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December 2, 1992

Professor Mary Sies
Advanced Studies Office
Winterthur Museum and Gardens
Winterthur, Delaware 19735

Dear Mary,

Thank you for your letters and comments, sent November 23, 1992. And thank you for your margin comments on the second draft -- unlike my first mailing, it arrived on time and in good shape.

Introduction Based on your comments, it appears very necessary to achieve agreement on the introduction, and the overall purpose and direction of the dissertation. I am therefore enclosing, for your review and comment, a revised introduction. In this revised introduction I have addressed your comments on specificity, periodization, methodology and others. I look forward to hearing your comments.

Use of HABS Material What HABS did for the White House was to produce high quality measured drawings and photographs of the building, many of which are now restricted by the Secret Service. I intend to use a small number of these drawings as illustrations to demonstrate what was probably the finest stone work undertaken in the United States in the eighteenth century. At what time I had hopes of matching mason marks to pay rolls. This has not been possible to date due to lack of access to masonic records. I have not captioned the illustrations yet but when I do I think they will add some depth to the written material.

Use of Original Material in Text I very much hear what you are saying about using original material in the text. The reason that I do is that it is so very unusual to find original records of building workers from the eighteenth and early nineteenth century that I hate to lose it and would like to include it in some form in the dissertation for future researchers. I would like to suggest moving most of that material to footnotes. It would make some lengthy footnotes but wouldn't lose the material and make the text more accessible.

Review of Scholarly Literature I will do this but I am not very hopeful. Yesterday, for example, I reviewed the 25 year index of Technology and Culture and found nothing that I wasn't aware of. Some of the colonialists have some material of relevance, such as Carl Lounsbury, and I will include some of his works. I'll also review the recent issues of Labor History. But generally I think my subject is too late for the colonialists, not technological enough for the technologists and not organization enough for the labor historians.

I look forward to your comments on the introduction.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Kapsch