

May 2020

Folder 41 -- D'Ancona, Ezio Levi -- 1940

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2220, Broadway, Dubbock
June 1st 1970

Council of Jewish Women,
El Paso,

Dear Madam,

Mrs Sidney Mayer, with whom I got in touch through a common friend, advises me to write to you about my obtaining American citizenship.

I came last December with my wife to the U.S. called by the President of the Modern Language Association of America and I am now lecturing at Texas Technologic College, Dubbock.

I have applied to the U.S. Consul of Ciudad Juárez in order to obtain an immigrant extra quota status which will enable me to accept my nomination as Professor at Wellesley College (Massachusetts).

I have also applied to the Mexican Consul at El Paso for entering into Mexico.

Is there anything you can do, in order to facilitate matters for me and my wife to obtain our American citizenship?

With kind regards, believe me

Yours sincerely
Ezio Levi & Ancona

June 6th, 1940.

Prof. Ezio Levi D'Ancona,
2220 Broadway,
Lubbock, Texas.

Dear Sir:

This will acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 1st inst., and contents noted.

It will be necessary that you furnish me with more information with reference to your case before I can advise or assist you. Such information as I gather, you are seeking permanent entry into the United States on a non-quota status. This is granted to Professors and their families who have documentary evidence showing contract for two years in the United States at an accredited College. Also documents showing that you have been similarly employed abroad.

Entry into Mexico requires bond and sufficient money to guarantee that Government against your becoming a public charge during your stay there.

You mention American Citizenship. That can be secured following a five years residence after legal entry into this Country.

Awaiting your reply, I am

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive,
1016 Olive Street.

Lubbock (Texas) 2220 Broadway

June 14, 1940

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky

Field Executive of the National
Council of Jewish Women

El Paso

Dear Madam,

I received your kind letter of June 6 and thank you, waiting to do so personally when we come to El Paso. I am now answering your questions.

1-References on my Academic career;

My personality as Professor of Romance Philology is well known. I was President of the Royal Academy of Letters (Naples, Italy) until they applied the anti-Jewish laws. I was also Professor at the University of Naples and head of the Foreign Language Department for 13 years. My "Bibliography" was published in Florence (1939) and consist of about 200 works. I am a member of the Spanish Academy (Madrid, Spain) and of the "Hispanic Society of America" (New York, 155 West, Broadway).

2- Entrance into Mexico.

The Mexican Government already cabled to the Mexican Consul at El Paso asking him to facilitate my entrance in Mexico.

I have prepared the documents required by the U.S. Consul at Ciudad Juárez. Will you kindly ask if I can send them to him for previous examination before I leave Lubbock for Ciudad Juárez ?

With many thanks and best regards, believe me

yours very sincerely

Ezio Levi D'Ancona

Ezio Levi D'Ancona

P.S. -I am invited next year at Wellesley College (Massachusetts), with the "Mary Whiton Galkins Foundation" given only to Professors of great renown.

June 19, 1940.

Prof. Ezio Levi D'Ancona,
2220 Broadway,
Lubbock, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 14th inst., I would suggest that you send all documents to the American Consul General, in Juarez, Mexico for examination. He will advise you when to make your formal application.

You will not be granted a non-quota visa unless you have a two year contract with an accredited college in the United States. Therefore, please see that such document is attached to your application.

I will be glad to assist you in every way possible when you come to this Border.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:LG

Lubbock (Texas) 2220 Broadway

June 21, 1940

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky

1016 Olive Street
El Paso, Texas

Dear Mrs. Zlabovsky,

Tank you very much for your kind letter. On receiving it this morning I consulted at once the Immigration Law, 4 d. Under n. 4 d the Law states:

„A professor of a college who has followed such vocation continuously for at least two years immediately preceding the time of his application and who seeks to enter the U.S. solely for the purpose of carrying on such vocation, may apply for a non-quota immigration visa under section 4 D.”

