

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
RENO, NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY - Geography

March 21, 1957

Professor Paul W. Leser
The Hartford Seminary Foundation
55 Elisabeth Street
Hartford 5, Connecticut

Dear Professor Leser:

I have just had a communication from Mr. Peter Michelsen from Copenhagen in which he asked me to send you a copy of my manuscript, "Distributions of Primitive Tillage". I am quite delighted that it should be you who is to pass judgment on this paper since your monograph on the origin and dispersal of the plow was one of the early works that I read and came to admire when I first became interested in this topic.

My manuscript represents my doctoral dissertation done under the supervision of Professor Carl O. Sauer at Berkeley. Professor Wolfram Eberhart, whom you undoubtedly know, also gave me considerable help in the early stages of the research.

I hope you will forgive me that I cannot send you, at the moment, a better copy of the manuscript than the present rather poorly reproduced one. The original is at Berkeley.

Only a short while ago Professor Eberhart sent me a microfilm copy of the manuscript of Wolfgang Kaiser that you had referred to not too long ago in a review in Anthropos. I wish that I could have seen Kaiser's paper earlier.

My manuscript will reach you in a few days. Please feel free to make any notations in it that you think are needed.

Very sincerely yours,

Fritz L. Kramer
Instructor

FLK:ee

March 26, 1957

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geology-Geography
Mackay School of Mines
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Thank you very much for your letter of March 21 which I enjoyed very much. I am looking forward with great anticipation to receiving and reading your monograph.

As soon as I have studied it I shall write you again.

Very sincerely,

PL/esh

Paul Leser

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES

"A School of Mineral Industry"

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

RENO, NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY-GEOGRAPHY

July 12, 1957

Professor Paul Leser
The Hartford Seminary Foundation
55 Elisabeth Street
Hartford 5, Connecticut

Dear Professor Leser:

Professor Carl Sauer's secretary has just forwarded to me the Newsletter from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen. There I see that at the Congress last year in Philadelphia Professor Heydrich read a paper on the origin and distribution of digging stick and hoe. Do you know whether this paper will be published or whether a transcript is available? I am very curious to know Professor Heydrich's findings and ideas on this.

I trust that the manuscript of my "Distributions of Primitive Tillage" has reached you and hope that you don't find the reading too dull.

Wishing you a good summer I am very sincerely

yours

Fritz L. Kramer

Fritz L. Kramer

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES

"A School of Mineral Industry"

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

RENO, NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY-GEOGRAPHY

September 8, 1957

Professor Paul Leser
Hartford Seminary Foundation
55 Elisabeth Street
Hartford 5, Conn.

Dear Professor Leser:

It has been some months since I have had a word from you. This worries me and I am wondering whether my manuscript "Distributions of Primitive Tillage" has ever reached you. I sent it to you during the last week of March.

If you would be so kind as to drop me a line concerning the MS it would put my mind at ease.

Very sincerely yours

Fritz L. Kramer

September 12, 1957

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Mackay School of Mines
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Today I received your letter of September 8 and I should like to tell you that I am both terribly embarrassed and upset. I never have answered the letter in which you asked me about the paper which Heydrich read at the International Congress in Philadelphia. Please let me express my apologies.

I have been terribly busy these last few weeks preparing for a year overseas (my sabbatical, most of which I plan to spend in Africa). However, after having received your manuscript many months ago I immediately wrote you and acknowledged the receipt and told you how impressed I was with your work and how delighted I was to have an occasion to study it. I also sent, several months ago, a statement to our friends in Copenhagen recommending your manuscript for publication. I have kept your manuscript here and have not yet returned it to you because I thought it possible that the committee in Copenhagen might have additional questions concerning it, which they might ask me. Not having heard from them I now wonder whether the statement which I sent them might have gone astray also. I am writing to Copenhagen today in order to find out.

Now, back to the Heydrich paper: Heydrich did not read a formal paper, but spoke more or less off the cuff. It was, in my opinion, a very interesting presentation and I should like to suggest that you contact him directly and ask him whether he would be willing to give you some details about what he said. Perhaps you could urge him to write something about the subject matter. I am sure it would be most worthwhile.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Paul Leser

PL/esh

MACKAY SCHOOL OF MINES

"A School of Mineral Industry"

UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA

RENO, NEVADA

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY-GEOGRAPHY

September 16, 1957

Professor Paul Leser
Department of Anthropology
The Hartford Seminary Foundation
Hartford 5, Connecticut

Dear Professor Leser:

Your letter arrived today and I am very happy to have it. It was with reluctance that I wrote you earlier, since I did not want to press you, thinking that you are busy and perhaps away for the summer; but I also suspected that something might have gone amiss as indeed it had. I am very sorry that your earlier letter never reached me. But now, that this is cleared up, please do not feel badly about it.

