

JUL 27 1931

Derman H.

Moscow,
May 6th, 1931.

Miss Jane Donnely
Simmons College
Boston, Mass.

My dear Miss Donnely:

I am writing this letter to you and Miss Hyde; I feel deeply indebted to both of you for all the kindness I met with you and for the broad knowledge of library science I received at Simmons college. I am ashamed that your friendly letters have remained unanswered up to this date. I am sending now this letter through our dear friend Miss Eddy, who has been living in U.S.S.R. for six months helping us in the organization work of the unified library system. I begged her to forward to you this letter and to explain to you, why we people of U.S.S.R. are not able many a time to keep up correspondence even with our greatly respected, esteemed and dear friends.

When I studied at Simmons' I admired you, working and accomplishing so much and making at the same time all the students work hard. I appreciate the training I received at that time, it helps me at present to manage the work that lies on me.

Before the revolution only a selected part of the upper classes received education, the broad masses of people in our country remained illiterate. The revolution opened the schools and the libraries for every one and even the colleges and universities are free of charge for those who are eager for knowledge, the students getting support from the state. There is now a tremendous demand for education - for schools, universities, for books, libraries etc.- but there are not enough educated and special trained people, to do the work at ease, therefore those who have had the privilege to receive education before the revolution and who remained in the country to serve the liberated people, have to work very hard. But the work itself gives us much inspiration and enthusiasm, and therefore we do not feel it as a hardship, it only does not leave us time for communication with dear friends of ours.

Last year in August the first library college was organized in Moscow, heretofore we had only evening courses for library

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quite
training. Our library college nearly corresponds to the four years course of library school of Simmons. It admits senior high school graduates with not less than two years library experience and gives a college course of general education in economics, history, literature etc, and library science. Our college is a state institution, the students have not to pay for tuition, they get free quarters and financial support for their living. I have been appointed director of this college. In taking this position I could not resign from the Academy library because there is at present no trained librarian who could continue the work I have began there.

The Academy library represents now the main library with about one million volumes and 12 research institute libraries with a collection of books from one thousand to forty thousand volumes. These institutes belong to the Academy and the library work of all the institutes is centralised in the main library.

Besides these two positions I work as chairman of the Library Commission of the Peoples Commissariat of Public Education, as chairman of the Library Section at the Trade Unions, I am member of boards and bodies of learned institutions and societies etc.

I am writing all about it in order to show how filled up my time is.

I am always so very happy receiving some words from you and Miss Hyde, I hope you will not blame me for not having answered your letters.

My thoughts, my appreciation and love is many a time with you ~~you~~ and Miss Hyde, and I am always looking forward with the most exceeding interest to every news coming from you both and Simmons College.

Sincerely yours and with best wishes to you both

Henriette Derman