~ over ~~than~~ a year, working most of the time in Dublin, Oxford, and London, I found that the subject was one that would require several years more to work out in an even approximately satisfactory fashion; for it

transpired early that, even after going over the field of published and unpublished early Celtic romantic literature (part of which I had already completed), I should still have to cover a large amount of material in Middle English, Old French, Middle High German, and Italian, besides a great deal of modern Celtic lore. Last summer I was fortunately able to spend several weeks in the National Library of Ireland and in the British Museum examining material which, so far as I know, is inaccessible in America. By the advice of my Harvard friends I have just declined an invitation to teach in the Dartmouth Summer School, so that I may give the whole of the coming ~~summer~~ vacation to collecting material preparatory to the publication of a volume (or volumes?) which Professors Kittredge and Robinson have assured me will be published when completed. My task is both long and difficult, but I believe the game is worth the candle. In reality I ~~should~~ ought to return to Europe this summer, for it is more important in Celtic than in most other fields that the American investigator keep in close contact with the MSS and rare books on the other side of the Atlantic. I have given you the facts enumerated above that you may form an idea of the nature and scope of my research and of the faith which competent judges have in the value of its results as a real contribution to scholarship.

I shall be glad to bring with me or send such of my published material as I have by me. Unfortunately some of what I regard as my most successful work is either in press or is still unpublished. I have been planning for some months to present to the Royal Irish Academy a paper on "The Launfal Cycle" for publication in their Proceedings, but ill health, public lectures, and other obstacles have prevented me from completing it.

As to my preparation in English, I shall only say that after taking my A.B. and my S.B. in the South, I studied for between four and five years at Harvard, where I took my doctorate in 1909. As to my efficiency, President Mary K. Benedict of Sweet Briar College or Professor James F. Royster of the University of North Carolina can probably give you more reliable information than I can.

The position you refer to interests me greatly. Although I heard more than a year ago that the University of Chicago was contemplating the appointment of a man in English and Celtic, I knew nothing of the possibilities for next session.

I have always remembered with peculiar pleasure my meeting with you at the Cliff Dwellers Club because of your courtesy to me on that occasion. With kindest regards to yourself and to Professor Manly (in case he has returned), I am

Yours very sincerely,

Tom Peete Cross.

As to my preparation in English, I shall only say that after taking my A.B. and my S.T. in the South, I studied for between four and five years at Harvard, where I took my doctorate in 1900. As to my efficiency, President Mary K. Benedict of Sweet Briar College or Professor James P. Peyster of the University of North Carolina can probably give you more reliable information than I can.

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Yours very sincerely,

The University of Chicago

Department of English

Chicago, March 18, 1913.

President Judson,
Faculty Exchange.

My dear Mr. President,

Immediately after our interview I wrote to Professor F N. Robinson of Harvard, in regard to Mr. Cross's Celtic scholarship and his qualifications for research, and to Professor J. F. Royster of the University of North Carolina, in regard to his success as a teacher and the impression he had made upon his colleagues there.

I have received frank and detailed letters from both of these gentlemen, and am glad to report that both are highly favorable both as to his scholarship and as to his personality. In reply to my definite question as to whether Mr. Cross is the best man available, Professor Robinson emphatically says that he is. It would therefore, I think, be well to proceed further in the matter and invite Professor Cross to visit the University. I asked Professor Royster when he could best be spared from his work for such a visit, and learn that his work is so arranged that he could be absent for nearly a week at any time. That is, he could leave Chapel Hill on Thursday afternoon, arriving here Saturday morning; returning he would leave here Monday afternoon or Tuesday morning.

I expect to be absent from Chicago for a couple of weeks after this week. Unfortunately I do not know the exact date of my return. It may be well, therefore, to arrange for his visit without reference to my presence in Chicago. If you wish to do this I will proceed at once.

