

The BOOKER T. WASHINGTON Papers
Harry Centennial Oppenheimer¹
to Emmett Jay Scott

New York Oct., 1st, 1915

My dear Mr. Scott; Your letter from Como to hand and am happy to see that you are working out the scenarios which no doubt will come in handy, as this letter will presently show you.

Mr. McMahon told me that he had written you in reference to Mr. Ince's decision, but do not think we should feel this disappointment very keenly as our original proposition together with some of the subsequent ones will in all likelihood be put through.

On Tuesday I called on the Universal Film Co., having an appointment with Mr. Stern the manager. I spent some time with him, and then went over to their offices at #1600 Broadway, where I had a conference with their manager Mr. Brandt and their educational film man, Mr. Shipowich.

It seems that the Elaine Sterne Film has been accepted in a more or less indefinite manner, and is now undergoing certain changes before being produced.

The main plot of this scenario (as I understood it) shows that the Negro was in a good measure responsible for the freedom which the North gained for the Negro Race. I told Mr. Brandt that which we wanted to answer in the "Birth of a Nation" more than anything else was the reconstruction period either by showing in some subtle manner that the White man was as much responsible for the "Scally Wag" legislation that, took place after peace was declared as the Colored man was; or by a more direct manner, showing the activities at the present time, of some of the Colored Race.

I tried to get a proposition from them relative to taking some of this film at Tuskegee, i.e. fixing the scenes so as to interpolate some of the activities of the Institute, and thought Tuskegee was entitled to some consideration. They however, would not hear of this (that is the consideration part), saying that they thought if they went to Tuskegee and showed the pictures of the Institute, as the pictures will be shown all around the country, they were entitled to some recompence.