

(in reply to hand-written letter from
Mrs. Brack - ms)

4519 Fifteenth Ave. West

Vancouver, Canada

October 16, 1950

Dear Mrs Brack :

First of all, I should like to tell you how much your letter of October 9 helped and encouraged me. You have the happy faculty of being able (in your mind's eye) to see the history as a whole and therefore to realize the necessity of maintaining a balance between its various parts. Six sections of the Nutting MSS are now in the typist's hands and I am striving to complete the remaining two or three as rapidly as possible. These are difficult since it is necessary to gather up the threads and to weave them together in ^a neat little finale. I am beginning to see that there will be some material that "belongs" to Miss Pfefferkorn as well as to me and that might be better handled if we were to work on it together. I have even gone so far as to suggest to her that she should return eastward via Vancouver. As yet, she has made no reply and may possibly be reserving her decision until she has seen the Hampton MSS. There need be no delay in sending the Nutting MSS on to you as soon as ever I have finished it.

It may clarify my present position if I define my general approach to the points mentioned in your letter -- so here goes:

1. From the outset, my primary objective has been and remains (a) to assemble, classify, and carefully to examine the chaotic mass of source material that was made available to me at Johns Hopkins; (b) to weave this material into a well documented, coherent and reasonably complete account of the origin, development and progress of the School during the period 1867 -- 1907. I understand from Miss Pfefferkorn (an eminently competent judge) that the first part of the objective has already been satisfactorily completed by me. The Hampton and Nutting manuscripts together constitute the second part of the objective and will both be available before long for the consideration of the Committee. In this connection, I should like to emphasize that these manuscripts are only drafts and are

to be thoroughly revised. It will not be possible, at this stage, to indicate titles, topical headings, footnotes, etc. This process must be deferred until the manner in which these are to be handled has been agreed upon by the authors so that the same methods may be used throughout the entire volume.

2. You speak of the desirability of "additional sidelights on Isabel Hampton." Her influence over the development of the School did not end with her marriage and you will find many references to it in the Nutting MSS. Every scrap of biographical data related to her personal life before her marriage has been used but, as you are doubtless aware, her sons are still living, and it would hardly be wise (or in good taste) to refer to her married life. She did not die until 1910 and it seems likely that Miss Pfefferkorn will wish to make some allusion to ^{her} it.

3. In a letter addressed to Mrs McVicar, Miss Dunbar made this statement: "I assume that the book will include background information on the contemporary picture in the education of women and related medical and social service developments." I gather that this question has already been jointly discussed by Miss Dunbar, Miss Taylor and Miss Dines and will be further explored at a forthcoming meeting of the History Committee. I should therefore prefer to reserve comment until after specific recommendations have been made and I have had an opportunity of discussing these with Miss Pfefferkorn.

4. I should, as you suggest, like to write *finis* at the earliest possible date so far as my direct contribution to the history is concerned but please believe that I want to do all I can to help at any stage until the presses start to roll and we all have to take 30 off the hook.

The maples are flaming against a dark background of Douglas firs and with a glimpse of sea between make you glad you live in British Columbia. Pink washing machines, indeed.

Well, well. Thank you for everything.