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1930

### **B4-7-3 Merriam, Dr. John C., 1929-1930 (folder 2)**

Wallace W. Atwood

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CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
MOUNT WILSON OBSERVATORY  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA

July 8, 1930

Dr. W. W. Atwood  
Care Superintendent  
Sequoia National Park  
California

My dear Dr. Atwood:

Just a note to say that I fear that in telephoning to you from Williams I may have imposed upon you the cost of a telephone message for which I assumed that I had paid. In trying to reach you I asked to have someone find you if possible and planned to cover the cost of the messenger and phone call. I paid for the initial call but, due to the fact that at the time of our conversation it was within a minute or two of time for my train to leave, and I did not know even where our car was located, and I was furthermore in a pay station booth, I was not able to find out regarding the final cost of the message. If, as I fear is the case, you were obliged to pay for a call from El Tovar to Williams, please let me have a memorandum of this some time at your convenience and I will have the amount refunded.

I was extremely grateful to you for coming to the phone, as it seemed to be important that Mr. Albright should have a clear view as to the situation. Mr. Hall's uncertainty as to what his course should be just at the time of my leaving made it seem ~~to be~~ imperative that a clear statement of the matter be made to Mr. Hall as early as possible. The whole plan seems to me to be proceeding in an ideal way and I am most grateful for your cooperation in this fine program.

July 8, 1930

I have just seen Dr. Millikan and talked with him briefly regarding the Goddard project, Dr. Millikan being a member of the committee. Inasmuch as Goddard may some time be working in the west, I wish to have him in close touch, both with our staff at Mount Wilson and with Millikan's group at California Institute.

Millikan mentioned that he was being importuned just at that moment for an article to be published by a noted writer on the Goddard project. He was not clear as to just what was desired, but it looked to me as if someone were attempting to persuade Dr. Millikan to write an article in the hope that it would then be approved by the donor. I mentioned to Dr. Millikan the fact that the fund is given to Clark University. From my point of view any publicity relative to this matter would ultimately involve the policy of Clark University. I know that we have all been in agreement that publicity would be undesirable until the work is advanced to a point at which something new ~~would~~ ~~be~~ developed. Colonel Lindbergh's office, I know, expressed the hope that the matter might be held as long as possible. In leaving Dr. Millikan I indicated my own view that publicity on the matter would be unwise and in this I am sure Dr. Millikan agrees.

I am merely mentioning the matter to you in order that, should anything appear, you may know that it would not be by way of our committee. Incidentally in talking with Millikan, it looks as if it might be possible to have a meeting of the Advisory Committee some time in the late summer or early fall, if this appears desirable.

I trust that you and all the members of your family and your friends are having a most delightful journey, and that entrance into the High Sierra region will give you a pleasant change of climate and a most marvellous environment.

With appreciation of the opportunity to visit with you at the Grand Canyon, and my good wishes to you all, believe me,

Very truly yours,



C O P Y

Berkeley, California,  
July 28, 1930.

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

Due to failure of the post office to forward mail according to my directions, your letter of June twenty-third regarding my acceptance of chairmanship of the committee for cooperation in Dr. Goddard's rocket studies has just been received today. I am glad to accept membership in the committee and also to accept chairmanship of the committee as suggested if this seems desirable.

I would be glad to appoint a secretary of the committee as suggested, but would be glad to have suggestions from your office as to an arrangement which would be most convenient for you in connection with organization of the committee. It seems to me that the secretary should be resident at Clark University and in close touch with the office of the President and with Dr. Goddard.

With assurance of my deep interest in this project, and with my very good wishes, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

(signed) JOHN C. MERRIAM.

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Copy of WESTERN UNION telegram

Berkeley, California,  
July 28, 1930.

President W.W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Your letter June twenty-third regarding membership Advisory Committee for cooperation Goddard's rocket studies received today. I accept membership Advisory Committee and also chairmanship of committee if desired. Am writing regarding appointment secretary of committee STOP Sincerely regret this unavoidable delay.

John C. Merriam.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Berkeley, California,  
July 28, 1930.

Ack. - August 2/30

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

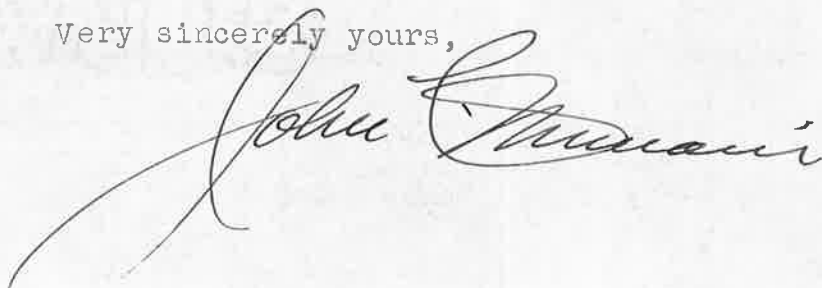
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With assurance of my deep interest in this project, and with my very good wishes, believe me

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John C. Murray". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John C. Murray".

X

Berkeley, California,  
July 28, 1930.

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

Your letter June twenty-third regarding membership  
Advisory Committee for cooperation Goddard's rocket studies  
received today. I accept membership Advisory Committee and  
also chairmanship of committee if desired. Am writing  
regarding appointment secretary of committee STOP Sincerely  
regret this unavoidable delay.

John C. Merriam

Hotel Whitecotton.

TELEGRAM

Received July 29, 1930  
At 9:30 A.M.

From: Berkeley, California

To: President Atwood

YOUR LETTER JUNE 23rd REGARDING MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION GODDARD'S ROCKET STUDIES RECEIVED. I  
ACCEPT MEMBERSHIP ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ALSO CHAIRMANSHIP OF COMMITTEE  
IF DESIRED. AM WRITING REGARDING APPOINTMENT SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE.  
SINCERELY REGRET THIS UNAVOIDABLE DELAY.

(Signed) John C. Merriam

copy for Dr. W. W. Atwood

Berkeley, California,  
August 2, 1930.

Superintendent C.G. Thompson,  
Yosemite National Park,  
California.

