

10-3-1963

## Leonard to Jim, 3 October 1963

Leonard W. Levy

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OFFICE OF  
DEAN OF FACULTY

October 3, 1963

Professor James W. Silver  
Department of History  
University of Mississippi  
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

This is a letter of inquiry to determine whether you might be interested in editing a volume of documents on Confederate political thought, for publication by Bobbs-Merrill in its American Heritage series, edited by Alfred Young of Paterson State College and me. We have been so successful in contracting for the first thirty-five volumes in the series, that the publisher is eager to arrange for another ten or fifteen more volumes. At this time, we are not prepared to make any commitments, but are seeking to determine whether we might count on your participation if we extend the series, as expected. The terms would be attractive -- a \$1,000 advance against royalties, \$250 extra for preparation of the manuscript, and publication of the book in both quality paperback and hardcover editions.

There is, however, a formidable condition: the finished manuscript must be delivered to us in about a year -- no later than November 1, 1964. On the other hand, the book that we would propose for you would be easy to do -- longish selections rather than dozens of little snippets, and on a subject that ties in with your recent or current research, so that you would not be seriously diverted from other commitments.

The American Heritage series aims at becoming the most comprehensive and systematic collection of primary sources in the American history field. While its principal focus will be upon "thought," essentially political, the series will eventually include documentary materials on almost every aspect of American life. Some books in the series already exist, having been previously published by the Liberal Arts Press before it was purchased by Bobbs-Merrill. You may be familiar, for example, with Joseph Blau's Social Theories of Jacksonian Democracy. Louis Filler, Carl J. Friedrich, Ralph H. Gabriel, Robert McCloskey, and Herbert Schneider have contributed other volumes.

The books in the series have a uniform format, but there is a good deal of flexibility on size. Each volume includes a substantial scholarly introduction of not less than 5,250 words (double or more, if the author wishes); a selection of documents of not less than 60,000 words (considerably more if necessary); a brief bibliography; and headnotes, where necessary, preceding each documentary selection; and a brief chronology.

The new American Heritage series will include the thirty-five volumes now being contracted for -- thirty-three are already signed up

Professor James W. Silver

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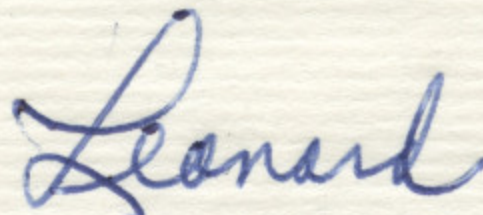
October 3, 1963

(see attached list) -- plus the extra ten or fifteen mentioned above. We meet the publisher on October 21 to contract for the extra volumes. All additional titles and authors will have to be approved by the publisher. At this stage, therefore, we can only ask whether you would accept an offer were one to be made. Yet we should appreciate, before October 21, a response that would enable us to measure your interest and capability of committing yourself to the 1964 deadline for delivery of the manuscript.

Since any agreements between us must, at this time, be reciprocally tentative, there is little purpose in discussing at length the particular volume that you might do in the series. At present, we have in mind for you simply a volume on Confederate political thought.

As you will note from the enclosed list, we have an outstanding group of contributors including some of the most distinguished historians in the country. We hope that you will be interested in our proposal and will be able to notify us quickly whether we can count on you as a prospective contributor.

Cordially,



Leonard W. Levy

LWL:db

Enclosure

P.S. Looking forward to meeting you when you speak here on campus on November 19th.

BOBBS-MERRILL COMPANY

COLLEGE DIVISION / LIBERAL ARTS PRESS

AMERICAN HERITAGE SERIES

Leonard Levy & Alfred Young  
General Editors

Our immediate aim is to provide in the next three years thirty-five volumes of essential, basic source materials which trace American thought from the Colonial Period to the present. Our long-term plans call for the development of a complete library of documentary materials covering many aspects of American life.

The volumes are designed for college students, graduates and undergraduates, and should be of use in courses in American History, Political Science, Economic Thought and History, American Studies, Philosophy, Religion, Legal History, Education as well as other fields. They will also fill a need among scholars and libraries for convenient, authoritative anthologies that will often be the only collection on the subject. A number of volumes may also win a place as standard scholarly works, as has, for example, Joseph Blau's SOCIAL THEORIES OF JACKSONIAN DEMOCRACY in the original series.

We have planned volumes of three sorts:

1. Around individuals -- For example: James Madison, John Marshall, Abraham Lincoln, Louis Brandeis, William Jennings Bryan.
2. Around groups -- For example: Puritan Political Thought, The Anti-Federalists, American Catholic Thought, American Labor Thought.
3. Around specific topics -- For example: The Great Awakening, The Bill of Rights, Manifest Destiny, The South and the Negro Since Reconstruction.

A number of volumes deal with traditional subjects for which surprisingly there are no one-volume source collections. A number deal with new subjects which are receiving more and more attention in the colleges as in the country.

The concept underlying the series is disarmingly simple. We have asked the editors to assemble the outstanding writings or the representative selections that will present a rounded picture of the thought of the individual or group. We are not doing "problem" volumes, nor are we doing volumes of predigested short items. We prefer a limited number of pieces of substantial length -- excerpts from books, whole speeches, essays, pamphlets, etc.

Each volume will have a scholarly introduction of some length, a chronology of events, and a short bibliographic essay. Each selection will be prefaced by a headnote that will place the document in its setting.

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Leonard W. Levy and Alfred Young, General Editors

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5. The Great Awakening  
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Revolutionary and Early National

6. American Revolutionary Tracts  
Merrill Jensen, University of Wisconsin
7. The American Revolution as a Democratic Movement  
Alfred Young, Paterson State College
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Cecelia Kenyon, Smith College
11. Albert Gallatin  
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18. The Radical Republicans and Reconstruction  
Harold Hyman, University of Illinois
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Norman Graebner, University of Illinois
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Ernest R. May, Harvard University
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Norman Pollack, Yale University
22. American Labor Thought, 19th Century  
Herbert Gutman, State University of New York, at Buffalo
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William Harbaugh, Bucknell University

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Paul A. Freund, Harvard Law School
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Richard W. Leopold, Northwestern University
33. American Religion and the City  
Robert D. and Barbara Cross, Columbia University