

The University of Chicago

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ELLSWORTH FARIS
ROBERT E. PARK
ERNEST W. BURGESS
FAY-COOPER COLE
EDWARD SAPIR
FLOYD N. HOUSE
EYLER N. SIMPSON
LOUIS WIRTH

January 11, 1927.

2 copies

My dear Mr. Rogers:

During the past few days I have been speculating on the question: How best get my start in Mexico? You will remember that I discussed with you the advisability of attending the summer session of the University of Mexico. I still think that this would be a desirable thing to do. But I wonder if it would not be possible to do something more than merely attend the University as a student. In fine, why would it not be a good plan to pull the proper strings and have myself invited to give a course, or, at least, a series of lectures in the summer session? It is obvious that the more prestige I have the easier the doors will open to me. Sam Harper tells me that the title of Professor-Doctor was the most valuable thing which he took with him to Russia and Paul Douglas assures me (from his experience in Haiti) that Latin-Americans have equal respect for academic titles. The appointment might be obtained either through the good offices of Quincy Wright or the Anthropology department here, which latter has close connections with Gamio, former director of the Bureau of Anthropology in Mexico. Enclosed you will find a catalogue of the summer session for last year. You will observe that some of the courses are given in English. In short, sir, I make so bold as to ask: If John Dewey can be invited to lecture in the University of Mexico—why not me?

There are reputed to be 28,000 Mexicans in the city of Chicago. I assume that I should make it my business to know a fair statistical sample of this group. Accordingly, the other night I was able to meet a half dozen or so, including the Mexican Consul here—Señor Lupián— and the grandson of the great Porfirio Díaz. The latter, amusingly enough, is working for the Rotary Club here in Chicago. Incidentally, I found that my conversational Spanish was quite adequate to the occasion.

If the reports in the morning papers mean anything, it may turn out that, after all, it will be more "convenient" to go to Spain first.

Since you left my mind has been swarming with ideas and plans for my work with the Institute in such manner that I actually cannot sleep at night. I wonder if you will understand me if I say that I get the same sort of religious thrill out of it that I used to get in my adolescent days when I contemplated devoting my life to humanity via the Y.M.C.A.

Sincerely,

Eyler N. Simpson

January 14th, 1927

Mr. Myler H. Simpson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Simpson:

My first reaction to your letter of January 11th is that you still consider yourself a learner rather than a practitioner. I do not wish to be misunderstood. I hope you go on learning all your life. But a man, when he leaves law school and takes on clients or leaves medical school and actually begins to prescribe, experiences a fundamental shift in viewpoint. I won't labor the point. It would be a lovely topic for a group of mediaeval scholastics to wrangle over.

If you can get a job teaching in the University of Mexico for the summer session, it might prove useful. But quit thinking of yourself as a student sitting at the foot of some learned guy, who perhaps after all is only juggling words. I wonder how much real influence the University of Mexico exerts!

I think your problem is to find out just what forces, natural, psychological, cultural, economic, etc., are at work in Mexico and what individuals reflect or direct these forces (so far as they are directed) and to what ends. But be careful neither to overestimate or to underestimate - the former is perhaps more likely - the part generalized ideas are playing.

I share your thrill. If we take advantage of the opportunities ahead, build soundly and act wisely, keep our sense of proportion and our humor, we ...

Greetings,

WER/EC

January 15, 1927

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Simpson:

Enclosed is carbon copy of a letter that I am today sending to Mr. Charles F. Axelson, who, as I told you, looks after life insurance matters for the Institute.

I take this occasion to confirm the statement that I made to you to the effect that you are authorized to expend minor sums in connection with actual preparation for your work with the Institute. Any substantial item should be approved by me in advance. Reimbursement will be made promptly upon this office's receipt of detail statement of outpayments.

There has been considerable excitement during the past few days over Hopper's getting into Russia. Early in the week he cabled me that visas had been refused without explanation. Now I have a cable reading: "Visas granted refusal explained by mistaken names". The latter part is probably bunk, but in any event he is now duly credentialed.

Yours sincerely,

WSR/FC
encls.

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January 17, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

You will recall that I spoke to you in the course of our recent conversation here in Chicago concerning one James Willis Posey. Mr. Posey has ambitions to go to South America for the Institute. Enclosed you will find a self-explanatory document concerning this gentleman and his ambitions.

