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Norrell H. Noble to Dr. Silver, 5 August 1962

Norrell H. Noble

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5th August 1962

*Answered
9/10/62*

Dear Dr. Silver,

I am now corresponding with Boston U about doing my degree there. The chairman of the department has just written to ask me if I can write my thesis from here. He seems to bank on the completed MA pretty heavily. If it means the difference between getting in and not getting in, then I want to do whatever is possible to get it done. I know that it is technically possible, and I want to know what you think of it. I also want to know what I will have to do once it is written and accepted before my degree can be granted. I've done the required classwork, so there must only be an exam on the thesis. Please send me whatever the requirements are.

As to the thesis, do you think I could take a local African subject and do a credible paper? Would you approve? I have one in mind, actually. I have been fascinated with the fact that we have been here through two stages in this country's life, and that we are going to see the third stage initiated. That is, first it was a trust territory, then a dominion, and this year it will become a republic with Nyerere as its first president. Do you think there is a paper in this transition? It would mean going primarily on current periodicals. Is that allowable? I would also be able to use interviews and personal views, if they are allowable. I'm learning to read Swahili, which would give me access to some of the smaller papers in the country. I have a two month holiday during Christmas, and I could get a lot of work done at that time. What do you think?

There is also the requirement of a language which I have not passed, but I can do that any time I am at Ole Miss, can't I? Or is that only at a set time? It may be that Boston's Dr. Moody will give approval if he knows I've written the thesis and had it accepted.

This will probably reach you when you are away for a holiday. I shall be patient until September to hear from you. Is the Negro man going to enter this year? I do hope it can be done with a minimum of ballyhoo.

I have made up my mind that if I don't get any help in the US, I shall go to London to get my degree. It only costs about 1/10 what it costs at home, and the London U school is fine, to boot. Anyway, I'm not in any hurry to come back to the USA now. I know that once we get back, we'll have to stay, so far away from so much that interests me.

*Sincerely,
Norrell H. Noble*