

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

July 11, 1961

Dear don Daniel:

This is in reply to that part of your June 28 letter dealing with the proposed travel of Alfonso Garcia Ruiz.

As you know, my knowledge of Garcia Ruiz is confined to casual conversations with him at El Colegio gatherings over a period of years. Everyone whose opinion, professional and personal, I value in Mexico who has spoken to me of him has done so in the highest terms. This still, however, leaves me without any close personal acquaintance on which to base an opinion. Had Burton, Dr. Cole, or myself had any indication, when we were in Mexico in February, that Garcia Ruiz was being considered for this position, we could have talked to him at some length and thus been in a much better position here to evaluate the proposed travel grant when you submit the request. ✓ From this you can see we are prepared to bring such a travel grant into immediate consideration but that no commitment can be made until we have the opportunity to examine your request with the proposed travel plans. ✓

I expect to be in Washington working at the National Archives during the last two weeks of this month and will be on vacation throughout August. Burton will be back in the office early in August and since I will be at home in Fair Lawn throughout that month he will be able to contact me on hearing from you. If you should want to contact me directly you have, I believe, my home address: 16 Ramsey Terrace.

When we discussed in Mexico your plans for the graduate history program at El Colegio I left with the understanding that, since someone like Zavala would not be available for its over-all direction, the solution would be to have a younger person such as Villoro or now Garcia Ruiz as director of the general history program through the M.A. level and that someone such as Miranda would supervise the actual preparation of dissertations for the

July 11, 1961

Ph.D. degree on Latin American topics. May I assume that this situation still pertains?

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,



John P. Harrison
Associate Director

Lic. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Presidente
El Colegio de México
Guanajuato 125
Mexico 7, D.F.

JPH:MSK

P.S. A few days I received a letter from a German-American named Knauth who is apparently studying under Ortega y Medina at the National University and who indicates he has talked with you about a possible future with El Colegio after a period of graduate study at Harvard in Far Eastern history and civilization. I wrote Knauth that the Foundation typically did not grant United States citizens fellowships for graduate study and consequently had no basis for considering his request for support at this time. I did indicate, however, that I would talk with you about him the next time I was in Mexico and suggested also that if he begins his graduate studies at Harvard this fall he stop in at the office for a talk. Are you personally, and El Colegio as an institution, at all seriously interested in Knauth?



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CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
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August 18, 1961

Dear Srta. Uribe:

I am enclosing herewith, with the compliments of Dr. Charles B. Fahs, Director for the Humanities, the following material which may be of interest to you:

1. Morehouse: Adding a new dimension to liberal education
(Reprinted from "Liberal Education, October 1960)
2. Morehouse: The round world and American higher education
(Reprinted from "Journal of Higher Education, January 1961)
3. Asia Society: Materials on Asian studies in undergraduate education

I am also sending you under separate cover the following:

1. Boardman: Asian studies in liberal education
2. Michael & Taylor: The Far East in the modern world
3. Eckel: The Far East since 1500

Sincerely yours,

Mary Kalugerovich

Mary Kalugerovich
Secretary to Mr. Harrison

Srta. Susana Uribe
Bibliotecaria
El Colegio de Mexico
Guanajuato 125
Mexico 7, D.F.

MSK

Enclosures

August 25, 1961.

Mr. Charles M. Harding
Hotel Casino de la Selva
Cuernavaca, Mor.

Dear Professor Hardin:

You will excuse me for answering so late your kind letter of August 1st., as I was abroad from July 27th on.

I am indeed sorry for not seeing you here in Mexico City, but I understand you are quite busy at your Conference in Cuernavaca. I talked yesterday with a graduate from the School of Political Science at the National University who may be interested in one of your fellowships. If something comes out, he will call on you at your Cuernavaca hotel.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
President

DCV/meh.-

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SECRETARIA DE COMUNICACIONES Y TRANSPORTES
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LIC DANIEL COSIO VILLEGAS, DIRECTOR DEL COLEGIO DE MEXICO
 GUANAJUATO 125 MXCTY

DEEPLY APPRECIATE YOUR TELEGRAM OF BEST WISHES ON MY RECENT
 APPOINTMENT AND SEND THANKS AND WARM GREETINGS

J G HARRAR..

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THE Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET NEW YORK 20

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

September 19, 1961

Dear Cosio:

Thank you for your good letter of September 14. Unfortunately, I expect to be out of the country on November 3, but my colleague, Dr. Hardin, will be here at that time and will, I am sure, be pleased to talk with you.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Kenneth

Kenneth W. Thompson

I deeply regret that I shall miss seeing you. There are important matters we should discuss.