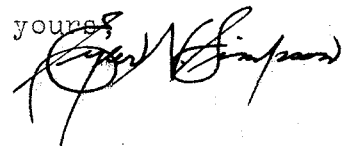
As per your instructions I have recently had a long talk with Kimmel. I laid all the cards on the table and suggested to him that if he is really interested in the work of the Institute that it was time for him to go and do likewise. I believe that you may expect a long and explicit declaration of intention from him in the near future.

I have not as yet had a chance to talk with either Maynard or Beck. However, I expect to see both of them in the course of next week.

From your last letter I am not quite sure whether you think well or ill of my suggestion concerning the possibility of lecturing at the University of Mexico. It is hardly necessary for me to say that I have no interest either in lecturing or in the University per se. However, I am somewhat concerned, as I turn the general problem of how I am to get my entrée into Mexican circles over in my mind, with the question of a basis for prestige and status. I do not think that I can use as my "open sesame" the at present unknown name of the Institute.

Sam Harper advances the theory that the reason Bruce had difficulty with his visas was because they thought that the name Hopper was too much like the name Harper.

Very sincerely yours



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February 1, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I have entered into correspondence with Hackett and Handman at the University of Texas and find that they will not be in Texas at the time when I will be passing that way on my way to Mexico. Accordingly, after considering the matter carefully, I am of the opinion that it would be a good plan for me to drop down to Austin for the period of my Spring vacation. I will be able to leave here on the eighteenth of March and need not be back until the twenty-eighth. This should afford me ample time not only to get all I can out these two men, but also to make whatever contacts that may seem desirable in San Antonio. (There is a large and important Mexican colony there). The railroads are offering until May 1st a special round trip rate of \$85.43, including pullman.

While you were here you suggested in a rather casual way that it might be nice for me to take Keith along. Feeling as I do now, after months of separation from a more or less brand new wife, I cannot help but say, Sir, that "nice" is a very inadequate word to describe what such a trip might be—especially in view of the fact that it would be in the nature of a triumphal return to the scenes of our mutual alma mater. However, if by your suggestion you meant that the Institute should bear the expenses of such a venture, I feel it my duty to call to your attention the fact that the total expense for the two of us would probably amount to something near \$200.00. I am not at all sure that the returns in information received or contacts made while on the trip would justify such an outlay. Will you kindly advise me on this point?

Enclosed you will find an account of certain expenses which I have incurred during the past month in the interest of the Institute.

I have turned over to Dr. E. W. Burgess, secretary for the American Sociological Society, your order for a copy of the proceedings of the 1926 Christmas meeting. However, if I may judge from last years experience, the proceedings will not be published until sometime in June.

Concerning the English gentleman whose "vita" you recently sent to me, I can only say that if his past record is any indication of his present abilities, that he should be just about the right man for Spain and Italy. Of course he would have the added task of becoming enough of an American to successfully interpret his materials for this country.

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2.

Today I had a conversational lunch with Merriam and Harper during which we discussed my approach to Mexico. They seemed to be of the opinion that it would be a very good thing to go directly to the Mexican minister in Washington and "sell" the idea of the Institute to him with a view to having him communicate with the authorities in Mexico etc.etc. and thus by laying the cards on the table remove any possibility of a misunderstanding concerning the nature and aims of the organization. I have not had time to think this suggestion out carefully. However, I can see that whereas it might open some of the official doors, such a move might also close other doors of equal importance. At the same time if Mexico and the U.S. keep on in the direction in which we are now headed, I am afraid that without some sort of official approval I may have some difficulty moving about as freely as I would desire. What do you think?

Thank you, Sir, for feeding my wife.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "E. N. Simpson", written in a cursive style.

February 4, 1927.

Mr. Tyler W. Simpson,
Faculty Exchange,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Simpson:

I haven't heard from Kimmel, and I have decided to stop thinking about him further. He has had a year and a half or more to make up his mind whether he likes our company or not and that is ample time and then some. About Posey I have definitely decided to go to the University of North Carolina at the earliest date, which I take will be the middle or latter part of this month.