Let me thank you for taking the time to read my manuscript and for your kind recommendation. If I can contribute a little to this extremely interesting topic I will feel gratified. Thank you also for the information concerning Professor Heydrich. I shall write to him as you recommend.

If your travels in Africa take you to Ethiopia you might be interested to know about Frederick Simoons, Dept. of Geography, University of Wisconsin, who spent some 18 months there in 1953 and 1954. He collected a good deal of ethnographic information and wrote his dissertation on the "Cultural Geography of the North-western Ethiopian Highlands" under Sauer at Berkeley.

Many thanks again and best wishes for an enjoyable and profitable year.

Very sincerely yours



Fritz L. Kramer

October 9, 1957

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Mackay School of Mines
University of Nevada
Reno, Nevada

Dear Dr. Kramer:

As I mentioned in my previous letter to you, I wrote to Copenhagen the same day I wrote to you. Again, I have not heard from our friends there. I hope that I may interpret their silence that they have received the statement which I sent several months ago.

However, I feel that now I should not keep your manuscript any longer. I will be leaving for Europe and Africa next week and, therefore, I am returning the manuscript to you immediately. Thank you for the privilege of reading it.

In the event there should be additional questions from our friends in Copenhagen (for which reason I held your manuscript until now), I would not be able to answer them due to my imminent departure.

In the letter which I wrote to the International Secretariat (and which I still am not sure whether they have received it or not), I made the suggestion that the statement which I wrote about the book should be communicated to you. Not having heard from them, I now feel I might make a few remarks about your work to you directly.

There is no list of figures and no list of maps contained in your manuscript. I feel that it would help greatly if you would add such lists. Also, of course, an index, to be added to the book would greatly increase the ease with which it could be used.

Of all the many things which I admire in your study, perhaps those which I admire most are your maps. However, I feel that your magnificent Map #13 "World Distribution", on page 251, would be easier to read if Africa and Europe would be on the extreme left side and the Americas on the extreme right side of the map.

Your Map #15 "Distribution of Crook Flows", page 268, is based on the data from 1931. This is very flattering to me. In the

meantime an enormous amount of material has been published making the data published in my book quite incomplete. For example, the crook plow very definitely exists in wide parts of Scandinavia.

This leads to what might be the main criticism: I am afraid that you have not used all the pertinent literature and it seems to me that you may have missed some rather important publications. You do not mention the following in your bibliography: Bratanic, Dias, Erixon, Feilberg, nor Jirlow.

I am enclosing on a separate sheet a list of the most indispensable publications.

There are minor flaws without importance which you will catch in proof reading; for example, on page 295, the "e" is missing on line 12, after Francais(e).

Again I wish to congratulate you on your excellent study which I enjoyed tremendously reading and from which I learned a great deal. I am sure science will be greatly indebted to you and our colleagues will find your work most instructive and illuminating.

With very best wishes, I am

Most cordially yours,

Paul Leser

PL/esh

P.S. As I wrote you previously, I am leaving Hartford Thursday, October 17th and there is no time to have the list which I intended to enclose typed before my departure. It will be sent to you from here within the next few days.

P.L.

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From: Paul Leser
55 Elizabeth Street
Hartford 5, Connecticut

C O P Y

May 11, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Thank you for your reprint which I was very happy to receive. Obviously we share not only an interest in agricultural implements but also in the history of our sciences.

One man was famous a hundred years ago and who now seems to have been almost entirely forgotten is Moritz Wagner, the teacher of Ratzel. I should like to suggest that someday you write an article on him. Not only do I think that the work of Wagner fully merits it, but I feel that it would be of real worth to draw the attention of American scholars to him. Toward the end of the 19th century his name was constantly linked with that of Darwin, and as Germans used to refer to Goethe "and" Schiller, scholars at the time used to refer to Wagner "and" Darwin and to the Darwin-Wagner theory.

However, the above is not at all what I intended to write in this letter. You may have seen from the recent Fellow Newsletter of the American Anthropological Association that the Society for the History of Technology will hold its annual meeting in Washington in late December, together with the American Historical Association, and will devote two sessions to anthropology and technology.