Professor Daniel Cosio Villegas
El Colegio de Mexico
Guanajuato, 125
Mexico, D. F.
MEXICO

KWT:W

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THE Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

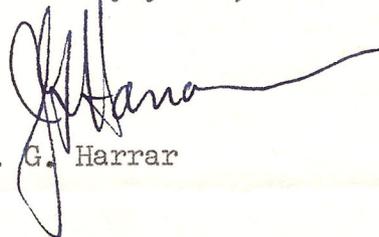
September 19, 1961

Dear Dr. Cosio Villegas:

This will acknowledge your letter of September 14 and thank you for your comment in connection with my recent election as President of the Rockefeller Foundation.

As you say, we did not have much opportunity to become well acquainted during my residence in Mexico since our activities were not such as to make frequent meetings possible. However, I am pleased to learn that you will be in New York early next month and I will speak to Dr. Fahs and Dr. Thompson in order to arrange a time for us to meet while you are here to consult with them.

Sincerely yours,



J. G. Harrar

Dr. Daniel Cosio Villegas
President, El Colegio de Mexico
Guanajuato 125
Mexico 7, D.F.
Mexico

JGH:mc

618

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
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September 19, 1961

Dear Daniel:

Thank you for your letter of September 14th. Unfortunately this is bad luck once more. On November 2nd and 3rd I expect to be in either Tunis or Madrid. I am due back in New York on November 4th. I could see you on November 6th, but it might be late in the afternoon since the day will be largely occupied with staff meetings which I must attend.

With best personal regards.

Cordially,

Burton

Charles B. Fahs
Director

Lic. Daniel Cosío Villegas
President
El Colegio de México
Guanajuato, 125
Mexico 7, D.F.

CBF:erm

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September 22, 1961.

Dr. Charles B. Fahs
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th St.
New York 20, N. Y.
E. U. A.

Dear Burt:

I deeply regret that you will be abroad during the only two days I am allowed to be in New York. Hope to be luckier next time.

With best wishes,

Yours cordially

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Presidet

DCV/ehf

1. The Colegio de México always has considered both the courses taught and the research done at its Center of Philological and Literary Studies (Centro de Estudios Filológicos y Literarios) as one of its principal activities. Since its inception in 1947 this Center has been fulfilling a most valuable task, exceptional in Mexico: that of preparing, encouraging and supporting scholars in the field of Spanish language and literature beyond the level and the aims of Mexican universities. A considerable part of Mexico's contribution in this field during the last fifteen years has had its origin at the Colegio de México, including the publication of the Nueva Revista de Filología Hispánica, generally recognized as one of the four or five best specialized journals on Spanish language and literature in the world.

2. During the past three years, with the help of the Rockefeller Foundation, the Center of Philological Studies ~~of the Colegio de México~~ has been able to train a small group of young scholars now actively and successfully doing research. This research has become more and more specialized and focused on one particular point: the Spanish spoken in Mexico. Therefore, the Colegio de México feels that ~~its~~ ^{this} Center ~~of Philology~~ has arrived at the necessary maturity to organize its work on a much more specialized level than before. Instead of completing and filling the gaps of the courses offered at the Facultad de Filosofía y Letras of the National University of Mexico, as it had been doing during the past years, the Center ~~of Philology~~ should now engage more specifically in the study of the modern trends in linguistics, both in its theoretical and practical aspects, and turn its attention almost completely to the systematical research of this one very important issue: the dialectal differences in the Spanish language spoken in America and particularly in Mexico.

3. This has been a rather neglected field. While much research has been dedicated to the dialectal forms of peninsular Spanish (as well as of the other western languages), little really has been done with regard to American Spanish, and almost nothing with regard to Mexican Spanish. It is therefore extremely important to develop this kind of studies in Mexico. And they should be carried out according to the most advanced methods of linguistic research developed in Europe and in the United States.

4. The Center of Philological Studies of the Colegio de México would thus become a Center of Hispanic American Linguistic Research and would concentrate its main efforts in this direction. At the same time the study of literature should not be completely neglected, since the Colegio de México has always considered language and literature as inseparable. Here, too, a new approach should re-vitalize the traditional ways of viewing literature. In fact, the new program of the Center of Philology includes not only a theoretical course in Comparative Literature, but also the requirement that a certain amount of research be done in one particular field of literature. This field has been carefully chosen to correlate with the linguistic studies to be carried out at the Center. Specifically the students would undertake the collection of Mexican folk-poetry and the study of these materials as compared to those of Spain and the other Latin American countries. This research can be easily accomplished by the students simultaneously with the field work in linguistics. (A great amount of materials on Mexican folk-poetry was collected at the Colegio de México in connection with a seminar in 1959, from which also resulted three papers and a (M. A.) dissertation on the subject. It would be a matter of completing the materials and preparing the publication of the first collection of Mexican lyrical folk-poetry made on a scientific basis.)

