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Letter to Jean Sims regarding report on meeting of the Carolinas Chapter of AALL, November 5, 1949

Dillard Gardner

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November 5, 1949

Miss Jean Sims,
Library, School of Law,
University of South Carolina,
Columbia, S.C.

Dear Little Tex:

Thank you for the nice letter of the 2nd.

The minutes cover very satisfactorily our meeting, unless you want to add more details as to specific matters discussed such as Sarah's problem of possible duplication of material due to the library plan and some of the matters you raised. Harrison McDonald, the editor of the Library Journal, will want a little story on the meeting, try to slant it toward the things that interest law librarians - your impressions of the libraries visited, your conviction that utility for the patrons is more important than the logic of the shelving plan, the expensiveness of the librarian's wish for completeness in such fields as the law reviews, etc. I know many impressions ran through that pretty, little head. Put them down. Even if other librarians do not agree with you, they'll be stimulating. There is nothing formal or rigid about library administration; experience and plain horse-sense count heavily - and when they are lacking, the result is sometimes pitiful.

While I'm thinking about it, suggest to Sarah that you two during the coming year jot down the main points in your handling of obsolete and duplicate material, what is stored, what thrown away, what sold and how, etc. As long as you have ample storage space, there is no serious problem, but when you begin to crowd your shelving limits, this becomes a serious problem. Let's discuss it some when we visit Miss Elliott.

With kindest and warmest regards to two fine little girls, I am

Cordially,

Dillard S. Gardner