My dear Colonel Thompson:

113th to 15th

I am planning to visit Yosemite Valley on August ~~eleventh to thirteenth~~, this being the period in which Dr. W.W. Atwood has indicated his intention of being in the Valley. The specific purposes of my visit relate, first, to consideration of the best means for use of the story of the origin of the granite of the Yosemite in connection with the general educational program and, second, some further consideration of the general problem of the Yosemite in terms of the features of greatest significance in development of the whole educational plan and ~~the~~ use of the Valley.

on the mountain peaks near Lyell

As you may know, I have recently arranged with Dr. Pabst, of the Department of Geology of the University of California, to make an examination of the occurrence of basal portions of the sedimentary covering of the granite and I wish now to consider these points in relation to the contact of the granite with the sedimentaries on the Merced River road. I would like, if possible, to visit Glacier Point on the ~~twelfth~~ <sup>14th</sup> in order to see on the ground the manner in which this aspect of the educational work can develop.

I would appreciate it if your office could ask the Yosemite ~~Camp~~ Curry Company to reserve a cottage for me <sup>for the 13th</sup> at the far end of the row below Glacier Point corresponding to those which I have occupied in other years. We wish a cottage with one room with twin beds and bath and another room for one person with bath for my secretary, Mr. Callaway.

I hope to have opportunity to talk over certain aspects of the questions under consideration with you and Dr. Atwood together.

It will be a great pleasure to see you again and I hope that the time of my visit may find you in the Valley.

With all good wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

P.S. Please see letter with enclosure  
*(Signed) John Muir*



Berkeley, California,  
August 4, 1930.

Superintendent C. G. Thompson,  
Yosemite National Park,  
California.

My dear Colonel Thompson:

I regret very much that necessity for my being present at an extremely important conference relating to work of the Carnegie Institution will prevent my coming to the Yosemite on Monday, August eleventh, as planned. I would be glad, therefore, if your office could arrange with the Yosemite Camp Curry Company to change the reservations requested in my recent letter to you from August eleventh to August fourteenth. *thirteen*

I am sorry that it has been necessary for me to change my program, but I trust that you may be in the Valley on the <sup>13th</sup>fourteenth in order that I may have the pleasure of seeing you and discussing the many questions in which we are interested.

With all good wishes, believe me,

Very sincerely yours,

*(signed) John Muir*

Berkeley, California,  
August 7, 1930.

Dr. Wallace W. Atwood,  
c/o The Superintendent,  
Yosemite National Park, California.

My dear Dr. Atwood:


I had made all my plans to come to Yosemite on the afternoon of the eleventh to be present at approximately the time of your arrival and have opportunity to be with you for a couple of days in the Valley. Important Carnegie Institution business makes it necessary for me to modify my plans. I am now expecting to arrive in the Valley in time for dinner on the evening of the thirteenth. I sincerely hope to have opportunity to see you there and perhaps be with you on the fourteenth.

I am coming to the Valley especially to give consideration to means by which there can be brought out to best advantage the story of the origin and intrusion of the granite and its relation to the sedimentaries. This is the foundation of the greater story of the Yosemite. Since I saw you Dr. Pabst, a brilliant young instructor at the University of California, has visited the Valley to examine the localities at which fragments of the sedimentary series lie in or against or upon the granite. Pabst secured a number of specimens of the actual contacts and has re-located a number of important localities which will be extremely useful in the educational program. Studies of the sections of this material are now being made in Berkeley.

It has been my desire to see such arrangement made that from Glacier Point it will be possible to indicate places where the granite is in contact with the sedimentaries on the summit of the range. This, with indication of contact on the road as one leaves Merced, would bring out some of the salient facts relative to the intrusion. I understand that there is some hesitation about labeling the point of approximate contact, or at any rate the lower sections of disturbed sedimentaries along the highway, due to interruption of traffic, but I am sure that there will be no difficulty in having the road widened at places where it would be necessary to turn out to see these sections.

Trusting that you have had a pleasant and profitable journey, and looking forward to seeing you soon, I am

Very truly yours,



Washington, D.C.,  
April 19, 1930.

To members of the Committee on  
Educational Problems in National Parks:

I am transmitting to you herewith proof of your report as made available at the meeting of the Committee in November 1929. The originals and a tentative proof of this report have been filed with National Park Service, together with other data relating to the last meeting of the Committee.

I am transmitting also a condensed statement covering proceedings of the meeting of the Committee on November 26 and 27, 1929.

I would appreciate it if you would examine with care the proof transmitted, as also the copy of the proceedings and return both to me within the next ten days. On the basis of the copies as returned the report will be printed for transmission to the Secretary of the Interior and Director of National Park Service.



John C. Merriam, Chairman,  
Committee on Educational Problems  
in National Parks.

Berkeley, California,  
August 25, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I appreciate greatly your letter of August twenty-third, just this moment received. I am delighted that you have found the Redwood Highway and the region it touches of exceptional interest. I feel certain that with the passing of time the most striking aspects of its beauty will be developed so as to be even more impressive than at the moment.

I appreciate also your suggestions regarding the Sinnot Memorial, and I am in complete agreement with the idea that it is important to develop to the utmost the direct view of the things of great interest on and about the lake and the crater. It is in reality in order to develop this aspect of the relation of the visitor to the phenomena of the park that I have been planning the group of outlook stations around the lake so located as to bring out each of the major features in the most striking way. I presume that some may think I am almost obsessed in the idea of having the views of the visitor centered upon the spectacular features in order that their strongest impression may be in terms of the thing itself.

The plan which I have had in mind for the educational scheme at Crater Lake is one in which there would be as early as possible a complete and fundamental re-study of all of the natural phenomena of the region. Diller's work on the crater is fine, but there is still much to be done and a specific interpreter thoroughly familiar with the region is necessary. On the basis of such data the various features around the lake should be so studied that the outlooks selected would give the best scientific and aesthetic presentation of each feature and, moreover, give this presentation of each in relation to the others. The special leaflet of the various stations should be a part of a scheme of leaflet guides to cover the region as a whole.

I would urge that everyone be given the suggestion that each of these points should be visited for its own value and also for its relation to the story as a whole. There should not be slavish following of the leaflets, but they should be available as suggestions. Wherever possible the set-up should be devised in such manner that if the visitor walks to the place he receives the impression practically without suggestion.

