Modern Languages

File under Mod. Lang. Conf.

REPORT OF THE FIRST FIVE MEETINGS

OF THE

MODERN LANGUAGE CONFERENCE

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

FIRST MEETING

November 27, 1899.

The meeting was called to order in Haskell Hall at 8:10 P.M. Professor Manly in the chair. Sixteen members present.

Mr.C.vonKlenze was chosen Secretary.

Mr.Manly announced that the Committee to suggest a plan of organization and subjects for discussion proposed the following questions for discussion:

1) Shall there be in each department a common requirement of knowledge for all candidates for the degree of Ph.D.; and also for the degree of A.M.?

2) Who shall choose the Minor: the student, the Head of the department, or the Conference?

3) How shall the nature of the content of the Minor work be determined?

4) How shall the quantity of the Minor work be determined?

5) How shall a statement of previous work of the candidate for a higher degree be secured?

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The discussion hinged on methods of preventing books from being stolen: several plans were urged. Among others, it was proposed to have attendants near the door to record the number of books brought in and taken out by every person, using the library. Serious objections to this device were pointed out.

At last Mr.Howland moved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to consider questions concerning the management of the library and report at the next meeting. Carried.

The Chair appointed Messrs. Pietsch, Carpenter, Schmidt-Wartenberg.

Mr.Howland moved that questions be taken up in the order prepared by the Committee. Carried.

Mr.Tolman moved that it is the sense of this Conference that in each department a common requirement should be demanded of all candidates for the degree of Ph.D. Carried.

Mr.MacClintock moved that each department decide upon what courses it will require of all candidates, and report to the Conference. Carried.

Mr.Howland moved that it be the sense of this conference that the student's choice of a Minor be regulated by the Head of the Department in accordance with principles established by that department. Carried.

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Mr.Carpenter moved that the Minor subjects should be auxiliary to the Major subject. Carried.

The meeting adjourned.

SECOND MEETING

December 11,1899.--

The meeting was called to order in Haskell Hall at 8:20 P.M. Mr.Manly in the chair. Ten members present.

Mr.Carpenter read the report of the Library Committee He stated that the Committee was not ready to report on all questions.

Mr.Cutting moved that the report be discusssed by sections. Carried.

THE COMMITTEE ON PLANS FOR THE LIBRARY OF THE MODERN LANGUAGE GROUP recommends:

1) IN REGARD TO CATALOGUE AND CLASSIFICATION OF BOOKS:

a) That, in accordance with the rules of the Library Board, a common card catalogue with cards marked on a uniform system, should be arranged as soon as possible. Inasmuch as the necessary re-arranging of books and cards will involve considerable labor and some expense, the Conference is urged to petition the Board of Trustees, through the president, either to appropriate a sum of at least one hundred dollars for this purpose or to provide and temporarily to assign competent assistants from the General Library who shall carry out the change under the direction of the Library Adviser.

Mr.Blackburn moved that this be adopted. Carried.

b) That, so far as consists with the scheme of a common catalogue, the books in each department be classified and arranged on the shelves in accordance with the wishes

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The meeting adjourned.

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Mr.Blackburn moved that this be adopted. Carried.

b) That, so far as consists with the scheme of a common catalogue, the books in each department be classified and arranged on the shelves in accordance with the wishes

of that department as indicated by its head.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

c) That the books be catalogued and arranged on what is called an expansive system. What system of marking should be adopted the Committee is not yet prepared to recommend. On this topic it merely desires to report progress and requests to be continued.

Mr.Blackburn moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

2.LIBRARIAN: The Committee recommends that the Conference urge the President to secure the appointment of a salaried Librarian for the group as soon as possible.

Mr.Blackburn moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

3.ATTENDANTS FOR THE LIBRARY: The Committee recommends that

a) An attendant be present at all hours when the Library is open.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

b) That the Library Adviser arrange with the heads of the three departments and with the Secretary of the University for eleven hours of attendance per day.

Mr.Cutting moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

c) That the attendant be given a seat near the door and required to perform the following duties:

i) To record the withdrawal and return of books by students and teachers;

ii) To assist readers in finding books;

iii) To replace books on the shelves: to check the shelves and see that books are in their right order, and that labels and ~~xxx~~ binding are not defective;

iv.To assist in cataloguing, so far as required by the adviser.// It is understood that attendants while on duty shall give their whole time to the service of the Libr.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this whole section be adopted. Carried.

4.OTHER REGULATIONS recommended:

i) Keys shall be given out only to theinstructors in the three departments. PROVIDED that the Adviser at his discretion may make a temporary loan of a key to any one engaged in special research in the library

of that department as indicated by its head.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

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i) Keys shall be given out only to the instructors in the three departments. PROVIDED that the Adviser at his discretion may make a temporary loan of a key to any one engaged in special research in the Library

in the Library during vacation or at other times when the library is not open

Mr.Triggs moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

ii.Books shall be loaned to students over night only. They shall be given out only after five P.M. and must be returned before 9:30 the next morning. Every ~~xxx~~ loan shall be recorded by the attendant in a book kept for this purpose.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this section be adopted.Carried

iii) LOANS to instructors may be made for a period of two weeks, subject to renewal. They shall be recorded by the attendant in a special book kept for the purpose.

Loans to any other than instructors in this group may be made by the Library Adviser at his discretion. Provided that books urgently needed shall be subject to immediate recall.

Mr.Cutting moved that this section be adopted. Carried.

iv.) The Library shall be open from 8 A.M. to 1 P.M.; from 2 P.M. to 6 P.M., and ~~xxx~~ 8:00 P.M. to 10.P.M.

Mr.Tolman moved to amend this section so as to have it read as follows:

iv.)The Library shall be open for use from 8: A.M. to 6:00 P.M., and from 7:30 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. Carried.

Mr.Blackburn moved that the amended section be adopted. Carried.

v) PERIODICALS: Current numbers of all periodicals in the three departments may be kept in the rack in one room. Completed volumes and bound periodical may be kept in their proper places in the separate libraries.

Mr.von Klenze moved that this section be adopted.Carried.

Mr.Carpenter stated that the Committee had no recommendation as to whether undergraduates should be permitted to use the library: the committee preferred to leave the matter to the Conference.

Mr.Carpenter moved that there be no restriction put on the use of the libraries on the part of undergraduates.Carried.

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Mr.Carpenter moved that in the proper clause 12 1/2 hours be inserted for 11 hours. Carried.

Mr.Tolman moved that the Report as a whole be adopted. Carried. Meeting adjourned.

THIRD MEETING.

December 18,1899.

The meeting was called to order in Haskell Hall at 8:20 P.M. Mr.Manly in the Chair. Eleven members were present.

Mr.Carpenter moved that the third proposition in the report of the Committee to suggest a plan for organization etc . be taken up. Carried.

Mr.Wilkinson moved that the courses which constitute the Minor be chosen by the director of the Major work in conference with the head of the department in which the Minor work is taken. Carried.

The discussion of section iv of the report of the Committee to suggest a plan for organization etc. was next taken up . Mr.Moody moved that the Minor should not be divided unless the courses forming the Minor work make up a unitary subject. Carried.

