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COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK
*Department of Germanic
Languages*

January 17, 1933

The Senate
The University of London
London, England

Gentlemen:

It has come to my attention that Professor J. W. Eaton, of the University of Michigan, is to be considered for ~~the~~ Chair in German, ~~at the University of London~~. It is a pleasure to send you such information as I have concerning Professor Eaton's suitability for this position.

During the past seven years, I have known Professor Eaton, first as a member of the faculty of the University of Saskatchewan, and later at the University of Michigan. It was with pleasure that I supported his candidacy as Executive Head of the Department of German at Michigan, and I have learned through administrative officers there that his work has been entirely successful from their standpoint. As editor of the *Germanic Review*, a research publication devoted to the interests of Germanic philology and the history of German literature, it has been my duty to examine several articles submitted by Professor Eaton for publication in the *Review*. We have brought out three of these in the past four years, and have received evidence of appreciation from several of our readers. Professor Eaton's field of research, the early classical period of German literature, and especially the relation of German authors to Denmark, is one which has not heretofore been widely cultivated, and his findings are a real enrichment of our material in this direction. His work in the literary history of Germany has been done, it seems to me, with good method and in thoroughly scholarly fashion, and his presentation of the results is by no means devoid of stylistic attractions.

I should regret very much if he were to leave this country, since he is an active and useful member of the guild of German scholars here. Through various conferences and other personal contacts, I have learned to know something of his personality, and regard him as a man of personal charm and one whose influence upon younger scholars is likely to be very helpful.

Respectfully yours,

Robert Herndon Fife
Chairman, Department of Germanics.