

## Robert Taft general correspondence

### Section 15, Pages 421 - 450

Robert Taft (1894-1955) was a professor of chemistry, author, historian, and editor at the University of Kansas. The general correspondence letters of Mr. Taft consist of letters between various organizations and people.

Date: 1918-1955

Callnumber: Robert Taft Coll.#172, Box 1-2

KSHS Identifier: DaRT ID: 308670

Item Identifier: 308670

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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
ALBUQUERQUE

September 1, 1942

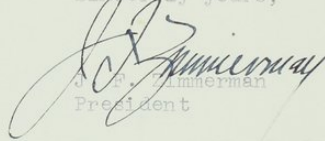
Dr. Robert Taft  
Professor of Chemistry  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

In reply to your letter of August 22, I regret to state that there is not at present a vacancy in the Department of Chemistry in the University of New Mexico in which you would be interested.

I shall be glad, however, to keep your letter on file for reference in the event of an opening in the near future.

Sincerely yours,

  
J. F. Zimmerman  
President

JFZ:CGW



ROLLINS COLLEGE  
WINTER PARK, FLORIDA  
HAMILTON HOLT, PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Summer Address:  
Woodstock, Conn.  
September 14, 1942

Mr. Robert Taft  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

My dear Mr. Taft:

I appreciate your writing me of  
your being available for service at Rollins  
College if necessary.

While there is no vacancy on our  
staff at present, I am, nevertheless, filing  
your letter for reference in case an emergency  
arises.

Let me thank you for the courtesy  
of your letter and the honor implied by your  
application.

Very sincerely yours,

*Hamilton Holt*

HH:pt





## Robert Taft general correspondence

KANSAS  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

OFFICERS  
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ROBERT C. RANKIN

October 22, 1942

Dr. Robert Taft  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

The Society recently purchased microfilms of some rare books and pamphlets--mostly western items within the period covered by the Wagner and Camp "Plains and Rockies" bibliography. I was reading one of the pamphlets this morning when your card arrived and it occurred to me that you might not know of these microfilm acquisitions. Nyle says he may have forgotten to mention it to you.

If you have not seen "A Trip to Pike's Peak and Notes By the Way," by C. M. Clark, M. D. (Chicago, 1861) I think you might be interested in the drawings used to illustrate the pamphlet. Presumably the author was also the artist. There are a number of illustrations, mostly of places, with such titles as: A Pilgrim; St. Joseph; Seneca; Marysville; Fort Kearney; Kearney City; Jack Monroe's Rancho; U. S. Mail Station; Lower Crossing; Rocky Mountain Sheep; Going to Gregory's; etc. According to the entry in Wagner, there are eighteen wood-cuts in all. He locates a number of copies of the pamphlet in private libraries. Our microfilm ~~copy~~ was made from E. De Golyer's privately owned copy. We are considering having photographs made of the Seneca and Marysville wood-cuts, and possibly others.

Thanks for the information on Porte Crayon. I've already ordered a copy of Life containing the Remington pictures.

Sincerely,

*Louise Barry.*



## The Harrisburger

Opposite the Beautiful Capitol Park

HARRISBURG  
PENNA.

Oct 26, 1942

Dear Taft -

Under separate cover I'm sending you  
a copy of a little magazine, Ciba Symposia,  
which you may find of interest.

Since Aug. 6 I've been in the Air  
Corps, learning to interpret aerial photographs.  
I'm afraid that I won't have much time to  
carry on historical studies - but I feel most  
fortunate to have found a place where I  
can put my experience to work in the war  
effort.

With all best wishes,

Beaumont Newhall.

(1st Lt., A.C.).



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"STOP AT RECOGNIZED HOTELS"





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KANSAS  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KIRKE MECHEM, SECRETARY  
TOPEKA

October 29, 1942

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
CHARLES M. CORRELL  
JOHN S. DAWSON  
T. M. LILLARD  
MILTON R. MCLEAN  
ROBERT C. RANKIN

Dr. Robert Taft  
Department of Chemistry  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I gave Louise your message. It so happens that we had started to ask other libraries for prints from the Clark book. Louise, you will recall, is editing Richardson letters on a trip he made in 1860 and we thought cuts of Seneca and Marysville for that time would make swell illustrations for the article.

