

THE LONGFELLOW INSTITUTE

Harvard University
Department of English and American Literature and Language
Warren House, 11 Prescott Street
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA NAFTA
phone: (617) 496-9400 fax: (617) 496-8737
e-mail: lowinus@fas.harvard.edu
www: <http://www.fas.harvard.edu/~lowinus>

January 18, 1997

Batuz, President
Batuz-Foundation
Altzella/Sachsen
DD-01683 Nossen
GERMANY

Dear Batuz!

How delightful was our lunch at the Faculty Club.

Your ideas about the several realms or meanings of globalization, as well as the other matters we discussed at some length, are of real interest to me, so I hope that we'll have a chance to pick up on them again some time soon. I'm sure that I speak also for Werner Sollors in this matter.

Anyhow, Batuz, here are some of the materials you asked about.

First, concerning the work that Werner and I do as co-directors of the Longfellow Institute:

Here's a copy of the article about the Longfellow Institute published by the magazine *Lingua Franca*.

Lingua Franca focuses solely on what I might call our antiquarians, 'or historians,' interest in reviewing the non-English language literary history and present fact of the United States. And indeed, that *is* a goal, perhaps the goal, of the Institute's publication series with The Johns Hopkins University Press.

Still, *Lingua Franca* fails to consider another dimension of our work, one with more straight-forwardly political ambitions. This has to do with matters of language diversity and questions of toleration in a multilingual world growing forever smaller. Our interest in this regard is not limited to the United States, albeit that the pan-American experience, which is at once both universalist and myopic at least as it presents itself here, is an oftentimes useful model for what to strive for and what to avoid. We take into account international, transnational and global perspectives, and here our various backgrounds and linguistic experiences have been very helpful.

With the work of the Longfellow Institute in mind I also enclose a copy of my article, "Babel in America," as well as a copy of Werner's book on ethnicity in the United States.

Werner and I, who are terrific collaborators, are *very* enthusiastic about the work we do in this area. We have much we'd like to get your advice on. In any case, we'll send you copies of our 28-language anthology, now in press, when the publisher, who is quite slow, finally finishes with them.

Second, you expressed some interest in my association of money with language as media of representation and exchange and hence also with questions of globalization in the financial and/or linguistics spheres.

Such questions as we discussed in this area are important to at least a small part of my work at The Longfellow Institute. But they are also, and obviously more importantly, to my work in The Center for the Study of Money and Culture.

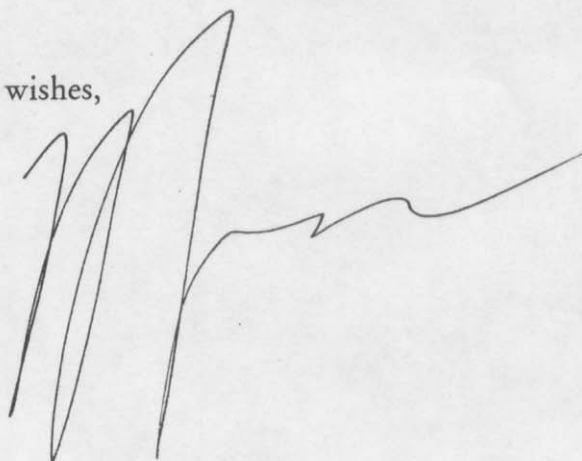
Some very early work of mine in formulating, albeit on a rather humanistic plane, some of the theoretical bases for studying money and culture in one vision is contained in three books of mine, which I am happy to enclose: *The Economy of Literature, Money, Language, and Thought*, and *Art & Money*. Hope you like 'em.

As I mentioned I have also published work in this area for such institutions as The Federal Reserve Bank (Boston and Chicago) and the Caisse des depots et consignations (Paris). Just now The Center for the Study of Money and Culture is to embark on two major intellectual ventures. One, about which I am especially excited, involves precisely the matter of language and money in an age of globalization. It aims at an important project of "publication," about which I would be happy to tell you more some time.

So then, this packet of goods. Do let me know when you'll be back in the New England area. It would be very good to get together again.

With all good wishes,

Marc Shell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Marc Shell', written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned to the right of the printed name 'Marc Shell'.

Home phone: 617/868-1293

Home fax: 617/576-3941