

May 7, 1932.

Dr. Samuel H. Jameson,
Department of Sociology,
Campus.

Dear Dr. Jameson,

I received your letter of May 5, in which you express your surprise at not being consulted in the making of the award for the Murray Warner prize. I regret indeed that this most unfortunate situation should have arisen. Undoubtedly the committee was negligent in its failure to consult with you, but I wish to assure you the circumstances were of such a peculiar nature that I was not aware you were being ignored.

It is true that last autumn I noticed in the 1931-2 bulletin that you, Mr. Godfrey and myself constituted the committee. About that time, however, Dr. Mez had posted the notices of the contest with his own name appearing as committee chairman. From that fact, and also from another oral source which I cannot now recall, I was given to understand that a change had been made in the constitution of the committee, that Dr. Mez properly belonged to it, and that in the change you had been removed from it. I assure you I did not know that Dr. Mez was not a member of the committee and had no authority to act, which fact I have only recently discovered. Consequently I conducted myself on the assumption that Mr. Godfrey, Dr. Mez and I were the three persons concerned. It is true that last January I called to Dr. Mez' attention the fact that you were listed as a committee member, and in the next to the last of our committee meetings the question of your position arose. I was given to understand at that time that Dr. Mez would consult with you. My belief that he was actual chairman caused me to leave the matter entirely in his hands.

Had I been here longer I think I would have understood the peculiar situation better, but I believe you can understand why it did not occur to me that a non-committee member would assert himself to act not only as a member of the committee, but also as its chairman.

Despite this patent irregularity I do not think that it would serve any useful purpose to reopen the question of the awards at this time. Inasmuch as official announcements regarding the prizes have been made, and since the winners have been notified of their awards while the losers have adjusted themselves to the idea of failure, I believe that the reopening

*Impertinence!
J. R. Mez*



May 7, 1932

Dr. Samuel H. Johnson
Department of Zoology
Carnegie

Dear Dr. Johnson

I received your letter of May 6, in which you expressed your surprise at not being announced in the making of the award for the Murray Warner prize. I regret indeed that this most important situation should have arisen. Undoubtedly the committee was negligent in its failure to consult with you, but I wish to assure you the circumstances were of such a peculiar nature that I was not aware you were being ignored.

It is true that last autumn I noticed in the 1931-2 Bulletin that you, Mr. Godfrey and myself constituted the committee. About that time, however, Dr. Max had posted the notes of the contest with his own name appearing as committee chairman. From that fact, and also from another source which I cannot now recall, I was given to understand that a change had been made in the constitution of the committee, that Dr. Max was to be chairman, and that in the change you had been removed from it. I assure you I did not know that Dr. Max was not a member of the committee and had no authority to act, which fact I have only recently discovered. Consequently I consulted myself on the assumption that Mr. Godfrey, Dr. Max and I were the three persons concerned. It is true that last January I called to Dr. Max's attention the fact that you were listed as a committee member, and in the next or the last of our committee meetings the question of your position arose. I was given to understand at that time that Dr. Max would consult with you. My belief that he was actual chairman caused me to leave the matter entirely in his hands.

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*Original
of the
award*

COPY

of the question would only cause distress to the contestants while it would advertise the existence of the irregularity in committee action, (which advertisement would be harmful not only to the committee members themselves, but, I believe, to the faculty in general).

Please know that I regret exceedingly that this misunderstanding should have occurred, and that I would have taken action to have avoided it had I properly understood the circumstances.

Sincerely yours,

c.c. to Dean James H. Gilbert
and to Dr. John R. Mez.

I received your letter of May 5, in which you express your surprise at not being consulted in the making of the award prizes. I regret indeed that this most unfortunate situation should have arisen. Undoubtedly the committee was negligent in its failure to consult with you, but I wish to assure you the circumstances were of such a peculiar nature that I was not aware you were being ignored.

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Sincerely yours,

C. C. to Dean James H. Gilbert
and to Dr. John L. Lee.