

July 30, 1940

Mr. W. W. Norton  
70 Fifth Avenue  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Norton:

Bennington College has a lecture fund which this year we are planning to use in a different way. We hope to get three or four distinguished people, who have had to leave Europe, to serve as Honorary Fellows of the College. We would ask of these people only that they give four or five lectures each half year and that they be resident in Bennington. Presumably they would be people carrying on their own writing or other work.

In this way we thought we might be able to make the transition to the United States easier for people of the type of Sigrid Undset, who may have done their best work but who have accumulated a fund of wisdom and experience that would be valuable to a College such as ours, which does not have many people of that age and type. We thought of giving only \$1000 to these Fellows. Probably we would be able to make living arrangements in Bennington very favorable for them and perhaps I would find that this amount of money is impracticable.

I am writing to you to ask whether you know of people such as this who might like this kind of transition to American life. If you don't know, could you tell me with whom I might best get in touch. I am writing Elvin Johnson.

I shall be at the Shelton Hotel in New York, Wednesday and Thursday, and will call you up to see if we might talk this over, if you think it worth while. Least, I will talk with you over the telephone.

Sincerely yours,

Robert D. Leigh, President