

1979

Letters (1979): Correspondence 178

Carney Gavin

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_42

Recommended Citation

Gavin, Carney, "Letters (1979): Correspondence 178" (1979). *Letters (1979)*. Paper 194.
http://digitalcommons.uri.edu/pell_neh_I_42/194

This Correspondence is brought to you for free and open access by the Education: National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, Subject Files I (1973-1996) at DigitalCommons@URI. It has been accepted for inclusion in Letters (1979) by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@URI. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@etal.uri.edu.

SEMITIC MUSEUM
HARVARD UNIVERSITY

ADC ✓ (Note of
CP ✓ explanation to)

6 DIVINITY AVENUE, ROOM 102

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02138

February 27, 1979

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

MAR 6 1979

Dear Senator Pell,

Thank you for your kindness - and especially for the help of Mr. Thomas Hughes and Mr. Alexander Craey. 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 globe.

Sincerely yours,

Carney Gavin
Curator