According to the information given Hopper, the difficulty over his visa was due to his being confused with a man named Hobber. To me this sounds rather fishy unless it may have happened that in some of the documents sent to the Soviet government in connection with it his name through error was misspelled. There is a likelihood of this as several people were asked to send letters.

Merriam is due here tomorrow and I am planning to meet him in Washington Sunday afternoon and journey with him as far as Harrisburg.

Keith had dinner with Mrs. Rogers, Mr. Bailey and me and after dinner the three of us went to see her show. We enjoyed it immensely. Bailey is a brother-in-law of mine and is chief operating engineer - I think that is the title - of the Commonwealth Edison Company. He is a conspicuous figure in the electrical industry, and I suggest that you hunt him up some time - perhaps lunch with him.

Sincerely yours,

WSR/TC

WSR-EWS.

February 15th, 1927

Mr. Eyles H. Simpson,
Faculty Exchange,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Simpson:

I am just back at my desk after an absence of a couple of weeks. In Boston I sent you a longhand note in which I approved of the trip to Texas for you and Keith. I will turn your memorandum of expenses over to the Treasurer and in due time you will receive a check.

While at Harvard I ran across Professor George La Piana, who is the authority at Andover on canon law and mediaeval ecclesiastical history. He suggests as a foundation for understanding the Church's attitude towards property in Mexico, you become familiar with the property provisions of canon law. According to La Piana, the officials at the Vatican determining policy are thoroughly versed in canon law and tend to think in its terms. Probably there is some one at the University of Chicago or at Loyola who can give you the necessary references.

Getting back to your letter of February 1st, and in particular the last paragraph. My idea is that you just proceed with your work with a minimum of noise and gusto.

I don't remember whether I ever answered your query regarding your possible relationship to the summer school of the University of Mexico. I don't think you should consider attending it as a student, but if you can get a part time place as an instructor it might prove worthwhile.

Sincerely yours,

WSR/EC

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February 19, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I was very happy to receive your letter today authorizing my trip to Texas during the Spring vacation. The more I think the matter over the more I am disposed to feel that it may prove very valuable for me at this stage of the game. And this for at least three reasons: a. Handman and Hackett not only know the literature on Mexico but have had extensive experience in research work in Mexico. They should be able to give me a number of valuable hints about how to find my way about and the best ways in which to tap the available sources of information in Mexico City. One other person at the University of Texas who should prove helpful is one Miss Helen Phipps, a former Spanish teacher of mine. She has written the best book on the agrarian problem in Mexico which I have been able to find. b. San Antonio-which is only 80 miles from Austin-is the center of Mexican population in Texas. I already have some friends there who will be in a position to put me in touch anyone of interest. c. Finally, as I believe you have more than half suspected, if not actually planned, taking Keith along will give me just the opportunity for which I have been looking to engage her interests and energies in the work of the Institute in a way which I feel will be necessary if we are to approximate that standard of excellence which you have set up.

During the past few weeks I have been experimenting with a series of general guides or outlines of the things I want to look for and the questions I want to answer with respect to the various fields of investigation. For example, I have been trying to put down on paper the general headings of what one ought to be looking for in surveying the educational problem in Mexico. I will send you some of these questionnaires shortly for your critical comment. They might even prove valuable to Hopper and Crane.

What progress have you made with your plans for finding a medical advisor for the Institute?

While you are in North Carolina you might look up Howard M. Jones who is head of the English department there. You will find him a good sort to discuss the Institute with.

Sincerely yours,



WSR-ENS.3

February 26th, 1927

Mr. Eyles N. Simpson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Simpson:

Upon returning here today I find your letter of February 19th awaiting me. I approve the program outlined in your letter, but I urge that you take advantage of every opportunity to secure letters of introduction to important people in Mexico. I think henceforth you should definitely keep in mind getting information from people holding key positions.

When I get to North Carolina, I will make a point of hunting up Mr. Jones. I have not as yet succeeded in finding a medical adviser for the Institute, but have the matter constantly in mind.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter which I have sent to Mr. Maynard. After he talks with you again, please write me somewhat at length your opinion of him.

WSR/FC
encls.

Sincerely yours,

March 3rd, 1927.

WSR-ENS.4

Dear Simpson:

I am enclosing herewith a letter and a memorandum from Kimmel and a reply which I have dictated. I should like to have your opinion. Personally, I have about concluded that Kimmel will not fit into our project. If that is the final judgment, I want to let him down as easily as possible.

