

THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH
POST OFFICE BOX NO. 1554
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

February 5, 1965

Dr. Alex D. Krieger
Department of Anthropology
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98105

Dear Dr. Krieger:

We received your telegram of February 2, and yesterday, your letter of the same date. It is of course a disappointment not to have you as a candidate for the position of Director of the School of American Research. We have been honored that you had been willing to consider it, but understand fully your reasons for withdrawing your name. We congratulate you on the well deserved honors you are receiving at the University of Washington, although, frankly, I think they are the lucky ones.

With regard to the Lithic Project, I find your ideas extremely interesting and want to thank you for your most generous offers of cooperation. I am sending a copy of your letter, together with a copy of this one, to the members of our Executive Committee, who are meeting on the 10th of February for preliminary study as to the future of our Lithic Typology Project. I agree with you it is so important that it must not be allowed to lapse. Your recommendations certainly show a possible solution. We will keep you advised as to developments.

Again may I say that I am personally disappointed you and Mrs. Krieger cannot become members of our community.

With all best wishes to both of you, I am

Sincerely,

JGDh
Chairman

JGDh

cc Mr. Henry R. Hoyt
Judge Oliver Seth
Mr. Marshall McCune
General Charles H. Corlett
Mr. Parker Wilson
Mr. J. Carrington Woolley
Miss Laura Gilpin
Mrs. Thomas E. Curtin
Mr. Daniel F. Kelly
Mr. William W. Hunter
Miss A. E. White
Mr. Eugene McCluney

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98105

Department of Anthropology

FEBRUARY 2, 1965

JOHN GAW MEEN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF MANAGERS
THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH
Box 1554
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

DEAR MR. MEEN:

ON MY RETURN YESTERDAY FROM A TRIP TO THE MOHAVE DESERT TO INSPECT A DIG SPONSORED BY THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, I FOUND YOUR VERY KIND LETTER OF JANUARY 29TH. I ALSO FOUND A LETTER FROM THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS UNIVERSITY STATING THAT I HAD BEEN APPOINTED FULL PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY WITH IMMEDIATE TENURE AND A NUMBER OF OTHER GENEROUS PRIVILEGES THAT ARE HARD TO RESIST. THE MACHINERY FOR THIS APPOINTMENT HAD BEEN PUT IN MOTION ONLY A MONTH AGO WHEN MY COLLEAGUES LEARNED THAT I MIGHT GO ELSEWHERE.

MRS. KRIEGER, WHO IS A PROFESSIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST AND IN HER FIRST YEAR HERE AS A FULL-TIME TEACHER, HAS WANTED FOR A LONG TIME TO REMAIN ON A UNIVERSITY FACULTY. AFTER MUCH SOUL-SEARCHING I DECIDED TO ACCEPT THE PROFESSORSHIP HERE, AS I MENTIONED IN THE TELEGRAM THIS AFTERNOON. I DO HOPE I HAVE NOT INCONVENIENCED YOU AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF YOUR BOARD OF MANAGERS WITH THIS DECISION. IT WAS A VERY HARD ONE TO MAKE, FOR THERE IS NO PLACE IN THE WORLD THAT EITHER OF US WOULD RATHER LIVE THAN IN SANTA FE; AND AS I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU MORE THAN ONCE, I PERSONALLY AM GREATLY INTERESTED IN THE AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE SCHOOL OF AMERICAN RESEARCH. ON THE OTHER HAND, I DON'T DOUBT THAT YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FIND A VERY CAPABLE PERSON AS YOUR NEW DIRECTOR--AND ONE WHO WILL ALSO BE FULLY INTERESTED IN PUSHING THE LITHIC TYPOLOGY PROJECT.

