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Howard M. Jones to Professor Silver, 3 January 1957

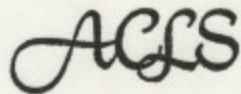
Howard Mumford Jones (1892-1980)

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AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES

WASHINGTON, D. C.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
HOWARD MUMFORD JONES, Chairman
9 WARREN HOUSE
CAMBRIDGE 38, MASS.

January 3, 1957

Professor James Silver
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Professor Silver:

In order to make the American Council of Learned Societies more effective as a dynamic center of ideas and information about scholarship, the Board of Directors has authorized me to create a group of Regional Associates scattered strategically over the country. Through quarterly informal letters to the Chairman the Regional Associate, it is hoped, will keep the ACLS informed of interesting projects, old and new, in the humanities and allied subjects (you will find on the obverse of this letterhead the roster of constituent societies), interesting meetings and publications, the names, addresses, and specialities of younger scholars who need encouragement; and anything else of interest to scholarship and in the attitude towards the humanities and the social humanities that comes to his attention in the region. The regional Associate should also feel free to offer his own suggestions for programs and meetings sponsored or be sponsored by the ACLS.

The Regional Associates, about 100 in number, will be asked to serve for three years. At the present time our appeal can be only to their professional interest in the advance of scholarship. From their quarterly letters we hope to glean important and exciting information for the Newsletter of the ACLS.

I have assigned seven of these posts to the Lower South - that is, to Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, and South Carolina. I have the honor to invite you to accept such a post for the state of Mississippi. You are, of course, in a better position to determine which schools one should keep under survey than am I, but an important datum is work in the Negro colleges. I am ignorant of your segregation law with respect to institutions of higher learning in your state, but I very much hope that it will not be difficult for you to communicate with colleagues in such institutions. How far you might like to keep an eye on museums, libraries, junior colleges and the like is a matter I leave to your discretion. I suggest that the best way to keep in touch is to invite friends and colleagues in other institutions to become your correspondents.

The dates on which letters would be due will be March 15, June 15, September 15 and December 15; and a reminder will be sent you ten days or two weeks in advance. At first sight the assignment looks formidable. Your letters are not supposed to be exhaustive or inclusive, but rather such as you would write in the light of the information you happen to collect.

Will you help us?

Yours cordially,

Howard M. Jones

Howard M. Jones
Chairman

HMJ:mg