

Wayside Lane
Scarsdale, N. Y.
Dec. 1, 1928.

Dr. Karl Barth
Himmelreich Strasse
Münster, Westphalen
Germany

Dear Dr. Barth:

As perhaps you may remember, we have four children. Our oldest child, Tertius, is a boy not quite twelve. Next June he will complete what we call the grammar school here and be ready for the secondary school, but the teachers here think he will be a little young for it. So we have begun to play with the thought of his spending a year in Germany. We should like him to learn the language while he is still young enough to get it pretty well.

Ever since my visit in Münster I have looked back on your family as one of the ideal ones. Frankly, your wife charmed me, and while I did not really get acquainted with your children, still I saw enough of them as well as of their parents to know that they are very charming youngsters.

We are wondering if by any possibility you and your wife would be willing to take in Tertius for a year. I suppose we could get him over in September or in time for the opening of your schools. He knows no German now and will know very little when he comes. We shall try to do something along that line, however, before he shall arrive with you.

As for financial arrangements we shall gladly accept your judgment about them.

I think Tertius would have to spend a good deal of his time in the beginning picking up German. Perhaps Mrs. Barth could give him his lessons in that. Or if she has no time for it he can take special instruction.

We should be glad to have him get plenty of time out-of-doors, too. If there is some opportunity for nature work that would please us very much. I should also be glad to get him started in Latin. I suppose you know that our boys here do not start Latin as early as they do with you.

According to American standards Tertius is a studious boy. He is a healthy child, too, good tempered, cheerful. Naturally we have discussed the prospect of his going to your home with him, and he is most enthusiastic over it.

My wife thinks we are throwing a tremendous amount at you people who already have five children in the home. Of course we are hoping that you may think it possible, but if you don't we shall quite understand. If ever you want to send a child over to America to learn the American accent(!) perhaps we can work out some exchange. I do not mean to be urging any such thing on you; it just popped into my head.

So far I have only drawn up my preliminary account of the Professor of theology in Münster, but he is on my stocks.

I look back with the greatest pleasure on my stay in Münster. Indeed, if I had not been so delighted with my visit there I should never have thought of making this proposal. If by any happy chance it is possible for you to think of taking Tertius we should probably be coming over for him some time in June of 1928. But if you would rather take him for a shorter period and not commit yourself to taking him for such a long time we might think out a plan to make his stay shorter.

I need not say that we shall await your reply with much interest. Please remember me most warmly to the children as well as to your wife. This letter, indeed, is directed almost as much to her as to you.

Yours very sincerely,

Henry S. Huntington

Henry Strong Huntington

I might add that my wife still feels as though Germany were a long way off. But we want at least to begin to talk of the plan.