

THE



MARION
TALBOT
FELLOWSHIP





MARION TALBOT

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The Illinois Division of the American Association of University Women is proud that its fellowship honors MARION TALBOT, who has had so illustrious a part in the Association's history.

When Miss Talbot received her A. B. Degree at Boston University in 1880, her absorbing desire was to make use of her education, but her friends thought only of finishing school, a debut and marriage. As the conventional social life held little attraction, she returned to Boston University for an A. M., granted in 1882. The idea of an association of similarly trained women was visualized by Mrs. I. Tisdale Talbot, and initiated by her daughter, Marion. The organization became known as the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (changed in 1921 to the American Association of University Women), organized for university women for practical educational work, the first such in the world.

Miss Talbot served as its secretary for thirteen years, or until 1895, when she became its president. Her guiding hand is seen throughout the life of the organization, particularly in its form-

ative years, in the policies advocated and followed. How well she planned is evident in its continuous growth and development.

As early as 1883, there was a study group called the Sanitary Science Club, which led, in 1887, to the publishing of a pioneer volume in its field: "Home Sanitation", written by Marion Talbot and Ellen Richards.

In 1888, Miss Talbot was a member of the committee "to strengthen existing colleges for women and discourage the establishment of new institutions with inadequate endowments". She was one of three in 1892 to exhibit the work of the association at the World's Fair, the first exhibit of its kind to be worked out. Many policy-making questions had to be solved, and Marion Talbot was usually found on the committee to consider them. She gave careful consideration to all facets of a question, basing her decisions on facts, seeing clearly the principle involved. Her vision and creative imagination, her integrity of purpose and courage, made her leadership valued, admired and loved.

Just as the history of the American Association of University Women is intimately bound up with Marion Talbot, so too is the history of the University of Chicago. With three degrees to her credit (an S. B. from Massachusetts Institute of Technology having been granted in 1888), teach-

ing experience at Wellesley, a trusteeship of Boston University, and ten years of organization and planning in the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, Miss Talbot journeyed westward to become the first official dean of women in any American educational institution. Her friends were dismayed at her temerity, but she was full of zest at the adventure in a new University.

With customary foresight, she guided social activities, keeping essential principles in mind. When the dean of the Divinity School wished to forbid dancing in university buildings, Dean Talbot showed that the result would be dancing in public halls. Dancing was then permitted only in university buildings until an approved list was formulated. Of the many problems to be solved, Miss Talbot saw not only the immediate aspects, but what would develop the highest good. Social life was based by her on "unity, liberty, social responsibility and freedom from petty and meaningless restrictions". That she was ever alert to women's interests was shown by assuring that the La Verne Noyes scholarships were open also to women.

Beneath the Puritan austerity glowed a love of life and people. Her duties were not considered a drudgery, but became an exciting career. To a "kid" party, Miss Talbot appeared in pigtails and appropriate dress; in early faculty shows, she told Irish stories in costume. She encouraged group

singing, played Beethoven to President Harper, and always entered into the spirit of any occasion.

Marion Talbot pioneered, too, in her teaching profession, in which she became a professor of household administration in 1904. Home economics meant, in those early years, food and clothing. In "More Than Lore", a book of delightful reminiscences, Miss Talbot said that "the University of Chicago was the first institution to offer courses which recognized that the great changes in industry and political and social organization called for corresponding changes in the training for family life". It was through her efforts and her guidance that these new courses were offered.

In addition to the two books mentioned, Miss Talbot wrote "Education of Women" in 1910, "The Modern Household" with Sophonisba Breckinridge in 1912, "House Sanitation" in 1912, and the "History of the American Association of University Women" with Lois Rosenberry in 1930.

Her administrative ability led to her being chosen acting president of Constantinople College for Women in 1927-8, when her many accomplishments led to her being asked to resume responsibility again in 1931-32, at the age of 73 years, after having been emeritus at Chicago for six years!

The honorary LL.D. degree was conferred on her by Cornell College in 1904, by Boston

University in 1924, and Tulane in 1935. She is a member of many scientific, honorary, civic and social clubs, and honorary member of ten organizations.

When asked what she considered the high lights of her life, her reply was: "I am very proud of the fellowship, and that day when you named me, is certainly one of the high lights of my life". The state convention at Aurora had not been receptive to the idea of undertaking an Illinois fellowship. The suggestion that a fellowship should be named for Marion Talbot was greeted by a storm of applause and carried the day. It is an appropriate memento for a life devoted to the advancement of education.

JEANETTE REGENT PLATT,
Former President,
Illinois Division.

TRIBUTES TO MARION TALBOT

My friendship with Miss Marion Talbot dates from the time when I became President of the American Association of University Women, although I have always known her from a distance and admired her. I count the privilege of knowing Miss Talbot well as one of the greatest opportunities which the office has brought to me.