Had a little visit with a friend of yours at dinner last evening. The friend is very much enthused at the possibilities of getting on to Chicago and going to Texas with you.

There is a possibility of my going to Europe about the middle of April to be gone until the middle of June. Perhaps I won't see you again before you start for your post. Consequently, I wish you would consider carefully the points on which you wish advice or suggestions from me. On hearing from you, I will undertake to write fully my views in reply.

WSR/FC

Sincerely yours,

encls.

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March 7, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Your announcement, which arrived today, that you might take yourself off to Europe and leave me to work out my own destiny in Mexico—a destiny somewhat muddled at the present time by the maladroit activities of Mr. Kellogg—gives me pause for thought. Wherefore this rather longish letter.

Of Mr. Maynard I forbear speaking at any great length at the present time. I have had one talk with him. Tomorrow I am to meet him again for lunch. My first impression, which other and more protracted contacts may not support, is that, whereas his experience has been considerable and varied, and whereas he is genuinely interested in the work of the Institute, he is withal a little "heavy" and somewhat lacking in that *savoir-faire* which ideally, at least, a fellow of the Institute should have. But more concerning him later on.

You will find a circular enclosed which sets forth in the rather glowing manner of such circulars certain facts concerning Mr. John Langdon-Davies. I have already spoken about this man at some length with you in our conversations in New York. I believe that you will find him a most unusual person with somewhat exceptional abilities. I will even go so far as to say that I do not think that you will find in many a day a man better equipped from every point of view to handle the area which he has already given two years of study to—Spain and North Africa. At my suggestion he wrote to you asking for a chance to meet you in New York. I hope that will be possible. I do not base my judgements on casual contacts; neither am I impressed with the kind of "blah" with which he makes his living as a popular lecturer. But during the last three years on his various trips to this country I have seen him on numerous occasions, and, so far as I am able to judge, his mental equipment is grounded in a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of those fields which would be of most value in interpreting the problems which the above mentioned area presents.

With regard to Kimmel I have already expressed myself to you. On the whole I am disposed to concur in your judgement that he is not Institute material. However, I do not feel that your letter represents the best way of "letting him down easy". It is hardly fair to criticize him for stressing the educational side of his proposed investigation when you recall, if I remember the matter correctly, that it was you who first suggested to him that his knowledge of educational matters would probably be the best entering wedge in India. In any case, furthermore, I

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cannot help but feel that the reference which you make to the possibility of his getting the Guggenheim foundation to finance his study is more gratuitous on your part than it is kind. Since you have asked me for suggestions in the matter, my best judgement is that it would be much better to simply state in a letter to Kimmel that you have decided after thinking the matter over that the language, racial, religious etc. problems of the Far East and India are so difficult that the needs of the Institute will best be served by a man who has already had some definite experience in the area. You might add further that it now looks as if it would be a matter of several years before the Institute will be ready to place a man in this part of the world.... In short, I would have you expand the last paragraph of your letter and leave out entirely most of what is contained in the first two paragraphs. But whatever you say, I think it only fair to Kimmel that you indicate quite clearly that the matter is closed so far as you are concerned.

I list the following points in regard to my own affairs in response to your invitation to raise any questions on which I wish your advice:

1. From the reports current in the newspapers it appears that there is at least a possibility that there will be a definite break between the United States and Mexico between now and the time that I leave. If such a break in diplomatic relations should occur would there be any great difficulties in my still getting into Mexico? And, assuming that I am able to get in, do you think that my work would be hampered beyond reasonable expectations by such a state of affairs? In case conditions should warrant it would you think it time well spent if I should give Spain the once over this summer and fall rather than later? I realize that these questions are rather hypothetical, but if you are to be off in Europe I would like to be prepared in case of emergency.

2. If Borah should go down to Mexico and Central America this summer on a tour of investigation what would you think of the possibility or desirability of attaching myself to his party?

3. Do you think that it will be desirable for me to have letters of introduction from the Mexican Embassy in Washington? And, if so, could you obtain these for me?

4. In case you do not find a medical adviser before you leave in April what arrangements shall we make for taking care of this matter?