AS TO THE FUTURE OF THIS PROJECT, I STILL FEEL THAT THE SCHOOL SHOULD KEEP IT THERE UNLESS THERE IS SOME URGENT REASON FOR MOVING IT ELSEWHERE. IT HAS OCCURRED TO ME THAT I CAN CONTINUE TO ACT AS ITS "SCIENTIFIC CHAIRMAN" BECAUSE MY APPOINTMENT HERE IS FOR THE USUAL NINE MONTHS EACH YEAR AND I WILL HAVE COMPLETE FREEDOM TO SPEND THE OTHER THREE MONTHS IN ANY WAY I WISH. THEREFORE, I WONDER HOW YOU AND THE BOARD WOULD FEEL IF I PROPOSED SPENDING THE THREE SUMMER MONTHS IN SANTA FE FOR SOME YEARS TO COME, WORKING THERE ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PROJECT AS WELL AS DOING THE MAJOR RESEARCH AND CORRESPONDENCE. I SAY "MAJOR" BECAUSE I COULD HANDLE MINOR MATTERS FROM HERE AND ARRANGE, IF NEED BE, FOR MEETINGS OF OUR STEERING COMMITTEE DURING THE SPRING OR FALL AS WE HAVE BEEN DOING. THE SUMMERS COULD ALSO BE USED FOR TRAINING SEVERAL TEAMS TO TRAVEL ABOUT FOR THE RECORDING OF DATA ON MAJOR COLLECTIONS AND DO THE CARD-PUNCHING IN A UNIFORM MANNER. NATURALLY, IF THIS CAN BE WORKED OUT,

help to

WE WOULD WANT TO GET SOME OF OUR MOST INTERESTED AND CAPABLE COMMITTEE MEMBERS (LIKE BILL HAAG, SCOTTY MACNEISH, ^{AND PERHAPS} OTHERS) TO SPEND TIME IN SANTA FE IN THE SUMMERS TOO ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY THE WHOLE SUMMER EACH YEAR. THAT IS SOMETHING THAT CAN BE WORKED OUT BY ALL OF US, I AM SURE.

Wans Miller - Beck

I MENTIONED ABOVE THE TRAINING OF SOME "TEAMS" TO BE SENT TO THESE PLACES (AND THERE WILL BE MANY OF THEM) WHERE THE LARGEST AND MOST IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS ARE KEPT, TO DO THE RECORDING OF ATTRIBUTES AND CARD-PUNCHING IN A UNIFORM MANNER. THIS IS BECAUSE, AS I SAID IN SANTA FE IN OCTOBER, I AM NOW CONVINCED THAT WE CAN NOT LEAVE THESE CHORES IN THE HANDS OF A SERIES OF REGIONAL AGENTS, FOR THEY VARY TOO MUCH IN THEIR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT SHOULD BE RECORDED FOR INDIVIDUAL SPECIMENS NO MATTER HOW CAREFULLY SEVERAL HUNDRED ATTRIBUTES ARE DESCRIBED IN OUR INSTRUCTION SHEETS. IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE LEAVE THESE MATTERS TO SOME SCORES OF PERSONS TO DO THEMSELVES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, AND THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES, THERE WILL BE TOO MUCH VARIATION (AND UNCERTAINTIES) IN THE RESULTS FOR US TO ATTAIN SCIENTIFIC AND MATHEMATICAL VALIDITY. WE WOULD BE WASTING OUR TIME AND MONEY IF WE WERE NOT SURE THAT THE RESULTS COMING IN WERE STRICTLY COMPARABLE. BESIDES, AS I ALSO MENTIONED IN SANTA FE IN OCTOBER, SOME OF THE BEST ARCHEOLOGISTS IN EACH REGION AND COUNTRY WOULD TEND TO PUT OFF THE RECORDING OF ATTRIBUTES AND CARD-PUNCHING BECAUSE ALL THE BEST PEOPLE ARE OVERWORKED AND CAN'T FIND THE TIME EVEN IF THEY WANT TO.

