

November 20, 1923

Professor W. A. Nitze
Romance Department
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. Nitze:

It was decided by the Department last year that we should proceed to the establishment of a laboratory of phonetics. I have to report the following progress.

An appropriation of \$500 was made last year, and with the advice of the Abbé Rousselot of Pirard and Coeurdevache, Paris; Dr. Panconcelli-Calzia of the Kolonialinstitut, Hamburg; and Navarro Tomás of the Centro de Estudios Científicos, Madrid, I purchased a small fraction of the necessary equipment. This equipment arrived last spring and was used to advantage for demonstrations by Mr. Russell and myself last summer.

The Physics Department has recently placed at our disposal a suitable laboratory in Ryerson. They seem much interested in the subject and are disposed to assist us in every way. At present Mr. T. Neil Johnson is working on the psychological interpretation of certain types of intonation. This year we are offering for the first time a course in experimental phonetics. Two members of the Romance Department of the University of Toronto are coming down for this work, and we shall also have a member of the Department from the University of Kansas and one from Rice Institute.

Our equipment is practically nil at present. You will remember that in a conversation with Mr. Gale it was estimated that satisfactory equipment would cost about \$5000. Mr. Barker tells me that the University of Utah in 1921 appropriated \$2000 for a laboratory for their Romance Department in one year alone. Our phonetic laboratory will be at the disposal of all the linguistic departments of the University and of Psychology and Education as well. It is not merely a Romance matter.

In order to equip the laboratory very modestly, we need \$2000 at once. I hope you will find it advisable to take the matter up with the President.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) C. E. Parmenter

Copy, original returned to Mr. Nitze
with letter of 12-5-23.

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*Mr. Plimpton
ask for full figures*

The University of Chicago
DEPARTMENT OF
ROMANCE LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
November 26, 1923

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President Ernest DeWitt Burton
The University of Chicago
Faculty Exchange

Dear Mr. Burton:

I am enclosing a letter from Mr. Parmenter which, I think, explains itself. The Romance Department is prepared to go ahead at once with its work in phonetics, provided the funds can be procured.

I very much hope that we can start on this work before next summer, and I also hope that the University may be able to relieve Mr. Parmenter of all administrative duties so that he can devote himself to his work in phonetics, for which he is preëminently fitted. I may say that if we do not carry out the plan as laid down for us by Mr. Parmenter, some other large university is sure to do so within the near future.

Perhaps it is possible to make an arrangement whereby the students will pay a laboratory fee for work in phonetics. That would reduce the cost of the maintenance of the laboratory considerably.

Hoping to hear from you favorably on this matter, I
am

Very respectfully yours,

Wm. A. Nitz

WAN:EPR



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DEPARTMENT OF
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Wm. A. Hays

WAS:EPH