Yours very truly,

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Department of English

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Yours very truly,

John M. Manly

7 XV

Chicago, March 20, 1913

Dear Mr. Manly:-

I have your favor of the 18th inst. relating to Mr. Cross. It would I think be better to arrange for his visit here after you return if possible. Unless, therefore, it seems quite imperative to proceed earlier I will wait until I hear further from you on the subject.

Are you familiar with the plan of the International Folklore Association for a prize in the folklore subject? In 1904 the International Folklore Association made a present to the University of a small sum to be the nucleus of a fund, the income to be used as indicated.

Very truly yours,

H.P.J. - L.

Mr. John M. Manly,
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The University of Chicago

DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES

April 29, 1921

Professor John M. Manly,
Faculty Exchange.

My dear Manly:

It just occurs to me that I might do well to enumerate to you the main points in the case of Tom Peete Cross.

First of all, the question of justice: Cross has been here for over eight years, with the same title and with only one raise in salary. This contrasts unfavorably with the cases of a number of men -- Coleman, for example, who has risen in that time from the rank of an instructor to that of a full professor.

In the second place, Cross is invaluable in all that concerns modern language scholarship. This we all recognize in the modern language departments, and it is recognized the country over, inasmuch as Michigan, Minnesota, and Texas are all trying to secure Cross' services.

In the third place, it would be impossible to fill his place with as good a man, and in view of the retirements soon to occur in the English Department, it will be necessary to make such an appointment, will it not?

In the fourth place, Cross' promotion to a full professorship at $5000 involves the expenditure of only an extra $800. It seems incredible that the University cannot provide this amount for so excellent a purpose.

And finally, as a last consideration, Cross is anxious to stay here provided he can be placed on a living basis,- in spite of the three flattering offers now being made him.

Doubtless other reasons will occur to you. I have set forth my own reaction in the hope that it may be of some use in the presentation of Cross' case.

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. A. Nitze

WAN:GG

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Very sincerely yours,

Wm. D. Mac

WAN:GG

Chicago, Illinois
May 2, 1921

Dear Mr. Judson,

The University of Michigan has elected Mr. Coons to a full professorship at a salary of $5500.00. He would greatly prefer to remain here but feels that he cannot do so at his present rank of associate professor and his present salary — $4250.00, I believe.

On our part, we cannot afford to let him go. As I told you last summer, he is a man of unusual value to the University and should have been given the rank and pay of full professor before this. If he were merely a good teacher or a man of great learning, he could be replaced, but he is more than that. He possesses a special range of knowledge that is essential to the work of the whole Modern Language Group, and he has no equal in America — or, I think, in the world — in command of the materials and methods of the comparative study of literature. He is extremely fertile in plans and suggestions for research in

the great literary movements of the 18th and 19th centuries. It is no exaggeration to say that his place could not be supplied by any other one man. I have had letters and oral statements not only from members of the Department of English, but from men in all the related departments urging that some means must be found for keeping him at Chicago.

I am of course aware that it is at present very hard for the University to find money even for the expenses to which it is already committed, and I have no idea that it can equal the Michigan offer financially. But I do not think that will be necessary. Two things do seem necessary: first, to make Mr. Cross feel that his work is appreciated here; and second, to give him a living salary.

As to the first, I have always done my best. But he has seen promotion given to other men — of lesser ability, in my opinion — and himself passed over. I have assured him that I know you value him highly, but I confess I myself have been disappointed that he has not received the promotion which I understood last summer you were willing to give him.

As to the second, I happen to know that he is not able to keep a servant, and that he himself has had to devote to dishwashing, housecleaning, and care of the children much time that ought to have gone to scholarship. His family is growing, and his rent has just been raised nearly 50%. Very few scholars are for sale to the highest bidder, but when a man is living under conditions that seriously interfere with his work, it is almost a necessity for him to accept an offer that makes possible the pursuit of the aims for which he lives.

I believe Mr. Cross would remain here for a full professorship with a salary of $5000.00. I think that at the same time it would be well to make his title Professor of Celtic and Comparative Literature and appoint him chairman of the Department of General Literature. I am confident that such an appointment would be approved by scholars both here and elsewhere.