We are most interested in pictures of the two Kansas towns and possibly St. Joseph, but we might like the whole set if they are not too expensive. I think there must be a dozen. Are you planning to bring them out in something of your own? Our interest for printing, of course, is in the two Kansas items, but we wouldn't want to spoil any of your plans. Don't hesitate to speak out should you have something definite in mind. If not, then we'll ask what it would cost to secure copies of these prints (on slick paper) from you. We'd rather patronize Kansans first!

Mother and son are doing nicely; in fact the mother is being treated so well in the hospital that she'd like to remain. She thinks she's on a picnic. And she might be right at that.

Best regards

*Nyle*

November 3, 1942

Mr. Leo MacDonough  
Toledo Museum of Art  
Toledo, Ohio

Dear Mr. MacDonough:

Thank you for your letter of October 29. I am glad that you like your copy of Photography and the American Scene and that you found the Smelling book (which has safely returned) of value.

I was interested in the Lincoln note, especially so, since it referred to a distant relative of mine. The information on the Perry monument has been added to my collection of notes for use in case a revision of my book ever becomes necessary.

Have you ever had any experience with Kodachrome copies of paintings? I would like to have a 3-1/2 x 4-1/4 Kodachrome of the Remington painting in the Toledo Museum if it is possible to secure it. If you could make it, would you be good enough to tell me what it would cost to have the work done.

Many thanks,

Robert Taft

RT/wac



KANSAS STATE COLLEGE  
OF AGRICULTURE AND APPLIED SCIENCE  
MANHATTAN

DEPARTMENT OF ENTOMOLOGY

Nov. 21, 1942.

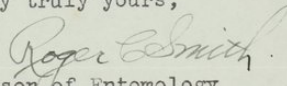
Dr. Robert Taft  
Dept. of Chemistry  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas.

Dear Doctor Taft:

