

March 30, 1914

Hon. A. Barton Hepburn

83 Cedar St., New York

My dear Mr. Hepburn:

On returning from Augusta, Ga., I have your very kind note of the 25th and reply at once.

The Maison Francaise is of course the property of Columbia University and is managed by the University with funds provided by gift for the purpose, with a view to developing closer and stronger intellectual relations between America and France, to promoting the study of the French language, literature, science and art, and to emphasizing the scope and influence of French culture in modern civilization.

The France America Committee is a separate body quite independent of the University, but (as in the case of the Germanistic Society) it will have its official headquarters in the Maison Francaise, and will have the benefit of the existence and influence of the Maison Francaise in its work. The France America Committee will, I take it, under your kindly and inspiring guidance operate along the lines and for the ends described in its corporate charter. These methods and aims are, I fancy, familiar to M. Hanotaux. In all respects the relationship between the Maison Francaise and the France America Committee will parallel those which exist between the Deutsches Haus and the Germanistic Society of America. Several years experience in the latter case have proved these arrangements to be practical and highly effective.

Owing to difficulty in securing the necessary funds, we have been delayed many months in furnishing and equipping the Maison Francaise. It was only some sixty days ago that I felt safe in giving the order to go ahead with the furnishing, for even though the necessary money was not then at hand, enough seemed to have been secured to justify us in trying to have the house ready this spring even at some small risk. This has now been done, and we shall be able to proceed speedily with the organization of the administration of the Maison Francaise. As to all this I shall take the liberty of consulting you in the near future.

With high regard, I am,

Faithfully yours,