Under ordinary circumstances, the funds released by the resignation of Mr. Knott and the retirement of Professor Moulton would make it easy to provide for the necessary increase of Mr. Cross's salary, but I have no doubt that these funds have already been absorbed for the present by the general expenses of the University. How the University can find the necessary increase for Mr. Cross, I do not know, but I feel that it must do so in some mea-

ner. In fact, I feel that Mr. Cross's departure would be so serious a loss to the University that I cannot allow it to occur if I can help it. If therefore, the money can be provided in no other way, I am willing to join the University temporarily in supplying it. I will therefore provide one half of the difference between his present salary and $5000 annually for the next two years. After that it should not be necessary, as Miss Reynolds has informed me that she intends to retire then, and her place will naturally be filled by adding someone at a much lower salary. My contribution may be deducted from my salary checks.

I beg you to believe that my offer is made, not for show, but in simple good faith. I feel, on the one hand, that it may be impossible for the University at present to give Mr. Cross the increase he ought to have, and on the other, that the Department of English, the Modern Language Group, and indeed the University as a whole would suffer an irreparable loss if he should be allowed to leave us.

Will you not give me a favorable reply immediately?

Sincerely yours,

John M. Manly

The University of Chicago

May 2, 1921

Professor John Manly,
University of Chicago.

Dear Manly:

It is hardly necessary for me to tell you that I should regard the loss of Cross as a calamity for all the departments concerned with language and literature and for philological research in the University, no less than for the English department in particular. He is one of our real scholars and commands, with a broad outlook, a field of knowledge which it is indispensable for us to have represented here by a competent scholar. After having obtained such a one, and knowing the difficulty involved, it will be discouraging to lose all that we have gained. I earnestly hope that some way may be found to keep Cross with us.

Sincerely yours,

Carl D. Buck

The University of Chicago

May 3, 1921

Professor John Manly,
University of Chicago.

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Sincerely yours,

Jas. R. Angell

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

May 4, 1921.

President Harry Pratt Judson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago.

Dear President Judson:

The daily paper announces that Professor T. Peete Cross has been elected head of the English Department at the University of Michigan. It may be that he has already accepted, but if not I beg permission to give my opinion from a neutral standpoint as one interested in the advancement of scholarship. Mr. Cross is known as one of the best Celtic scholars in the country. The natural place where he can do the best work is in a great center like Chicago. It surely would be to the interest of scholarship to keep him here if possible.

Yours respectfully,

Arthur C. L. Brown

B:N

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

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Yours respectfully,

Wilbur C. K. Brown

B:M

The University of Chicago

Office of the Secretary

T. P. Cross Made Member of Faculty at Michigan

Ann Arbor, Mich., April 29.—Prof. Tom Peete Cross of the University of Chicago and Prof. James Holly Hanford of the University of North Carolina were elected to the faculty of the University of Michigan at the meeting of regents today. They will be in the English scholars' department.

Tribune

WM. A. NITZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

May 10. 1921.

Dear Mr. Judson:

With respect to Mr. Cross, there is a feature of the case that I should like to call to your attention. I did not have time to mention it to you the other day.

Unlike many of us, Cross has made no money in addition to his University salary - owing

to the fact that his scholarship & his teaching have taken up his entire time. I really do not know of any colleague of mine who has given the University more loyal & devoted service. I think you will find this impression of mine corroborated by all members of the staff who know Cross well. His case strikes me therefore as "exceptionally" deserving.