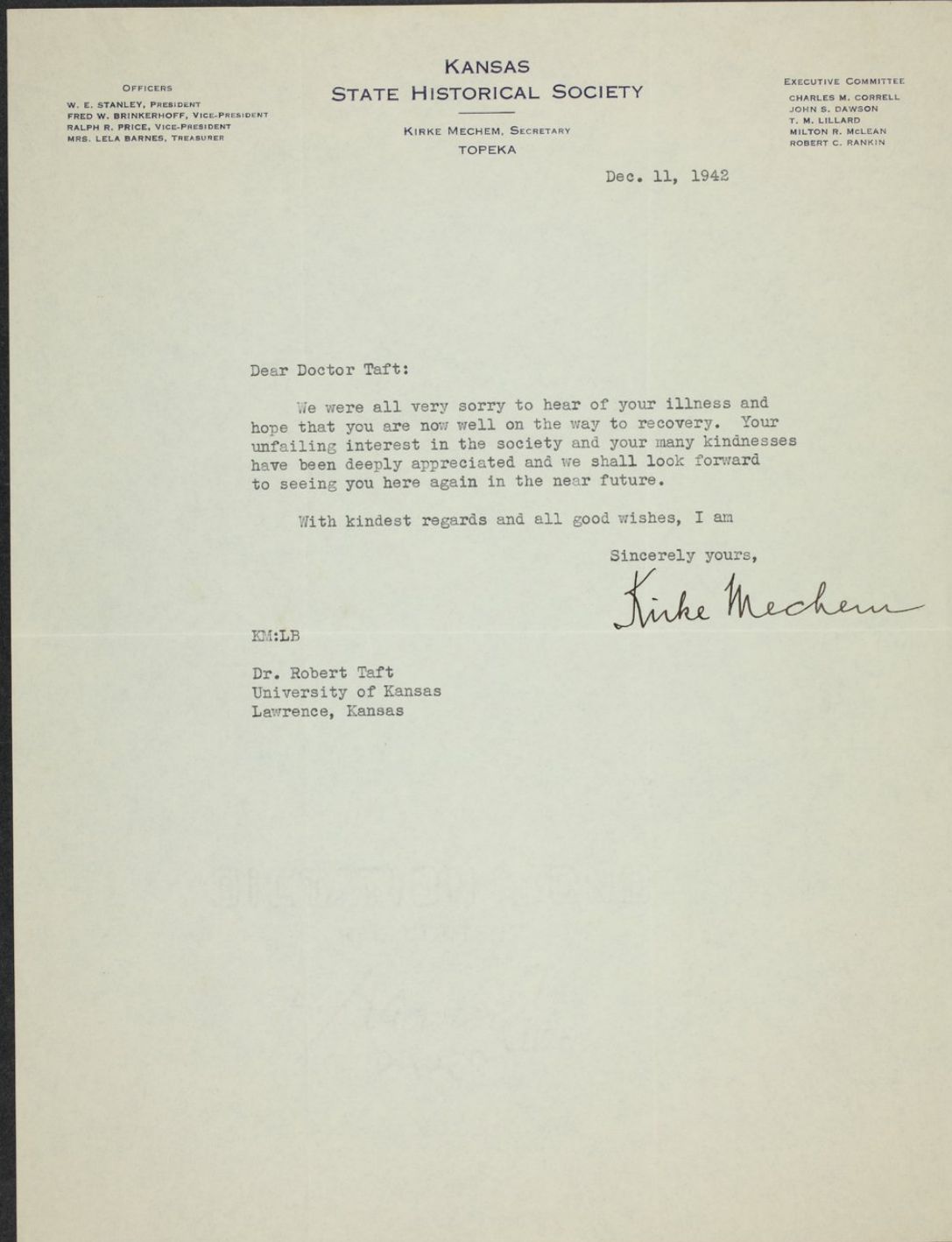
I have just heard through Doctor Wheeler that you are ill, and I hasten to wish you a speedy recovery. I have realized for some time that your splendid ability has resulted in too much responsibility in many lines of activity falling to your lot. I hope your burden has been eased and that you can take a period of real rest and relaxation. You can be assured that your many friends here are distressed at hearing of your illness, and hope it is a very brief and inconsequential one.

Very truly yours,

RCS-MS

  
Professor of Entomology





Professor



Feb. 26, 1943

Lieut. Beaumont Newhall, A. C.  
The Harrisburger,  
Harrisbury, Pa.

Dear Lieut. Newhall:

I am sorry that I have been so slow in acknowledging your letter of October 26th and the copy of Giba Symposia. I have been taking an enforced vacation for the past several months and have just returned to work. I am feeling fairly well again but, of course, have gotten considerably behind with my work and my correspondence. I am glad to have the issue of the Symposia. Thank you for sending it.

Do you know what became of the several photographs I loaned the Museum a year or so ago for the exhibit on the frontier? I heard once that they had been put with the exhibit on a tour but I have had no further word about them.

I am glad that you are able to put your talents to work in a way that will help to get our present mess over a little faster. Congratulations and the best of wishes in your new work.

Sincerely yours,

RT:ew

Robert Taft

Feb. 26, 1943

Mr. Alden Scott Boyer  
2700 Wabash Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Boyer:

Many thanks for your letter of Feb. 13th and for your time and trouble in talking to Mr. Dicke. I would like all the information you can give me about fake Remingtons and Russels. Did Mr. Dicke know any one that had an original?

I am glad that you are interested in Levi Hill. He interested me a great deal when I was studying my sources. I have not seen the book that you mention in your letter and if the remote possibility of revision of my book ever becomes necessary, I shall be pleased to accept your kind loan of the Hill book.

Roat, who I have quoted in Note 103 in my book, was always fair, as far as I could tell, and for that reason, I put considerable confidence in his judgment. If Hill actually gives a detailed description of his color process, it, of course, could be tried out in the laboratory.

Sincerely Yours,

RT:ew

Robert Taft



## Robert Taft general correspondence

These are good. Thanks for letting me  
see them. You have a right to feel that  
you have made a real contribution in this  
book. And the University appreciates your  
kind & excellent work in getting it out.