I am charged with the responsibility for those portions of the program dealing with anthropological and sociological aspects of technology and at present I am in the process of trying to assemble papers which might be included in the program. Would you be willing to read a paper, and if so, will you be kind enough to let me have your suggestions? I should be most grateful for your participation.

With my best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

May 11, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

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With my best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

June 13, 1961

Professor Paul Leser
Department of Anthropology
Hartford Seminary Foundation
55 Elizabeth Street
Hartford 5, Conn.

Dear Professor Leser:

Many thanks for your kind letter and apologies for the delay in answering it.

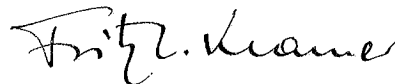
Yes, I should like to accept your invitation to give a paper at the meeting of the Society for the History of Technology. For such an audience I should, I suppose, spend about half the time on the historical background of research on the distribution of hoes and other primitive agricultural tools -- although there will hardly be anything new to say -- and the rest on my own investigation. Would this about be right? Since I know little about the specific interests of the Society I am tapping in the dark and would welcome any suggestions you'd care to make. How much time may I take up?

A big problem is how to get to Washington. My institution is rather stingy when it comes to out-of-state travel funds. My department chairman indicated that he would see what he could do. Unfortunately I cannot do the trip on my own purse. In the fall I will know better where I stand.

Of Moritz Wagner I know mostly through Carl Sauer's occasional references. I must confess, however, that I have read very little of Wagner's own writings. That shall be remedied. From what little I do know I agree with you that her certainly deserves to be revived in the minds of geographers and others as well.

Many thanks again for your flattering invitation. With best wishes,

very sincerely yours



Fritz L. Kramer

August 23, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

I am afraid I have been remiss in answering your letter of June 13. My apologies. I have been terribly overburdened. Of course I should have written you right away.

The Society for the History of Technology publishes a periodical called "Technology and Culture" (Wayne State University Press) which you may have a chance to see in your library. It will give you an impression of the specific interests of the Society.

Although I did not reply to your letter, I wrote, a long time ago, to the Society asking them whether it might be possible to scare up some money for your trip. So far I have not had an answer, which is probably due to the summer vacation season. Thus I have nothing to report in that connection.

If you still are willing to read a paper in Washington, it should be as short as possible. If you can cut it down to ten minutes, that would be fine. It should be as specific and as "deep" as possible, which means it should deal exclusively with your own investigations. The Society for the History of Technology is a young organization and, therefore, does not want to be talked down to.

In our last letters we mentioned Wagner. I understand that in 1951 a thesis on Wagner was accepted by the University of Marburg. The author is a man by the name of Hanno Beck and the title is "Moritz Wagner in der Geschichte der Geographie". Alas, I had no chance to see it. The thesis has been praised greatly, e.g. by Johannes Steinmetzler in his "Die Anthropogeographie Friedrich Ratzels und ihre ideengeschichtlichen Wurzeln".

My very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:mnk

Paul Leser

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

11. November 1961

Professor Paul Leser
Department of Anthropology
The Hartford Seminary Foundation
Hartford 5, Connecticut

Dear Professor Leser:

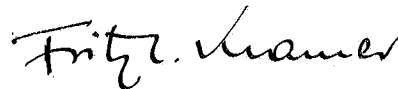
My institution has finally gotten around to making up its mind and has just notified me that I can have travel money to go to Washington. If you still want me on your program I shall be happy and able to come.

I have my paper in fair shape at this moment. It will be short as you requested, and I will have one map on a small slide (2 x 2). If you like I could send you an advance copy.

Could you also tell me on which day your part of the program is scheduled?

On the Moritz Wagner matter: I have asked our library to get a Microfilm copy of Hanno Beck's thesis. It has, however, not yet arrived.

Very sincerely yours



Fritz L. Kramer

November 16, 1961

Professor Fritz L. Krause
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

(C C to Dr. Melvin Kranzberg and
Dr. Thomas Hughes)

Dear Professor Krause:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 11th. It is a real disappointment to me that it did not arrive earlier because, unfortunately, it is now too late. Our program has been fixed and is in print.

Ordinarily this situation would not be impossible to overcome, but the point is that we have five papers on the program and a number of my colleagues feel that already this is more than we should have planned for the time allotted.