5. Will you before you leave make definite and detailed arrangements concerning my drawing accounts, salary checks etc.?

6. Can you arrange to get me letters of introduction to any of the big oil men in Mexico? I find that I am most lacking in my possibilities of making contacts with the capitalists and so called "exploiters" of Mexico. Naturally I will want to know representative members of this group.

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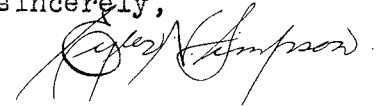
These are a few of the questions which have been giving me some concern lately. Others of more moment may occur to me before you leave.

I am planning, as I indicated to you in my last letter, to leave for Texas on or about March 18th. and shall not return to Chicago until the 28th. This should give me ample time to get whatever Handman and Hackett have to offer as well as to visit San Antonio. You will receive in due course a full and detailed report on my trip.

Enclosed please find an expense account for incidental expenses incurred in the interest of the Institute during the month of February.

May I thank you again for the many kindnesses which you have extended to Keith.

Yours very sincerely,



WSR-EWS.5

March 10th, 1927

Mr. Eyer N. Simpson,
University of Chicago,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Simpson:

As usual, I am just getting back to the office. In a day or so I will answer your letter of the 7th, but will take occasion to say now that I heartily agree with your criticisms of the draft of my letter to Kimmel.

While in Washington I spoke to Senator Borah about you. He expressed the desire to talk with you before you went to Mexico. I told him that I thought possibly it could be arranged for you to be in Washington some weekend after your return from Texas. If you can work this out, please let me know the day and I will ask Senator Borah if he can see you at that time. He now expects to be in Washington until early in the summer.

WSR/FC

Sincerely yours,

WSR-ENG. 6

March 18th, 1927

Dear Simpson:

Enclosed is copy of letter from our Moscow "spokesman". In order to give him a status - the Soviet foreign office shied away from the Institute because of Mr. Charles R. Crane's connection with it - I have arranged with the Scripps-Howard group to furnish him credentials as a correspondent. Say nothing about this outside the family.

In due time, Hopper no doubt will be able to reconcile the Soviets to the Institute.

Greetings,

WSR/FC
encls.

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ALBION W. SMALL
ELLSWORTH FARIS
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FLOYD N. HOUSE

March 27, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Whatever slight misgivings I may have had concerning the value of my trip to Texas for the Institute have been completely dispelled. People who knew about Mexico and Mexican problems seemed to grow on every bush. If I am able to get all the letters of introduction which have been promised to me, I will have to take a special suit case to hold them. I can already see that it is going to be just as much a task to avoid seeing people in Mexico as it is to contrive to see others. To speak more specifically, allow me to report the following results:

Mr. Charles W. Hackett of the Political Science department of the University of Texas proved to be all that I had expected. Although his interests are mainly historical, his work on Current History has kept him up to the minute on all the current problems and personalities in Mexico. He will give me letters to Saenz (Secretary of Education); Montaña (Director of the University Summer School, and an authority on Mexican literature and art); Estrada (Sec. in Department of Foreign Affairs, and authority on modern Mexican poetry); Villegas (student of agrarian problem); Mrs. Nuttall (well known American archaeologist in Mexico, for many years a resident-reputed to know "everyone worth knowing" in the City) etc. He was also able to give me a number of pointers concerning the political affiliations of various publications both in the U.S. and in Mexico. Also, he gave me the name of Guy Stevens. Stevens is the official head of the American Association for the Producers of Petroleum in Mexico. Hackett thinks that he is the very man to put one in contact with the representatives of the oil companies in Mexico. In fact, says Hackett, he will make it his business to see that any one interested in Mexico gets nothing else but the oil interests point of view. What shall we do about him? Do you want to give him the once over and get some letters for me? He is to be found at 17 Battery Place, New York.

Dr. M. S. Handman in turn promised me a number of letters to various and sundry people. I will not list these here. Handman was also most valuable for his suggestions on how to approach the Mexican intellectual group. He feels that he had his greatest success when he used in the indirect method: "The Mexican intellectual is a member of the intelligentsia first and a Mexican second—hence the more facile you are in discussing modern philosophy, literature, and music, (and anything that is French or Spanish) the more are you able to impress them with the fact that you are a kindred spirit and thus eventually

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get what you want out of them".