It is with reference to this greater scheme of the park that I have worked out the plan which has recently been approved for the Sinnott Memorial. One would, I believe, have difficulty in proving that the location of the Sinnott Memorial is the most important viewpoint on the border of Crater Lake. It is, however, an exceptionally favorable locality, considering all of the conditions and with due recognition of the fact that it is just accessible enough to permit those who wish to know something of the region to reach it and use it with little difficulty. The plan of the station is based upon the idea that from this point all of the major features about the lake could be seen and in some measure explained under the guidance of expert attendants, and certain additional materials which would help in understanding of the situation would also be available. Although I am, as you know, most hesitant to use what would be called museum materials, it seems to me that if exhibits could be set up in the museum room to illustrate certain of the major points on the spot there would be a larger number of people visiting the lookout stations, and those who do not visit these stations would leave with a better understanding of what they see.

It has been my idea that from this station one would point out a number of localities illustrating the manner in which the volcano has been built up layer upon layer. In other words, there would be expressed the historical aspect of the problem in a manner which is not possible at Lassen Peak or at Rainier. The crater at Crater Lake is a dissected volcano giving exceptional opportunity for certain phases of teaching. With the discussion of these points I would think it wise to put into the exhibit room a number of specimens illustrating the types of rocks with particular reference to what they mean in terms of actual volcanic flows. I would also put in the museum room a moving picture of the eruption of Mount Lassen, showing what such an eruption is like. I would also place in the exhibit room adequate illustrative material and, if possible, also movies showing the nature of a crater such as Kilauea which would interpret the phenomena which have been expressed at Crater Lake in past history. If possible I would also put in this room a film of an actual lava flow as it moves. The average visitor has little conception of volcanic phenomena as such. If they can be illustrated by living materials from other parks and by specimens the nature of which can be interpreted and if the visitor can then go to the precise place which is pointed out and make his own observations, there would, I believe, be a tremendous addition of interest in the volcano as a relic of a living thing.

If the exhibit room is reduced to the small dimensions represented in your diagram, these things would be practically impossible, and the visitor will be left in a measure to his own resources excepting as an attendant can go with him to the several lookouts. I am inclined to think also that if there is not developed some plan such as I have in mind the actual use of the numerous features and lookouts around the lake will be much less than if these places are pointed out in the careful manner which I have suggested, and explained from the Sinnot Memorial or a similar locality. There should be no misunderstanding regarding my view that the problem laid out and the task present fundamental difficulties, but these difficulties are inherent in the case and I do not now know of a method which would bring better results.

With reference to the actual physical characters of the modification of the station as you have suggested them, I am sure that you will not misunderstand me if I say that there are several inherent difficulties in the plan of having two terraces, one uncovered and relatively narrow and the other of comparable depth and only about eighteen inches above the lower or front terrace. The first point is that the depth of the two terraces combined will be such that from the larger part of the covered terrace at the rear the lake immediately in front of the station will not be visible. I believe that it is more important to have a large front terrace with a good parapet which will permit visitors to come close to the edge in order to have a good view of the lake from a point as near to the foot of the cliff as possible. This point was considered with great care over at least two years at Grand Canyon, and it was the unanimous opinion of those studying the problem that we ought not to have more than twenty-four or twenty-five feet depth in the actual observation terrace.

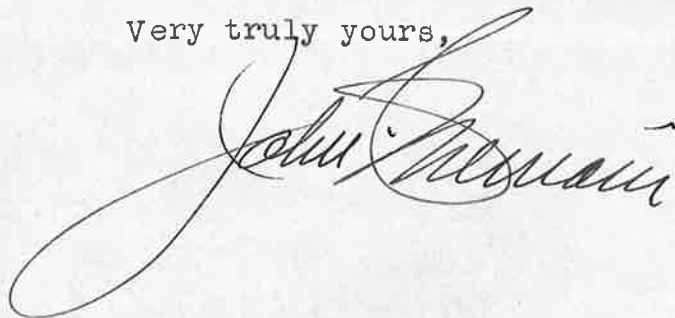
A second point relative to the physical situation is that with the two terraces as suggested, as I understand the drawing, the place as a whole would be relatively much exposed to the wind and weather. The idea of inclosing Yavapai Point was borne in upon me first by the workmen engaged in construction of the building, who complained of the wind and chilliness of operation at that place. In discussing this particular question at Crater Lake I gathered that the conditions are if anything more unfavorable there than at Grand Canyon. This leads me to the view that maximum care should be used to inclose the station in

such manner that those who wish could remain for such period as they desire in reasonable comfort and not be driven away by physical conditions unfavorable to careful study and discussion. The conditions would, I believe, be also relatively unfavorable to the kind of talks and discussion which are so important at such localities.

I am sure that you will not misunderstand my presenting these statements with such vigor, but they are all points which have been worked over in the course of the past four years with reference to this particular park and the scheme as a whole. I believe that the conclusions are sound. To carry them out means a continuing interest, perhaps, on my part in order to find someone competent to do the large work required at this place in way of development and utilization, as also to secure development of adequate literature and to secure funds for the moving pictures and other types of material in the exhibit room. Although I am strongly of the opinion that the amount of material to be used for exhibit should be centered upon a small group of things and in general be much less elaborate than that required at Grand Canyon, I believe that the work should be extremely well done. I am hopeful that together we can work out details so that development of the broader scheme can be carried out in such manner as to realize all of the elements which we have both had in mind relative to utilization of the very extraordinary opportunity at Crater Lake.

With kindest personal regards, believe me

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John S. Newman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John S. Newman".

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Pasadena, California,  
September 18, 1930.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I appreciated greatly your note from Mount Rainier relative to the situation at Crater Lake. Following receipt of your note I worked over the whole matter with care and had opportunity within a few days after receipt of your letter to discuss the matter with Mr. Sager. I wrote to you a letter which was rather hurriedly constructed, and I have not had opportunity since that time to go over it with more care. I am inclosing the letter with this note as a partial expression of my view.

On the whole it seemed to me that it would be desirable to carry out the larger plan which we have had in view, namely, to make the station at Victor Rock an initiating point for educational work with the expectation that the visitors would be stimulated to go out to the many points of interest around the lake and to interpret each of the features in the light of the general view of the lake region as obtained from the Victor Rock lookout.