You know how much I would have wanted to include your paper on our program. I do hope, however, that in spite of this you will come to Washington to participate in our meeting. Your presence will be invaluable and we need you. Your contributions to our discussions, in my opinion, will enlighten all of us and will greatly strengthen our endeavors.

In addition, we urge that you be present for the over-all benefit of our group because you are one of the few archaeologists and anthropologists in this country who have a genuine interest in technology. In my opinion, it is indispensable for the future of our society that you meet in person the men in our Society, and therefore I do hope that you will be present in Washington.

It is unnecessary for me to add that I have a deep personal interest in the matter - I have been looking forward for such a long time to meeting you that it would be a great and real disappointment to me if I were to be forced to forego this pleasure.

With my very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

FL:es

Paul Loner

P.S.

I was very interested to read that you have asked your library to get a microfilm copy of Deetz's thesis, and am anxious to know what you think of it.

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

17 November 1961

Dear Professor Leser:

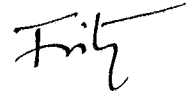
It did not come unexpected to find myself off the program. Not much is lost thereby for the Society. I shall submit my paper to the journal. Nevertheless, I am planning to come to Washington at any rate to meet you and to learn.

Your letter is flattering indeed, not the least my promotion to archaeologist and anthropologist. While I have dabbled in both (even have a cave named for me in Nevada) I have to consider myself hardly more than a simple-minded geographer, fortunately one of the Carl Sauer school. Such kind words, noch dazu von Ihnen, geehrter Herr Professor, tend to do to my ego what should not be done.

Am I correct in assuming that the meeting is on December 26 and 27? Homer Barnett here did not know and I am not certain. I would appreciate a note from you verifying the date so that I can make plane reservations as soon as possible. I also don't know where in Washington the meeting is to take place.

I am looking forward to the too long postponed pleasure of meeting you. With best regards,

very sincerely yours



Fritz L. Kramer

P.S. Do you by chance know Ulrich Berner's address?

November 27, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
University of Oregon
Department of Geography
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Thank you very much for your letter of November 17th which I enjoyed very much.

My letter was not intended to be a bit flattering -- I simply said what I feel. Perhaps I could even put it in another way -- even if it were not you, anyone of the Carl Sauer school, in my opinion, is a better anthropologist than the vast majority of anthropologists who receive their training anywhere else. (Don't tell Homer Barnett -- he might become provoked with me.)

The meeting of the Society for the History of Technology will take place from December 28 to 30th, at the Shoreham Hotel.

The Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert Street, N.W.,
Washington 8, D. C.

A preliminary program has been published in *Technology & Culture*, Fall, 1961. Assuming from your letter that the periodical is not available in your library, I am enclosing a copy of the pages in question.

May I direct your attention especially to the paragraph concerning hotel reservations.

With my kindest regards, and looking forward to seeing you in Washington,

Yours most sincerely,

FL:es
Encs.

Paul Leser

December 5, 1961

Professor Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Professor Kramer:

I hope it won't be too much of a shock to you when you receive this letter -- but, the picture has changed. One of the speakers for the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology is in ill health and will be unable to come to Washington. We would thus have time for your paper.

I have contacted my colleagues and all of us would be delighted if you would consent to reading it. Since your manuscript is ready and since you are planning to come to Washington in any case, I am hoping that it is not too much of an imposition to ask that you do us this favor, even at so late a date.

The program, of course, has already been printed and because these are last-minute changes, no correction in it can now be made. Thus the name of Hunt will appear on the program, although his paper will not be read, and to our regret we will not be able to have your name on the printed program, if you should do us the favor of reading your paper. Of course the substitution will be announced in Washington.

Under these circumstances I feel that I cannot foresee your decision as to whether you will be willing to read your paper, but do please let me know. I will understand, however you may decide ----- although I do hope it will be in the affirmative.

With my very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

December 9, 1961

Dear Professor Leser:

I have your letter and I shall be glad to read my paper. I only hope that the slide of my map around which the paper is written will be processed in time.

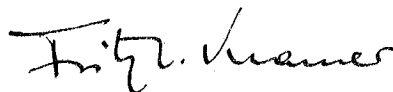
Have I written to you that I have sent the manuscript of my paper to Melvin Kranzberg for publication in "Technology and Culture"? I hope that that will not prejudice my reading of the paper at the meeting.

My plane reservations are confirmed - I will arrive in the Washington area early on the 29th - and I have written for hotel reservations at the Shoreham.