I was most fortunate in happening to be in Austin at the same time as Samuel Guy Inman. Inman has written a number of books on Mexico and had just returned from a tour of inspection. I spent a morning with him and he promised to give me letters to several of the leading business men in the City, among them one to William Loeb, the Mexican representative for the American Smelter and Refining Company (controlled by the Guggenheim interests).

A young and brilliant economist, by name George Stocking, gave me some valuable bibliography on the oil industry. His book, Oil and Competitive Industry, won the Hart Schaffner and Marx prize a few years ago.

A talk with Señor Carlos Castañeda, librarian of the famous Garcia library in the University of Texas, procured for me the promise of more letters and a list of all the official publications of the Mexican government.

In San Antonio I met and talked with Ignacio Lozano, editor of La Prensa, a Mexican newspaper published in San Antonio. He introduced me to Guillermo Yeme, one time teacher of Spanish literature in the University of Mexico. Yeme is at present a political "out" and was rather violent concerning Señor Calles. However, he knows the literary group in Mexico and promised letters of introduction. Lozano knows every Mexican in San Antonio and may be useful at some future date.

While in Dallas for a few hours I learned that the A.P. now in Mexico City is the husband of a girl that I went to college with. Also, that a fraternity brother of mine is now commercial attaché.....every little bit helps.

In general my trip to Texas left me with three new "don'ts" to keep in mind; (a.) Don't talk to a Mexican until you find out his political prejudices; (b.) Don't allow the impression to get abroad that you are one of what at least some people in Mexico call the "goddamned good-willers"; (c.) Don't be any less critical of the "facts" given out by the liberals and radicals (vide the New Republic, Nation etc.) than you are of any other "facts".

I arise to say, Sir, that I would like to have an answer to my recent questionnaire which I sent to you last these two weeks ago. In fact, if you are still of a mind to go to Europe I am about ready to write you another one.

Yours sincerely,



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April 19 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I am happy to announce that since you were here I have gotten several other returns on my Texas trip in the shape of letters of introduction. In all I now have fifteen. Some of these I will probably not have to use but I would rather be on the safe side with too many rather than too few.

You asked me to remind you that we had talked over the possibility of your looking up Guy Stevens, official propagandist and attorney for many of the Mexican oil interests in this country. He is to be found at 17 Battery Place, New York. I believe that the name of the organization is the "American Association of Producers of Petroleum in Mexico" - at least this is the name that Hackett gave me.

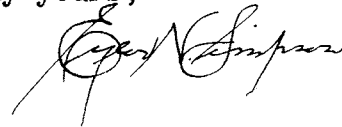
Kellog has talked with me about the Institute on several occasions during the last few days. He seems to be keenly interested, but, as you said, somewhat undecided. I gather that most of his difficulties turn on the prospective Mrs. Kellog. He tells me that she will return from California sometime in May. At that time I will have them over for dinner - or I may even contrive a little camping trip to the dunes. There is nothing that can compare with a little sand in the butter to test the staying qualities of sheltered ladies.

I am returning under separate cover J.C.'s summer lectures. I have written him the critical comments and reactions essentially as I talked them over with you.

Enclosed find a somewhat belated expense account for the trip to Texas.

Keith joins me in personal regards and in remaining

Very sincerely yours,



May 3rd, 1927.

Dear Simpson:

I am uncertain whether you should be provided with letters to prominent oil men, diplomatic officials, etc. My doubt has been considerably increased as result of going ^{into} the situation with George Barr Baker. He is the person who brought to light the photostatic copies of correspondence allegedly transmitted between the State Department and the American Embassy in Mexico city. Unquestionably, as result of Baker's activities, better relations exist between this government and Mexico. It is a great story he tells of the interplay of powerful, hidden forces.

Baker - an old friend - is a thoroughly sophisticated person, who knows his way about the world. He has a perfect genius for reaching ~~out~~ the heart of a situation, of extracting the crucial facts, and of getting to the real people.

Complex and subtle forces are at work, and considering your relative inexperience and your lack of knowledge as to how the inside game is being played, I hesitate to help precipitate you into the maelstrom too early, as might be the case if you were too plentifully provided with letters. At the moment, my feeling ~~is~~ that you should first go quietly to Mexico, perfect your Spanish, and acquaint yourself with the country. The ostensible purpose might be that of gathering material for a future university course on Mexico.