Recd 3-13-43 RT

M.H.

## Robert Taft general correspondence

April 5, 1943

Dr. Amos Lingard  
R.R. #2  
Newburgh, Indiana

Dear Amos:

Many thanks for your letter of the 25th and the news concerning your activities. I am glad that the thesis publication has been completed as far as that type of service goes. I hope that we can have it published before long in some of the more regular channels of publication.

Our work as far has continued in the same usual routine. Our classes are somewhat smaller but there have been enough engineers and embryo chemists deferred to enable us to maintain our usual schedules. We are expecting before the end of April, however, that large contingents from the army and probably the navy will be sent us for engineering training. As they will all be taught some chemistry, it looks as if we will have enough to do when they show up.

All of our staff are now on duty except Drs. Cady and Dains. Dr. Dains is confined to his home although once in a long while he manages to get up to the building for a short time. Dr. Cady has been in the local hospital for some weeks and seems to be in very poor condition, chiefly circulatory trouble, I understand. His children have all been home to see him in recent weeks.

Write me again when you find time.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT/wac





KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY  
(INCORPORATED)

700 BALTIMORE AVE.  
TELEPHONE VICTOR 1327

KANSAS CITY, MO.

April 9, 1943

Dr. Robert Taft  
Department of Chemistry  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

I have your letter of April 6 concerning the Electrocolor report. I should have sent you the report but have been waiting for a matter to clear up. The United Chromium Corporation wrote a letter in January proposing that they be excused from paying royalty during the balance of the war since they are making no sales of Electrocolor at the present time. We rejected this idea and feel that the minimum royalty which they pay is no burden whatever for an exclusive license of this type. We have not heard from them since writing however.

In view of this feeling on the part of United Chromium we felt that it was advisable to retain last year's earnings as a reserve in the event that we be called upon to find other licensees if United Chromium should abandon the license.

We do not feel that this situation is a cause for serious concern for two reasons. One is that Electrocolor as a decorative method will resume its position after the war. The second is that no work has been done on the protective iron plating coat which we believe might fit in very well with the war effort. We have very often urged United Chromium to work on this development under the patents but they have not done so to date, even though they have developed a zinc coating for steel bullet cases. We would like to have your opinion as to the advisability of endeavoring to develop interest in this type of coating on our own initiative. United Chromium verbally advised us that if we did develop business in this line we could participate in some way in addition to the royalty basis.

I am enclosing a report of last year's business. Will you let me have your thoughts concerning the above matter.

