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Ralph W. (Ralph Willard) Hidy (1905-1977)

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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

GEORGE F. BAKER FOUNDATION

RALPH W. HIDY
*Isidor Straus Professor
of Business History*

SOLDIERS FIELD
BOSTON 63, MASSACHUSETTS
January 13, 1958

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

Dear Jim:

I am looking for two young men interested in the history of business. Mrs. Hidy and I hope to engage one for a period of one or two years on the Great Northern project of the Business History Foundation. And I want to locate one for the Business School, to be appointed this spring if possible.

For the Great Northern job we should prefer to have a young man (twenties or early thirties) who plans to devote himself to the history of business. At the very least he should sincerely desire to round out his training as a general or economic historian by accepting an apprenticeship with the Hidys for one to three years. I use the word "apprenticeship" because he would be unable to publish any fruits of his research with us until the Great Northern book goes through the press. The person engaged should preferably have his doctorate, be willing to work hard, have some ability to write as well as to dig out data, and have the facility for getting along pleasantly with a range of people from chief clerks to vice-presidents of the railroad.

For the position at the Business School we definitely want someone who wishes to make the history of business his area of research and teaching. The hope is to appoint an instructor or assistant professor for a three-year term in the expectation that the man will then go on to other posts; the arrangement might be changed, but that is our present plan. He would be expected to help in teaching but to spend a major share of his time in research. An agreeable personality would be helpful, as you can imagine, and a man with a doctorate will certainly have an advantage over one who is just in process of writing his dissertation.

Any leads you may give me will be appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Ralph

RWH:slt