The rather uninspired title of my paper is "On the Distribution of Some Primitive Agricultural Implements."

I am looking forward to seeing you in Washington.

Very sincerely yours



Fritz L. Kramer

December 11, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

So far as I can see from the list of
Fellows of the American Anthropological Association, you are
not a Fellow.

Would you permit me to sponsor your
election to becoming a Fellow?

If you are in agreement, please fill
in the enclosed form and return it to me.

With my very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es
Enc.

Paul Leser

December 13, 1961

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

Thank you for your recent letter. I am delighted that you will read your paper at the forthcoming meeting of the Society for the History of Technology.

Since you intend to show slides, - or at least that one slide of your map - you will need a screen and a projector. I should appreciate it if you would inform Dr. Ralph Sanders

4116 Butterworth Place, N.W.,
Washington 16, D. C.

immediately, of the size of your slide or slides, telling him of your wishes concerning needed equipment. Dr. Sanders is the local arrangements chairman, therefore I suppose he is in charge of such requests. You might ask him to convey your request to the proper person if he is not the one designated to attend to these needs.

With my very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

December 14, 1961

Dr. Fritz Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

So sorry -- the address of Dr. Ralph Sanders
as given in my recent letter to you is incorrect. My apologies.
It is as follows:

Dr. Ralph Sanders
4416 Butterworth Pl., N. W.,
Washington 16, D. C.

With my very best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:cs

Paul Leser

UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS

EUGENE, OREGON

DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

January 3, 1962

Dear Professor Leser:

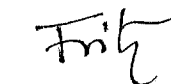
You got away from me much too fast after the meeting. I left little notes all over the place in hopes of catching you but to no avail.

There are many things I should have liked to talk with you about, such as your opinion of Heinz Kothe and Ulrich Berner (and who was the man from Columbia who gave the dissertation on the Pontische Wanderung?), and what ought to be the next line of investigation? - Shall it be the different types of hafting methods of hoes or shall it be an investigation of a possible relationship between hoes and adzes? I should have liked to mention to you Joseph Sonnenfeld (do you know about him?) at the University of Delaware, who is interested in tools, particularly those of the Eskimoes, and who told me some years ago that he was conducting experiments on stone tools because he doesn't believe what Höltker says.

And most of all I wanted - and I do it now - to thank you for getting me to the meeting, for giving me the opportunity to meet you finally, for introducing me to a number of people.... Many, many thanks!

Please remember me to Mr. Vilakazi and to your two fine chemical assistants.

My warmest regards



Fritz L. Kramer

January 4, 1962

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

It was so good to meet you in person after these many years. Needless to say I was delighted to have the opportunity to talk with you, although I am most unhappy that the time was so very limited, with no real chance to delve further into the field of our common interest. But of course it was readily understandable that at such a meeting there would be very little chance for any personal visiting. Perhaps at some future gathering we may again take up the threads.

Thank you again, so very much.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

January 4, 1962

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Dr. Kramer:

It was so good to meet you in person after these many years. Needless to say I was delighted to have the opportunity to talk with you, although I am most unhappy that the time was so very limited, with no real chance to delve further into the field of our common interest. But of course it was readily understandable that at such a meeting there would be very little chance for any personal visiting. Perhaps at some future gathering we may again take up the threads.

Thank you again, so very much.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Loser

January 8, 1962

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

Dear Fritz:

I wrote you a few days ago and that letter was written in such a rush (being missably overburdened with work, as always) that I completely forgot to write you the most important thing, the true reason for having written that first letter, namely -- my thanks for the splendid and interesting paper which you read in Washington at the annual meeting of the Society for the History of Technology. You know from the spirited discussion which followed the reading of your paper how completely you held the attention of the audience.

Thank you for your letter of January 3rd. I am sorry that I missed you after the meeting. Actually I was hurrying to vacate my room, check-out time being at 5 o'clock and I did not cherish the thought of forcing the Hartford Seminary Foundation to pay for another night or to question my "swindle" sheet. Then, having succeeded in doing this, I had to sprint to catch the last train back. I do appreciate your attempts to overtake me and I am terribly sorry that your efforts went unrewarded.

I haven't the slightest idea who the man from Columbia was. I didn't mind too much that he started talking about the Pontische Wanderung, but that he told the audience about the great, recent exciting discovery of the Tocharic language, and the physical appearance of its speakers, that really took the cake. After all, I don't mind a culture lag of 30 years -- that is quite normal. I understand that Europeans at present are discovering Dewey, but that Columbia now is discovering Gruenwedel's and von LeCoq's publications from the first years of this century really is something.