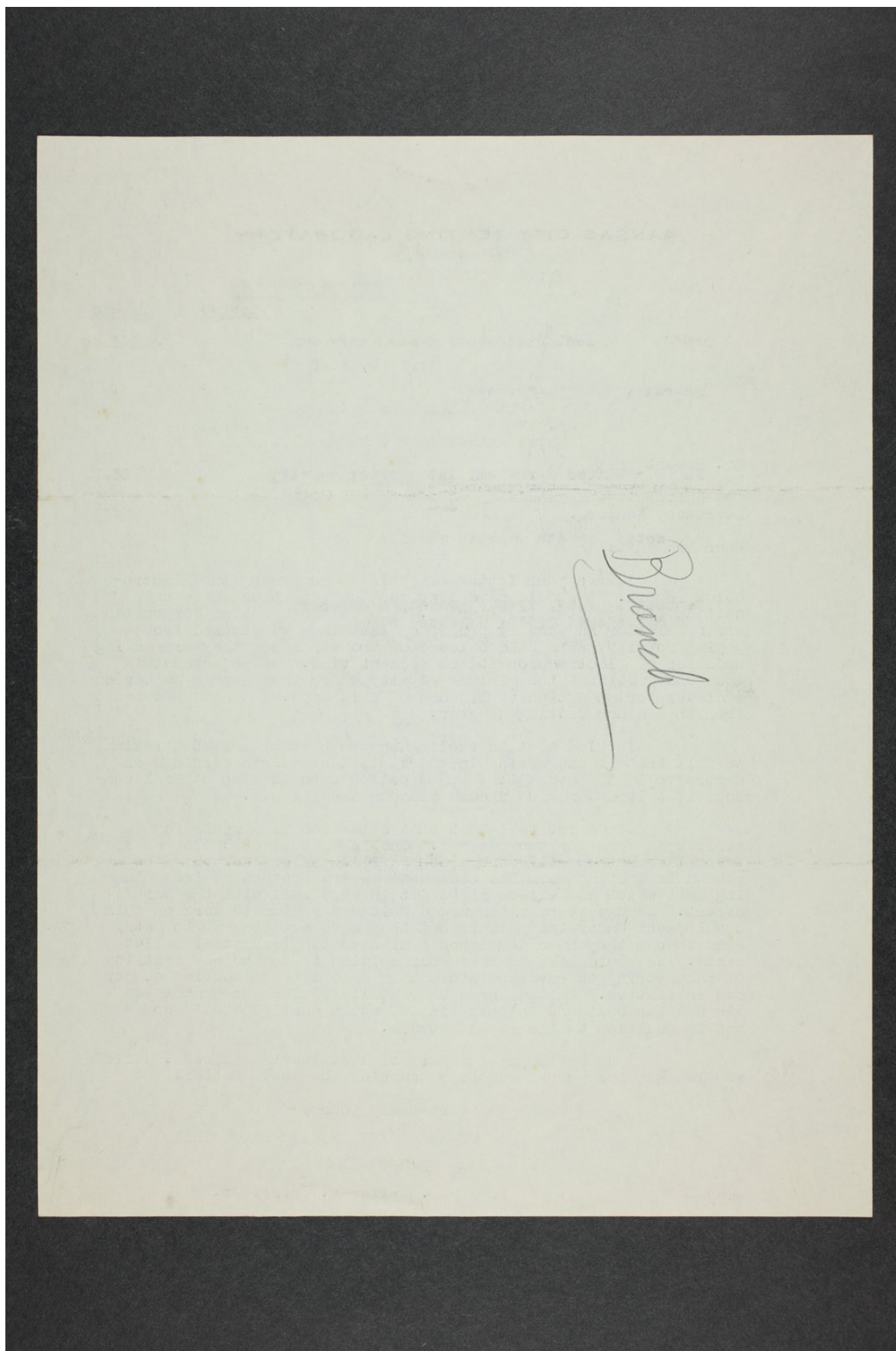
Very truly yours,

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY

By *WMC*

Walter M. Cross, Jr.

WMC/vm







## Robert Taft general correspondence

May 4, 1943

Lt. Beaumond Newhall  
34d A.A.P. Photo Int. DET  
APO 616  
c/o Postmaster, New York City

Dear Newhall:

Many thanks for your V mail note which reached me several days ago and which I was very glad to have. I am happy that you reached your destination safely, that you can use your talents so directly in licking the devil and his major companions and that you can live off "the fat of the land". I am quoting your wife on this last point for she wrote me news of yourself just a few days before I had your note. I have written your wife on several occasions for information and have had very helpful replies. I doubt, in fact, if you could have done better yourself. Maybe, after all, the male of the species isn't as necessary for the running of affairs as he has fooled himself into thinking after all these years.

"e keep busy here at the University--those of us that are left--by teaching six days a week and hurrying youngsters through their scientific programs so that they in turn can add their training and abilities to the war effort as soon as possible. Beginning the first of July, we are to have some hundreds of naval engineers for nearly two years' training. As they will come on top of our regular program, we expect to have our hands more than full before long.

Our usual leisurely life is developing into a considerably more strenuous one so that we have little time for our usual peace-time activities. I am trying to keep part of one going, however. You may remember that I have been working on genre artists of the West for some years. My project was so ambitious and my volume of material so large that I have curtailed it for the time being and am working up my notes on Frederic Remington. I have enough, I am sure, for a book-length biography and as none has ever been written, I plug away every evening for an hour or so--with a little more time on Sundays-- in the hope that if I can keep it up long enough, the biography will eventually materialize. Progress is necessarily slow but that's the best that can be done under the circumstances. Anyway, we have hopes that the present state of affairs isn't going to be the permanent one, thanks to you and your companions in arms.