I would like to talk the whole matter over with you when opportunity offers. I feel quite sure that if we could discuss the matter together we would, as always, be in complete agreement as to details.

I am leaving here tomorrow for Grand Canyon, where I believe that practically all of the material, apparatus, and leaflets, and so forth, will be available for initiating the enterprise as we have visualized it. I plan to write you from Grand Canyon regarding the status of the matter. I know that you have had a profitable journey and trust that you have not found the work too heavy or tiresome for the relatively short period in which it has been necessary to cover the field which you have examined. I am hoping to have opportunity to see you soon after our return to the east.

With my good wishes to you and to your family, in which Mrs. Merriam joins me, I am

Very truly yours,





September 25, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Merriam:

We have completed the circuit, having traveled nearly 11,000 miles in the car and about 400 in the saddle. It has been a wonderful experience for all of us.

We visited ten Parks, and I shall prepare a report as soon as possible. The summer has probably done more good in getting acquainted with the situation in several of the Parks that I had not visited, and acquainted with the personnel. It has probably been as profitable to my son as to me and may prove to be a very valuable experience to him as he goes on in his work with Dr. Bryant. He will report in Washington next Monday.

I have read your very good letter regarding the Sinnott Memorial. I thought I specified that there was no need of your writing explaining what your decision finally was. I can appreciate that you had thought the whole problem through very carefully, and I am sure that if we could have talked it over together on the site we would have come to a complete agreement. We have the same objectives, and my suggestions came because I feared that the platform space, or the outdoor observation space was too small at Victor Point. However, I hope the project will work out in every way satisfactorily. In my report I am going to make a few suggestions as to the outlook points around the rim which appeal to me.

I am enclosing two letters which I wish you would read. If you wish Count Elia to be invited to accept membership on the Board I shall be very glad to extend the invitation. I do not see quite how he would be of much service to us, but there may be some reason why we should recognize this offer. Kindly return the correspondence with your reply. I shall probably want to write to Mr. Guggenheim as soon as we have reached a decision in this matter.

Our University work is opening up today, and on Monday I leave for a three weeks camping trip with a group of our graduate students in geography. Soon after the field period is over I hope some plan will bring me to Washington so that we can have a good conference and visit.

Cordially yours

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

1

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 18, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
c/o Mr. Duncan McDuffie,  
2101 Shattuck Avenue,  
Berkeley, California.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

Merely a note to say that, having just learned from Yard that you are to be in Berkeley at the McDuffies' and having on my mind certain matters relating to National Parks Association, it seemed worth while to forward this line to you while you are with Mr. McDuffie and perhaps discussing such matters.

Since returning to Washington I have followed up the plan for development of National Parks Association in such manner as to give it such strong backing that it would be sure to stand on its own feet and carry its responsibility without dependence upon any individual or even any small group. The idea that the Board of National Parks Association should consist largely of representatives of great organizations would mean that the Association in considerable measure represents these activities and their interests.

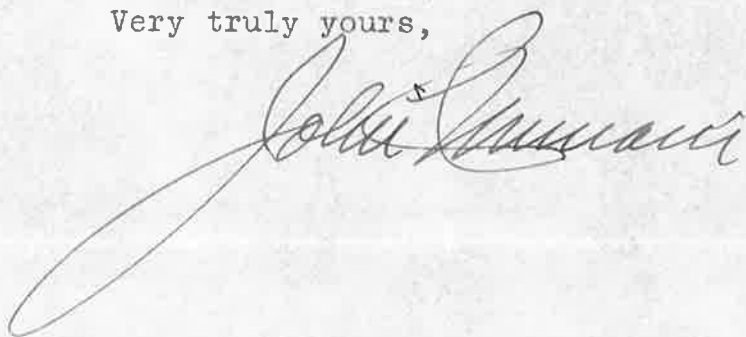
In the past few days I have been following up the work done to secure representation and find that a relatively large number of organizations have appointed or are arranging to appoint their representatives. I have just talked to Dr. Bowman, of the American Geographical Society, and find that Dr. Bowman is willing to serve and that he will probably be appointed within a few days by his Board. The Archaeological Institute of America is also appointing a representative; the American Forestry Association has just appointed George D. Pratt; the Research Council has just appointed Vernon Kellogg; and the American Association for the Advancement of Science has just appointed me, except that I have asked to have Otis Caldwell, of Teachers College, Columbia University, appointed in my place, as he is much interested in this problem.

With support of the principal scientific and other organizations interested in parks there will, I am sure, be realization of backing and responsibility such as will give power to any effort that may be put forward to secure funds for any specific purpose.

I have pointed out to Mr. Yard that we must have both specific purpose and the backing of strong interests if real progress is to be made. As indicated at the outset, I do not feel that responsibility for gathering funds should be placed upon your shoulders. I am sure, however, that no matter where the responsibility rests there must be a foundation such as we are now building for future activities of the Parks Association. I am much gratified that the work is proceeding satisfactorily. At the next meeting I feel sure that we shall have the beginning of a new epoch in the Association.

With all good wishes to you, believe me

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John S. Munroe". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John S. Munroe".

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

September 30, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I appreciate your letter of September twenty-fifth, received on my return from the west this morning. I am hoping most sincerely to have opportunity to see you before long for conference on many questions on which we have been working together.

I stopped at the Grand Canyon and saw our program realized almost to the last detail. The final touches on the general program will be worked out in the course of the next week or two, after which the plan must work out under guidance of the new Educational Division of National Park Service.

The Grand Canyon plan as I see it in beginning operation is very different from any of the steps which have been worked out up to this point. I believe that it is an important educational conception and that it fits well to the educational program, and especially to the opportunities at the Grand Canyon. I shall be sending you before long some of the printed material which we have developed in this connection.

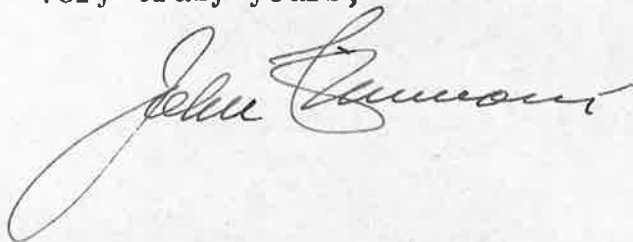
Regarding the suggestion of Count Elia regarding membership on the board for exploration of the upper atmosphere, I do not know Count Elia's work well enough to make suggestion at this moment. I shall inquire of the Italian Embassy and also of some of the students of the rocket problem to see whether Count Elia could be of assistance. I am quite sure that Mr. Fleming or some of the members of our staff can tell us. I will let you know as soon as I have definite information.