5. The Center of Philological Studies plans to constitute a group of approximately fifteen advanced and post-graduate students. Five to seven of these students should come from various Latin American countries (for instance, Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Peru, American ^{bb} Colombia, Venezuela, or some Central/or Caribbean country), and the remaining eight to ten from different areas in Mexico. The presence of the Latin American students constitutes a vital feature in the new program. The Colegio de México would provide them with a solid advanced education in linguistics, enable them to study the Spanish spoken in their own country, and give them a chance to become thoroughly acquainted with Mexican Spanish. On the other hand, the Mexican students would become acquainted with other varieties of the Spanish language and would have an opportunity to compare them with their own linguistic experience. The same possibilities of comparison and exchange undoubtedly would occur in the field of folk-poetry. (It is expected that the organization

6. The new program of the Center includes a series of twelve courses projected for

+ of American States would finance the fellowships for the Latin American Students.)

a period of three years. Since it is desired that instruction in these courses should be based on the newest and most efficient methods, the Colegio de México will endeavor to obtain foreign specialists (including possibly one or two South Americans, two or three North Americans, and two or three Spaniards) to teach at least half of them. The remaining courses would be in charge of professors residing in Mexico. All courses entrusted to a guest professor would last a minimum of three months, while the ones offered by specialists residing in Mexico would have a duration of five to ten months, according to the requirements of the subject.

7. The courses to be taught during the three years of this program are the following:

- (1) Modern linguistics. (Structural linguistics; General and applied linguistics.)
- (2) Descriptive and experimental phonetics (general and Spanish). The structural approach: modern phonology.
- (3) Spanish morphology and syntax. The structural approach.
- (4) Principles and methods of lexicography.
- (5) History of the Spanish language, with emphasis on its American manifestations.
- (6) General dialectology. Linguistic geography. Methods and techniques of field research.
- (7) American Spanish dialectology: achievements and deficiencies.
- (8) American Indian languages. Their main features; their relations to American Spanish.
- (9) Linguistic problems of Mexican Spanish.
- (10) Fundamentals of comparative literature.
- (11) Folk-poetry in Spain and in Latin America.
- (12) Pending.

8. Along with these twelve theoretical courses the students would engage in constant practical research. Each would have to submit a series of papers on particular aspects of American Spanish. One of these papers should be the result of field work carried out in Mexico (mostly outside of Mexico City). To implement the practical research, which will

constitute a vital part of the program, the Center would require the installation of a phonetic laboratory, equipped with those instruments deemed indispensable by the professor of phonetics. It also would have to purchase one kymograph, two tape-recorders and a sufficient number of tapes for field work. Equally essential would be the purchase of a number of books to complete the philological section of the library of the Colegio de México, including, primarily, basic works on general dialectology, on linguistic geography (especially linguistic atlases), and all existing and available works on both peninsular and American Spanish language and folk-poetry.

9. The Center of Philological Studies also plans to carry out two long-term investigations which would be entrusted to the group of students as a whole and directed by two resident professors of the Colegio de México: (1) the formation of a dictionary of Mexican Spanish on a comparative basis; (2) the formation of a comprehensive corpus of Mexican lyrical folk-poetry. Both works would be carried out with a view to their eventual publications.

10. After a successful accomplishment of this three-year program, the students should be able to conduct linguistic research on their own as well as to teach linguistics in both its theoretical and practical aspects. It is hoped that most of them will become instructors in some of the many Latin American universities where linguistics still plays a very secondary role if it is taught at all.

11. A rough estimate shows that the approximate cost of this three-year program would be as follows:

Ten fellowships for Mexican students including travel	\$ 28,800	2,060
Travel expenses for their field research	\$ 20,000	
Mexican teaching staff	23,040	
Foreign teaching staff (including travel expenses)	18,400	
Library and phonetic laboratory.	6,000	
TOTAL	78,300	

The Colegio intends to contribute \$26,100 and suggests that the Rockefeller Foundation contribute \$52,200.

COLEGIO DE MEXICO
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ИЗДАНИЕ ВЪЗРАСТНО-ПОЛОВОЙ ГРУППЫ

J C ✓
 President

September 22, 1961.

Dr. J. G. Harrar
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th St.
New York 20, N. Y.
E. U. A.

Dear Dr. Harrar:

Your kind letter of September 19th.

Both Dr. Fahs and Dr. Thompson will be abroad
the first week of November, according to letters from them
received today.

I will look for another chance to call on you.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Daniel Cosío Villegas
President

DCV/ehf

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

October 19, 1961

Dear don Daniel:

I have heard from others that you expect to be in New York November 4-5. My own schedule has me away from New York from the 22nd of this month through the 10th November, so if the above dates are correct I will miss seeing you here. I had originally planned to be in Mexico for two weeks towards the end of November and early December but the situation here is such that I probably will have to postpone my time in Mexico until the last two weeks of January. If your own plans have you away from Mexico during late January I would appreciate knowing your travel schedule as I want to be sure to have considerable time with you during my stay in Mexico. Consequently, I would try to rearrange my own travel plans as best I could to be certain of seeing you.