After five or six months you should return to this country; then perhaps it will be time to get letters that will make possible your getting into the deeper currents.

You are headed for as intricate a situation of high finance, politics, and religion as can well be conceived. I am fully aware that you can have but little idea of the difficulties in the way of doing a real job in Mexico. However, the difficulty of the task ought to be a stimulus.

WSR/FC

Sincerely yours,

*As I am headed
for a train (as usual)
I will not stop to review
this rather awkwardly
expressed letter.*

The University of Chicago

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

ELLSWORTH FARIS
ROBERT E. PARK
ERNEST W. BURGESS
FAY-COOPER COLE
EDWARD SAPIR
FLOYD N. HOUSE
EYLER N. SIMPSON
LOUIS WIRTH

May 7, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

Your last letter leaves me with the impression that I have not been very successful in conveying to you my own envisagement of the task that lies before me. First, allow me to assure you that my preliminary reading and my conversations with various and sundry people would in truth have been entirely futile if they had not made me keenly sensible of the complexity of the forces at work to determine the fate of Mexico. Indeed, I am perfectly willing to admit that for the first time in my life my self-confidence has almost entirely deserted me. I am acutely conscious of the inadequacies of my preparation. In short, I stand humble before the gods and Mexico. However, in this frame of mind I can find no reason to be discouraged. I am still young enough to believe that what others have done and are doing, I also-in time-can do. It is the fact that it is a major assumption in the conception of the work of the Institute that the men in the field are to be allowed enough time to "sense" the situation before they are called upon to actually deal with it which gives me whatever confidence I may have to do what you call a "good job".

All of which leads me to say that at no time have I thought of trying to tackle ~~either~~ the many problems connected either with religion or oil during the first nine months of my stay in Mexico. And this, although of course these problems, taken together with the agrarian problem, are at the heart of all of Mexico's difficulties. I am quite ready to agree with you that with my present experience any attempt to probe the oil question would probably only serve stir up muddy waters, if, indeed, it did not result in my being invited to return to the U.S. And this is why, as you will recall from my previous letters, I have planned to study first such relatively innocuous questions as the current educational developments in Mexico, the racial backgrounds, the organization of Mexican political structure, etc. The reason ~~that~~ I suggested that you get me letters to prominent oil and mining men was twofold: first, that in talking the matter over with the head men in New York you could relieve them of any suspicions with regard to the work of the Institute; and second, that by getting the letters now I would have them whenever the time seemed ripe for their use.

Yesterday I had an hour or so with Carroll Binder, special correspondent for the Chicago Daily News. He has only recently returned from several months work in Mexico and Nicaragua. I was impressed by his article which appeared in the March 16th number of the New Republic. He proved to be both charming and helpful. Enclosed you will find a copy of my conversation with him. As you see his characterization of the newspaper men may prove especially valuable.

The University of Chicago

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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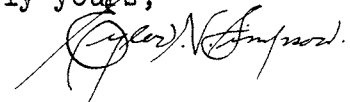
The letters from Hopper I found exceedingly interesting. I hope that you will be able to send me a copy of those that go to Mellett in the future. Also, I would like to have the benefit of any criticisms that you may see fit to give Hopper concerning their form or content.

I would like to raise with you a question which came up in conversation with Merriam the other day: what of the ethics of using the name of the University of Chicago in my work in Mexico after I am no longer officially connected with the University? Merriam feels that this would not be permissible unless I either had a definite invitation to return to the University to teach a course, or that I was on leave of absence. I would like to have your judgement on this matter, for I am pretty well convinced that you are right in suggesting that I make the best use possible of my academic connections. For example, I feel that it would, for certain people and certain purposes, be very advantageous to be able to have "Department of Sociology and Anthropology-University of Chicago" (or words to that effect) printed on my business cards.

May I again suggest, without seeming to be over-anxious about the matter, that I would like to have your decision as soon as possible with regard to whatever medical work it may be necessary to have done before leaving this country.

