

June 21, 1940

Dean G. F. Kay
College of Liberal Arts.

My dear Dean Kay:

This statement is a response to your call for a report on the concerns of the Department of History for the year 1939-1940 and on the needs of the Department for the biennium 1941-1943.

I. Personnel: The Department has undergone some changes in staff. Dr. Clark joined the group as associate professor to fill the vacancy in European history left by the death of Dr. Andrews. Dr. Cuttino, a Rhodes Scholar and D. Phil. Oxford, has joined the staff as instructor to teach medieval history. Dr. Goldwin Smith who came last year is continued as instructor to teach chiefly in the field of English history. Mr. John Haefner will relinquish his teaching in the University High School to take charge of the work in teacher training in place of Mr. Harry Berg who joins the faculty of the University of New Hampshire.

Dr. Harry G. Plum, having reached the age of 70, is teaching half time. Dr. Plum has served the University loyally and competently through long years. Miss Clara M. Daley has one more year to serve on full time. She has served the University loyally and admirably. It will be the plan to have Dr. Smith and Dr. Cuttino assume charge of the courses relinquished by Miss Daley.

II. Scholarly Activities. During the past year Dr. Cuttino presented an article in the English Historical Review and his book on English Diplomatic Administration was published by the Oxford Press. Dr. Smith has published three articles in learned journals the past year and his book on the Treaty of Washington 1871, will soon be published by Cornell University. Dr. de Kiewiet's volume on The Berlin West Africa Conference 1884-1895 is ready for the press and a two volume Economic History of the British Empire is well on the way. Dr. Clark has under way several articles dealing with phases of European diplomacy and a larger work on the Franco-Prussian War 1864-1871. Dr. Clark presented a paper in the Hispanic-American Historical Review. Dr. Thornton published three articles and his book on the History of Chautauqua is well under way. Dr. Petersen continues his research and writing as

research associate in the Historical Society of Iowa and has under way a volume on The Rivers of Iowa. Dr. Livingston has edited and prepared for publication a volume of documents on British constitutional history. Dr. Millard Hansen as research associate during the first semester prepared a history of the Law College of the University. Various members of the Department have contributed book reviews to learned historical journals.

Dr. Plum received a grant from the Social Science Research Council to carry on his studies of Puritanism in the 17th century and spent the summer in London and the first semester in eastern archives collecting material. Dr. Clark also received a grant to aid him in his studies of the Franco-German struggles of 1866-1871.

III. Extra-Departmental Activities: Various members of the Department have given considerable time to committee work on the campus. Root on the Library Board; Livingston on the Loan Committee; de Kiewiet on the Graduate Council; Thornton on Social Affairs, etc. They have gone from the campus to fulfill speaking engagements here and there before learned societies, teachers conventions, college audiences, public meetings, etc. Root gave two addresses at Augustana College, a talk before the History Teachers Association at Omaha, and read a paper at the meeting of the Iowa Presidents Association. Dr. de Kiewiet presided at a session "Liberalism in England" at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association. He gave much time to organizing and directing public forums on the campus dealing with the problems of the World War. Dr. Smith gave a paper on the Baconian Series. Miss Daley, Dr. Thornton, Dr. Petersen and Dr. Livingston also gave talks here and there. This service is of distinct advantage to the University and to the Department and in so doing care is taken that the regular teaching work on the campus is not impaired. It should be noted that five members of the department attended the meeting of the American Historical Association at Washington and an equal number were present at the convention of the Mississippi Valley Historical Association at Omaha.

IV. Graduate Work: A great deal of attention is given to graduate work. Approximately forty graduate students were enrolled, of whom about one-third are candidates for the Ph.D. Careful attention to graduate work takes a lot of time in the way of conferences and theses. We are gratified by the part and place taken by our graduate students in the academic life. Elmer Ellis, professor of History at the University of Missouri, who took his Ph.D. in 1930, received a Guggenheim Fellowship and Virginia Bever, Ph.D. 1940, received an A.A.U.W. Fellowship. Five of our graduates of former years have published books, and two have books accepted for publication. About twelve former and present graduate students have published one or more articles in learned journals.

The department takes great pains in finding teaching posts for the graduates in history. In this we have been rather successful in spite of keen competition. This year one goes to the University of New Hampshire, another to the University of Montana, a third to the Teachers College at Aberdeen, South Dakota.

IV. Undergraduate Work: The department has given the best of its efforts and attention to undergraduate teaching. It is a heavy task considering the large number of undergraduates enrolled in history. Our total enrollment in the various classes number about 1300. The majors in history number approximately 90. We consider this enrollment satisfactory in view of the fact that history is entirely an elective subject. Back of history there is no requirement as in the case of English or languages.

It should be noted that much of our time is devoted not only to formal classes as scheduled but also in individual conferences. Indeed the formal and scheduled teaching hours do not at all account for the many hours devoted to conferences, to groups of special ability and to graduate work. These intimate intellectual relations between professors and students constitute one of the most wholesome and profitable aspects of teaching.

VI. Departmental Cooperation: The Department continues to cooperate with other departments in courses and personnel. This sort of thing is wholesome and should be continued that extreme departmentalism may be checked. Courses offered in Fine Arts by Dr. Longman, in Classical Civilization, in the History of Education are listed for credit in history. History courses in American Civilization and European Culture and in Constitutional History are given to meet the needs in English, Fine Arts and Law by special arrangement with the schools and departments concerned.

DEPARTMENTAL NEEDS FOR THE BIENNIIUM, 1941-1943

As mentioned above Miss Daley has the year 1941 to serve on full time and then under the rule of age she teaches half time. The courses she will relinquish will be cared for by Dr. Cuttino and Dr. Smith.

To secure Dr. Cuttino, a mediaevalist, we gave up two half-time graduate assistants. It will be necessary to restore these assistants to take over quiz sections carried by Drs. Smith and Cuttino.

It is earnestly hoped that in the coming biennium the stipends for graduate assistants may be restored to the former rate. There is no question that we are at a distinct disadvantage in securing the best assistants because we pay less than other universities. And again our present rate is not commensurate with the service given.

We earnestly hope that in the next biennium recognition in salary and rank may be given to the younger men.

One item of especial importance to history is the University Library. It is our laboratory, just as essential to history as a laboratory to Chemistry or Physics. The whole library situation is not in the best of health. It needs attention and it is needed badly and promptly. This report is probably not the place to enter into the problem in detail. We hope with the aid of our Dean a better order may be brought about.

Most sincerely yours

W. T. Root