Before Burton began his present leave status he talked briefly with me of your thoughts on convening a small group of historians at El Colegio to discuss work on contemporary Latin American history. He was, of course, interested and had hoped that we could discuss the details as you visualize them sometime this fall. In any case I am prepared to discuss the possibility of such a conference with you the first time we are together.

A couple of weeks ago an English historian, C. A. M. Hennessy, now teaching modern European history and Latin American history in alternate years at Exeter, called on me after his recent time in Cuba and Mexico. Apparently a book of his on Spain's Cuban policy in the late 19th century is being published soon by the Cambridge University Press. I gather this is the result of research he did while a fellow of St. Antony's College, Oxford. Hennessy was putting out feelers for fellowship support that would enable him to make a comparative study of the Mexican, Cuban, and Bolivian Revolutions. I was generally negative as to the possibility of support from this source until he mentioned the substance of conversations with you. I gathered from Hennessy that there was some thought given to the possibility of his teaching a course on modern European history at El Colegio, whether for the International Relations Program or the History Program I was not clear - possibly both. It occurred to me that he might well pursue his research interests in Mexico while teaching at El Colegio and that he might have something to contribute

October 19, 1961

to the History Seminar on methodology as well as on modern European history. I told him I would bring this matter up for discussion with you sometime before the end of January and write him early in February whether or not I could encourage him to expect support from this Foundation. My understanding is that he would want to do this during the academic year 1962-3. Let me know if you see any advantage in such an arrangement for El Colegio.

Somewhat in the same vein, I had a conversation this past month with Mr. Lothar Knauth, a Central European now a citizen of the United States, who recently got a Master's degree in history at the National University where I gather his principal professors were Ortega y Medina and Edmundo O'Gorman. Knauth is now studying Asian civilization at Harvard. He seems to want to make a career in Latin America teaching Chinese history and culture. I gathered once again he talked with you and according to him, after showing initial interest, you told him there was no future for him at El Colegio. I explained to Knauth that any possible assistance from here in support of his graduate studies would have to depend on a continuing relationship between him and El Colegio or some comparable institution in Latin America. If his account of any possible future connection with El Colegio is faulty, would you let me know.

I have heard nothing further from you in regard to the travel plans for Garcia Ruiz. Are you still contemplating such a trip for him? If so, whenever the plans have been made I would gladly bring them into discussion here to see if the Foundation could provide the needed financial support.

I received a long letter from Antonio Alatorre providing further details as to the literary and philological activities of El Colegio. He did not make a specific proposal but rather indicated he would like to know what the Foundation could do to maintain the studies at their present level. As both you and he know, the program in philology does not fall within the frame of reference of present Foundation activities. Consequently, any consideration here would have to be on the basis of the exceptional nature of the work your group is doing under Alatorre's direction and its place within the future plans of El Colegio as a whole. This means that to consider any proposal for further support, we would have to have a request from you explaining the place of philological studies within your over-all program, and giving a clear indication that whatever the Foundation may contribute would be to establish this program on a firm footing and not simply be a subsidiary contribution to ongoing expenses that presumably would continue on indefinitely.

In my letter to Alatorre I tried to explain the area of interest in the Foundation at present. He replied explaining the importance of what El Colegio is doing. I certainly have no quarrel with his explanation, the quality of the work being done, or its importance, and I certainly have no intention of trying to influence the course of studies at El Colegio, any

October 19, 1961

more than at any other institution. Clearly, however, the Foundation has to have its own sense of priorities which it follows in the same way El Colegio arranges its own program.

I feel sure that both you and Alatorre realize that I will present as strongly as possible any request you may make in the name of El Colegio for further support of the program in philology. At the same time, it is equally clear I am in no position to set policy for the Foundation.

If your visit here is firmly set for November 4-5 I am sorry to miss the pleasure of seeing you and I assume also Emma. Both Barbara and I would love to have dinner with you and take you to the theater afterwards.

With best wishes also to Emma chica, whose daughter we are all anxious to see, and warmest regards as always,

Sincerely yours,


John P. Harrison
Associate Director

Lic. Daniel Cosío Villegas
Apartado 2123
Mexico, D.F.