I shall be glad to have a note from you when you find time. Kindest regards and the best of luck and don't forget to duck if the occasion arises.

Sincerely,

Robert Taft

RT/wac



KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY  
(INCORPORATED)

700 BALTIMORE AVE.  
TELEPHONE VICTOR 1327

6  
KANSAS CITY, MO.

*Recd. 7-3-43*

Dr. Robert Taft  
University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Sometime ago we advised that United Chromium had made a suggestion that they be relieved of paying royalty for the duration of the war on the electrocolor patents. We discussed the matter with Dr. Stareck and it is his opinion that United does not have any intention of canceling the contract and that probably it will continue in status quo. Therefore we are making the distribution for 1942 and enclosing a check for \$200.00, representing your share of a \$1000 distribution. We hope you will find this in order.

Kind regards,

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY

By *WMCross*

Walter M. Cross, Jr.

WMC/vm





STEFAN LORANT

*Lenox, Mass.*

Lenox, Massachusetts  
September 30, 1943

Professor Robert Taft  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Professor Taft:

I am working on a pictorial history of the United States. I know and admire your book, Photography and the American Scene very much.

I wonder if you could let me have copies of the photographs appearing in your book on pages 225, 261, 275, and 363.

Also, I would like to have your advice as to where to look for early photographic material.

I have a large collection of old photographs (as I have been working on this project for over three years) but there are still sources which I have not touched. I am looking especially for photographs on early Western life-- the California Gold Rush, etcetera.

Very truly yours,

*Stefan Lorant*



## Robert Taft general correspondence

October 12, 1943

Mr. Stefan Lorant  
Lenox, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Lorant:

Many thanks for your interest in Photography and the American Scene. I can furnish you with copies of three of the photographs requested but I do not have permission to allow the remaining one to be reproduced. I would write the owner Mr. H. Armour Smith, Yonkers Museum of Science and Arts, Yonkers, N. Y. for a copy and permission to reproduce. The photographs I am sending you (under separate cover) may be reproduced if the courtesy line "Reproduced by permission of the author, Robert Taft, from Photography and the American Scene, The Macmillan Company, 1938" is used with each photograph.

For early photographic material I would suggest that you write The Secretary, Society of California Pioneers, San Francisco, California (said to have a fairly complete collection of the Watkins photographs) and The Librarian, Church of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, who has charge of thousands of the Sayage photographs. The American Antiquarian Society of Worcester, Mass., has many thousand stereographs but I do not know how far back the collection goes. Morris H. Briggs, 1764 E. 71st Place, Chicago, Ill. is a dealer in Americana who specialized in photographs and reasonably priced items frequently appear in his lists.

If I can be of further service, please write me.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RT/wac



## Robert Taft general correspondence

October 13, 1943

Miss Margaret W. Baker  
6 South Baltimore Avenue  
Ventnor City, New Jersey

Dear Miss Baker:

The portrait of Lincoln described in your letter is probably a photograph of an engraving by Buttre. Buttre in turn made his engraving from a photograph of Lincoln taken by Brady, which accounts for both names on your copy.

Brady made many photographs of Lincoln. Several of these I have reproduced in my book, Photography and the American Scene. If your city library has a copy of this book, it might be of interest to compare your photograph with those reproduced in this book and thus possibly identify the Lincoln photograph with certainty.

A more extensive collection of Lincoln photographs will be found in F. H. Meserve's Lincoln Photographs. Copies of this book are scarce but the Library of Congress has a copy if you wish to consult it there.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Taft

RE/wac

## Robert Taft general correspondence

6 So. Baltimore Ave  
Ventnor City, N.J.

Professor Robert Taft  
University of Kansas.

Dear Sir:

Several years ago there was an account in "The Saturday Evening Post" of your interest in the works of Mathew B. Brady.

