

CALLIG. INFORMAL



QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY
KINGSTON, ONTARIO

1 February 1955

Dear Allan,

I have meant to get into touch with you for some time to ask what you are doing at present and what your plans for the immediate future are. I thought that you might be interested to know that the University has now reached the point of recognising that presentable printing is essential to good public relations. After struggling at this for nearly three years, I now find that I have less and less time to devote to the exasperating task of harrying the local presses. The Board of Trustees and the Principal are now trying to find somebody to supervise and coordinate all printing for the University. Details of salary, precise terms of reference &c, have not been worked out yet because they will depend a good deal on the kind of person that we can attract to such work. I wrote to Eleanor Harman for suggestions; but she knew of no young typographers who would be primarily interested in book design. The least the University is looking for to begin with is somebody who can see a design accurately into print, and do some press-reading. But as I see it there might well be a good deal of scope for an experienced, imaginative, and energetic person who could devote a good deal of time to the work. Because of the limitations of the two local presses and the deplorable inefficiency of the one with the best types, I hesitate to think of you in connection with this work. But since there is no hurry about the appointment, I should be interested to have your observations and know whether you think the possibilities here (too fluid and hypothetical to outline briefly) might perhaps offer you the setting you

[DAMN: PTO]

were looking for this summer.

It may be, however, that you have already found something entirely to your taste, in which case my remarks will not seem pertinent. If that is the case, you might perhaps be able to suggest the names of other people--I think it should be a man the way things are at present--who might be worth approaching.

Discussions with the Principal indicate that, for a number of reasons, the University will not be interested in taking over a press of its own. But there might be an opportunity, with University backing and long-term contracts, to take over one of the local presses and convert it into a press doing work of University Press standard, bearing to the University the same sort of relation that Maclehose (for example) bears to Faber or any other publisher that commissions his services. This is perhaps crystal-gazing, but by no means beyond the range of possibility; somebody in a position to prosecute seriously such a scheme might well find it feasible. This in confidence; but it is this sort of possibility that makes me think you might be interested. If I can supply further details, please do not hesitate to ask.

With all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

George Whalley