Koethe, in my opinion, is an intelligent and diligent man. I have met him repeatedly. I have never met Berner. However, what I have read of Berner's publications has not too much impressed me.

When I sounded off in the discussion following your paper it was only because I had become disgusted with the nonsense by some speakers in their remarks concerning the hoe in North America.

The question as to whether anything has been invented several times or only once, never can be treated in a theoretical

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer

January 8, 1962

manner. That was all that I intended to say when I pointed out that before rejecting the possibility of historical connection we must first have a knowledge of the different forms and their distribution. Let's invent a case: if the hoes of the Vikings showed a very specific hafting method occurring nowhere else in the world except in North America, then I would be quite willing to assume that the North American hoes were of Viking origin. Before we know the details, no hypothesis of single or multiple origin can make sense.

Sorry -- I don't know Joseph Sennenfeld.

Did you get the letter which I sent you previous to the Washington meeting, in which I had enclosed an election blank for Fellowship in the American Anthropological Association? It is quite possible that you have returned it to me and that your previous letter simply is buried on my desk. But since I am writing you I thought it best to ask you about it before starting to dig into the deeper layers of my unanswered correspondence.

With my very best regards,

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

Dear Paul -

Please send a reprint of your last paper on ethnology or cultural anthropology, folklore, linguistic, archeology, etc., to the first-named person on the list below, and copies of this letter to four folklorists, anthropologists, etc., whom you know, within three days.

In about 26 days, if you answer promptly, you should receive 256 reprints from some amazing people.

Don't spoil this game, which has been going on since 1956!

In your four letters copy the following list, leaving out the top name, and adding your own name at the bottom.

Sincerely

Fritz

Fritz L. Kramer

1. S. J. Sackett, Fort Hayes Kansas State College, Hays, Kansas
2. Ray Browne, Purdue University, Lafayette, Indiana
3. Jan H. Brunvand, Dept. of Humanities, Univ. of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.
4. Fritz L. Kramer, Dept. of Geography, Univ. of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

What some people won't do! Hope you don't mind. F.

Kramer

June 7, 1963

Dear Fritz:

A short time ago I received a letter and a manuscript from Robert Aitken. His article deals with the plow and will soon be published in MAN.

He casually mentions in his letter the fact that for a long time he has only received reprints from Steensberg and me. For this reason I am quite certain that he would be delighted to receive any of your reprints and, may I add, I personally would be most grateful if you would send him whatever you may have at hand, especially articles on the plow, or on agriculture in general.

(But, please don't let him know that I am the instigator of this conspiracy!)

With all best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

Paul Leser

His address is:
Kent's Close,
Broughton,
Stockbridge,
Hampshire.
England

PL:mv

THE COLORADO COLLEGE
COLORADO SPRINGS

October 22, 1963

Dear Paul:

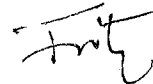
Some time ago I sent a handfull of reprints to Robert Aitken in England as you had suggested in you letter way back in June. There probably wasn't much of particular interest to him in that batch but I will keep him on my list.

During the year I was asked to do book review for the AA and to comment on Jacobeit's blast for Sol Tax. I was glad to have the opportunity to do both and I detect you fine, scheming hand behind all this.

You probably know that Science and Technology turned down the paper ~~that~~ I read at that meeting a few years back. The burden of the referees' comment was that the article needs to be expanded. Sure, but I have 300 pages of the stuff and that is more than Melvin has space for. At the moment I am trying to talk this college into putting it into its obscure publication series, though with little hope.

It's always good to hear from you!

Best regards,



Fritz L. Kramer

October 31, 1963

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
University of Oregon
Eugene, Oregon

new address

The Colorado College
Colorado Springs, Col.

Dear Fritz:

Thank you for having sent reprints to Aitken -- I am sure he was very happy to have them and that any others you may from time to time send on to him will be equally welcome.

I was delighted with your review of Helmfrid and am looking forward to reading your comments on Jacobeit.

However, I am furious to hear that Technology and Culture will not be printing your paper. If your college will not print the entire work, what about trying the publications of the American Ethnological Society; or the Memoir Series of the AAA; or Anthropos -- (300 pages could easily be printed there in three instalments; they do not hesitate to publish rather extensive articles, occasionally amounting to the length of a book); or Kulturgeschichtliche Forschungen (that is the Memoir Series published by the editors of Zeitschrift fuer Ethnologie); or in the Kosiner Ethnologische Mitteilungen; or in Studien zur Kulturkunde.

