Bismarckstr. 2
Heidelberg 18/11 27
Germany

Mme Ida Tarbell
New York
c/o American Woman's Association

Dear Madam,

It has long been my desire to write to you in order to ask you the favour of giving me certain information on the following subject:

I am engaged for some time already in a research work on the educated American woman who has gone in for an independent career in some economic field or any profession if the work is connected with a commercial enterprise.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library

2 I am intensely interested in this problem, having come - through the experience of my life - to the conclusion that women will never free themselves fully unless making themselves economically free.

And knowing that in the U.-St. the educated woman (or perhaps better expressed: the woman belonging to the higher social grades) has stepped some wider strides in this domain, I should like to show to the German woman of the same order what the American has achieved in this direction, as there is a certain social prejudice in this regard still to be overcome in this country, besides other impediments.

When I began last year to gather material for my study I have not had much luck with it. With one exception, I received information only on the woman in dependent positions, so I nearly gave up my

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

But since about two months I succeeded in coming into touch with some ladies who understand well what was the object of my work & gave me some useful information, i.e. addresses for further information.

Your name I received first from the "Amerika Institut" (Professor Grasmann) at the University of Berlin as the author of a history of the Standard Oil Company & only a few days ago I received from America a little booklet "The keynote of the A. V. A." in which I found your name mentioned again.

May I then ask you to be so kind first to give me information on a number of questions I put in a separate sheet I am enclosing and then supplement it perhaps on other interesting points for my work as by any hints for it, more especially by addresses of persons or societies competent & likely to give me additional personal or general

Digital Image 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College/Pelletier Library

4

information on the problem I am studying. — Lest you should take [illegible] necessarily the trouble of giving me names I know already of, or have written to, let me mention some of such here.

Dr. Ethel Puffer-Howes, Smith College
Dr. Louise Stanley, Bureau of Home Economics, Washington
The Bureau of Vocational Information, New York
Mrs. [illegible] Lillian Gilbreth, Montclair, N.J.
The President of the National Association of Business & Professional women

Miss Mary Tolman, Secretary
Womens Industrial Union, Boston
Four of five Secretaries of Lady Gardener's Associations.
Some 35 former Smith College Alumnae, the addresses of whom I received through Dr. Ethel Puffer-Howes & who are women-entrepreneurs:
Mrs. Minar, Real Estate Business
Miss Hahn, Washington: Restaurant owner
Mrs. Mac Dougall, New York, " "
Dr. L. Stanley has too written in my favour to some persons competent for general information. Then I wrote also to the Secretary of the A. W. A. - New York, this week.
Of most of these persons I am still expecting an answer.
Thanking you beforehand for all you will do for me, Yours very truly Dr. Anna Neumann.

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

Some questions & points

1. Though personal information, i.e. information from women themselves who are working independently as women-entrepreneurs in some economic field or with a commercial object, is of the greatest importance for my study, it would be very useful too, if I could get hold of some respective literature.
However, I am told, that a monograph on the subject is not written yet. Certainly there must be & are many articles on the various sides of it, i.e. on women-entrepreneurs in various branches, scattered in many periodicals, but it would be nearly impossible to me to obtain all this literature, there being not yet developped a lending service between the American & German libraries and also not to buy all these periodicals (in whole volumes), as I am doing this work entirely on my own accounts & am in retreat now. (However, I intend to try & see if I cannot obtain at least a part of the respective literature through the Paris "Institute for intellectual cooperation".) —
But I might try & see if I cannot obtain (i.e. buy) at least a few prominent articles on the one or the other side of the problem (the women-entrepreneur in the single economic branches) if I succeed

6 where to find & to obtain them. And
1/ If you could & would be so kind as to give me some hints in this direction, I should be thankful.
But I must remark again that I have received already a list of references on literature on the woman-agriculturist, (mostly the woman-gardener) from the librarian, Miss Lacey, in the Department of Agriculture/Washington. This list I sent to the American Library in Paris, which however replied they had only quite a few of those articles & betides never lend any books etc. outside.
I am in the possession also of the "List of References": "Vocations for College Women", ~~edi~~ reprinted from the News Bulletin of the Bureau of Vocational Information/New York. But first, the majority of them treats the vocations for women in dependent positions, then there is the trouble again of getting all these many papers. —
Another point of interest to me would be the statistics of the women-entrepreneur in general & the statistics on the educated women among them specially.
There is of course, the U. States Census which I could obtain through some German library, but this Census dates from 1920 only & things must have developped since

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

I should think the best way to obtain all these figures would be by applying to the various national associations of either the professional women or — where there should not exist any, as f. i. with the women engineers) of such associations composed of both sexes. But it is difficult to find them out. It will certainly be very difficult in such cases to find out the facts (figures & other useful general informations) about the educated women-entrepreneurs only. It will be hardly possible I think to manage this part of the question. But if I cannot grasp the whole of the things, perhaps I could have some parts of it by applying to certain women's associations, such as f. i. the association of University Women? May I then, after this explanation of my necessities, ask you to kindly tell me

2) Where I could best obtain the statistics in question & some general information? From the various women's or men's & women's unions? I there not a book in America similar to the "English Woman's Yearbook", where I think all societies are enumerated? But I should want to have one which gives the associations also of men or of men and women & which? Is there any such book existing

Of course, my study gets a little difficult

Digital image, 2009 - The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944, Allegheny College Pelletier Library

8 Owing to the circumstance that I want to treat chiefly on the educated woman-entrepreneur, but still cannot avoid & will not avoid to report for the chief items (figures etc.) on women from what-ever category who have been & are successful in the economic field as entrepreneurs — I think to find out most of what concerns educated women (with a College or at least a High-School education) in this direction: perhaps the "personnel-" managers or the presidents of the various Colleges would be best able to give me some general information, as also addresses of a select number of such ladies.

But there is a great number of women's Colleges about the States, & perhaps they would not all be inclined to answer my questions (although, of course, it is only a scientific & social object I have in view). Therefore

3/ I should be much obliged to you if you would be so kind as to give me some hints about this question: To the directors of which Colleges would you advise me to write to, if at all?

4/ I have written quite shortly to the Secretary of the G. W. A., asking for a select number of addresses of respective ladies, as also about some statistical figures on them. I read in the "Key-Note" there are a great number of members - entrepreneurs. So I asked whether I could not obtain their list to find out. Is there any other publication of the G. W. A. you would advise me to read?

Digital Image, 2009. The Ida M. Tarbell Collection, 1890-1944. Allegheny College Pelletier Library