

History 015.
Steph
5-12-48

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
Tuesday, May 11, 1948

Present: Professor Aydelotte (chairman), Livingston,
Mowry, Thornton, Petersen and Mosse.
Absent: Haefner and Hoyt.

Appointment of Beyer.

Mr. Aydelotte raised the case of Carlyle Beyer and the matter was discussed.

Moved pro forma (by Mosse, seconded by Livingston) that Mr. Beyer be invited to become a member of the department. Motion lost (seven to one, - the votes of Hoyt and Haefner being cast by Proxy).

Revision of Degree Requirements.

The Department next discussed the degree requirements. Professor Livingston raised the matter of the division of British History. Both Professor Aydelotte and Mosse objected to having their courses become a part of such a division. A lively discussion ensued, and it was decided to postpone a settlement of the issue until the Friday luncheon meeting.

American History Appointment.

Mr. Aydelotte raised the issue of the American History appointment. Professor Merrill Jensen was taken under consideration to fill the vacancy.

Moved (Livingston) and seconded (Petersen) that Professor Merrill Jensen be invited to come to Iowa City at our expense for an interview with the view, if the interview is satisfactory, that he be brought on as professor of history.

Discussion. It was the consensus of the department that Professor Jensen should be brought on as Professor of History, but not as chairman of the department. Satisfaction was expressed with the present administration of the department.

Carried (unanimous).

Respectfully submitted,

George L. Mosse, Acting Secretary

History
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HISTORY PROSPECTS

Interview - Professor [Name]

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1. Perry Miller - Harvard

Believes that he cannot be moved. Columbia recently tried it with the result that Harvard gave him many things that he had been asking for, unsuccessfully, and which satisfied him so that he was unwilling to leave Harvard for Columbia.

2. John Green - Harvard

Does not know him.

3. Arthur Schlesinger, Jr. - Harvard

Has come up rapidly. Probably would not be a good head, and might even be difficult as a colleague. Brilliant, with some evidences of intellectual arrogance and at the same time some evidence that he may lack the sound and sure scholarship of his father.

4. S. H. Brockunier - Wesleyan (Conn.)

Does not know him well enough to pass judgment on headship. Wrote a sound biography of Roger Williams. Probably sound scholar, but recalls him as rather diffident and retiring and as possessing qualities that might not qualify him for a headship. In any event, he should be strongly recommended from other quarters before being considered.

5. Merrill Jensen - Wisconsin

Regards him very highly. Articles of Confederation. Sound scholar. Good prospect. His appointment would bring approval and sympathetic understanding in historical circles.

6. Richard Hofstadter - Columbia

Good teacher and scholar, not a head. Intellectual history.

7. Ray Billington - Northwestern--American History.

(Strongly recommended by Schlesinger). Would appear well qualified for headship, might even be good graduate dean (as nearly Schlesinger suggested). Has written very little and not likely to write, yet he is still highly regarded, and like Root would have a reputation vicariously by developing sound scholars -- Highly recommends.

American Colonial History. Wrote: James Madison, Builder. Book flopped because publisher failed and did not push it. No fault of [Name], well rounded biography.

8. Dixon Wecter - Huntington

Believes W. wants to return to the east where the publishers are. He probably prefers writing to a quasi-popular audience.

9. Bayard Still - Duke - Urban industrial history

Middle western background. Education at Wisconsin. Taught Ohio Wesleyan, Ohio State Teachers College. Knows him well, partly as librarian of AAF project in Washington, where he gave evidence of good administrative ability. Very good man from every angle. Worth investigating.

10. David Potter - Yale - Southern History

Knows him only second hand -- good book -- good teacher.

Additional Nominees

11. Wesley F. Craven - New York University - Colonial & History of the South (See above)

About 42--very good scholar and potential head. Connected with AAF project. (Another man was head of a project and failed. Craven, without being head, stepped in and saved the project).

12. Carl Sawyer - Harvard - France after liberation.

About 30. Looks like good teacher -- not head.

13. Planck - (Finishing at Columbia)

Instructor about fall of 1948. Excellent -- Brilliant.

14. Abbott Smith - Colby and Oxford.

Recommended by Moe, based on letter from Notestein (Yale) which Moe had received shortly before I called at Moe's office, Tuesday, August 19. When I mentioned him to Krout, he said that he was about to recommend him. Has taught at St. Stephen's, later Bard College, one year at Columbia, then went into service. Now in London working on materials for Austrian treaty. Has nearly written a book on the subject. Available for appointment fall of 1948.

Teacher, not a head. He is the kind of intellectual young man who knows more than his field of history. Made an impression at Columbia for his balanced learning over broad areas, as well as good historical knowledge.

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HISTORY PROSPECTS

Abbott Smith - cont'd.

Next book: Indentured and Apprenticed Servitude, will be put out by Institute of Colonial History, Williamsburg.

Does not know the following well enough to comment.

15. Richard Cummings - U.C.L.A. - Harvard Ph.D.

16. Gale McGee - Wyoming - Chicago Ph.D.

17. John Fagg - New York University - Chicago Ph.D. - European History.

18. T. O. Clark, Head at Kentucky, West and So. History.

19. David Loch, Elmira College (?) - Europe and Far East.

4. S. H. Brockmeyer - Conclusion

Feels we would not go wrong on the headship with:

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