Do please keep me informed.

With all best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

FL:es

Paul Leser

P.S. Congratulations on your new position -- we had the letter all ready to mail when suddenly we spied a changed address; Best of luck to you in the new post!



SACRAMENTO STATE COLLEGE

6000 JAY STREET • SACRAMENTO • CALIFORNIA 95819

Kramer

9. December 1965

Dear Paul -

Will you be in San Francisco for the meeting during the last week of this month? I would like to say hello to you.

I will be in Berkeley during most of that week and staying there. Perhaps you will come across the Bay to hear some of the goings-on (See enclosed program). You and Sauer would enjoy talking, I am sure.

And, if by any chance, you might come through Sacramento, you must let me know and stay with us.

When in Berkeley my phone is LA6-7128 or the Geography Department at UC Berkeley. In Sacramento: IV7-9391 and the home address: 4130 Norris Ave.

Hoffentlich auf baldiges Wiedersehen!

Best regards

Fritz L. Kramer



AAAS Meeting, Berkeley, California. Section E--Geology and
Geography (co-sponsor: Association of American Geographers).
Monday, December 27th--9AM and 2PM

PAPERS IN CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY IN HONOR OF CARL O. SAUER

Morning Session (9AM)

1. Introduction to the Program. MARVIN W. MIKESELL,
University of Chicago
2. Athabaskan Expansion in the Southwest. HOMER ASCHMANN,
University of California, Riverside *
3. From Hacienda to Ejido: Pablillo, Nuevo Leon Revisited.
SAMUEL N. DICKEN, University of Oregon
4. The American Scene. DAVID LOWENTHAL, American
Geographical Society

Afternoon Session (2PM)

5. Plant Transfer and Ensuing Change in Regional
Agricultural Economy. JOSEPH E. SPENCER, University
of California, Los Angeles
6. The Mithan (*Bos frontalis*) in Culture and History.
FREDERICK J. SINGERS, University of Wisconsin
7. Seafaring in the Indian Tradition. DAVID E. SOPHER,
Syracuse University
8. The Role of Cultural Origin in the Variable Geographical
Impact of Three Centuries of British Settlement Overseas.
ANDREW H. CLARK, University of Wisconsin

December 16, 1965

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Sacramento State College
6000 Jay Street
Sacramento, California 95819

Dear Fritz:

Thank you for your recent letter which I was so happy to have. Actually I had had no intention of coming to Berkeley, but now that you have told me there is to be a special session in honor of Carl Sauer I really want especially to attend. And what a pleasure it would be to have a chance for a talk with Sauer -- as well as a visit with you.

However, I must be truthful by saying that I am not too optimistic as to my chances - a trip to California is quite expensive and I do not think that the Foundation will pay my expenses. Nevertheless, I will certainly make every effort to come.

It was most kind and thoughtful of you to invite me to come to stay with you if perchance I should be in Sacramento and it would be a delight to enjoy your hospitality.

Again, my warmest thanks.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser

June 22, 1966

Dr. Fritz Kraemer
The Colorado College
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Fritz:

Today I received the advance copy of the illustrations to be used in your forthcoming publication. Many, many thanks. You can imagine when your envelope came I dropped everything and immediately went through these pages. You know how very interested I am, and I should like to convey my congratulations.

I am sorry to learn that there seems to be some difficulty in raising the money to permit its printing. Have you considered applying to some Foundation for a grant for this? The people I would think of first would be the Wenner-Gren Foundation; then the Social Science Research Council, the National Science Foundation, Guggenheim, and, of course, our friends in Copenhagen at the International Secretariat.

The Stiftung Volkswagenwerk
3000 Hannover-Döhren
Postfach 45

is eager to expand its work on an international basis, and they might be particularly interested in underwriting such a venture.


By the way, did you send a copy of the illustrations to Steensberg, and to Bratanich? I am certain that both these men would be intensely interested.

Again, many thanks. I hope you are well and that your summer will be profitable and rewarding.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser



March 2, 1967

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
The Colorado College
Colorado Springs, Colorado

Dear Fritz:

This brings to you my sincere thanks for the reprint of your article on Eduard Mahn. I am delighted to have it and am most grateful to you. May I congratulate you on the publication of this article which, as you know, is most interesting to me and will prove exceptionally useful to me in my own research as well as in my classes. Thank you so very much.

