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December 18, 1953

Dear Professor Verlinden:

My colleagues and I have now had the opportunity to give careful attention to your proposal for a cooperative study by European and American historians of the common European element in the colonization of the Americas, for which you estimated that a total of \$ 60,000 would be needed over a five-year period.

Although fully appreciative of the value which such a study might have and of its possible significance in showing the historical continuity of the Atlantic community, we have regretfully come to the conclusion that we are not prepared to recommend to our Trustees assistance for the project you have so eloquently described to us. This is not meant in any way to be a reflection upon the importance of the project itself or the quality of scholarship which would go into such a study but, rather, represents a limitation on the kinds of projects in history which can be considered here. As Mr. Marshall and I indicated earlier, such projects fall chiefly within the recent past.

I am sorry that it is necessary for me to inform you of this decision, but I should like to say that I greatly enjoyed our conversations and I look forward to the opportunity of seeing you again, possibly this next spring when I visit Belgium. In the meantime, I trust you and your associates will be able to find elsewhere the assistance which you need to carry out your plans.

Sincerely yours  
(s.) Edward F. D'Arms