I consider Miss Talbot one of the wisest women of our time in the field of higher education. The American Association of University Women has been most fortunate in having her wide experience throughout the years placed at its service. Miss Talbot's continuous interest in and close knowledge of our Association from its beginning has been one of the chief influences in directing its growth.

Her sanity and good judgment, her clear understanding and tolerant wisdom, have ever been at the disposal of the officers and members of the American Association of University Women. Our whole great organization gladly acknowledges its profound debt of gratitude and brings to her its mead of affectionate admiration. The naming of the Illinois State Division Unit Fellowship for Miss Marion Talbot is a great satisfaction to the Association.

MARGARET S. MORRISS, President,
American Association of
University Women.

We in the American Association of University Women have long honored Marion Talbot as the pioneer to whom we owe the founding of the Association. But the A.A.U.W. is indebted to Miss Talbot for much more than the initial plan to "unite alumnae of different institutions for practical educational work". For nearly six decades the development of the Association has been guided and stimulated and enriched by Miss Talbot's creative vision for women's education, her far-sighted appraisal of values, her untiring devotion and willingness to assume both responsibility and drudgery, her humor and common sense, her sturdy faith that the impossible can be accomplished, and her confident belief that the world can be made better if people will work intelligently and with human sympathy.

It is impossible to measure Miss Talbot's service to the Association. We can only be grateful that the young Association bore the imprint of her forward-looking mind, and that in these latter years we have been privileged to profit by her experience and counsel.

KATHRYN McHALE,
General Director,
American Association of
University Women.

For approximately sixty years, Miss Talbot has been intimately connected with the American Association of University Women. She was a guiding spirit in its inception. She, with others, created an organization with practical objectives of raising educational standards and opportunities for women, but she also included in that organization, ideals for encouraging the highest type of scholarship. During all these years, she has shared actively in the guidance and development of that organization. She has rejoiced in its progress and has been eager for it to fulfill its potentialities of influence and leadership. Her great mental vigor, her true courage, her penetrating vision, her loyal friendship—all these qualities she has given in generous measure to the Association. Her interest has always been in the present and the future; she has looked backwards only to appraise more adequately past achievements in relation to future development.

The members of the Illinois State Division are fortunate that Miss Talbot, our founder and our leader, lives in their state and that they are privileged to name their fellowship for her. We congratulate them upon their good fortune. No fellowship in the Association carries the name of one who over as long a period of years has rendered as valiant service to the Association.

We members of the Association revere Miss Talbot and wish to thank her for what she has done, and we congratulate the Illinois Division upon their success in the progress of their Fellowship Fund.

DOROTHY B. ATKINSON,
Chairman National Fellowship
Endowment Committee.

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Marion Talbot was one of the small band of brave women who in the latter decades of the nineteenth century championed the rights of women in collegiate and graduate education. Her contributions to the field of Home Economics and to education for women are fundamental. She added responsibility and intelligence to the attributes of womanhood. We are proud to include her on our roster of great men and women who have upheld the University of Chicago's pioneering tradition.

ROBERT M. HUTCHINS, President,
The University of Chicago.

Published by the ILLINOIS STATE DIVISION
American Association of University Women

National Headquarters,
1634 I STREET, N. W.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

A report as to suggestions for improving the male to
 administrative of the women's interests should be presented
 the President of the University