NO MATTER HOW WE GO ABOUT THIS, IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A LARGE GRANT (SAY, A FIVE-YEAR GRANT) TO GET STARTED AND SHOW SOME CONCRETE RESULTS; AND AFTER THAT WE WILL NEED RENEWALS EVERY FIVE YEARS OR SO. THE TRAINING OF FOUR OR FIVE "TEAMS" OF TWO OR THREE PERSONS WOULD BE ENTIRELY JUSTIFIED IN ANY APPLICATION FOR A GRANT. IN FACT, I WOULD ANTICIPATE THAT A FOUNDATION WOULD BE MORE IMPRESSED BY THIS ASPECT OF THE PROJECT THAN IF WE JUST SAID WE WOULD SEEK THE HELP OF A LONG STRING OF REGIONAL EXPERTS. THE FOUNDATIONS THAT COME TO MIND WOULD BE THE FORD FOUNDATION, CARNEGIE CORPORATION, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION, ETC. THE NSF IS NOW SET UP TO MAKE THREE-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR GRANTS WHEREAS IT USED TO BE LIMITED TO TWO YEARS AT THE MOST. WE CAN SEE ABOUT THAT. FIRST I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THESE SUGGESTIONS SEEM PRACTICAL TO YOU AND THE BOARD, AND TO YOUR NEW DIRECTOR AS SOON AS YOU HAVE CHOSEN ONE.

IN ANY GRANT APPLICATION FOR THIS PROJECT, I WILL BE PERFECTLY WILLING TO ACT AS "CHIEF INVESTIGATOR" (THE TERM USUALLY USED) WHILE THE SCHOOL WOULD BE THE "SPONSORING INSTITUTION." YOU MAY HAVE OTHER IDEAS, BUT WHATEVER YOU SUGGEST, REMEMBER THAT MY MAIN OBJECT IS TO KEEP THIS THING GOING IN ANY PRACTICAL MANNER, FOR IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PROJECT EVER UNDERTAKEN IN OUR PROFESSION!

ONE OTHER REASON FOR MY DECIDING TO TAKE THE PROFESSORSHIP HERE IS THAT I ABSOLUTELY MUST COMPLETE THE TEXT BOOKS THAT I HAVE BEEN

SLAVING OVER FOR THE LAST FIVE YEARS. A MOVE TO SANTA FE AS YOUR FULL-TIME DIRECTOR, AND THE TAKING UP OF ADMINISTRATIVE DUTIES, WOULD MAKE IT VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THESE BOOKS DONE FOR ANOTHER TWO OR THREE OR FOUR YEARS--A THOUGHT WHICH I CAN HARDLY BEAR TO THINK ABOUT, AS I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND. THE POSITION HERE WILL INVOLVE ONLY THE TEACHING OF NOT MORE THAN TWO COURSES EACH TERM, WITH THE REST OF MY TIME FREE FOR RESEARCH AND WRITING. IT IS REALLY QUITE A REMARKABLE SETUP, FOR VERY FEW UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY WOULD ALLOW ME SUCH LIBERTY AND AT THE SAME TIME PAY ME A MAXIMUM SALARY. OF COURSE, I DID NOT JUST WALK INTO IT: IT TOOK SOME YEARS TO REACH THE POINT WHERE ANY UNIVERSITY WOULD CONSIDER MY KNOWLEDGE OF MANY SUBJECTS TO BE WORTH SUCH AN UNUSUAL POSITION.

AT ANY RATE, I'M SURE YOU REALIZE THAT MY HEART IS SET ON THE REALIZATION OF OUR LITHIC PROJECT IN THE MOST PRACTICAL MANNER I CAN THINK OF. IF YOU AGREE WITH THE ABOVE SUGGESTIONS I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR OPINION. IF YOU HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS (EVEN TO LEAVING ME OUT OF IT AND PROCEEDING IN SOME MANNER THAT SEEMS MORE PRACTICAL TO YOU) I HOPE YOU WILL SAY SO IN TOTAL FRANKNESS. WHATEVER YOU AND THE BOARD SUGGEST AND DECIDE, REMEMBER THAT I WILL GIVE EVERY AID THAT I POSSIBLY CAN.

MRS. KRIEGER SAYS TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR KIND REGARDS; AND SHE SENDS THE SAME TO YOU. WE BOTH REMEMBER ALL YOUR KINDNESSES WITH GREAT FONDNESS AND WILL HOPE TO SEE YOU AGAIN BEFORE LONG.

VERY SINCERELY YOURS,

Alex
ALEX D. KRIEGER