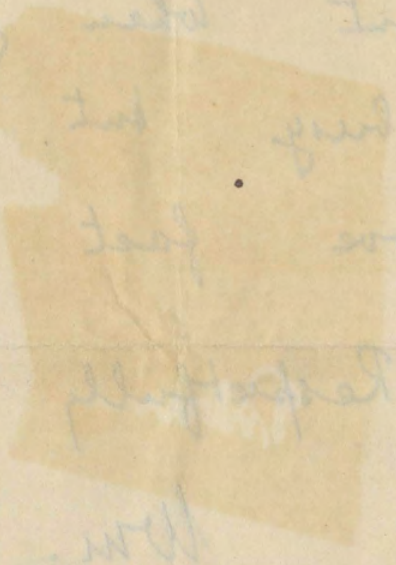
WM. A. NITZE
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

Excuse this interruption at a moment when you are known to be busy but I thought the above fact worth mentioning

Respectfully yours,

Wm. A. Nitze

President H. P. Judson,
University of Chicago.



The Auditor 55

H.P.J.

The University of Chicago

Modern Philology

EDITORIAL OFFICE

May 26, 1921.

Dear President Judson,-

Permit me to convey to you in writing the thanks which I expressed so haltingly in conversation with you last Wednesday. I am more grateful than I can tell for your kindness and confidence in connection with my recent change of position on the university faculty. When I tell you that I have now been engaged in work of college grade for nearly twenty years and that for a considerable proportion of that time I have been trying to prepare myself to teach comparative literature, you will readily understand my gratification at finally getting a chance to organize courses in that field, especially here at the University of Chicago, where there are such great opportunities for co-operation between those teaching the literatures of various countries.

If I understand you correctly, the position you design for me is that of Professor of English and Comparative Literature at a salary of $5,000. per year. I am also to assume the position of chairman of any group concerned with the work of Comparative or general literature in the University.

My doctor tells me that I should take a vacation, and as the work undertaken by me sometime ago in connection with General Literature makes it imperative that I remain in residence during the coming summer, I have planned to take the autumn quarter off if it can be arranged. Since my salary while out of residence will of course be that earned during the summer, I shall be very much obliged if my promotion can be made effective at the beginning of the summer quarter; otherwise I shall receive no increase in salary until next January.

The University of Chicago

Modern Philology

EDITORIAL OFFICE

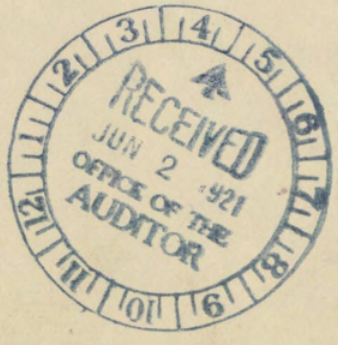
I should not make this request, were it not that the recent exorbitant increase in my rental and my failure to derive any income from University College this year have so depleted my resources that I can, I fear, hardly afford a vacation until the new salary of $5,000 becomes effective. If you can arrange this matter, you will add another to the long list of favors for which I have to thank you.

Again assuring you of my gratitude and awaiting your pleasure, I am

Very respectfully yours,

Tom Peete Cross.




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The University of Chicago

Modern Philology

EDITORIAL OFFICE

June 17, 1921.

My dear President Judson;-

I regret to say that the arrangement suggested in Mr. Plimpton's letter hardly meets the requirements of my case. You may recall that, in spite of the doctor's wishes, I am remaining here this summer to get the work in Comparative Literature and General Literature started. In the autumn quarter I plan to combine a vacation with certain important matters which I wish to attend to in Europe. In order that I may be able to do this, I shall need all the ready money I can scrape together. I am therefore asking that I may be allowed to teach this summer on the new basis of $5,000.

As you will see by the enclosed letter, my inability to attend the Celtic Congress this summer is the occasion of some loss to me personally, if not to the University.

You will be interested to know that I have just declined the last of four recent offers - all at remunerations greater than that offered by the University of Chicago. It never rains but it pours.

Hoping that you can arrange my matter without much trouble, I am, as ever,

Yours very respectfully,

Tom Peete Cross.

Chicago, Illinois,
Sept. 4/1921.

My Dear Mr. President;-

I enclose my acceptance of a professorship in the University of Chicago. I wrote Mr. Dickerson calling his attention to the fact that the title is Professor of English & Comparative Literature and that the department is English - not English & Celtic, as given in his official notification. As I have not yet heard from Mr. Dickerson & as I leave Chicago to-morrow for an absence of several months, I send the acceptance to you signed in its present form, trusting that you will be good enough to straighten out the matter for me.

