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Carney Gavin

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February 27, 1979

Senator Claiborne Pell
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C.

Dear Senator Pell,

Thank you for your kindness - and especially for the help of Mr. Thomas Hughes and Mr. Alexander Crarey. As NEH priorities shift, we are truly eager to adapt our work to what is determined as most appropriate for the nation.

However, as John Slocum can explain, the Museum's re-emergence from decades of underground neglect coincides with sudden recognition of current misconceptions about the ancient cultures of the Near East - so that our "bootstrap-lifting" efforts in education and research come at moment needful of our charter function "to promote sound knowledge of semitic languages and history."

Visions of wealth conjured by the name "Harvard" and "elitism" possibly implied by some of our seemingly esoteric subject matter may create a false impression - so we would be eager for you to visit us whenever you could. Meanwhile we shall keep your capable assistants informed as we try to share the sleuthwork into humanity's ancient roots in the most swiftly changing part of the glove.

Sincerely yours,

Carney Gavin
Curator