I have a photograph of President Lincoln size 2 1/2 x 4 inches which appears to have been cut from something larger. It has the name of Brady on one side of the likeness and Buttre on the other with the signature A. Lincoln below.

I should like to know more about this photograph and am taking the liberty of writing you thinking you might be willing to enlighten me.

Very truly  
(Miss) Margaret W. Baker.



## Robert Taft general correspondence

MORRIS H. BRIGGS  
RARE BOOKS  
1764 East 71st Place  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS  
Nov. 5, 1943

TELEPHONE:  
MIDWAY 0494

SPECIALIST: LINCOLNIANA  
WESTERN AMERICANA

Sold to: Prof. Robert Taft  
Lawrence, Kas.

List Nov. 2, 1943:

17	Lot 6 views of Kansas City	\$6.00
29	U.&U. Cowboy breaking broncho	.75
		<u>3-</u>
Invoice Nov. 1, 1943 Carbutt, Virginia		275

Received Payment.  
with thanks  
M.H. Briggs

The buyer of the Lincoln Federal  
views refuses to allow any copies to  
be made & states that he already  
has 14 of the views but is taking care  
so that no copies can be made.

This is what I call "maggie"  
collecting. I do not think any private  
collector has the moral right (over)  
to buy important historical material.

## Robert Taft general correspondence

I have photographed every Lincoln  
letter I ever saw & forwarded  
copies to the large libraries.  
That is what I wanted to do in  
the case of these views

Considering the buyers atti-  
tude I should appreciate it  
if you do not communicate with  
him. It would be a waste of  
time.

Sincerely

MR Briggs



STEFAN LORANT  
Cherrywood, Lenox, Mass.

Dear Professor Taft,

Can I bother you once more...? I would like to have the picture from your book which appeared on Page 291. (Gardner October 1867.) The Kansas Historical Society writes to me that you have the reproduction negative. I would appreciate very much if you could let me have a copy of this photo. And if you have a copy of the other Gardner picture (on Page 288 in your book) I would like to have this one as well. Many thanks for your kindness!

Yours sincerely

Stefan Lorant

Dec 10, 1943.



[issued in 1943]

### 1942 ELECTROCOLOR ACCOUNT

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>
Net profit from 1941 Statement		\$1533.34
<u>1942</u>		
February - J. E. Stareck	\$ 400.00	
Kansas City Testing Laboratory	400.00	
Robert Taft	200.00	
(1941 Income Distribution)		
April - United Chromium, 1st Quarter royalty		56.14
July - " " 2nd " "		4.58
October - " " 3rd " "		5.22
Note: No 4th Quarter royalty		
General Expense, 1942 - Travel, Stationery & Postage, Office Expense, etc.	124.00	
<u>1943</u>		
February - United Chromium - Balance of 1942 royalty due		1134.06
Totals	1124.00	2733.34
Net profit for 1942		\$1609.34





STEFAN LORANT

Dear Professor Taft,

thank you very much for lending  
me the two films. The enlargements  
turned out to be very good. I appreciate  
deeply your caring.

Every time I look at your book  
I am thrilled anew. It is a lasting  
work.

With kindest regards

Sincerely yours

Stefan Lorant

Feb 14, 1944



KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY  
(INCORPORATED)

700 BALTIMORE AVE.  
TELEPHONE VICTOR 1327

KANSAS CITY, MO. - 6  
February 23, 1944

Dr. Robert Taft  
University of Kansas  
Department of Chemistry  
Lawrence, Kansas

Dear Dr. Taft:

Please find enclosed the 1943 statement of income and expense on the Electrocolor account. Also enclosed is our check for \$200.00 which represents your 20% share of the distribution of \$1000.00 from the account. If there are any questions regarding the statement please let us know.

Best regards,

KANSAS CITY TESTING LABORATORY

By *WMCross*

Walter M. Cross, Jr.