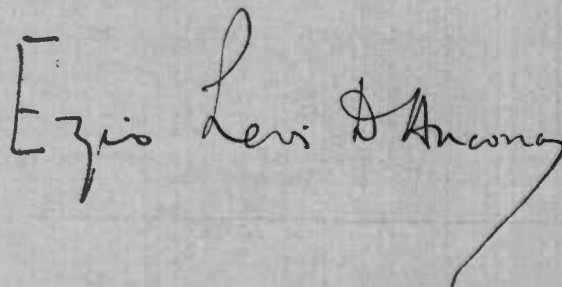
They do not refer to a two years' appointment following the application :they only speak of "two years preceding immediately the application".

The U.S. Consul at Ciudad Juárez did not make any objection when I wrote to him about my "Mary Whiton Calkins " appointment at Wellesley College; he only suggested that I should present to him the nomination in duplicate copy.

With best regards, believe me

yours very sincerely

Ezio Levi D'Ancona



June 24, 1940.

Prof. Ezio Levi D'Ancona,
2220 Broadway,
Lubbock, Texas.

Dear Sir:

Acknowledging receipt of your letter of the 21st inst., I would suggest that you come to El Paso the early part of July for application.

I plan to leave for my vacation between the 10th and 15th of July and if you come before that time I will be glad to assist you to the best of my ability.

In a conversation with the American Consul in Juarez, Mexico, with reference to a Professor's application, he advises that it is absolutely necessary to have documentary evidence showing that said Professor has been in that vocation for two years immediately preceeding the time of his application and must have Contract from an accredited school in this United States for at least two years, that contract showing that the Professor's services are essential to that Institution.

If you have all the necessary papers and wish to present your case prior to July 10th, please call on me.

Yours very truly,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:IG

COPY

June 28, 1940

Consul-General of the United States
Ciudad Jaurez
Mexico

Dear Sir:

I have recently been informed that Professor Ezio Levi d'Ancona is having some difficulty in arranging for his readmission to the United States for the academic year 1940-41. I hope the following statement may clarify his status and simplify his entry.

Professor Levi d'Ancona has been appointed as the Mary Whiton Calkins Visiting Professor at Wellesley College. This professorship is assigned to different departments of the College each year for the purpose of bringing a distinguished visitor to the campus. The professor is usually a well-known foreign scholar. The professorship was assigned to the department of Italian for the coming year, partly because one member of that department is to be on leave of absence, and it was therefore essential to provide a substitute. The possibility of having such a distinguished scholar as Professor Levi d'Ancona led to the assignment of the professorship which would make it possible to bring him rather than a less distinguished substitute. We are not at liberty to use the money which has been assigned for his salary unless a distinguished visitor joins the staff for the year. He is not, therefore, displacing other candidates but he is filling a vacancy where he is definitely needed.

The Mary Whiton Calkins Professor receives a salary of \$5,000, which is of course adequate to provide for Professor Levi d'Ancona and his wife.

We shall greatly appreciate it if you can facilitate his re-entry into the United States after his visit in Mexico.

Very cordially yours,

WESTERN UNION

(34).

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter

NT=Overnight Telegram

LC=Deferred Cable

NLT=Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

CA17 33 DL=WUX CL WELLESLEY MASS 5 916A

DR EZIO LEVI D'ANCONA=

1940 JUN 5 AM 7 37

1016 OLIVE ST ELPASO TEX=

SENT DETAILED STATEMENT TO JAUREZ CONSUL JUNE 28. CANNOT CERTIFY PERMANENT CONTRACT BUT HAVE EXPLAINED NECESSITY OF YOUR SERVICE NEXT YEAR. AM ASKING INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION TO COOPERATE IN FACILITATING YOUR REENTRY=

MILDRED H MCAFEE.

8579
Del
H
8/12/40

28

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

September 3, 1940.

Miss Merle Henoch,
1819 Broadway,
New York City, N. Y.