May I add that I have not yet received any contract for the summer of 1921? I called the attention of the auditor's office to the fact, but have not yet had time to hear from Mr. Plimpton.

With kindest regards, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Vachel Lindsay.

My Virginia address is
Aylett,
King William County.

July 13, 1921.

Mr. T. P. Cross
University of Chicago.

Dear Sir:

I beg to inform you that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 12, 1921, you were promoted to a Professorship in the Department of English and Celtic from October 1, 1921, at a salary of $5,000 per year.

It is understood by the Trustees of the University that those who accept new appointment, reappointment or promotion do so with the understanding that, at the discretion of the President, they may be required to give, without additional remuneration, three courses of instruction during two of the three quarters of the scholastic year.

This promotion is subject to the provisions of the "Statutes of the University" as adopted by the Board of Trustees. These may be found in the Annual Register for 1919-20.

If you wish to accept the promotion, kindly sign your name in the indicated place, using the duplicate sheet which please mail to me. The receipt of this acceptance is essential to the completion of the record of your promotion in the offices of the Auditor and of the Secretary.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

Accepted Tom Pete Cross.

Date Sept. 1/1921.

Chicago Residence 5329 Kimbark Ave.

July 13, 1921.

Mr. T. P. Cross
University of Chicago.

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I beg to inform you that at a meeting of the Board of Trustees held July 12, 1921, you were promoted to a Professorship in the Department of English and Gelitle from October 1, 1921, at a salary of $5,000 per year.

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If you wish to accept the promotion, kindly sign your name in the indicated place, using the duplicate sheet which please mail to me. The receipt of this acceptance is essential to the completion of the record of your promotion in the offices of the Auditor and of the Secretary.

Yours very truly,

Secretary.

Accepted Thos. Peete Cross.

Date July 14, 1921.

Chicago Residence 5329 Kenwood Ave.

English XVI.

July 14, 1923

Cross

My dear Dr. Cross:

I am leaving the city for a few days respite from office duties. May I earnestly request that you hold in abeyance any affirmative decision respecting the call from California until my return? If early action seems to you necessary, please write or wire me. My office will give you the address.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Tom Peete Cross
University of Chicago

EDB:HP

July 14, 1923

My dear Dr. Gross:

I am leaving the city for a few days respite from office duties. May I earnestly request that you hold in abeyance any affirmative decision respecting the call from California until my return? If early action seems to you necessary, please write or wire me. My office will give you the address.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Tom Peete Gross
University of Chicago

EDB:HP

English XVI

The University of Chicago

Department of English

July 19, 1923

President E. D. Burton
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. President:

I had not heard of Mr. Cross' offer from the University of California but I am not at all surprised to learn that it has been made. For several years Mr. Cross has been well known to men in other universities as one of the most valuable scholars and teachers in the modern language field. As to the proper course for us to pursue, I have no hesitation in saying that I think we ought to make every possible effort to retain him. I myself should regard his loss as quite irreparable, and I am sure that my judgment is shared by all the men in the University who know Mr. Cross' equipment and his work. I do not know any man of his age in America who has a wider and more accurate knowledge of English Literature than he has or who joins with that knowledge a sounder general knowledge of the other principal modern literatures, such as French, German, and Italian. In addition to all this Mr. Cross is one of the leading Celtic scholars of the world and since he has been with us has built up from nothing a course of training in these studies which is not surpassed anywhere else. I should, therefore, not only recommend but urge that he be made Chairman of the Department of General Literature with the full salary attaching to such a position. I hope, also, it will be possible either at the same time or very soon to give him one or two additional instructors for that Department and thus enable us to build up solid work in that field.

If you care to discuss the matter further, I shall be very glad to come to your office at any time that you summon me. Your secretary can reach me immediately by telephone.

Sincerely yours,

John M. Manly

JMM:IL