JPH:MSK

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

October 23, 1961

Dear Dr. Alatorre:

Mr. Harrison has asked me to acknowledge with thanks your letter of September 27 concerning the Centro de Filologia at El Colegio de Mexico. In a recent letter to Lic. Cosio Villegas Mr. Harrison explained the Foundation's position in this matter and he suggests that you talk directly with Lic. Cosio about it.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Kalugerovich

Mary Kalugerovich (Mrs.)
Secretary to Mr. Harrison

Dr. Antonio Alatorre
Nueva Revista de Filologia Hispanica
El Colegio de Mexico
Guanajuato 125
Mexico 7, D.F.

November 8, 1961.

Mr. Gerald Freund
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th street
New York 20, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Freund:

Taking advantage of my recent trip to Europe, I went to Paris with the sole purpose of talking with señores González Salazar and Segovia, and of judging first-hand the conditions under which they are working.

I am sorry to say that my final impression was that those conditions are far from ideal, especially in señor González Salazar's case. So much so, that I would like to submit for your consideration, or of the proper Foundation's authorities, certain measures which to me seem indispensable if we are going to get from your generous support all the fruits we had expected.

Let me say at this stage that I saw no trouble as far as our fellows personally are concerned. Both are intelligent, responsible, and quite eager to take full advantage of the opportunity afforded to them. The problems arise rather from the nature and habits of French institutions of high learning. In the first place, there is no question about those institutions, as a rule, offering a foreign student (or any student, for that matter) a narrower range of possibilities to study international affairs than the ones offered both in the United States and England. This general situation has certainly exceptions: the areas of Western Europe, Africa and the Middle East, in which France has had old and strong interests. But it is particularly true in regard to the Soviet Union and the Soviet Bloc in general.

Then, the yearly changes in the courses offered are much more marked in France than in the United States, with the deplorable consequence that the programming of a two-year study is subjected to unpleasant surprises. Furthermore, it happens more frequently than one would like, that under the general caption of say "Economic Development of the U.S.S.R.", the professor in charge of that course decides to dedicate it this year to the extremely narrow subject of Soviet investments in public education. Little things add to this difficulties: the Livret de l'étudiant is usually published just few days before the courses actually start, and sometimes it proves impossible to get information from other sources as to what courses will be given. And certainly the habit of the students having to apply in writing to have an interview with his teachers does not help much.

My impression was that for these and other reasons, the training of Mr. González Salazar at the end of the present French academic year, that is to say, June, 1962, will be rather deficient.

...

Mr. Segovia's case is quite different, since his special field is international problems of Western Europe. And yet, he can hardly have a complete picture if he does not acquire a limited, but quite solid knowledge of the United States position and interest in international affairs, --a subject which he cannot study satisfactorily in France.

On the other hand, their work in Paris will end next June, and since their scholarship expire in October, they will have three months (July, August, September) before them. They can hardly spend them profitably in Paris since practically all academic work ceases during those months. They could try England, but apart the question of language, the possibilities of summer courses there are rather limited. A third possibility, and certainly a most desirable one, is for them to travel.

For me, however, the best alternative would be for señores González Salazar and Segovia to do summer work in an American university, say Harvard or Columbia. Transportation costs will be exactly the same as if they would come directly to Mexico; although I do not know whether their monthly stipend should be raised on account of the cost of living being higher in the U. S.

As I had hoped to call on you and Vicepresident Thompson in New York, in my way back to from Europe, I advised señores González Salazar and Segovia to start immediately their English courses, and in González Salazar's case to postpone his study of Russian.

This services of señores González Salazar and Segovia at El Colegio will not be required until February, 1963. And although I am quite convinced that the idea of having them for summer work in the United States is a good one, and certainly the best, one cannot disregard the fact that since they can hardly take during the summer more than three or four courses, the advantage would be rather limited.

For this reason, I would like to submit the suggestion that their fellowships be extended for four additional months (October, 1962 - February, 1963), so as to enable them to proceed their studies in the U. S. during the fall term.

Thanking you in advance for the consideration you may give.

Sincerely yours

Daniel Cosío Villegas
President.

November 13, 1961.

Dr. Kenneth W. Thompson
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th street
New York 20, N.Y.
U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Thompson:

As you may know, I was abroad for sometime. So, your good note of October 2nd did not reach me until today.

Allow me, in the first place, to congratulate you warmly on your appointment as vicepresident of the Foundation. Your long and intimate association with it, the range of your interests and your youthfulness, are a good omen for the Foundation and for all institutions collaborating with it, among which I must mention in the first place, naturally, El Colegio de México.

I wrote today a long letter to Mr. Freund in regard to the two fellows you have at the Institute d'Études Politiques de Paris, and I suppose that at least in one point you may know about certain suggestions I made to Mr. Freund.

Very bad news for us are indeed to know that you see no immediate prospects of a trip to Mexico, even for lecturing at El Colegio. On the other hand, various projects presented to both Divisions, Humanities and Social Sciences, are pending of consideration, and certainly some new ones may come up.