Dear Miss Henoch: Re: Professor Ezra Levi D'Ancona
Italy

It is evident that your letter to Washington received recognition because Professor and Mrs. D'Ancona were granted non-preference quota numbers. The American Consul could not accept this case as a non-quota because the professor did not have the documents necessary to convince him that his statement from Naples, Italy was correct. These people left for Boston where Professor D'Ancona has a contract with Wellesley.

With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky.

FZ:IG



HOTEL EMERSON

166 WEST 75TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

Mrs Frank Klabowsky
Olive Str. 1016, El Paso

September 5,
1940

Dear Mr Klabowsky,

We are back in New York, on our way to Wellesley College, very happy indeed.

We were kept on at Juanes during 7 weeks. The President of Wellesley College went to Washington and the matter appeared to be settled by dividing my salary between two years.

However, the Department of State did not find this solution satisfactory and we finally came in with the regular quota.

Our suit-case had been picked up at

1940



VISIT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

the Hilton by our friend Mrs Feather, who kindly kept it for us at her home, has
crucis. We had left 2 bunches of keys,
each held in a small leather case, in
a drawer in our room at the Hilton.
However, only one of the two bunches
could be found. Going through El Paso,
we applied at the Hilton, asking if they
had seen the 2nd bunch of keys, but
they had not.

Do you remember anything about them?
The keys were in a drawer of our room
at the Hilton and they belong to our
suit-cases.

We renew our sincere thanks for
your kind helpfulness and send
you best remembrances.

Believe me yours sincerely

Ezra Leo D'Arcena

Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass.

September 10, 1940.

Prof. Ezra Levi D'Ancona
Wellesley College
Wellesley, Mass.

Dear Professor:

Acknowledging your letter of September 5th, I wish to assure you that I was happy to know that you were successful in securing permanent entry into the United States.

Immediately upon my arrival in New York, I took your case up with our New York Office, and am inclosing a copy of a letter sent to the Department of State. It is evident that this letter carried weight because the American Consul in Juarez informed me on my return that "too much pressure was brought to bear". Be that as it may, we are always pleased when our cases receive recognition.

At the time I had your baggage checked out of your room, I simply gave the order to the porter and know nothing about the keys you mention. I will, however, make every effort to find them for you.

Mrs. Feather mentioned that you were interested in our work in El Paso and in addition to Immigration and philanthropic work, we have enrolled 12 children from Juarez, Mexico, in our public schools in El Paso at a cost of approximately \$15 per month for each child. This covers tuition, transportation, lunches, clothing and medical care. They also receive Hebrew instructions. We consider this project as most important, as these children will be prepared to enter the United States at some future time less handicapped.

With kindest regards to both Mrs. D'Ancona and yourself, I am

Sincerely,

Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky,
Field Executive.

FZ:LG
(ENC)

COUNCIL OF SERVICE FOR FOREIGN BORN, INC.
1819 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

President

Mrs. MAURICE L. GOLDMAN
Pres., NATIONAL COUNCIL
OF JEWISH WOMEN

Director

EMMA S. SCHREIBER, Ph.D.

FROM: Merle Henoch

DATE: September 11, 1940

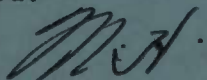
TO: Mrs. Frank Zlabovsky
El Paso Section

SUBJECT: Ezra Levi D'Ancono

I was very grateful indeed to get your letter re the D'Anconos. If our letter to Washington had a result like, I think we should go on working. It may interest you to know that Washington never answered us. Most likely they took it right to headquarters and then took it up directly with the Consul.

MH:G

P.S. Since writing you the above, a letter has come in from Washington a copy of which is attached.



MH:G Enc.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON D.C.

September 10, 1940
Rec. 9/11/40

My dear Miss Henoch:

I refer to your letter of August 1, 1940 concerning the visa applications of Professor Ezio L. D'Ancona and his wife.