Mr.Moody moved that section v of the Report of the Committee to suggest a plan for organization etc. be passed over. Carried.

Mr.Howland moved that the persons entrusted with making up the programs of the Modern Language departments should meet in consultation. Carried.

The meeting adjourned.

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The meeting adjourned.

FOURTH MEETING.

January 22, 1900.

The meeting was called to order in Haskell Hall at 8:20 P.M. Mr.Manly in the chair. Eight members present.

Although no motion was carried, several important points were discussed. Among other things, it was proposed that the work of Graduate students be recorded more in detail than has so far been the custom. Instead of merely stating whether or not a Graduate student passed, a system of graded marks corresponding to the methods prevalent in the Undergraduate departments should be adopted. This proposition was strongly attacked by some members of the Conference on the ground that our Graduate students generally carry with them too many of the associations of their undergraduate work, and hence lack sufficient independence of method; any action, therefore, strengthening instead of weakening such associations would be a step in the wrong direction.

The meeting adjourned.

FIFTH MEETING

January 29,1900.

The meeting was called to order in Haskell Hall at 8:15 P.M. Mr.Manly in the Chair. Six members present.

Several topics discussed at the last meeting were taken up again; but only one motion was made and carried.

Mr.MacClintock moved that the conference address to the Dean of the Graduate School an inquiry whether for purposes

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Mr.MacClintock moved that the conference address to the Dean of the Graduate School an inquiry whether for purposes

of registration a list is kept of courses for which the consent of the instructor is required, and if this be not the case, the Conference requests that it be made the practice of the Dean. The meeting adjourned.

Camillo von Klenze

Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

of registration a list is kept of courses for which the consent of the instructor is required, and if this be not the case, the Conference requests that it be made the practice of the Dean. The meeting adjourned.

Camillo von Klenze

Secretary.

Respectfully submitted.

Modern Language

Chicago University, Nov.20th.

President W.R.Harper.

Dear Sir:-

A year ago I had some correspondence with you concerning the Central Division of the Modern Language Association. In the proposed change of secretaryship it had seemed desirable to transfer it to the Romance Department of the University of Chicago. When Prof.Warren was here just a year ago he expressed his willingness to take the secretaryship on condition that he would not go east. I acted under the impression that he would be with us; his possible connection with the University was not, nor has ever been, mentioned in these transactions.

Awaiting developments and urged by my friends I decided to do the work till the proposed congress in Philadelphia. I beg leave to bring the matter to your attention again and to ask wether the plans of the University will permit the transfer at the end of this year. Permit me to say a word in explanation of the situation.

Unlike any other work admitted to the university curriculum Modern Languages present a double aspect: nowhere is the line of demarcation between elementary and scientific work drawn as sharply as here. With a view to direct the study of modern languages into scientific channels and to raise the standard of elementary teaching as well the Modern Language Association was founded some sixteen

(8)

years ago. What it has accomplished may be gauged by the Report of Twelve alone.

The teacher in the West had missed the inspiring influence of the Association which for various reasons met in the East: and several years ago some members of our Faculty discussed the desirability of forming a similar society. The main reason for not giving definite shape to our plans was the fear that such a movement might be regarded with suspicion. We were relieved of this apprehension when some progressive men in the farther West started a movement which finally led to the establishment of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association. If the path of the older Association had not been a smooth one, the Central Division had to count with difficulties of the most discouraging character. On the one hand, there was the large number of instructors whose preparation precluded a participation in scientific work of any sort- I refer especially to men in State universities, Superintendents etc. with their large clientele within their jurisdiction, so to say. On the other hand, some of our best men fearing a break in the ranks of the Association, were very slow in taking part in our meetings. ~~To this must be added~~

The centre of this new working ground was naturally the University of Chicago, and thus by this mere geographical fact alone established in our University a n influence which might have been destined to give to the three modern language departments the same position that the Johns Hopkins University has held in the East up to this day.

My brief explanation would not be complete without a word about the present situation. The future of our movement is by no

means assured; the dissolution of the Central Division has been mentioned as a possibility at least; the consequences, if it should come to a collapse, it would be painful to think of.

I have thus placed before you a matter which is of importance to the University. I am aware that some points I have spoken of to you before- since that time the situation has become more serious. I am sure you will interpret my motives rightly: the spirit that prompted me to approach you is the welfare of the University.

Very respectfully yours

H. Schmitt-Wartenberg

The University of Chicago

MEMORIAL TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD
OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
CHICAGO IN THE MATTER OF A JOURNAL
FOR THE TEACHERS OF THE MODERN
FOREIGN LANGUAGES. April, 1915.

The University of Chicago

I. Project for a Journal for foreign modern language teachers.

II. Statistics of pupils and teachers of French, German, and Spanish in the United States.

III. Urgent problems confronting the modern language teachers.

IV. Signatures of University of Chicago instructors.

V. Letters from prominent professors in support of this memorial.

The University of Chicago

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

Gentlemen:

The undersigned instructors in the Departments of Romance and Germanic Languages respectfully ask your attention to a project for a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in colleges and high schools.

At present, no such journal exists in America, and, aside from the advantages to the teaching profession of the country and the advantages to our Modern Language Departments and to the University, we urge the great advantage of promptly seizing a unique opportunity. We believe that in a matter of this kind the University should ask itself not "What can we get out of this"? but rather "What benefit can the University confer"?

The latest figures obtainable show that the United States has about 11,000 institutions for secondary education, and about 340 colleges and universities. All of these are necessarily interested in the work of foreign language teaching, because these modern languages, in the last two decades, have been advanced to degree-making power in all colleges and universities. The United States Bureau of Education four years ago estimated the number of pupils studying modern foreign languages in high schools at nearly 300,000. To this number we may add at least 100,000 persons studying these languages in higher institutions. In the Mississippi Valley alone the number of pupils concerned is estimated at 86,000, and the number of teachers at 2743.

Because of restricted budgets and poor preparation of teachers in the secondary schools, the colleges have been compelled to take up the elementary classes in the modern foreign languages, with the result that our University, like all the State Universities and the small colleges, now carries on large classes in elementary French and German, and also classes who are beginning Italian and Spanish.

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The total number of our registrations in these languages during the year 1912-1913 was 3012, and the same situation is repeated at Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and other important State Universities, and in practically all of the smaller institutions.

In spite of the enormous responsibility thus resting upon modern foreign language teachers, no group of the teaching profession labor under more uncertainty as to the aims and methods of their professional work. Foreign language teachers are much exposed to criticism and attack, especially as to the utility of the subjects they represent and as to how these subjects should be taught.

Such questions as the proper length of a modern language course, what part of it belongs to the preparatory school and what part to the college, what amount and kind of training may reasonably be expected of the teacher, which text-books are to be recommended and which not; these, and numerous other problems urgently call for discussion and comment. "And yet," said a recent President of the Modern Language Association of America,"in this hour of stress and need, our teachers have neither a journal nor an organization of recognized prestige to which they can look for information and guidance. This is a grievous tactical error, and we must blame ourselves if we cannot hold our own as we should."