I will be very willing to make a short trip to New York around the middle of December, for instance, if you consider that advisable, and of course, if President Harrar, yourself and your new associates are to be in New York at that time.

With best wishes,

Yours cordially

Daniel Cosío Villegas
President

noviembre 16, 1961.

Sr. John P. Harrison
16 Ransey Terrace
Fair Lawn, New Jersey
E.U.A.

Mi querido Jack:

Prefiero escribirle por esta vez a su casa en vista de que hemos perdido en los últimos meses el contacto continuo que habíamos tenido usted y yo por varios años ya. Lo prefiero así, en segundo lugar, por las nuevas circunstancias en que yo mismo, pero sobre todo este pobre Colegio, deberá operar con la Fundación. En fin, he decidido hacerlo así considerando también que algunos de los asuntos que tenemos pendientes, si bien todos ellos oficiales (es decir, Fundación-Colegio), se encuentran todavía en una situación de incertidumbre que quizás amerite hacer, antes que nada, una exploración informal.

El asunto más viejo que tenemos pendiente es, según creo, el del viaje de Alfonso García Ruiz a Estados Unidos y Europa para estudiar las ideas más recientes sobre la enseñanza de la historia universal. Leí con una enorme atención (de hecho la leí y releí varias veces) los comentarios que me hizo usted sobre este asunto en una carta ya vieja. Eran de tal naturaleza, que resolví abandonar este asunto, decisión que no creo deba modificarse.

Otro asunto viejo fue el que sometí a Burton en una de las muchas ausencias recientes de usted, a saber, la posibilidad de que la Fundación ayudara a costear los gastos de una reunión de un cortísimo número de historiadores latinoamericanos y norteamericanos interesados en la historia contemporánea de sus respectivos países. Ignoro si Burton le enseñó a usted mi carta, o si simplemente hizo una referencia verbal al asunto. En todo caso, quisiera insistir ahora en algo que creo que le dije a Burton, o sea, que El Colegio de México no tiene ningún interés directo, o, digamos, un interés "interesado" en este asunto, y que simplemente está dispuesto a echarse a costas la responsabilidad de organizar esta reunión y de conducirla al éxito más feliz posible. Como no se ha avanzado nada en este asunto, y en la última carta apenas me dice usted que quizás podríamos examinarlo cuando usted venga a México la próxima vez, me parece mejor retirar esta sugerción y, en consecuencia, no ocuparse de ella de nuevo.

El asunto de mayor importancia que tenemos pendiente es el del Seminario de Estudios Lingüísticos y Literarios; pero antes de volver a él, quisiera despachar los dos asuntos de que me habla en su carta del 19 de octubre, es decir, los que le han presentado los señores Hennessy y Lothar Knauth. El profesor Hennessy, en efecto, tuvo varias conversaciones conmigo, todas ellas relativas a su interés en la historia contemporánea de México, y sólo en la última hizo mención

a la posibilidad de que diera, no un curso, sino algunas conferencias, sobre temas de la historia moderna de Europa. Yo le dije que sin duda alguna podríamos acomodarlas durante el segundo semestre, pensando en que este buen caballero vendría a México limitado de fondos y que quería sacar algunos pesos de esas conferencias. Aun cuando no me lo dijo de un modo claro, así lo entendí, y como El Colegio puede darse, aun cuando muy de vez en cuando, el lujo de ayudar en esta forma a alguna persona, le dije que sí. Usted me habla, en rigor, de una cosa distinta, es decir, de que el profesor Hennessy diera un curso de Historia Moderna de Europa en El Colegio, sea en el Centro de Estudios Internacionales, o en el de Historia. Esto no puede ser. El curso de Historia Contemporánea de Europa se dará en el Centro de Estudios Internacionales de febrero a junio del año entrante y tenemos contratado ya al profesor que lo va a dar. Por lo que toca al Centro de Estudios Históricos, este curso no vendrá sino en 1964. No veo, pues, la forma de conectar los estudios de Hennessy que quiere hacer sobre la Revolución Mexicana con ayuda de la Fundación y una actividad de enseñanza en El Colegio; pero esto no quiere decir que yo personalmente no vea con una gran simpatía los deseos del profesor Hennessy, y que desde el punto de vista de México sería muy ventajoso que un profesor joven inglés se interesara en el estudio de nuestra historia (y en general de la América Latina), pues, como usted sabe, en Inglaterra no existe ningún interés por la historia latinoamericana a pesar de la calidad y de los trabajos de Humphreys (he visto listas de tesis que se preparan para la maestría y el doctorado en todas las universidades inglesas en los últimos cuatro o cinco años y no hay una sola sobre tema latinoamericano).