We have had an interesting journey east, including a visit to Gypsum Cave, Nevada, where I saw the sloth remains apparently associated with those of human beings. My stop at the Grand Canyon was followed by a visit to northern New Mexico, where our excavations are under way in the Pueblo and Basket Maker stages of occupation.

I trust that you and your family are all well and I am looking forward to seeing you soon.

With all good wishes, believe me

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Linn". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John C. Linn".

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 3, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I had on the end of my tongue several times Saturday a statement relative to a recent conference with Colonel Lindbergh regarding the Goddard rocket program. Lindbergh lunched with me recently and we discussed the subject in general terms.

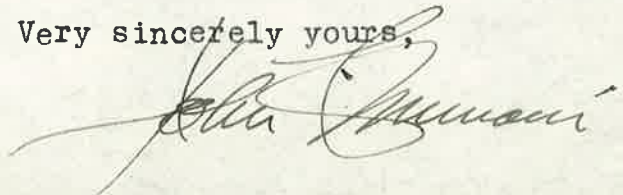
Both Colonel Lindbergh and I thought it desirable to have a meeting of the Advisory Committee as early as this can be brought about, but we felt that it would be unwise to make this suggestion until after Dr. Goddard has had opportunity to carry forward the initial stages of his work on rocket propulsion. Unless a rocket can fly to the upper atmosphere, there is no necessity of discussing correlated researches. We believe, however, that it would be desirable to hold a meeting sometime this winter whenever it is convenient for Dr. Goddard.

In the meantime, I have been working out plans by which our staff of the Carnegie Institution of Washington can develop such correlated apparatus as may be desirable, with expectation that when the rocket once flies to great heights it will be important to have the apparatus for scientific studies as early as possible.

I assume that this program would fit in with your ideas as we have discussed the subject, and the Committee will be guided by any suggestions you may have as to what may seem the most appropriate time or arrangements for calling together the Advisory Committee.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,



CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 3, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

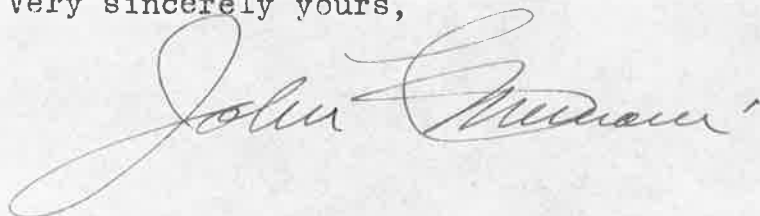
My dear Dr. Atwood:

As it will be several days before I shall be able to come back to completion of the corrected copy of the guide for Yavapai Station, there would be time to receive any suggestions which you might care to make in the form or wording of the statement. As you have a copy of this pamphlet I would appreciate it greatly if you could look this over and mark on it any points which it seems to you desirable to consider at this stage. If the copy could be forwarded to me so that I could have it on Saturday morning, this would be in time for use.

I was greatly pleased to have opportunity to go over the whole story of the Yavapai project with you on Saturday.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John G. Mearns". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Very sincerely yours,".

November 7, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
The Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Merriam:

This letter will just refer to the enclosed pamphlet. You will hear very soon in reply to several other matters in which we are both deeply interested.

I have made several pencil notes on the margins. Many of them are almost insignificant. You will probably be impressed with the fact that I have appeared to give more attention to physiographic questions, but I have read the other parts very carefully, and I simply cannot make any useful comments on the bulk of this material. It runs along very clearly; in fact I think it is exceedingly well put for the visitors to the Canyon.

The one chapter which I miss, the one which I think should be developed, and which I trust may some day be represented on the parapet and in the exhibit room, pertains to the great story of erosion which preceded the cutting of the present Canyon, and then the story of the actual cutting, and an analysis of the physiographic features of the Canyon walls.

The N.E.-S.W. structure section in the foreground of a block drawing, in which the surface gives a perspective view of the great broken plateau of the Colorado River, and another structure from north to south, which we have talked about several times as the front of a block with perspective sketch on the surface of that block, would broaden the point of view of those who were looking at the Canyon and visiting various points of interest in the plateau region. I would like to bring out very vividly the story of that great erosion cycle which immediately preceded the cutting of the Grand Canyon; the story of uplift, and bending, and breaking of the plateau which I believe accompanied the downward cutting by the Colorado River. Then I should like to see some analysis of the features in the Canyon walls from the standpoint of weathering and physiographic processes. The overhanging ledges, the rock pillars along the rim, the jointing, the fracturing, the cliffs and the slopes, the alcoves, and such features which many visitors



Dr. Merriam

- 2 -

November 7, 1930

look at and wonder about, and which other visitors should have their attention called to if they are to appreciate some of the nice points in the sculpturing of this great gorge. I would like to bring out somewhat the processes of weathering which have been so important in the widening of the Canyon. We emphasize the stream work which has been chiefly effective in deepening the gorge. Many wonder at the tremendous width of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, and perhaps we could help to answer that question also.

I hope this reaches you in time to be of some service, at least to be suggestive to you, and I have the most sincere hope that as the next few years pass I can be of direct and immediate help in seeing that so wonderful an ideal for educational work in the National Parks is carried out successfully and effectively.

As I think over that problem the prospect of getting Mr. Hines from California seems to me to be the most significant step after the exhibits have been completed. I hope we will be able to have him there next summer, even if he does not accept a permanent position in the Park Service.

Cordially yours

enclosure

TELEGRAM

Sent November 7, 1930  
At 10:45 A.M.

To: Dr. Merriam

CANYON PAMPHLET IN THE MAILS. SPECIAL DELIVERY.