The United States Commissioner of Education and President Butler of Columbia University have both recently emphasized the need for more attention to the matter of South American Spanish and Portuguese. But the spoken Spanish of South America is in many respects different from the literary Spanish of the mother country which, to some extent, has been taught in our schools. Here is a purely professional question of readjustment which should be carried out under expert guidance and not abandoned to schools with purely commercial ends, or to correspondence-phonograph exploiters of the public.

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Articles of more or less value dealing with the pedagogy of our subjects do indeed appear from time to time in the journals of education, showing that there is a deep and abiding interest in the problems of foreign language instruction, but these generally fail to reach any considerable number of the persons for whom they are intended, and will continue to do so until the efforts they represent are focussed upon a center of recognized authority whose discussions should gradually become indispensable to all teachers.

Profoundly impressed by these facts, and especially appreciating the opportunity which the University of Chicago has to render a lasting service to the cause of sound education in this field, the undersigned, members of the modern foreign language Departments beg to make the following recommendation:

That an appropriation be made of $1000. annually for a period of five years for the establishment of a journal devoted to the teaching of the modern foreign languages, to be printed and published by the University of Chicago Press. At the end of five years, such a journal, with proper management, should be largely self-supporting.

¶ Chicago, April 1, 1915.

Wm. A. Nitze
Thomas A. Jenkins
K. Pietsch
Alois C. E. David
Elizabeth Hallam
A. Coleman
R. E. House
Theo. L. Neff
C. E. Parmenter
E. H. Wilkins
E. P. Morgan

Frank W. Cutting
Martin Schütze
Philip S. Allen
Hans E. Gronow
Adolf E. von Noé
John C. Weigel
J. J. Meyer
Charles Goettsch
Paul A. Phillipson

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Chicago, April 1, 1918.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

March 25, 1915

To the President and the Board of Trustees of
the University of Chicago

Gentlemen:

Having heard that a movement is on foot having as its object the establishment of a school journal bearing on the teaching of Modern Languages in the colleges and high schools, I write to express my hearty approval of such a plan and to suggest the following points in that connection:

1) A generation ago, the teaching of Modern Languages in this country seemed hopelessly inadequate and unorganized. Striking progress has been made, so that now a number of our universities and colleges, and a few of our secondary schools have well-organized and efficient courses of instruction in these subjects. The movement has, however, been from the top downward. At the same time there has been such a rapid growth in the number of higher institutions offering Modern Language work that the men who have been trained have been absorbed by the institutions near the top, and the rank and file of the teachers are inadequately prepared. This has reacted to restrict the normal growth in the number of students going on to advanced work. Thus there is maintained a sort of blocade which can be broken-thru only by reaching in some way the main body of the teachers. I can see no single step likely to be as useful to this end as the establishment of such a journal as is proposed.

2) The University of Chicago, by its location and

Professor Edward C. Armstrong
Johns Hopkins University.

THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND

the size and efficiency of its Modern Language staff, is indicated as an excellent location for such a journal.

3) Any one familiar with the burden that such a publication entails will consider it a piece of liberal spirited self-sacrifice on the part of that staff to be willing to undertake the work, and any one who realizes the importance of the undertaking will consider it a credit to the institution which proves itself far-sighted enough to initiate it.

Hoping that you will see your way to providing for the founding of such a journal, I am, gentlemen,

Very truly yours,

Edward C. Armstrong

Chairman of the Romance Department

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

March 24, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees of the
University of Chicago.

Gentlemen:-

As former student of the University of Chicago, and as one of the heads of the Romance Language Department of Western Reserve University, I take the liberty of associating myself with the signers of a memorial addressed to your honorable body urging the establishing of a journal of modern language teaching, to be published by the University of Chicago Press. It has long been a matter of regret to my colleagues and myself that this country should not possess such a publication the need of which is felt by every progressive college and high-school instructor in modern languages. Until now they have been dependent on Europe for the guidance that such a journal can give. But our problems are different from those of European teachers, and until we have a medium in which our needs can be voiced and discussed by competent members of our profession, we shall continue groping in the dark, and our teaching will remain to a large extent imefficient. The University of Chicago which has rendered such splendid service to the cause of higher and secondary education in America has here I think, an opportunity further advancing that cause.

Respectfully,

J. L. Borgerhoff

Professor of Romance Languages at
Western Reserve University.

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES
WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
CLEVELAND, OHIO

March 24, 1915.

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Respectfully,

Professor of Romance Languages at
Western Reserve University.

MIAMI UNIVERSITY
OXFORD, OHIO

EDGAR EWING BRANDON
VICE PRESIDENT AND DEAN

March 25, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago,

Gentlemen:-

I respectfully petition your attention to the project of establishing a journal devoted to the teaching of modern foreign languages.

Such a publication is most earnestly needed in America. Our foreign language teaching has been, on the whole, lamentably weak. Not only does the average school secure for its students less proficiency in foreign language than the average school in Europe, but also the administration of this subject in secondary schools and colleges and the methods of presenting the subject are so widely divergent that advanced study in the foreign languages in the colleges and universities is a most difficult thing to organize and to foster.

I can think of no one thing in which the expenditure of so small an amount of money on the part of the corporation of the University of Chicago would produce more important results than the foundation of such a journal. The United States must cease to be provincial, and especially must enter into social and commercial relations with the nations to the south. To do this, our educated people, especially those who expect to engage in commercial pursuits, must become proficient in the Spanish and Portuguese languages. To accomplish this in our schools, there must be better methods of

MIAMI UNIVERSITY
OXFORD, OHIO

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instruction and a better organization of modern language teaching. Any publicity along this line will amply repay its cost in a few years, and the business world will not be slow to appreciate the situation.

Respectfully yours,

Edgar Emery Brandon

Professor Edgar E. Brandon
Miami University

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Respectfully yours,

Professor Edgar E. Brandon
Miami University

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES
B. L. BOWEN
C. A. BRUCE
E. S. INGRAHAM
T. E. HAMILTON
G. S. CHAPIN
WALTER PEIRCE
J. K. DITCHY
A. P. MOORE
G. V. MEDICI
CORAL D. NATHAN

COLUMBUS,

March 29, 1915.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Gentlemen:--

My attention has been directed to a project for a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in colleges and high schools, said journal to be printed and published by the University of Chicago Press. I beg leave to say that this project has my most hearty and unqualified approval. Such a journal could accomplish a great deal for all of us teachers of the modern languages. Indeed I can think of no more urgent need, in the domain of modern-language teaching, than that of a unifying and directing agency of this nature. I hope sincerely that the plan may be very rapidly realized.

Very respectfully yours,

B. L. Bowen

Head of department of Romance Languages.

Professor Benjamin L. Bowen
Ohio State University

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

W. O. THOMPSON, PRESIDENT

DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES
B. L. POWER
C. A. BRUCE
M. S. INGRAHAM
T. E. HAMILTON
C. S. CLARIX
WALTER FRENCH
J. K. SMITH
A. F. BOOKE
C. V. MERCI
CESAR E. SATRAS

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Very respectfully yours,

C. A. Bruce

Head of department of Romance Languages.

Professor Benjamin L. Power
Ohio State University

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 29, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

I am informed that a memorial is to be laid before you asking for the establishment of a journal devoted to the discussion of questions relating to the teaching of foreign modern languages in our colleges and high schools. I should like to express to you my sense of the great value that such a journal would have and of the real importance of establishing it.