With my personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours,



WSR-ENS..8

May 12, 1927

Dear Simpson:

I acknowledge your recent letter - at the moment I can't find it. I have seen Admiral Grayson two or three times. He keeps promising me the medical material. When I get back to Washington I will endeavor to take it away from him wily-nily.

Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter from Bruce to Mellett, copy of a letter from President Hopkins of Dartmouth to me and an advertisement from "The New Statesman" of April 23rd.

At the moment I cannot say whether I will or will not be in Chicago during June. It is quite possible that after talking with John, I may decide to go west with him.

Sincerely yours,

WSR/FC
encls.

The University of Chicago

Department of Sociology and Anthropology

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LOUIS WIRTH

May 15, 1927.

My dear Mr. Rogers:

I trust that you will be able to find my last letter to you for I am more or less concerned about some of the questions which I raised therein. I can send along the carbon copy if necessary.

In return for the interesting enclosures in yours of the twelfth, please accept item No. 1 in re Kellog. Also allow me to report that I have received a letter from Paul Douglas saying that he has finally decided to go to Nicaragua this summer - about July 1st. Do you think that it would be of a value commensurate with the expenditure of time and money ^{for me} to drop in on him while he is there? He has had considerable experience and it might be worth while to watch him at work.

Merriam brought around Price the other day and I spent an hour with him. I already knew something about him from an article on the present situation in China which he had submitted to the American Journal of Sociology. I cannot send the article to you but enclosed you will find the comments made on it by Wright and Faris. In view of this article I was particularly anxious to learn in my conversation with him if his work in China had been of such a nature as to identify him definitely with any particular groups. Explicitly he denied this, but implicitly in his various comments I could not help but feel that his opinions were often colored by loyalties and convictions none the less real because he was perhaps unaware of them. Another interesting sidelight came from Park who had Price and his wife in for supper. He felt that Mrs. Price had an attitude towards the Chinese comparable to an F.F.V's attitude toward the negro: "She seems to have made it a point of honor never to have had any contacts with the Chinese except those whom she was pleased to have as servants."

Keith has started her studies of Mexican art and literature and I am happy to say that they bid fair to furnish an interesting and absorbing outlet for her energies.

Sincerely yours,



P.S.: Please return the letters concerning Price's article.

May 18th, 1927.

Dear Simpson:

I now have your letter of May 15th. Thank you for letting me see the letters with regard to Price that were enclosed. They are being returned herewith. I have had two long conversations with him and, without any great mental struggle, have come to the conclusion that he does not measure up to our standards.

Kellogg wrote to me some weeks ago saying that after he had a chance to talk with the "young lady" he would write to me further. I have a feeling that, while he might prove to be an exceptionally valuable person, the pull of the Mitchell family may very likely take him off in some other direction.

I do not look with favor upon your going to Nicaragua to see Paul Douglas. Admittedly, he has a technique that might be useful for you to be familiar with; yet your immediate job is to settle down in Mexico, concentrating one hundred percent on the problems immediately before you. There are to be no side-shows.

Your letter of May 7th finally was located. The only point I feel moved to discuss at the moment is that which grew out of your conversation with Merriam in regard to the ethics of your using the name of the University of Chicago in connection with your work in Mexico. I think that under no circumstances should you do so. Where it seems worthwhile you can easily let it be known that you have a Chicago Ph. D. and have taught there. Perhaps later on you will find as result of actual experience that ~~the~~ press or other credentials will prove useful. It will then be time enough to obtain them. For the present, in my judgment, you should go to Mexico with the immediate purpose of perfecting your Spanish, of coming to know the people, and of getting the very best of knowledge of the physical aspects of the country. There is a lot of hokum about credentials. A competent man provides his own credentials, namely, his ability, his personality, and his energy.

Yesterday I had a long talk with George Barr Baker - my friend, who dug up in Mexico City the forged documents. He expressed a willingness to go over the Mexican situation with you. In consequence, I suggest that you come here, perhaps Saturday the 28th. If you can do so, I suggest that you write directly to Mr. Baker asking for an appointment.

I leave here Friday noon. The early part of next week I shall be attending a meeting at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. I expect to be back in New York the 28th or 29th. If the date suggested above for your coming here is not a convenient one, select some other. Baker's address is c/o American Relief Administration, 42 Broadway.

Best greetings to you and Keith,

WSR/FC
encls.