

4519 Fifteenth Ave West

Vancouver, B.C., Canada

November 2, 1950

Dear Blanche :

It was good to receive your letter of October 18 and to learn that you like the idea of coming to Vancouver on your way East. I am more strongly convinced than ever that we ought to get together as soon as ever we can.

I have just finished the draft manuscript of the Nutting era and have sent it to Mrs Brack. I am today sending you a rough uncorrected copy of my entire draft of the 1867 - 1907 era in the hope that it will be helpful to you. It is, of course, understood that you will return this draft to me as soon as you have finished with it. It represents all that I have been able to knock into shape so far with the exception of two or three sections that I would rather hold in reserve until we can go over them together. Mark up your copy of the MSS. if you like and we can quarrel amiably over it when you arrive here.

And now may I offer a humble reader's guide ?

1. Please remember that the entire manuscript is nothing more than a draft. Ignore minor errors of spelling and style but pounce on mistakes in dates, etc.
2. My principal aim has been to present a clear, sequential factual account of the origin and development of the School from 1867 to 1907. This account is based on the original source material which ( in utter confusion) was made available at the JHH and which I laboriously identified, examined and classified.
3. Whenever possible, I have quoted the exact words used by the persons concerned and the narrative may therefore be considered authoritative. I have refrained from any attempt at "interpretation." Like you, I happened to hear an address by a distinguished historian just at the time I most needed a watchword. Here it is : "As they wrote it, so let it stand." Douglas Southall said this at the JHU and I've held to it, though I ~~admit~~ admit that the method does not always make easy reading. When the MSS is revized I am pretty sure that I can smooth out rough spots. In the meantime, I note with grim satisfaction that the draft has not so far been criticized as to historical accuracy although it has failed on other counts.
4. Everyone who has read the draft so far appears to agree with Miss Dunbar that the book "should include background information on the contemporary picture in the education of women and related medical and social service developments." I quite agree, but the question does arise as to how much background material can be included without throwing the picture of the School out of focus. This is the point which above all others I want to discuss with you. Of one thing I am certain -- the background cannot be woven in with the narrative of the 1867-1907 period. The thread is too slight to sustain it.
5. In my judgment, the background material should be treated separately throughout. And now brace yourself for a shock -- I think it should come at the end of the book and serve as a grand clash of symbols. Of course, I could change my mind. Think it over, anyway.

Now about plans. I shall probably be away for the Christmas week-end but after that I am at your disposal. I wish I could ask you to be my house guest but my little house

Wen