It is clear that at the present moment a great confusion of ideas exists among our schoolmen as to the place, function and aims of the study of foreign languages, and hence, of course, as to the methods to be employed. It has seemed to me that there is lately a growing disposition to deny to the study of foreign languages the peculiar and unique

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

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place in the process of education that used to be conceded to it, and that this is due not merely to the great lurch of the schools towards vocational ideals, but partly also to lack of wise counsel among the teachers themselves, who more than others have the destiny of language study in their hands. To my mind not merely the advantage of language teaching itself is concerned in the existence and influence of such a journal as it is proposed to found, but that of sound and worthy notions of our whole educational plan and practice. In no part of our program of studies are we so far from European conditions as in our foreign languages, and yet in no part of it has the influence of European discussion and example been more felt. That the results have not always been desirable is not surprising. We need a forum where the discussion may always start from and come back to our own peculiar conditions.

Very respectfully yours,

Arthur G. Canfield

Professor Arthur G. Canfield
University of Michigan.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR
DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

CLARK COLLEGE
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES
PHILIP H. CHURCHMAN
LESLIE C. WELLS

March 25, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

It gives me unqualified pleasure to endorse the proposal ov the Departments of Romance and Germanic Languages in the University ov Chicago to publish a journal devoted to the problems ov teaching the modern languages in this country. In my opinion the standard ov teaching those subjects in the United States is far from being as high as it shoud be and I feel positive that it is lower than that ~~can be found in~~ ov European schools and universities. Most ov our teachers ar ignorant ov the fundamental problems. They either follow blindly the traditional textbook method or thotlessly adopt some attractive, but shallow, "practical" method. They do not know where to go for the best pedagogical literature on the subject, they hav no critical knowledge ov the advances made ov late in teaching such a matter as pronunciation, they do not know the field ov textbooks as they shoud, they ar unaware ov the various opportunities for improvement both in this country and abroad, or else ar not sufficiently ambitious to make use ov them. In all ov these spheres, and in others as well, a live journal coud act as a tremendous stimulus. I hope that it wil be founded promptly and that it wil be universally welcomed.

Two recent personal experiences wil emphasize the foregoing statement ov opinion. In the first place, the writer was himself contemplating an endeavor to found just such an educational journal as is now suggested at the University

CLARK COLLEGE
WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES
PHILIP H. CHURCHMAN
LESLIE C. WELLS

March 26, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

It gives me unqualified pleasure to endorse the proposal of the Departments of Romance and Germanic Languages in the University of Chicago to publish a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the modern languages in this country. In my opinion the standard of teaching these subjects in the United States is far from being as high as it about be and I feel positive that it is lower since it has ~~been thought of~~ prepared schools and universities. Most of our teachers are ignorant of the fundamental problems. They either follow blindly the traditional textbook method or theoretically adopt some attractive, but shallow, "practical" method. They do not know where to go for the best pedagogical literature on the subject, they hav no critical knowledge of the advances made of late in teaching such a matter as pronunciation, they do not know the field of textbooks as they stand, they are unaware of the various opportunities for improvement both in this country and abroad, or else ar not sufficiently ambitious to make use of them. To all of these teachers, and to others as well, a live journal could act as a tremendous stimulus. I hope that it will be founded promptly and that it will be universally welcomed.

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ov Chicago. This, however, he is very happy to relinquish in view ov the fact that a large department, backed by the resources ov a large university, has much greater chance ov success than an unattached individual. The second point is that the writer recently published, in an important educational journal ov a general nature, an article on the subject ov French Pronunciation; but, in order to get this into the hands ov the teachers ov French, he was put to the expense and trouble ov mailing several hundred reprints to the members ov various associations. Many would, of course, not take this trouble, and so the articles upon modern language teaching remain unknown to that vast body ov teachers who do not subscribe to the various educational journals.

Very truly yours,

Philip H. Churchman

Professor Philip H. Churchman
Clark College.

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Very truly yours,

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Professor Philip H. Churchman
Clark College.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

STATE COLLEGE, PA.

March 26,1915.

The President and Board of Trustees,
University of Chicago,
Chicago,Illinois,

Gentlemen;-

It gives me pleasure to express hearty approval of the plan suggested in the Memorial to be presented to you by the teachers of Modern Languages in your institution. Personally I have felt the need of a publication of this sort and I know the teachers throughout the country would welcome it gladly. The problems which confront the teacher of all foreign modern languages are many and suggestions from experienced men and women would be most helpful. The carelessness and neglect along these lines has been lamentable in the past and the stimulus of a publication such as projected in the Memorial would be of incalculable benefit. We feel the need here in English as well as in foreign languages and there is no doubt that the influence,both direct and indirect,will be most beneficial to the teachers and students in our native tongue. You would,by this step,confer a lasting benefaction upon all language teachers. The University of Chicago has been a pioneer in many fields,but has never had an opportunity of greater service than in this instance. I trust that you may find it possible to carry this through to a successful issue and pledge my support to that end.

Very Respectfully Yours,

Irving L. Foster

Professor of Romance Languages. Pennsylvania State College.

THE PENNSYLVANIA STATE COLLEGE
SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

STATE COLLEGE, PA.

March 26,1915.

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Very Respectfully Yours,

Professor of Romance Languages, Pennsylvania State College.

LELAND STANFORD JUNIOR UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANIC LANGUAGES

Stanford University, Cal., March 26, 1915

To the President and The Board of Trustees
of
The University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

I am heartily in sympathy with the proposed plan for the establishment of a journal devoted to problems relating to the teaching of modern foreign languages in colleges and secondary schools. Such a journal would undoubtedly meet a long-felt need in this field. A discussion of these problems would lead to a better correlation of the work of the high school with that of the University, better methods of teaching, and a clearer conception of the aims and value of instruction in modern foreign languages.

Very truly yours,

Oliver M. Johnston

Professor Oliver M. Johnston
Leland Stanford University.

Professor Oliver M. Johnston

Leland Stanford University.

COPY

Department of Romance Languages
Indiana University
Bloomington, Ind.

March 28, 1915

To the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

I have been informed that a memorial is to be presented to you by teachers of the departments of Romance and of Germanic languages of your University, requesting your help towards the establishment of a journal devoted to problems connected with the teaching of foreign languages in high schools and colleges.

Permit me to add my earnest plea to the plea of the others. There is nothing that teachers of modern foreign languages need more sorely than the kind of journal which the memorial proposes. Such a publication is, moreover, more important for American education than any other periodical that could be suggested. This may seem a strong statement, but the following reflections will, I believe, bear it out.

It is a notorious fact that the Americans and the English are the poorest linguists among the great nations of the world. The English have over us the immense advantage of proximity to other countries, while we must depend on the schools for instruction in language. If that instruction be poor, we must inevitably fall behind commercially and culturally. The secret of Germany's commercial success lies very largely in the admirable language teaching of her schools. The French have been quick-witted enough to realize this and have vastly improved linguistic instruction in their institutions of learning.