Encls.  
WMC/vm



### 1943 ELECTROCOLOR ACCOUNT

	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Income</u>
Net profit from 1942 Statement		\$1609.34
<u>1943</u>		
June - J. E. Stareck	\$400.00	
Kansas City Testing Laboratory	400.00	
Robert Taft	200.00	
(1942 Income Distribution)		
General Expense, 1943 - Travel, Stationery & Postage, Office Expense, etc.	75.00	
<u>1944</u>		
January - United Chromium - Royalty due for year 1943		1200.00
	<hr/> \$1075.00	<hr/> \$2809.34
Net profit for distribution for 1943		\$1734.34
Distribution		
J. E. Stareck	\$ 400.00	
Kansas City Testing Laboratory	400.00	
Robert Taft	<hr/> 200.00	<hr/> \$1000.00
Reserve		\$ 734.34



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY  
ALBANY 1

R. W. G. VAIL  
STATE LIBRARIAN

MANUSCRIPTS AND HISTORY SECTION  
EDNA L. JACOBSEN  
HEAD OF SECTION

February 24, 1944

Mr. Robert Taft  
Department of Chemistry  
The University of Kansas  
Lawrence, Kansas

My dear Mr. Taft:

Mr. Vail has referred to me your letter of February 19 asking some questions about Albany in 1880-1883.

The new capitol was first occupied by the Legislature in January 1879, but it was not until 1884 that various state departments were moved into it. The old capitol was used for state offices until it was sold in the summer of 1883 and demolished shortly thereafter. During the period in which you are interested, the office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction was in the old capitol, while that of the Superintendent of Insurance was in the basement of the State Hall. This State Hall was on Eagle Street, between Steuben and Pine streets, and was really what we would call today a state office building.

I think that you would find very interesting the Albany Hand-Book for 1881, by H. P. Phelps, Albany, 1880. I have a copy which I keep for reference and am making an exception and sending it to you at this time, because I feel you can gain from it a good picture of Albany during the time that Frederick Remington was here. You will note the map in the front part of the book. I should appreciate your keeping the volume not more than a week or ten days, and returning it to me at the end of that time.

Sincerely yours,

*Edna L. Jacobsen*

Edna L. Jacobsen  
Head, Manuscripts and History  
Section

ELJ:hap

*See note 3002*



## Robert Taft general correspondence

November 14, 1944

Miss Mary Hey  
Route 1  
Jetmore, Kansas

Dear Mary:

Thank you very much for your kind letter concerning the project of your English class. I feel honored to think that you want to know something about me and my work. I can tell you some of the things I know about myself but I don't believe I ought to tell everything, even to as good a friend as you; you see I can tell that you are my friend from the very friendly letter you wrote.

I am a university professor, teaching physical chemistry at the University of Kansas. Most people think I am a grouch but I do have a few friends here and there. I am fifty years old, am a little over six feet tall, nearly bald on top and am beginning to get round in the middle. You may be interested to know that I was born in Tokyo, Japan, but my eyes don't have that funny slant and neither do I have the buck teeth shown in the comic strips when a Jap is depicted. The reason I don't have these features must be because my father and mother were American missionaries in Japan. They and many others in the same profession are now very sad that their work came to so little--that they weren't able to teach enough of the Japs even the simplest of civilized manners.

I have a family consisting of one wife, one son and one daughter, who are all very nice people. We had a dog in the family too; had him for over ten years but last fall one day a car hit him and now I think he's in the happy hunting ground and chases rabbits all the time, for that was the thing he liked to do best when he was here except to sneak up and bite the gas man when he came to read our meter.

If what I have written so far is enough about me, I'll tell you something about my work. Physical Chemistry is theoretical chemistry--that is, we invent theories to explain the facts encountered in chemistry, the science of matter. You can see that if I am interested in theories I'm not a very practical man and many of the students to whom I try to explain these theories look as if they didn't believe them; some of them even go to sleep. The only way I can account for such behavior is that I am either not a very good teacher or I don't yell loud and often enough for the students to hear and believe me.

I suppose I am best known for two books I've written, neither of which has much to do with chemistry. One is a history of American photography (Photography and the American Scene is its title) published in 1938 and then again in 1941. The second book is the