

July 25, 1935

Dear Miss

How generous you are. I received this morning the interesting grist of material you sent me to help me in my little research. Here is my problem:

The bibliography I am expected to furnish for my volume in the series of Histories of American Life which Macmillan is publishing and Doctor Schlesinger of Harvard and President Fox of Union College are editing is supposed to begin with references to physical survivals of the period. Now the period is from 1878 to 1898 or 1900. What I must do to make this really helpful is to find out what there is illustrating the physical development in industry in this twenty years. It would narrow down in the case of the New York Museum of Science and Industry I think to this question:-

What have you in machines and exact models of machines which shows what went on in these twenty years in transportation, telegraphy, telephone, electric power and light? What have you on the beginnings in this period or the hints, we may say, of motor cars, flying machines? I suppose you have models in many cases and that these models are made after the originals. Is there any way of my finding out where the originals are?

You see what I want. It is not to give an account of the general scope of your Institution but what your Institution offers for a student of this period.

I think I shall make this request to the Ford Museum, the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, the Franklin Institute, the National Museum in Washington; possibly the Smithsonian which I think has Professor Langley's original flying machine.

I am also going to ask the help of the Westinghouse, General Electric and the United States Steel. As you of course know one of the best special industrial museums in the country is that of the American Steel & Wire at Worcester, Mass. They have a very large collection of originals, a splendid collection of photographs and documents. The petroleum industry is now provided with a museum in Titusville, Pa. - the Drake Museum - they have originals and models of the equipment for producing oil as well as a large collection of lamps, as well as a library in which they are gradually getting together records both printed and manuscript. It is an unusual beginning and from what I know of those behind it I think its development will be pushed with energy and intelligence..

I shall hold the material which you sent me a little longer if you do not object and if I secure any interesting material in response to my letters I shall be glad to pass it on to you if you care for it.

Very sincerely yours