(Signed) W.W. Atwood

November 12, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Merriam:

This is in reply to your very kind letter of November 3rd relative to a meeting of the Advisory Committee with Dr. Goddard. I most heartily approve of such a meeting, and I shall be happy to assist the Committee in any way that I can in making preliminary arrangements. Dr. Goddard has written once or twice to me, but rather briefly. I understand his laboratory has been equipped and that he is hard at work on his great project. He has always had the habit of keeping everything very quiet, but I want him now to be asked to make full reports to our Advisory Committee from time to time, of his various experiments and a full analysis of each problem which he is facing.

I look forward to his receiving many helpful suggestions from members of that group, and I think it will be an inspiration to him to meet with them occasionally. I think it will also be quite a spur to him if he can anticipate the holding of such a meeting. I am writing to Dr. Goddard, asking him when it will be most desirable and convenient for him to attend such a meeting.

I expect the first meeting had better be held in Washington.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Very sincerely yours

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 12, 1930.

Dr. W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I appreciate your letter of November seventh and the notes which you have made on the Yavapai guidebook. I agree to all of the points which you have made and especially the desirability of having a fuller statement regarding physiographic aspects of the Grand Canyon problem.

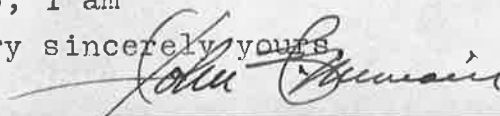
There will of necessity be continuous modification of the program as it is set up, and in the course of this development the physiographic features should take a more prominent place. In furtherance of this work I am hoping to have your cooperation, and I shall also talk concerning the matter with your son.

What you say about analysis of the features of the Canyon wall is also important. This verges on the general problem of architecture, both as regards architecture of the earth and the artistic aspect of architecture as represented in the Canyon walls. Some of these questions represent real problems which I believe must be made the subject of extremely careful study. At the present moment consideration of these features is practically outside the realm of operation of the naturalist in the parks. I doubt whether use of this material can be advanced much until some clear discussion of it has been worked out by one like yourself interested in both the scientific and the aesthetic aspects of the problem.

I agree with you with reference to the desirability of securing Dr. Hinds, or someone like him, for leadership at the Grand Canyon and in some of the other parks. I have already passed on your idea to Dr. Bryant as reinforcement of the statement which I made regarding this matter last summer.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,



*Copy to Dr. H. C. Bryant  
to be inserted in the letter of this project*

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 13, 1930.

Dr. Harold C. Bryant,  
National Park Service,  
Interior Building,  
Washington, D.C.

My dear Dr. Bryant:

As you are in a very real sense the official representative of education in National Parks, and as you have also been in the most real manner one of the promoters of the project at Yavapai Point, you will be interested in the following letter which I received this morning from a visitor at Grand Canyon. As you might sometime wish to quote this statement in an unofficial way, I am leaving off the salutation and the signature, but for your own information you may have them at any time.

"I have had two visits at the museum at Yavapai Point and I am so enthusiastic about it that I cannot resist sending you a word of appreciation. For the Ranger there tells me that it is your pet project.

"It is certainly most marvelously planned, so that the simplest person can understand it. At last I have a rudimentary but correct understanding of the Canyon's formation.

"You can't think how people enjoy it, and how they go back and back, and circulate between the binoculars and the museum.

"I think I ought to thank you for ever so many people, for arranging this for us all. The Ranger, too, gives a very good talk, and is so proud of his show."

Very sincerely yours,



CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 14, 1930.

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

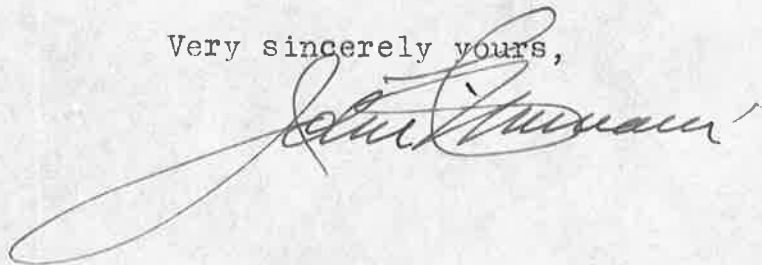
My dear Dr. Atwood:

With reference to your kind letter of November twelfth, just received, may I say that I have had some correspondence with Dr. Goddard recently relative to data which will be essential in preparation of correlated equipment for studies on various aspects of physics which it will be possible to carry out if the rocket reaches an elevation of 25 to 30 miles. These letters indicate that Dr. Goddard is making progress, and would also give evidence of our desire to keep pace so far as possible with these investigations. The information forwarded by Dr. Goddard I have transmitted to our Department of Terrestrial Magnetism for preliminary studies.

In all probability it will be easiest to hold the meeting sometime in the winter, when it might be that conditions would be not the most favorable for experimentation at Dr. Goddard's laboratory in New Mexico.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John D. Vanaman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Very sincerely yours,".

November 15, 1930.

MEMBERS OF THE EDUCATIONAL ADVISORY  
BOARD TO NATIONAL PARK SERVICE:

Gentlemen:

At the last meeting of the Educational Advisory Board to National Park Service on May 9, 1930, a number of questions under discussion were held over for report and discussion at a later meeting. Among these matters are questions relating to publications and to possibility of endowment for educational work in National Parks.

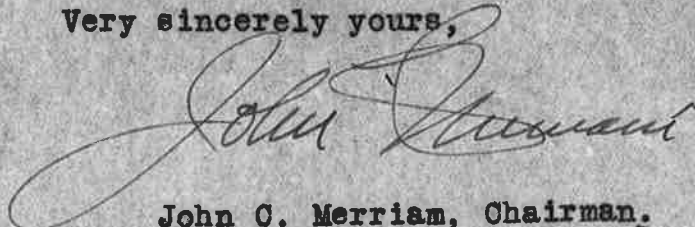
The committees concerned with publication and endowment have given consideration to these questions and will be ready to report at the next meeting. Other matters as mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting, relating to general policies, were held over for a meeting this fall.

It has been found most convenient with reference to work of the year to hold meetings in the latter half of November or the early part of December. It is therefore suggested that for 1930 a meeting be held on December sixth, eighth, or ninth. It would be appreciated if members of the Board could forward suggestion as to dates most convenient in that period.

Although funds are not available for travel expenses of the Board, it seems important to hold the meeting in Washington and in touch with the office of National Park Service.