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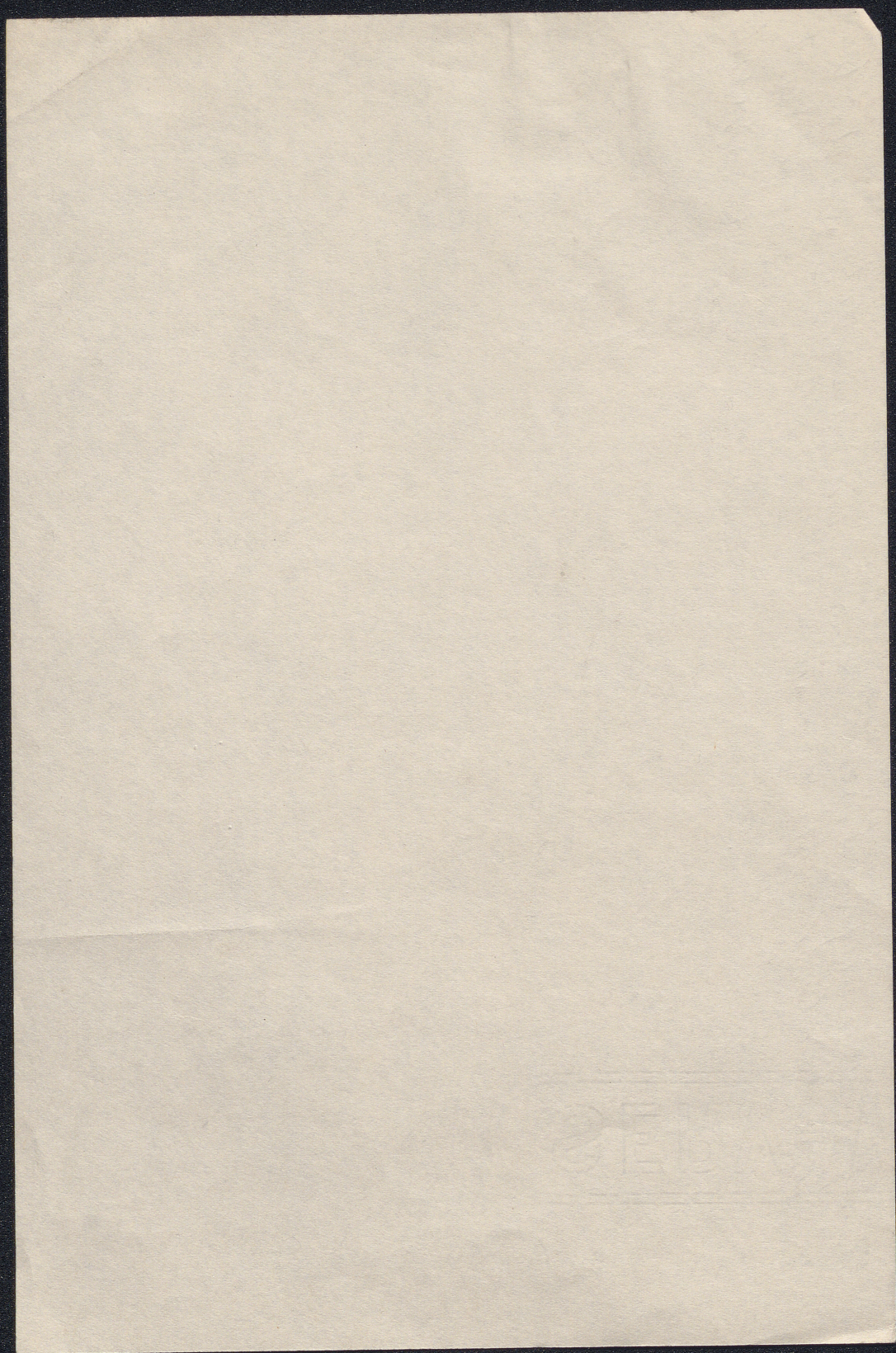
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It would be in accordance
 with my wishes to have the University
 of Chicago invite annually, a
 woman of national or international
 distinction in science, the
 arts and letters or ^{philanthropy} public service
 to give a Emily Talbot Lecture
 to the ^{members of the} University and live as a
 guest for a few weeks in one of
 the women student residences
 and hold ^{personal and informal} conferences with
 groups or individuals as to
 plans for their future and objec-
 tives) means and methods of
 carrying out this ideal



Add at end of first paragraph of letter of Dec. 1, 1910 the following:

It would be in accordance with my wishes to have the University of Chicago invite annually a woman of national or international distinction in science, the arts and letters philanthropy or public service to give a Emily Talbot lecture to the members of the University and live as a guest for a few weeks in one of the women students residences and hold personal and informal conferences with groups or individuals as to means and methods of attaining their ideals. A report as to suggestions for improving the administration of the women's interest should be made to the President of the University.

NOT FOR
REPRODUCTION

The University of Chicago

Office of the Treasurer

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March 28, 1945

122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE
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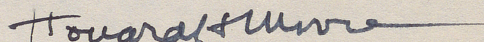
Miss Marion Talbot
5758 Kenwood Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Miss Talbot:

You recently sent to this office a provision which you desired to be added to your letter of gift of December 1, 1910, establishing the Emily Talbot Fund. Your proposed amendment, with a few minor changes in language, has been approved by the Board of Trustees of the University. Your letter of gift of above date, therefore, has been amended by adding at the end of the first paragraph of said letter the following provision:

"It would be in accordance with my wishes to have the University of Chicago invite annually, whenever possible, a woman of national or international distinction in science, the arts and letters, philanthropy, or public service to give an Emily Talbot lecture to the members of the University and live as a guest for a few weeks in one of the women students residences and hold personal and informal conferences with groups or individuals as to means and methods of attaining their ideals. A report by the invitee including suggestions for improving the administration of the women's interests might well be made to the President of the University."

Yours very truly,



Howard H. Moore
Legal Department

HHM:GF

The University of Chicago

Office of the Librarian

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