We are lagging behind. How do we expect to capture the commerce of the Latin-American countries unless our commercial men and our consuls are acquainted with Spanish or Portuguese? A few weeks stay in Mexico fifteen years ago convinced me that the Germans, and perhaps also the French, were rapidly outstripping us. Our consuls have been commercially of little use to us, largely on account of their ignorance of the language spoken around them.

It is less easy to present the problem so concretely from the cultural side. The day is past when a nation can shut itself up in its own language. The world has become cosmopolitan, and the greater the number of educated citizens who are acquainted with foreign thought the higher the civilization will be.

Now it is upon the high schools that the brunt of foreign language instruction should fall. In this branch of human endeavor the "practical" Americans have shown themselves the most impractical of all men. They are the only nation that hasnot yet understood that most elementary of principles that youth is the time in which to acquire a foreign language. We have not encouraged our high schools to develop the study of foreign language. Our modern language teachers of the high schools are allowed to flounder about, each working out his problems in his own way. The modern foreign

foreign languages are the only branch of high school instruction that has not been carefully organized.

It should be organized. It must be organized. And in order that this goal may be reached there must be an organ, and it is this organ that we beg you to establish. The University of Chicago has a unique and a great opportunity. It seems incredible that it will not seize this opportunity. If Indiana University were not in such straitened circumstances, we should have begun long ago. And now with mingled feelings of envy and hope we look to the great institution to the north of us for help.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) A. F. Kuersteiner,
Professor of Romance Languages

Professor Albert F. Kuersteiner
Indiana University.

University of Cincinnati
Department of Romance Languages

To the President and the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

It is with the deepest interest that I learn of the project under consideration at your University for establishing a journal devoted to the teaching of modern foreign languages. It has been a matter of great regret to me, since I have been associated with the University of Cincinnati that so much energy should be spent of necessity in our colleges on elementary work in foreign languages, which should have been accomplished in the preparatory school. Another unfortunate fact in our field is the unevenness of preparation in the Freshman class which handicaps us practically throughout the first year of collegiate study. These two conditions would be gradually remedied, I believe by the species of clearing house for ideas and exchange of ideas which such a journal would prove, inducing uniformity of result in preparation for college work which I hope for devoutly.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed) Phillip Ogden, Professor of Romance Languages.

March 26.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Urbana, Illinois,
April 3, 1915.

To the PRESIDENT and THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO;

Gentlemen:-

I should like to add my hearty endorsement to the project of establishing a Journal devoted to the important problems of Modern Language instruction in secondary and university institutions. Such a journal would be of immense value in the presentation and solution of these problems. It would bring about a much needed cooperation between the colleges and schools engaged in the teaching of modern languages. Hitherto there has been no suitable organ thru which the great number of language teachers could reach their colleagues and exchange their several ideas and experiences. Unquestionably such a medium of exchange would lead to a vast improvement in the teaching of foreign languages in America. Other nations have long since had such journals, and to this fact is due in largest measure the great advance which the study of foreign languages and literatures has had in other lands. There are, however, problems and difficulties peculiarly American which can receive adequate study only thru a journal published in this country. I am confident that such a journal once established will rapidly become self-supporting and that its value and necessity will immediately secure for it a great field of usefulness.

Very sincerely yours

Thomas Edward Oliver

Professor of Romance Languages in
the University of Illinois.

Urbana, Illinois,

April 8, 1915.

To the PRESIDENT and THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
of the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO;

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Very sincerely yours

Henry Schmidt Cleve

Professor of Romance Languages in
the University of Illinois.

COPY

University of California
Romanic Languages
Berkeley

March 27th, 1915

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.

Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to support a project for a Journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in Colleges and High Schools.

Owing to the intimate relations which exist between our own State University and the Schools of California the needs of the teachers of Modern Languages, on the one hand, and the general shortcomings of present methods, on the other, have become more apparent here every day. As regards the first, the teachers have no efficient guide, no means of keeping abreast of the times, no extensive acquaintance with the instruments of their profession, and no adequate source of information concerning the latest publications, or improved methods of teaching; in short, no means of keeping in close touch with the activities of the Modern Language World. - As regards present methods, it does not appear that any language is taught in any two schools in the same way, results ranging all the way from the most deplorable slovenliness, to, what they ought - quite generally to be, commendable proficiency. But cases of the latter are so uncommon, that the average result is very far below satisfactory. Means hitherto employed to keep in touch with the teachers have failed to make the results much better or more uniform.

I take the liberty of endorsing very heartily the project for

such a Journal as your Modern Language departments are planning, and sincerely hope that it may be successfully launched.

Very respectfully yours,

(Signed) Rudolph Schevill
Head of the department of
Romanic Languages

Professor Rudolph Schevill
University of California.

SMITH COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

April 1 1915;

To the President and the Board of Trustees of
THE UNIVERSIY OF CHICAGO,

Gentlemen:

My colleagues of the Romance Department of the University of Chicago have sent to me a copy of the memorandum which they propose to submit to you, and they have asked me to express an opinion on their project for a Journal devoted to the problem of teaching modern languages in High Schools and Colleges.

I beg to say that I am heartily in sympathy with the idea. There are indeed very specific aspects of that problem which will be found in no other country. It would undoubtedly mean an enormous gain in time and in results if a systematic study were made of these various questions. And this could be done only in a special periodical. I know positively that the educational reviews of a more general character are obliged to refuse many articles of value on modern language teaching, simply because they must observe a certain proportion in the space allowed to different domains.

Here in Massachusetts this problem of the language is coming up constantly--while that of literature and graduate studies are relatively quite easy. Hardly a week passes without our receiving circulars from some associations or from some group of teachers, asking for advice, or else begging us to develop this or that course for the benefit of the schools where our graduates are called to teach.

May I add another remark? While a member of the Romance language staff at Chicago last summer, I was struck by the number of inquiries which came from institutions from all over the country for French teachers and professors--and in consequence of the stupendous responsibility of the University of Chicago in that domain. I had no suspicion of that, having taught only in the East; but it seems evident to me that the best place for such a periodical would be the University of Chicago.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Schinz

Professor Albert Schinz
Smith College.

SMITH COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

NORTHAMPTON, MASSACHUSETTS

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Respectfully submitted,

Albert Schinz

Professor Albert Schinz
Smith College.

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 25, 1915.

The President and Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.

I have just received a copy of the project for a journal devoted to the problems of teaching modern foreign languages in colleges and universities, which is being submitted by certain instructors in the departments of Romance and Germanic Languages to the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago. I beg leave to say a few words in support of this project as an instructor of Romance Languages and as a member of the committee, appointed at the last meeting of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association, to prepare the program of the pedagogical session which has become a feature of the Association's meetings.

The further action taken by the Romance section of the Association, in authorizing the committee to provide for the publication of worthy papers upon the subject of Romance Language instruction which might be presented, was a tangible evidence of the growing interest in this matter. The uncertainty which the committee feels as to its ability to obey the instruction given it in any adequate way, is indicative of the need of some journal devoted to that purpose.

Any one who has had experience with students entering college or university from the preparatory schoo schools is confronted with the harassing problem of

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 26, 1916.

The President and Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.

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getting results from students prepared very evidently according to the most diverse methods or according to no discernible method. This condition entails a great loss of time, and energy, and class morale. The same confusion exists, though to a lesser degree, among the students prepared in these institutions themselves where the elementary classes are so large that they have to be divided into several sections.

