

Titel: BREV TIL: Francis James Whitfield FRA: Louis Hjelmslev (1961-01-18)

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Anvendt udgave: Louis Hjelmslev og hans kreds

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the 18th of January 1961

Professor Francis J. Whitfield
Berkeley 4,
California, U.S.A.

Dear Frank,

First and foremost I should like to thank you and Celina for your magnificent hospitality and for everything you did for me during my stay in Berkeley. I should not fail to do this before my departure to Texas which is going to take place in a few days. After my return from California I had a short attack of flu and then had to leave for England and France for about a month. I had the bad luck to be knocked down by a motor bike in Strasbourg two days before I left, and immediately after my return home I had a new attack of bronchitis with fever. I have recovered now to some extent, but this is the reason why you have not yet heard from me. Since I shall not be back in Copenhagen till the end of March I feel very much that I ought to write to you now. First of all thank you very much indeed for the splendid time I passed in Berkeley. I am really most grateful to you and to Celina as well as to Dason for all the trouble you were taking to make everything comfortable for me and to make me enjoy my stay at Berkeley which, thanks to your hospitality, I extended for a longer period than was foreseen. I recall now also the days at Stanford University and I am aware of the fact that it was to a large extent owing to your initiative that I was invited to the member of that congress. I was very happy to be given the opportunity of taking the floor on that occasion, but I must say that I enjoyed your paper very much and that I admired it. I think it was a very good contribution, considering that this was an international congress and not only an American manifestation; I think that you will understand what I mean.

Next came the wonderful days at Berkeley, and besides the social events and the good time we were spending together I appreciated very highly our collaboration on the second edition of my Prolegomena to a Theory of Language.

I say thank you now for the letters and copies you have been sending me on that subject. I should like to tell you some facts that might interest you.

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As I told you in Berkeley I came to see the photocopy of the Prolegomena to a Theory of Language during a short visit to my office in Copenhagen by Mr. Igman, and of course it was entirely my fault that at the time I did not pay much attention to this. Later I met Mr. Igman again in London and in Copenhagen, and he was kind enough to lend me a copy of this microfilm production which I have now given back to him. Please find enclosed a copy of the title on cover and what is inside on the half title. The rest of it just a photographic reproduction of the text of the first edition. Please find enclosed also two items which have been given to me by Mr. Igman, a letter of Mr. Voegelin of March the 21st and an acknowledgement of order of the 14th of April, 1960. This may throw some light upon the letter from Sebeck of October the 27th, 1960, where he writes: "I finally got to see Whitfield a few days ago, and we spoke about your book. He told me about the "pirated" edition, which I have not, myself, ever seen; no one seems to know who is responsible for the edition which you saw. On the other hand, Frank says that arrangements are being completed for an "authorized" version with a reputable publisher -- but he will have written to you about the details."

Perhaps the idea would be that we both order a copy of this "pirated" edition; I am going to do so, not for myself, but for my institute, and you may do the same thing if you think so, but I just may point out to you that your note to Mt. Thompson Webb, Jr., Wisconsin, of October the 20th, 1960, seems absolutely without real foundation.

Without any regard to this, I shall be very happy if the Prolegomena to a Theory of Language, second edition or reprint, be issued by the University of Wisconsin Press or by any other editors you would like to suggest. I do not really see that the so-called "pirated" edition has anything to do with this; I as an author, and you as a translator of the book have not been informed about this photocopy, and the idea would be to act as if it did not exist; anyhow, since you and I have not authorized it and, according to Sebeck's letter, it has not been authorized by the Indiana Authorities, I do not see, as it is indicated on the half title of the photographic reproduction, that it should be an authorized reprint of the original edition.

Kind regards from us both to Celina and Damon and yourself, and looking forward to seeing you in Copenhagen next year

much love,
yours as ever,

Louis
Louis Hjelmslev