

Vittorio D. Macchioro

8, Via Domenico Cirillo

Napoli (57)

Naples May 4, 1928

My dear Miss Tarbell,

Mrs. Raiola told me much about the interest you take in my matters, and I want to express to you my whole gratitude. I delayed till to-day my writing because I was desirous to give to you an account about my conference with Dr. Duggan. I met him a few days ago and I want to give to you a full account about our conversation.

I was somehow disappointed about the lectures because I realized that the matter will take a greater length of time before being arranged than I supposed. But the conversation was all the more important for me because it brought matters in another avenue, which seems to me better and more practical. In order to have you catch the eventual bearing of this new opening I want to tell you something which you don't know I think.

Some months ago professor Shirley Case, the

well known historian of christianity of the Chicago University asked of me an article about orphism and christianity for his magazine, The Journal of Religion, which I sent! some time after he asked me for some suggestions about an enterprise which might be without any doubt very conspicuous: he said that the Theological faculty of Chicago intended to gather up casts and pictures of monuments illustrating the links between heathen religions and christianity, and asked me for some suggestions and directions about the monuments to be collected. I replied expressing all my admiration for this plan and suggesting not to limit it to a few monuments but to found a real Museum for comparative history of christianity, emphasizing the huge significance and influence which such an institute - guide new in the world - might have for science: and I sketched a plan of this future museum. I did not get any answer from Prof. Case but I cannot doubt that my suggestion must have impressed him. On the other hand there is in Chicago another influential scholar, Prof. L. Allman, Director of the Department of Latin

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of the University who apprecia
yes me and will publish in another
magazine of Chicago (The Classical Philology) another
paper of mine.

All These Things I conversed about with Mr. Duggan,
who considered very seriously the Chicago possibilities.
Dr. Duggan thinks that in the case that the Chi-
cago Faculty or Professor Case decide to found
this Museum it would be perfectly advantageous
to charge me with its organization. As a matter
of fact museums have been since twenty years
my job and I am particular in organizing collections
and my studies put me in condition to know better
than everyone the monuments to be gathered and
the best way to illustrate them. In other words Dr.
Duggan thinks that it would be very useful both to me
and to the Chicago Faculty to have me there for organiz-
ing this Museum: and by the way he thinks that
this way might be far more honorable and serious
than every tour of lectures. And he decided to take
up the matter with professor Case.

This is what I want to have you know. I think
that now I entered in a more honorable way,

which stands in connection with all my past and
with my present profession. I will now appear
not as an Italian professor who is searching for
opportunities to lecture, but as a specialist who
can really give something which is practically
useful. I informed about all these things Prof.
Ullman, but not Professor Case, because Dr. Duggan
thinks it may be better to take up the matter
himself with him. Perhaps you could have some
opportunity to speak about the matter with some
influential persons having links with Chicago.
I shall be very grateful to you for everything
you might do.

I hope that all is well with you and I beg
your pardon for my bothering you.

With best thanks and kind personal
regards and good remembrances

Yours faithfully

Marchese