As you may no doubt have learned in the meantime from Professor D'Ancona he and his wife were issued immigration visas under the Italian quota on August 21, 1940 by the American consular officer at Ciudad Juarez Mexico, from whom a report confirming this action has been received by the Department.

Sincerely yours,

Eliot B. Coulter

Acting Chief, Visa Division

National Council of Jewish Women

1819 Broadway

Mrs Frank Labowsky
El Paso.
1016 Olive St.

Wellesley College
Wellesley (Mass.)
October 29, 1940

Dear Mrs Labowsky,

Thanks for your kind letter. We would have answered sooner, but at first we were rather busy settling in Wellesley, then my husband received the terrible news of his brother's sudden death, in Italy, while experimenting for a scientific research in chemistry. We must summon all our courage to live through these sad moments.

We read the kind letter that the Council of Jewish Women sent to Mr Blocker; will you please thank them for having taken an interest in our case. The solution, however, was found in another way. Only the American Consul at Lisbon, Portugal, is now entitled to grant the quota for the Mediterranean countries, so a cable was sent to him, asking for our quota numbers. Thus the matter was speedily settled, owing to the strong "affidavit" of the President of Wellesley College.

We are very interesting in the work that you are

planning for the children of El Paso; will you kindly allow us to join with our contribution. We enclose a \$ 5 check of the Wellesley National Bank, with best remembrances and kindly greetings.

Believe me yours sincerely
Flora Lewis & Ancona

D'ANCONA, Professor and Mrs. Ezio Levi

Back Log 6-1-40 (dictated 3-27-41)

Professor and Mrs. Ezio Levi D'Ancona, residing at 2220 Broadway, Lubbock, Texas, wrote to the National Council of Jewish Women, El Paso, Texas, for advise on Change of Status for himself and spouse. Prof. D. was president of the Royal Academy of Letters in Naples, Italy until the anti-Jewish law was applied. He was also professor at the University of Naples and head of the foreign languages department for 13 years. His bibliography was published in Florence, 1939. He is a member of the Spanish Academy, Madrid, Spain and also the Hispania Society of America in New York. Prof. D. was called to the U.S. by the president of Modern Languages Association of America in December, 1939, and then proceeded to the Texas Technological College in Lubbock, Texas where he lectured. 6-30-40 Prof. and Mrs. D. arrived in El Paso. It was found on examining his papers that Prof. D. had a one year contract with Wellesley College through the Mary Whilton Gilkins Foundation. He had no Italian documentary evidence to support his claims of professorship in Italy. All of his statements were verified by his many friends who knew him in the United States. Prof. D. was advised by this office that his documents were inadequate, but he insisted that the American Consul in Juarez, Mexico had invited him to appear for Change of Status. Because of his Italian nationality, he was introduced to the Italian Consul in El Paso, who appeared with him at the Consulate together with the Jewish Council Representative. Prof. D. was refused a non-quota visa on the grounds that he had only a one year contract, as a two year contract is usually demanded by the American Consul. Also that he did not have definite document proof to support his teaching activities just prior to his departure from his native land. Upon being refused, he decided to return to El Paso, but because of the new law which came into effect on July 1, 1940, the day that he went to Juarez, he was refused reentry without a visa, and the American Consul refused to grant him such a visa. He was forced to remain in Juarez, Mexico. Since he had crossed without declaration in Mexico, although he had a Mexican visa, it was necessary to legalize his entry in Mexico. That was done without great difficulty. In the meantime every possible means was used to secure a visa for this couple and the New York office wrote a letter to the Department of State asking for a clarification of this case.

After 7 weeks delay, Washington considered the case favorable, but again because of inadequate documented evidence, they were admitted on non-preference Italian quota numbers. A cable was sent to the American Consul in Italy for the said numbers which they received on August 21, 1940. They immediately departed for Boston, Mass., where Prof. D. is now lecturing foreign languages. It was definitely found that Wellesley does not sign a contract for more than one year and that Prof. D's salary for that year was \$5,000.

Zlabovsky:cg