As it will not be possible for me to be present at the next meeting of the Board, may I ask if members of the Board will communicate their desires relative to date of meeting to Dr. Harold C. Bryant, National Park Service, Interior Building, Washington, D.C. Notice will be forwarded to the members regarding the time most acceptable.

Very sincerely yours,



John C. Merriam, Chairman.

*Further memoranda regarding matters to be considered at the next meeting of the Board will be forwarded to each member by Director Colby.*

November 21, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
The Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Merriam:

I have had a score of carbon copy communications from Mr. Yard, which have kept me more or less posted as to the plans for our meeting on December 5th, and I have had your notice of the meeting of the National Park Board. I am sorry you are not going to be present, but if they put it on December 6th I shall remain over for that day.

I am counting on you for a great deal of help at the meeting on the 5th. As presiding officer I want to just pave the way for smooth conduct of the business, and for the establishment of the highest of ideals for our organization. I hope also that we may adopt a somewhat definite program of constructive work, and if possible emphasize a few concrete objectives for this year's program.

I know you will bring before us a fine statement of our objectives, and perhaps some indication as to just where we had best apply our efforts during the coming year. If you were not going to do this I know it would be left for me to do, but I cannot do it very well from the chair. I want you to do it. Then I want to help you in every way that I can. As I think over the purposes of our organization certain objectives stand out conspicuously.

First, I believe we should work for the completion of our National Park system. A survey of the proposed sites suitable for additions to the National Parks, or national monuments, under the administrative control of the National Park Service is, I believe, important. Perhaps there are certain areas that we should work for at once in an effort to see that they are added to the National Parks.

Second, I think it is highly important that as a body of scientific men and educators we should stand behind and encourage, as far as we can, the field science service in the National Parks. The possibilities there appeal to me more and more strongly each year, but I appreciate that the conduct of high grade instructional work in the Parks is not a simple matter.

November 21, 1930

The easiest thing will be to give popular, elementary nature study talks. If the new so-called educational branch of the National Park Service cannot do more than offer elementary nature study talks, or popular lectures and entertainments in the Parks our elaborate and expensive organization, which we recommended, will not be justified.

Third, there will always remain for this Association the task of developing an intelligent public sympathy toward the National Parks. Perhaps our most important function may be that of endorsing all that is good in the National Park Service, and helping to develop throughout the nation a strong supporting organization of citizens, so that the National Parks will be invulnerable from any attack which might come from private or local interests. We must recognize that it is a national service that we are performing, and that the interests of local communities and of individuals cannot outweigh in importance the services to the public. Individual rights must, of course, be recognized, but selfish desires or purely local ambitions must not guide the policy of a national welfare organization.

I am not going into any details. I have boiled down into three statements what seems to me to be the most important objectives for our association. I am delighted with the prospect of the new Board of Trustees and the support which is coming from various organizations that we have invited to join with us. More than anything else I am looking forward on the 5th of December to a good visit with you.

With kindest personal regards, I am

Sincerely yours



CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

November 24, 1930.

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I am glad to have your letter of November twenty-first regarding program for the meeting of the National Parks Association.

I shall be present at the December fifth meeting prepared to discuss the major questions of organization and objectives. You know, of course, my view that following clear definition of a strong organization we should set up certain plans for work including objectives and specific questions which should be taken up in the immediate future.

I have recently been writing certain memoranda relative to questions which concern activities of National Park Service, as also opportunities for service through National Parks Association. One of these memoranda relates to development of the National Park system. I shall send you a copy of this statement in the near future, but it may be several days before I am able to edit it sufficiently to make it available for discussion. *as*  
Our Educational Committee and Advisory Board have already acted with reference to development of the park system, I feel that this problem should be given extremely careful study. Up to the present moment, additions to the park system have developed through many kinds of procedure and with little relation to consideration of the function of the system and the way in which it should operate. I believe that one of the most important functions of the Advisory Board lies in careful examination of all projects relating to addition to the park system. It is much easier to consider great questions of use and function before additions are made than it is to make adjustment with respect to additions which have been made without reference to specific function.

As a second memorandum I have been writing something regarding discussion of the general educational program as it is operating in the National Parks. Support of National Park Service ~~in~~ this program might be extremely helpful in developing the educational plans along the best possible lines and bring support of the whole people. There should, I believe, be a frank and free examination of the program as it is developed. If there are ways in which the program can be improved, we would all be delighted to know of suggestions. If there are any aspects of the work which do not come up to the highest levels, we all of course wish to see the work bettered.

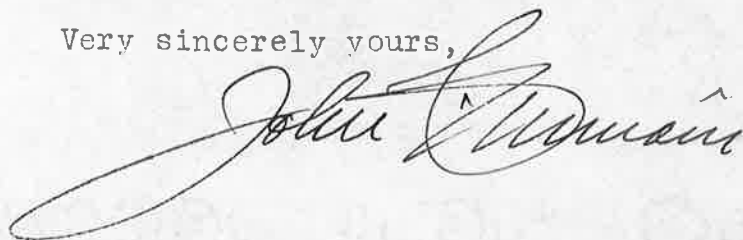
I shall write you again regarding these questions before the date of the December fifth meeting so that we shall have a clear understanding of what may come up and how the program can best be handled.

I hear many comments on the new organization of National Park Association and without exception they are ~~all~~ favorable.

In accordance with my plan discussed with you last summer, I have tendered my resignation as chairman and member of the Park Service Advisory Board. The resignation was accepted a few days ago by Secretary Wilbur. For the present I have withheld resignation from the Educational Committee, as I have the hope that some additional funds may be obtained for study of some special problems under the Educational Committee. I would be interested in helping to develop certain further studies of special problems and clearing up some of the questions which have been under consideration. Feeling that my resignation might interfere with this development, I have allowed my membership to stand—at any rate for the present.

I am looking forward with pleasure to seeing you on December fifth.

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John C. Roman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John C. Roman".

W.W.Atwood

-3-

Nov.24/30

P.S. I have recently had a long talk with Colonel Lindbergh regarding the rocket program. There is much interest on part of Colonel Lindbergh in this project and we both feel that the work is proceeding on a satisfactory basis. It seems to me best not to hold a meeting of the committee until a little later, when Dr. Goddard's mechanical work is farther advanced.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 3, 1930.