Seguimos pensando que uno de los vacíos más lamentables que tenemos en México es el conocimiento de las culturas o civilizaciones orientales; seguimos creyendo que El Colegio tiene que encontrar alguna persona joven que resuelva echarse a cuestras el iniciar toda una especialización en este campo. Esto me hubiera hecho ver con un particular interés y una simpatía especial los proyectos del señor Knauth; pero, por desgracia, después de conversar largamente con él, tuve la impresión de que no es él, exactamente, el candidato que buscamos. Por una parte, para nosotros los mexicanos (racistas puros) no deja de escamarnos el hecho de un alemán que se naturaliza norteamericano y que quiere trabajar en México. Aun cuando yo se que este caballero ha vivido, al parecer, contento en México y que aun se ha echado a cuestras una novia con la cual quiere casarse y, en consecuencia, residir indefinidamente en México, me sigue pareciendo poco firme la elección de esta persona. Lo más grave, sin embargo, es que este caballero tiene ideas muy propias sobre lo que es la historia y me ha dicho que se interesa en estudiar la historia japonesa (y no toda la del Oriente) con la idea de compararla con las civilizaciones prehispánicas de México y quizás de la América Latina. Además, parece ser un convencido de que toda la historia ha de verse como un problema de conflictos. Estas ideas, cuya validez y originalidad no disputo por un solo minuto, no dejan de ser manifiestamente contrarias a lo que El Colegio apetece y necesita.

Por esa razón, llegué a decirle francamente que no veía una posibilidad de que El Colegio amparara su solicitud a la Fundación ni tampoco de que se asociara al trabajo futuro del Colegio.

Ahora quisiera referirme al asunto del Seminario de Estudios Lingüísticos y Literarios. Comprenderá usted que he conocido a su tiempo las noticias que se han cambiado usted y Alatorre, y que con éste último he hablado muchas veces sobre los problemas del Seminario. Creo que debo decirle a usted en primer término (puesto que usted ha expresado en una de sus cartas algunas dudas acerca de este punto) que El Colegio de México ve con simpatía los deseos de Alatorre de prolongar y aun de ampliar el radio de actividad del Seminario que dirige; que El Colegio considera este Seminario como una pieza importante de todo su trabajo y que aun reconoce que ese Seminario ha tenido una vida precaria, pero continua, mayor que la de cualquier otra actividad del Colegio. Por otra parte estoy perfectamente convencido de que El Colegio llena con él un hueco que ninguna institución de México (y en cierta medida de la América Latina), podría y querría llenar. En tercer lugar, tengo el convencimiento de que después de una serie de tanteos desafortunados, el Seminario ha estado trabajando durante este año sobre bases mucho más firmes y regulares que en ninguna otra época. Por último, tengo la opinión del profesor Angel Rosenblat (a quien se le reconoce en todo el mundo hispánico una gran autoridad), de que el Seminario nuestro funciona mejor y promete más incluso que su Instituto Andrés Bello, tan viejo como el nuestro y dotado de recursos muy superiores a los que nosotros tenemos. Tomando en cuenta esto y, sobre todo, la urgencia de tiempo, en uno o dos días más le mando a usted la solicitud formal de ayuda en el concepto de que, si a la vista de ella le ve usted alguna viabilidad, la presente en la primera ocasión que tenga a las autoridades propias de la Fundación. De lo contrario, simplemente me la devuelve usted.

Una última cosa sobre la cual quisiera hablare en una forma confidencial: mañana o pasado mañana despacharé una carta para el Vicepresidente Thompson diciéndole que en vista de los cambios habidos recientemente en la Fundación y de la mala suerte de no haber podido encontrar a ninguno de ustedes a mi paso por Nueva York, estaría yo más que dispuesto a hacer un viaje especial con el único propósito de conversar con ustedes entre el 10 y el 15 de diciembre, si hay una cierta seguridad de que se encuentren entonces en Nueva York el Presidente Harrar (quien ya me ha autorizado para visitarlo), el señor Thompson, usted, etc. etc.

Con un gran abrazo, siempre suyo.

Daniel Cosío Villegas

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

November 17, 1961

Dear Professor Cosio:

Thank you for your letter of November 8 about Gonzalez Salazar and Segovia. As you mentioned in your letter, we had hoped to visit with you here in New York and I was planning to take up with you the questions discussed in your letter at that time.

Since receiving your letter I have discussed the study plans of Gonzalez Salazar and Segovia with some of my colleagues and we are agreed with your proposal, namely, that they plan to spend the summer of 1962 and the first semester of the 1962-63 academic year in the United States at either Harvard or Columbia Universities. We hope that by the time they arrive here they will have gained a sufficient proficiency in the English language to make their stay worth while. As you may know, it is not possible for The Rockefeller Foundation, under its fellowship program, to undertake the costs of English language training since it is assumed that fellows have a sufficient mastery of the language of the country in which they are carrying on their work.