The situation is especially complicated because we foreign modern language teachers have to aim at, at least three results which are sometimes almost in opposition to each other. The general public, looking upon the languages as an accomplishment, stresses the conversational attainment as the desiderandum; our scientific colleagues care little for that, they demand an accurate reading knowledge; we ourselves desire all that and much more, i.e., a sound literary and philological training.

The shortest way through all this can only be found as a result of considerable discussion, mutual sacrifices and a certain amount of rather authoritative guidance. The Modern Language Association, as remarked above, is showing an interest in this problem, but it has no adequate means of making its influence widely felt, for its one publication is more than taken up by the papers of a purely literary or philological nature which it was founded to publish.

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The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

No opportunity ever presented itself more clearly and no one would contest the right or the ability of the departments in question to assume the sort of leadership to which your university is invited by this situation.

Very respectfully,

Colbert Searles.

Professor of Romance Languages,
University of Minnesota.

Professor Colbert Searles
University of Minnesota.

The University of Minnesota
College of Science, Literature, and the Arts
Minneapolis

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

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Calvin Searles

Professor of Romance Languages,
University of Minnesota.

Professor Colbert Searles
University of Minnesota.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 26, 1915

To the President and Board of Trustees
University of Chicago.

Gentlemen:

My attention has been called to the fact that a memorial is to be presented to you for the establishment of a publication devoted primarily to the teaching of modern foreign languages. While I am not in any way personally concerned in the particular plan proposed, and am not, in fact, informed concerning any of its details, I should like to express my opinion that such a journal, under proper auspices, is urgently needed. This has been a matter of general discussion for a number of years among foreign language men, and I have no doubt that the demand will bring about soon the realization of the project in some form or other.

Very sincerely,

Hugh A. Smith

Chairman.

Professor Hugh A. Smith
University of Wisconsin.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE LANGUAGES

March 26, 1918

To the President and Board of Trustees
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Hugo A. Smith

Chairman.

Professor Hugo A. Smith
University of Wisconsin.

LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES
SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

Lake Forest, Ill., 26/3/15 191

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:-

Gentlemen:

In compliance with a request from Professor Thomas A. Jenkins, and because I fully approve of the contents of a MEMORIAL addressed to you by members of the Foreign Language Departments of the University of Chicago, I beg leave to say:

1º. That a JOURNAL dealing with the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in high schools and colleges, limiting itself to undergraduate work, has been wanting for a long time in the United States.

2º. That such a journal, if the announced purpose should be adhered to sincerely, would help materially in the standardizing of instruction and of requirements for permission to teach, -a standard being now lacking to the detriment of students and good teachers alike.

3º. That the University of Chicago, owing to its geographical position and its equipment, and, in consequence, to its reputation, is peculiarly fitted to stand back of such a journal.

4º. That such a journal, therefore, would probably be liberally subscribed for, and would become self-supporting in a reasonably short time.

5º. That the danger of non-success, in my opinion, would lie in a tendency, observed by me on similar occasions, to deviate from the expressed purpose of the proposed journal, editors or contributors devoting it by degrees in part or in whole to questions of obscurely technical import, which would help neither students nor teachers in colleges and high schools in their daily work.

F. Chevalier Henderson.
Professor of Romance Languages.
Lake Forest College.

LAKE FOREST COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES
SECRETARY OF THE FACULTY

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Yours respectfully,

Lake Forest College.

(COPY)

Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio
The College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Romance Languages
J. R. Wightman, Ph.D.
Kirke L. Cowdery
R. P. Jameson, D.en L.
Mary Taylor Cowdery

To the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

I was so pleased to learn that you had in mind the taking of steps to assure the publication of a journal to be devoted to the interests of the teaching of Modern Foreign Languages in High Schools and Colleges. The need for such a publication is too obvious to need much emphasizing. The study of the modern tongues has been for some years and is still increasingly supplanting that of the ancient; hence the call for good teachers of these former branches becomes with each year correspondingly louder. This is a call which the colleges and universities must endeavor to meet - and here a good journal would be a great help, and is the more necessary because from the very position of this land of ours, the majority of our graduates are deprived of mingling in the foreign atmosphere or of becoming acquainted at first hand with what they must know, to be really efficient teachers of the foreign idiom. Reviews devoted to the study of modern languages exist here, it is true, but they deal for the most part with studies in philology and literature, and but seldom with problems that are constantly presenting themselves to the teachers in the elements of a foreign language. These latter must flounder along experimenting on their pupils, and only gradually and inefficiently preparing themselves for their work. A journal such as would really help and be read by such young people would

(COPY)

Oberlin College
Oberlin, Ohio
The College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Romance Languages
J. R. Firkins, Ph.D.
Alice L. Cowdery
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Yours, John M. Mathews
President
Oberlin College.

take up practical questions of methods, of text-books, of difficulties that naturally beset the young teacher. It could not help being a real help in a department when such help is now very hard to obtain and very difficult of access.

But, whatever its use, such a publication as we have spoken of could hardly at first be a paying investment. Some financial backing would be needed; and whence should this help more naturally or fittingly come than from a great University? And to what University should one look, if not to your own? Yours is the great and popular institution of the Middle West, which has already done so much in the cause of education, and has been, since its foundation, the pioneer in every movement of reform.

We believe that you will take the step asked of you, and feel confident that you will thus be still further aiding the cause of education, and in particular will be earning the gratitude of all teachers of the Modern Foreign Languages.

Yours respectfully,

(Signed) J. R. Wightman

Professor John R. Wightman
Oberlin College.

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Professor John R. Wightman
Oberlin College.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ROMANIC LANGUAGES
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 29, 1915.

The President and Board of Trustees,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sirs:

I understand that there is a possibility of your considering the establishment of a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in our colleges and secondary schools. Such a journal would fill a great want in the United States.

In America we are still in the experimental stage of language teaching. Discussion of methods is a prime necessity. We need exposition of method, scientific data, and reports embodying the results of investigations, and experimentation. Such a journal as is proposed would be an effective aid in this work.

In this connection I venture to call your attention to the fact that at the recent meeting of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America attention was drawn to the need of a periodical in which papers on modern language pedagogy could be published. Such a need has been often discussed in the councils of the Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Bert E. Young

Professor of Romance Languages in Vanderbilt University.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MODERN LANGUAGES
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

March 20, 1918.

The President and Board of Trustees,

University of Chicago,

Chicago, Ill.

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI
COLUMBIA

DEPARTMENT OF GERMANIC LANGUAGES

March 27, 1915.

To the President and Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

Gentlemen:

I have just been informed of a project on the part of your instructors in Foreign Modern Languages to establish under the auspices of your institution a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in college and high school. To this proposal which will be laid before you for action I beg to give my unqualified, enthusiastic support, and join heartily in the appeal to you for a favorable action upon what seems to me a modest request and recommendation.

There are two reasons upon which I should urge you to consider the measure favorably. The first is that the proposed journal will fill a pressing need in this field of our educational interest. France and Germany have their establisht journals of this kind; America has not. In the matter of modern language instruction, aims, ideals, technique, etc., America is at least fifty years behind the time, and the plan proposed in the letter to you will prove a long step forward in the evaluation of modern language facts along progressive lines. We sorely need a journal that will serve as a mouth-piece for the cause of better instruction in modern languages.