I am under the impression that I still have not thanked you for some material which you mailed to me previously on the distribution of plow types.

This arrived just as I was leaving for Europe where I served as visiting professor at the University of Vienna for the first semester. On my way home, while entering a taxi in going from one railroad station to another in Paris, I wrenched my back. The pain grew steadily worse and after boarding the ship at Le Havre I found it impossible to move. On examination the ship surgeon ordered me to remain in bed for the duration of the trip, and after arriving in Hartford, my doctor prescribed a continuation of bed rest. I have now been on my back for over four weeks, and I do not know just when I will be able to be up and around again, but hope it will be soon.

With my very best wishes to you, and again, my sincere thanks for the reprints which you have so kindly sent me.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es

Paul Leser



May 11, 1967

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
Portland State College
Portland, Oregon 97207

Dear Fritz:

Several days ago in the mail I received your extraordinary volume "Breaking Ground".

Please accept my warmest congratulations on the publication of this most interesting treatise - it will be most useful to me in my work and actually is a "ground breaking" study. You know how very much your book will interest me. I am writing immediately to express my appreciation to you and will begin now to study it in detail -- this will keep me busy for some little time.

I am delighted to have received it for yet another and unrelated reason: a letter which I had written you some time ago and sent to Colorado was returned to me undeliverable; it is now enclosed along with this.

With my very best wishes, and once again, my sincere thanks for your gift.

Yours most sincerely,

PL:es
Enc.

Paul

PORTLAND STATE COLLEGE PORTLAND, OREGON

DIVISION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

June 12, 1967

Professor Paul Leser
The Hartford Seminary Foundation
55 Elizabeth Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06105

Dear Paul:

Many thanks for your kind letters. Your praise exceeds the merits of my attempts. As you know, your plow paper is the model to which I aspired, but I am painfully aware how far short I come of this.

By now, I hope your back has mended and you are bouncing on your feet again. You'll just have to watch those Paris taxis.

Last week I received the first number of Ethnologia Europaea. I am, of course, very interested in this publication and have already sent them my subscription. Thank you for having me put on that mailing list. I failed to see Jacobeit's name on it. How come? He was the one to make so much noise about just this kind of thing.

With my kindest regards and best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Fritz L. Kramer
Professor of Geography

FLK:pjm

June 22, 1967

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer
Department of Geography
Portland State College
Portland, Oregon 97207

Dear Fritz:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 12th.

Yes, thank you, my back is very much better and I am again in circulation.

You ask about Jacobseit -- well, that is a difficult thing to explain, and particularly in writing. I suppose the main reason that his name does not appear on the list and why he has not been included on the editorial board of *Ethnologica Europaea*, is that at the beginning, back in 1952 and 56, Kothe played quite a role in organizing and getting things going, and to this day Kothe is very well liked by many members of that group (although I have heard remarks from some people that between 1960, when I personally spoke with Kothe for the last time at the International Congress of Anthropological Sciences in Paris, he has changed considerably and has developed some strange ideas, perhaps even a kind of persecution mania). Kothe, sometime between 1956 and 1960 (I just don't recall when) lost his job as professor of Volkskunde at Humboldt University, and since then has been in disgrace with the Communist authorities; however, not with all of them because to this day he is working in East Berlin. Jacobseit got the job which Kothe held until that time, and ever since then, whenever Kothe was invited to an international meeting, Jacobseit was sent as his substitute. I assume some people, in particular perhaps Erixon, do not wish to have someone forced upon them.

Neither Jacobseit nor Kothe was a communist of the early hour. Both men studied in Göttingen under Pilsenke who, as you know, always was an extreme rightist and, at least between 1933 until the end of the war, a violent Nazi (who even had the misfortune of having had printed nearly all of his speeches, e.g. which he gave as rector of the University), and both men spent several years following the end of World War II still in Göttingen. Then Kothe received a call from

Dr. Fritz L. Kramer

June 22, 1937

Berlin and went there, and became a Communist, while Jacobsit remained in Göttingen where he worked for some office or organization of the Allies - if I am not mistaken for the French Office in charge of identifying soldiers who had been killed in action. If my recollection is correct, it was only after Kothe lost his job that Jacobsit went to Berlin.

With all best wishes,

Yours most sincerely,

FL:es

Paul Leser