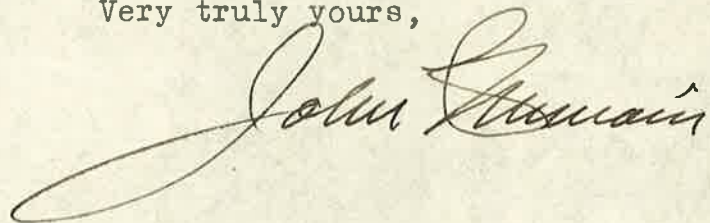
President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

Just a note to say that, although I promised to send you a memorandum regarding National Parks Association, the problem under discussion has been stated in several forms and it seems best to defer putting down what I might wish to use until after reviewing a number of the other statements made. This means that I will hand to you here on the morning of the fifth the material which I had hoped to use at the meeting that afternoon.

Looking forward with pleasure to seeing you Friday morning, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Stewart". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John Stewart".

December 20, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
The Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Merriam:

I am enclosing a copy of a telegram which I received from Mr. Albright and the reply which I sent to him.

The situation is not a pleasant one for me to deal with. I know you are doing all you can, and I somehow feel more confidence with you in Washington, and with your valuable contacts, than in anything else associated with the situation at present.

I am, moreover, very much distressed about Mr. Yard's condition. I have had a long letter from Ward, in which he rehearses some of the history of Mr. Yard's work for the Association, and in which he emphasizes the dangerously serious condition of Mr. Yard. He insists that he must be relieved of the financial strain under which he has been working for the last few years. If we fail to do this he believes that we will ruin Yard's usefulness as a man. He virtually implies in his letter that we will kill him. He feels that Yard is on the verge of another nervous breakdown.

A long letter from Mr. Yard came in yesterday. It is hand written, and shows that he is in a very unfortunately nervous state of mind. There are clauses in it which show that he is almost desperate. I have written to Hodgson, but I confess I do not feel very much confidence in what Mr. Hodgson will do in this emergency. I am hoping that at least a few thousand dollars will come in from membership dues to tide the organization along until a group of us can get together again and plan some way to meet the emergency which Mr. Yard is evidently facing in the conduct of his office.

Dr. Merriam

- 2 -

December 20, 1930

I cannot get away from Worcester until after the first of January very well, but I could attend a meeting in Washington or New York soon after the first of the year.

With kindest personal regards, and with the most sincere desire to cooperate with you, I am

Cordially yours

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 23, 1930.

President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

I appreciate your letter of December twentieth with copies of Albright's telegram to you under date of December nineteenth and your reply of the same date.

I regret exceedingly the development of a situation such as is indicated by Mr. Albright's telegram. If Mr. Albright would attempt to secure unequivocal data as to the situation, present difficulties would not have arisen. The position of the American Forestry Association relative to the Everglades bill is entirely on its own right and without reference to other organizations.

Mr. Yard is not opposing the Everglades project. He is asking that consideration be given to the problem on its merits and with reference to the major values of this opportunity. In the wide group of people with whom I am in contact, and who discuss such problems as the Everglades proposal freely, I find practically no difference of opinion. I learn of much regret that National Park Service has not seen fit to give the kind of consideration to the problem which would be most advantageous.

I am much interested in your comment relative to Ward's statement concerning Mr. Yard. Ward is right concerning the strain under which Yard lives. But this is a strange world, in which psychological attitude and conditions of well-being are intertwined in an interesting way. I was informed yesterday that Mr. Albright is in bed and much disturbed over the whole situation; Mr. Yard is apparently rapidly regaining his health and is extremely vivacious.

I had a fine visit with your son on Saturday evening. I am afraid he may feel that I am very brutal, and outspoken relative to park objectives. I am sure he realizes that I am much interested in him and in his work, and that my objective is to build and not to destroy.

I know that you are having a busy week and shall try to see that not too much comes to you from Washington which would represent a disturbing element during your sessions with the geographers.

With all good wishes to you and to your family for the holiday season, I am

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Steward". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing "Very truly yours,".



CARNEGIE INSTITUTION OF WASHINGTON  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 22, 1930.

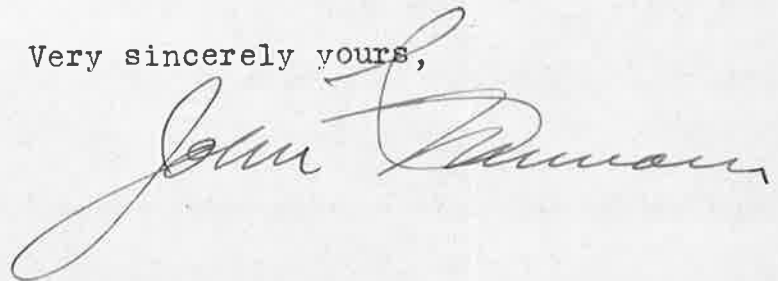
President W. W. Atwood,  
Clark University,  
Worcester, Massachusetts.

My dear Dr. Atwood:

Just a note to say that in looking over plans for the next two months it has seemed to me wise to look forward to a meeting of the Advisory Committee on the Rocket Project sometime late in February or early in March. Would it be convenient for you to meet with the Advisory Committee sometime in that period? We would, I assume, have opportunity to discuss the details of the meeting when we are together in Gainesville about the middle of February.

With all good wishes, I am

Very sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John L. Munson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John L. Munson".

December 31, 1930

Dr. John C. Merriam, President  
The Carnegie Institution of Washington  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Dr. Merriam:

I know I shall enjoy meeting with the Advisory Committee on the Rocket Project, and it will be a very interesting conference for me also. This is one of the most fascinating problems that we are identified with, and I want to keep in touch with it and help it in every way that I can.

I shall probably motor to Florida, and following the close of the Institute I expect to go to the southern end of the state and see that wonderful place that so many people are interested in. On my return I could plan to stop in Washington for a meeting. That would be somewhere about the 18th to 20th of February. I wonder if that would prove to be convenient for others. It is rather selfish of me to suggest those dates, but you see it would mean one less journey from Worcester to Washington. However, if it had better be later, even into March, I shall plan to be with you.

Our meetings are proceeding very happily indeed. There is a large attendance, we have had some excellent papers, and I feel that real progress is being made in this field of scientific work.

Cordially yours