A second reason why I should urge you to act favorably upon the recommendation: I would point out the opportunity that is coming to you for leadership. The opportunity is here; if you do not act, others will. My interest in the University of Chicago is still keen enough for me to wish that you embrace this fine opportunity and establish yourself as a leader also in this highly significant phase of modern language instruction.

Very truly,

Hermann Almstedt,

Chairman Department of Germanic
Languages
University of Missouri.

HA/S.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI

COLUMBIA

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To the President and Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

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Chairman Department of Germanic
Languages
University of Missouri.

HA/S.

J. H. WORST, LL.D. PREST. C. E. NUGENT, SECY.

NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
NORTH DAKOTA

TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO,

Gentlemen:

I endorse most heartily the project for a journal devoted to the problem of teaching the foreign languages in colleges and high schools. For years I have cherished the hope that my alma mater, The University of Chicago, would establish such a journal, not merely in its own interest, but to give due recognition to the importance of modern language teaching in our schools. We teachers feel the great necessity for such a clearing house of ideas regarding the subject in which we are most vitally interested, and feel it now all the more keenly, since a medium of exchange has been established for teachers of English.

I sincerely hope that you will give this project favorable consideration and that we may soon welcome the first number of the magazine that is to bring to us the news and report the activities of the modern language world.

Very truly yours,

Max Batt

Professor of Modern Languages.
North Dakota Agricultural College

Fargo, N. Dak., March 27, 1915.

North Dakota Agricultural College

COPY

Evanston, Ill., March 26, 1915

President and Trustees of the University of Chicago.

Gentlemen:

I am much interested in the proposed plan to publish under the auspices of your University a journal devoted to the problems of teaching modern languages. Our modern language teachers are very much in need of such a periodical. At present there is a sad lack of unity of aim among teachers of modern languages and an almost inconceivable confusion of standards thruout the entire land. Our teachers not only need inspiration but they also need guidance. You will in my opinion do a really good work by supporting a much needed enterprise to give our teachers a good periodical where they can find the best light on their daily work.

Yours truly,

(Signed) George O. Curme,
Professor of German, Northwestern
University

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Professor of German, Northwestern University

(COPY)

Dean's Office,
Western Reserve University,
Graduate School,
Cleveland, O.

March 30, 1915

To the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

Through the courtesy of Professor Cutting I have had the privilege of examining the plan proposed for the establishment by the University of Chicago of a journal devoted to "the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in our schools and colleges." Professor Cutting asks if I am willing to state briefly and frankly to you what I think of the project.

Allow me to do so and to say that I am glad of the opportunity to endorse such a sensible project most heartily. It appeals to me strongly as the most effective means yet proposed to meet our greatest need in modern language teaching - namely the need of teaching our teachers what to teach and how to teach it.

It seems to me that the opportunity for such a journal is really unique, and I frankly believe it would do more real, immediate, practical, tangible good, and that to more people who need it, than any journal now published in America. I think it could not fail to be helpful to thousands of teachers all over the country and through them of value to an ever increasing army of students.

The experience of twenty-seven years in University classrooms leads me to believe that only the exceptional teacher knows how to plan a course or choose the text-books, knows where the real values are and how to emphasize them, knows how to pick and choose the ways and means that would make his teaching vital and effective.

(Copy)

Dean's Office,
Western Reserve University,
Graduate School,
Cleveland, O.

March 30, 1916

To the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

Through the courtesy of Professor Dutton I have had the privilege of examining the plan proposed for the establishment by the University of Chicago of a journal devoted to "the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in our schools and colleges." Professor Dutton asks if I am willing to state briefly and frankly to you what I think of the project.

Allow me to do so and to say that I say glad of the opportunity to endorse such a sensible project most heartily. It appears to me strongly as the most effective means yet proposed to meet our greatest need in modern language teaching - namely the need of teachers who know what to teach and how to teach it.

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The experiments of twenty-seven years in laboratory classroom teaching go to believe that only the exceptional teacher knows how to plan a course or choose the text-book. Those where the real values are and how to emphasize them, know how to vitalize and choose the ways and means for the students to realize them most effective.

I think the reason is that so few teachers have the opportunity to see and judge each other's work, to exchange views, to profit by the wisdom and experience of others. Such a journal would provide that opportunity and do much to change the chaotic conditions and haphazard method of to-day into a sane and orderly scientific system for the future to build on. Therefore, I earnestly hope the journal may be established.

Most respectfully,

(Signed) R. W. Deering

Professor R. W. Deering
Dean of the Graduate School, Western Reserve University.

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Dean of the Graduate School, Western Reserve University.

(COPY)

The Ohio State University

W. O. Thompson, President

Department of German

Columbus, March 31st, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago:

Gentlemen:

The establishment of a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages in colleges and high schools would be of invaluable assistance to the many thousands of teachers who at the present time are practically left to their own resources. The catalogue of the publishing houses offer some help, but experience shows that they are not always to be relied upon, as both publishers and authors have "an axe to grind." Indeed I regard just such a non-partisan journal, giving large space to reviews of recent textbooks on method and also unbiassed accounts of the movements and trend of modern education both in this country and abroad, as the greatest need of the present day in modern language teaching.

Should the University of Chicago take the lead in establishing such a journal it would certainly entrench itself even more firmly in its position as educational leader of the Middle West. And I am very confident that this journal would meet with an enthusiastic welcome on the part of the teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) M. Blakemore Evans,
Professor of German., Ohio State Univer.

(Copy)

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W. O. Thompson, President

Department of German

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Very cordially yours,

(Signed) E. Schmidt

Professor of German

.Ohio State Univer.

Department of German
Cornell University
Ithaca, N.Y.

March 29, 1915.

To the PRESIDENT and the BOARD OF TRUSTEES of THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO:

Gentlemen:

Being requested to give an opinion on the proposed founding of a Journal devoted to the problems of teaching the modern foreign languages, I respectfully submit the following:

1) A journal such as planned would have the effect of standardizing modern language teaching in the United States. In no branch of teaching is there a greater variety of methods, some of which, however brief their existence, do a great deal of harm. Attempts have been made, notably by the Modern Language Association, to establish uniform grades of instruction, but the standards adopted need revision, particularly in the direction of speaking and writing the foreign language.

2) The journal would raise the standard of modern language teaching. The circulation being among teachers over a wide area, the best methods of teaching would constantly be held before them. Quackery, so frequent in modern language teaching, would be dealt a severe blow.

3) A forum would be provided for free discussion. Questions of interest and assistance to teachers would receive an important place. More beneficial even than this, would be a severely critical attitude, a desire to prune the vines for a better growth. The amount of capital and labor that now enters into the publication of modern language text-books is enormous. Older text-books are frequently displaced by new ones that are inferior, the fascination of the new, rules where there is no guidance. Publishers are increasing the output daily with astonishing confidence, and

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Department of German
Cornell University
Ithaca, N.Y.

most commonly with regard for what will sell above what is of greatest educational value. The publishers are perhaps not as much to blame as the absence of high standards of criticism. A journal such as is planned might serve as a check upon the flooding of the market with inferior products.

