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July 17, 1924

My dear Miss Farr:

Permit me to express very heartily and cordially my appreciation of your generous consent to give $1000 a year to the University for a period of five years for the purchase of manuscripts. The gradual enrichment of the University Libraries in this important field is a matter of sincere congratulation, and for it we are largely indebted to you and a few others of our graduates.

I am sorry to hear that you have been ill, but gratified to know that you are now recovering.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Shirley Farr
5758 Blackstone Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

EDB:HP

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3335676

November 29,1923.

Dr. E.D. Burton,

The University of Chicago.

My dear Dr. Burton:

I regret that a sharp attack of neuritis in my hand,combined with the consciousness that I could not write briefly, has delayed my reply to your letter. I already knew something about the Boccaccio studies, and if the rest of my mental content were what it was a year ago I should say simply:"Certainly I will finance the printing - preferably without publicity". During the past year however I not only gave to, but also worked upon, the manuscripts committee; this was often a trying, and aways a thought-provoking experience. Among other things I have learned recently that giving without blowing a trunpet was an injustice to the other alumnae of the University since one of the men tried to push women off an important committee "because they haven't given much money anyway". My own idea of value in personnel being the ability and willingness to render service this was quite a shock.

Please do not misunderstand me, Iam far from pessimistic about the potential possibilities of our alumni. I believe that a good majority of the women and a considerable number of the men (I am not competent to hazard the exact fraction) do know what a university is for, and with proper encouragement and leadership could be of real service to the University. Unfortunately it seemed to me that most of the men who attended the meetings of the Endowment Fund Committee or the Alumi

Alumni Council (always excepting Mr. Swift and Mr. Gale) had very little idea of the purpose of any educational institution, or of the particular qualities of our own University.

You may think I have wandered far from Boccaccio, but in my mind there is a close connection. If I gave the money it would be merely a pleasure to me and a very small thing done for the University, a sort of blind alley affair. I keep wondering whether somehow this pleasure cannot be shared with other alumni who have not the advantage of your knowing of their interest in such things. Some of these I already know, many others would have to be found, but I believe that they are there, and that their interest can be gained and held for a succession of the purely scholastic needs of the University - things not so big but that a ten dollar gift would seem worth while. And if I am right at all in my belief in the interest of these other graduates of the University, then the largest return would be in good-will aroused by the opportunity to have some share in its real work.

Now that I have admitted my wildest theories I can say that I should be very glad indeed to talk the matter over with you according to your suggestion.

Yours most sincerely,

Shirley Farr

Li 1a

December tenth
1 9 2 3

My dear Miss Farr:

I greatly appreciate your thoughtful letter of November twenty-ninth. I hoped, before this, to ask for an opportunity of further conversation with you about the whole situation. Pressure of business, especially preparation for the December Board Meeting and the December Convocation, have prevented this so far and will apparently now make it impossible until after the eighteenth of December. Let me, then, say now only that I sincerely appreciate your attitude and have some sense of the difficulties of the situation and shall want, as soon as possible, to talk the matter over with you.

Very sincerely yours,

Miss Shirley Farr
5758 Blackstone Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

EDB:S

E.J.L. This is capital - But I have not yet written the letter; and now I wonder whether we had better hold it a little till we can tell Miss Farr about our new plans - What do you think? Yes, probably. E.J.L.

Memorandum to the President.

In reply to Miss Farr's letter, I would suggest the following as a possible approach: Li-1a

"Among the considerations that make me wish that you might provide for the publication of Dean Wilkins's book on the Boccaccio, are these.

It would be a real contribution to Italian studies.

It would show our Chicago friends what University scholars can do with manuscript materials, when these are put at their disposal.

It would constitute a unique piece of University publicity, since it is proposed to send it to a select group of present and prospective friends and donors. all of whom would welcome it for its intrinsic beauty and interest.

It would show these people what the University is doing not only in science but in research in the humanities.

It would greatly strengthen the hands and cheer the heart of Dean Wilkins, who Mr Nitze says is the foremost Italian scholar in this country, and who is now doing so notable a piece of constructive work as dean of the Colleges.

To have this publication provided by a Chicago woman, and one who is well known as an alumnus of the University would encourage other gifts from the city and the alumni. I should much prefer that it should not be anonymous by those.

It would be and ideal thing to have this recognition of the research work of the dean of the colleges come from a graduate of the colleges .

The book would sum up and embody the broad results of Mr Wilkins' work on the various phases of the manuscript, upon which he has already published five special monographs, copies of which I enclose.

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July 17, 1924

Li 1a

My dear Edgar:

You will be gratified to know that at the request of Mr. Manly, Shirley Farr has agreed to give to the University $1000 a year for a period of five years, for the purchase of manuscripts. I suppose in view of this we should sidetrack our suggestion to her that she should give $2000 for the publication of Wilkins' Italian Studies.

Very truly yours,

Mr. Edgar J. Goodspeed
Sayner, Vilas County
Wisconsin

EDB:HP

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