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Letter: Ida M. Tarbell to Inez Irwin, July 24, 1937

Tarbell, Ida M.

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July 24, 1937

Dear Mrs. Irwin:

I have delayed an unforgiveable time in answering your letter of last April asking what I could do to help on the matter of finances that the World Center for Women's Archives seem to have reached. I have had reasons for my delay which I hope you will think valid. In the first place I was ill when the letter came and I have not been very fit, just about able to keep my job going, but at the expense of all outside matters. Then, too, I was trying to do a little for you, to find from the few, very few, wealthy women I know whether they would be interested. I have had no success. The truth is, I think, that all of the women of means I know have their budgets more than mortgaged and at the present moment they are not open to new suggestions. A little later when things clear up, if they ever do, there may be more hope, but just now I do not know where to turn to find anybody who would help the project.

Unhappily I cannot be of the least use financially myself. My little budget is red in the face with over-exertion. I could not give a cent now, but later maybe I shall be able to and you may be sure I will do it when I can.

Then there is the question of members. I have had an idea that it might be possible sometime in the late fall or winter to have a meeting at the Pen & Brush — you and perhaps Mrs. Beard to explain the project. We could send out invitations to people who might seem to be interested. I am sure many of the members would be interested and would invite friends. Do you think there is anything in this idea? If you do, I shall do my best to arrange it.

I am sorry, dear Inez Irwin, that I am so useless a sponsor. However, this is a big project and launched at a time when most people are dropping rather than taking on projects. Watchful waiting is probably the only policy now. And who knows a good fairy may come walking down the street one day.

With all good wishes

Affectionately yours

Mrs. Inez H. Irwin
240 West 11th St.