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Oscar to Jim, 13 July 1956

Oscar Osburn Winther (1903-1970)

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY
BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA

GRADUATE SCHOOL
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

July 13, 1956

Professor James Silver
Department of History
University of Mississippi
University, Mississippi

Dear Jim:

First, thanks for your last two communications. So far the committee response to the in retrospect session is enthusiastically favorable. Meanwhile I have been thinking about your particular proposal, concerning a session on forest history research, writing, and archives. As a subject for discussion at a professional meeting it strikes me as offering something new, at least I do not recall papers on this subject at any previous meeting I have attended.

Now this is what I have been wondering. It strikes me as a most suitable topic for the joint MVHA-AHA session in December. Would it be possible for you to arrange such a session for the December meeting? Of all the proposals so far yours appears to be best integrated and most certain of execution. If you react favorably to my suggestion I will make a quick canvass of the committee which I feel certain will confirm your proposal. This done, you could proceed with your definite programming activities.

I like your suggestion to involve Dean Blegen in some way. He is a good speaker and a rather impressive person. In fact, I had thought of Blegen as a suitable person to use in some way in this MVHA in Retrospect session. However, the responses now indicate genuine enthusiasm for Binkley, Quaife, and Sellers. I am going to take a bit of vacation very shortly so let me have your immediate reaction to my proposal. I will then hasten to clear the deck for you.

Sincerely yours,



Oscar O. Winther
Program Chairman
Mississippi Valley Historical Association