

May 18,
1960

Dr. Herbert Putnam,
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Putnam:-

On behalf of the Indian Arts Fund of Santa Fe, I am writing to ask your advice regarding the unpublished manuscripts, papers, letters, etc. of Mary Austin which were left to this organization by the provision of her will.

Recently we have received word that the Huntington Library in California is interested in securing all this material. At a recent meeting of the organization we voted to have Mr. Bliss come to see what we have and make an offer on it. However, there seemed to be a question in the minds of some of the Board Members as to the value of this material both now and in the future. I offered to write to ask your advice as to the wisest disposition of these papers, feeling certain that you would give us the benefit of your wise counsel.

We know that a re-print of one of Mrs. Austin's works is at present under way, and a question is the value of future use of the material we have. Mrs. Austin was one of the Founders of the Indian Arts Fund, and her hope in leaving all of this collection was to bring added revenue for the continuation of the Indian Arts Fund. This organization exists primarily for the purpose of purchasing and housing in Santa Fe, the finest work, both old and new of the Indians of the Southwest. We have a very valuable collection which grows continually through purchases and gifts, and which is becoming, if not already is, the finest of its kind in the country.

We own the copyrights on all published work by Mary Austin and do receive some revenue from them periodically. The librarian of the Museum of New Mexico has offered to care for the material in question in the Museum's Library here where it will be more accessible to students and researchers than in its present housing. We do need advice in appraising the material and to its ultimate disposition.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,