On one of the next days I shall be writing to both Gonzalez Salazar and Segovia concerning the second extension of their awards and to ask them to correspond with Harvard or Columbia so that they may be assured of some academic standing at these universities enabling them to carry on work from July 1962 through January 1963.

Yours sincerely,


Gerald Freund
Fellowship Adviser

Professor Daniel Cosio Villegas
El Colegio de Mexico
Guanajuato, 125
Mexico 7, D. F.
MEXICO

GF:mjs

The Rockefeller Foundation

111 WEST 50th STREET, NEW YORK 20

THE HUMANITIES

CABLE: ROCKFOUND, NEW YORK
TELEPHONE: COLUMBUS 5-8100

November 20, 1961

Dear don Daniel:

I was sorry to miss you during your brief stop-over in New York earlier this month. There is certainly much to talk with you about and I have rearranged my travel time to get to Mexico at the earliest opportunity. I will take an Eastern Airlines flight from New York December 7 and as usual go to the Reforma. I expect to return to New York on the 13th and to spend one of the intervening days in Monterrey. There are several people with whom I want to talk but the principal one is you, so if this schedule is not convenient for you please let me know at once. If you could indicate the times most convenient for you I will arrange the rest of my schedule around these appointments.

I am assuming that Alatorre is in Mexico and that I can talk with him shortly after my first meeting with you.

Totally apart from business matters, I think Barbara would appreciate knowing the size of your granddaughter and any suggestions that Emma grande may have as to what might be a welcome remembrance from Sally and the other Harrisons.

With warmest regards,

Sincerely yours,

John P. Harrison
Associate Director

Lic. Daniel Cosio Villegas
Apartado 2123
Mexico, D.F.

JPH:MSK

MEMORANDUM para el
Sr. John P. Harrison,
sobre

BECAS PARA ESTUDIOS HISTORICOS

1.- Según el memorandum en que se presentó formalmente a la Fundación la petición de El Colegio de México para iniciar un ciclo de cinco años de enseñanza de la historia universal, conviene pensar en atacar el problema de la preparación de un núcleo de profesores mexicanos que puedan, después de estudiar dos años en el extranjero, tomar a su cargo permanentemente los cursos principales de historia.

2.- Las autoridades de El Colegio han estado celebrando una serie de entrevistas con jóvenes graduados mexicanos que puedan interesarse en salir al extranjero, en septiembre u octubre del año de 1962 para iniciar sus estudios en Estados Unidos o en algún país de la Europa Occidental.

3.- Existe la esperanza de que hacia junio de 1962 se tengan candidatos para estudiar los siguientes temas: Grecia y Roma; el Renacimiento; Los Siglos XVII y XVIII; Las Culturas Orientales y la Historia de Estados Unidos.

México, D.F., diciembre 5, 1961.

19 de diciembre de 1961

Sr. John P. Harrison
The Rockefeller Foundation
111 West 50th. Street
New York 20, N. Y.
U. S. A.

Querido amigo Harrison:

Con la esperanza de verlo una vez más, fui dejando tratarle de dos pequeños asuntos que, sin embargo, tienen alguna importancia.

Uno de ellos la tiene, pero no para mí. Se trata de mi gran amiga Argentina Victoria Ocampo, quien contempla la posibilidad de dejar su preciosa casa y jardín de San Isidro para algún propósito benéfico. Yo le hablé vagamente, por supuesto, de las casas internacionales del Japón y la India, levantadas y sostenidas con fondos de la Fundación Rockefeller; pero no pude dar ningún dato concreto especial. Con ese propósito, le agradecería enviarme en cuanto le fuera posible esa información, de un modo particular los reglamentos (by-laws) de esas dos instituciones.

El asunto que me concierne es el siguiente; la publicación en inglés de mi libro Estados Unidos contra Porfirio Díaz, cuya traducción examinó usted en casa el domingo que estuvo en ella. Pues bien, deseo preguntarle a usted, amistosa y confidencialmente, qué procedimiento siguen las publicaciones en español que merecen la ayuda de la Fundación para publicarlas en español, ayuda que, según entiendo, se reduce al pago del costo de la traducción del español al inglés.

Aun cuando no puedo considerar que su breve estancia en México haya satisfecho mis muchos deseos de platicar con usted, ha sido muy agradable y provechoso haberle visto a usted aquí.

Con mis mejores deseos por Navidad y Año Nuevo, para usted y toda la familia, siempre suyo.

Daniel Cosío Villegas
Presidente

DCV/rev

TELEGRAFOS



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DANIEL COSIO VILLEGAS

Sírvase transmitir el precedente mensaje con sujeción a las condiciones al reverso, las cuales quedan aceptadas.

FIRMA

DOMICILIO Guanajuato 125, México 7, D. F.
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