4) The undersigned is of the opinion, that modern language study will increase as a result of the present great international crisis. A familiarity with the languages of foreign countries creates a keener sympathy and a readier spirit of coöperation among the peoples of different nationality. A better understanding leads to a more friendly attitude. The foundation of a journal devoted to the interests of modern language study is therefore well-timed.

Respectfully yours,

A. B. Faust.

Professor Albert B. Faust
Cornell University.

Department of German
Cornell University
Ithaca, N.Y.

II

most commonly with regard for what will sell above what is of greatest educational value. The publishers are perhaps not as much to blame as the absence of high standards of criticism. A journal such as is planned might serve as a check upon the flooding of the market with inferior products.

4) The undersigned is of the opinion, that modern language study will increase as a result of the present great international crisis. A familiarity with the languages of foreign countries creates a keener sympathy and a readier spirit of coöperation among the peoples of different nationality. A better understanding leads to a more friendly attitude. The foundation of a journal devoted to the interests of modern language study is therefore well-timed.

Respectfully yours,

Faust

Professor Albert B. Faust
Cornell University.

COPY

Urbana, Ill., March 30, 1915

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Professor Starr Willard Cutting has had the kindness of sending me the proposed plan of a journal which is to be devoted to the problems of the teaching of foreign modern languages in colleges and high schools. I have read the plan with the greatest interest, and I beg to express herewith my hearty approval of the project. I shall gladly do all I can to help support such a journal the urgent need of which has long been felt by every teacher of foreign languages. The University of Chicago will, in my opinion, earn the gratitude of the profession by giving its aid to the undertaking.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Julius Goebel

Professor Julius Goebel
University of Illinois.

COPY

Urbana, Ill., March 30, 1928

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.
Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Professor Albert Ward Dottidge has had the kindness of sending me the proposed plan of a Journal which is to be devoted to the problems of the teachers of foreign modern languages in colleges and high schools. I have read the plan with the greatest interest, and I beg to express herewith my hearty approval of the project. I shall readily do all I can to help support such a Journal, the urgent need of which has long been felt by every teacher of foreign languages. The University of Chicago will, in my opinion, gain the gratitude of the profession by giving its aid to the undertaking.

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Professor Julius Goebel
University of Illinois.

Otto Heller, Ph. D.
Philipp Seiberth, A. M.
Max Diez, A. M.
Erwin Hartung, A. B.

Washington University

Department of the German
Language and Literature

Saint Louis, Mar. 29, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago,

Gentlemen,

I am in receipt of a communication from Professor Starr W. Cutting containing the outline of a memorial to be presented to your Honorable Body with a view of obtaining your support for the publication of a journal devoted to the problems of teaching the foreign modern languages.

I have carefully considered Professor Cutting's plan and am in full sympathy with it. If your Honorable Body should deem this project worthy of the subsidy that is being asked for, I shall make it my business to bring the new publication to the attention of all teachers of modern languages within the sphere of my personal influence.

I believe that the University of Chicago by undertaking this publication would render a service of very great value to the educational interests of the middle west.

Very respectfully yours,

M.D.

Otto Heller.

Professor Otto Heller
Washington University, St. Louis.

Otto Heller, Ph. D.
Philipp Seibert, A. M.
Max Ohg, A. M.
Erwin Wartman, A. M.

Washington University

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I believe that the University of Chicago by undertaking this public-spirited venture, would render a service of very great value to the educational interests of the middle west.

Very respectfully yours,

W.H.

Otto Heller

Professor Otto Heller
Washington University, St. Louis.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MADISON

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

March 29, 1915.

To the President and the Board of Trustees of the
University of Chicago.
Gentlemen:

I have read with great pleasure and interest the memorial laid before you by the Modern Language departments of the University of Chicago outlining a plan for the establishment of a journal devoted to the teaching of the Modern Foreign Languages. I beg to endorse most heartily every word of that memorial. It in no wise over-states the great need that exists in our profession in that direction, nor the splendid opportunity for service in the interest of higher education in this country. I have given the matter involved considerable attention for several years, and have gone on record as the advocate of some such plan, both as chairman of the Central Division of the Modern Language Association of America and as president of the parent Association. I sincerely hope that your body may see its way clear to supporting such an enterprise during the years of its incipiency, for I also share the view of my colleagues at Chicago that with strong management along editorial and business lines, such a journal would soon become indispensable to the majority of the teachers in high school and college, and hence self supporting.

Very truly yours,

A R Hohlfeld

Professor A.R.Hohlfeld
University of Wisconsin.

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MADISON

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Very truly yours,

Professor A.R.Hohlfeld
University of Wisconsin.

DEPARTMENT OF GERMAN

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS

30 March, 1915.

Professor Starr Willard Cutting,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Illinois.

My dear Mr. Cutting:

It gives me pleasure to add my support to the paper which you have addressed to the President and Board of Trustees of the University of Chicago, relative to the founding of a journal devoted to pedagogic problems in foreign modern languages. I have long been of opinion that our profession would be greatly benefited by a high class journal of this sort.

Very sincerely yours,

James Taft Hatfield

JTH/MB

Professor James. T. Hatfield
Northwestern University.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
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JTH/LB

Professor James. T. Hatfield
Northwestern University.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
PHILADELPHIA

THE COLLEGE

GERMANIC LANGUAGES
AND LITERATURE

March 29, 1915.

To the President and Board of Trustees,
University of Chicago, Chicago, Ill.

Gentlemen:

Having heard of the proposal which your Departments of Romanic and Germanic Languages are to lay before you for the founding of a journal devoted to the problems of teaching foreign languages in the colleges and high schools, I beg to say a word in support of the project.

It seems to me an opportune time for launching some such effort in America, that will unite in harmonious cooperation the modern language teachers of colleges and secondary schools and lead ultimately to the unification of conflicting methods and to the teaching of modern languages as living languages. At the present time there is an enormous waste of energy and time both in schools and colleges in instructing in a half-hearted way students and pupils, who neither know, nor in the majority of cases care, what language study is for.

If the University of Chicago can subsidize a periodical, that will be able to secure this national cooperation and at the same time wisely intercept such adventurers as are prone to rush into the lime-light with new and untried methods, it will be doing great service to American education. I can heartily endorse the project in the form in which it has reached my attention and I wish the University of Chicago the greatest success and at the same time the enduring patience necessary to make such a periodical self-supporting.

Very sincerely yours,

M. D. Learned

University of Pennsylvania.

University of Pennsylvania.

(COPY)

Indiana University,
Department of German,
Bloomington, Indiana.

March 29, 1915

To the President and the Board of Trustees
of the University of Chicago.

Gentlemen:

While differing from the memorialists in a number of more or less important particulars as to the grounds on which action is asked for, I wholly agree with them in regard to the main issue, viz. that it is eminently desirable that there should be established a journal devoted to the interests of secondary instruction in Modern Languages in the United States.

Respectfully submitted,

(Signed) B. J. Vos,
Professor of German.

Professor Bert J. Vos
Indiana University.

Professor Bert J. Vos
Indiana University.