

Edith How-Martyn correspondence with Margaret Sanger, and related papers: 1916

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1916

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MHS

163 Lexington Ave
New York City.
July Eighteenth
1916.

Dear Mr. Martyn:

Really it is quite
impossible to express
to you the emotion
your kind letter of June
15th together with
Money order & extracts
from letters of friends
caused within me.

I have just returned
from the West and

Consequently your letter was awaiting me a week or more. Thus the delay in answering it. The many kind expressions are indeed most charming and I don't deserve one half the tribute paid to me for as I told friends in Cleveland who spoke of courage, etc. that I had nothing but my chains to lose - chains I had ~~conscience~~ so deserve no credit for the little I have done to arouse this country out of its Rip Van Winkle slumber of Puritanism.

Oh you will be glad to hear of what has been done. I left N. Y. in April and have since visited fifteen of the largest cities in U.S.A. making a complete tour of over three thousand miles across to the Pacific. I have helped to start a Birth Control League in each city and I have received (& sent) twenty thousand requests for

information to Central little
since that time.

3.

The people - women with babies
in their arms & two or three little
ones at the skirts came to me
at the hotel where I was staying
They came 30 to 50 of them
each morning, often as early
as seven o'clock. They came
in from the surrounding
country - They left their washing
their babies - their canning & their
berry picking to come to talk
to me of their tragic lives.

4.

The men too - big, bawny
uncouth, shy & gentle
came ^{MHS} to ask if I would
go down to see "The wife"
& talk to her - They were
on the verge of separation
all because of her fear
of the coming of another
baby - They already had
five - sometimes six &
once nine - Women were
still young & strong
"good" They still had
the "kick" in them.

Oh dear lady if you
could hear the tragic

5.

stories & laconic The heartrending
appeal for relief - No one would
ask me ever again to respect
a piece of paper - Called a
law, which kept These women
in such bondage.

at St Louis The Catholic Church
came out in public &
stated I could not speak in
that City. I had one thousand
letters from that glorious
City alone asking begging
for information -

The abolitionists are thriving
in that City - growing rich
on the laws as they stand.

In Denver, Colo. I met the
first real spirit of the West.
The real democratic spirit
of America - The Jefferson -
The Lincoln - The freest
spirit - The primal forest.
Big - free - strong.

In California - at Los Angeles
after my two meetings over
five hundred women in that

6.
City alone sent in their
names to belong to the
League. In San Francisco
the same & in Portland
Oregon over four hundred
names were given. I was
arrested there for giving
out Family Limitation.

I started out to the Coast
not intending to violate any
of the State's laws - but to
continue to violate the
Federal law only (thru the mails)

74
but upon my arrival
in California - The
MHS Women There urged
me to make the fight
there in the West so
to rally the women
to the cause.

They have the suffrage
in California, Oregon,
Colorado & Washington.
& practically control
things - So I took
their advice - Nothing
came except in Oregon.
Seven of us were arrested
& were found guilty.

8.

but all Charges were dismissed
It's amusing the way it all
turns out -

The whole question of Birth
Control is the question of
importance here today.
Everywhere in U.S.A. it is known,
& study of its various aspects
begun. In Cleveland Ohio.
They have 400 members.
Divided into a - Law Committee,
Medical - Executive - Research,
& Literature Committee.

I was asked to address the
Delegates of the Charity Convention
& it was the biggest event of
interest at the Convention.

In another year - it will
become a vital fact here.
It's already bigger than the
laws against it.

If you could only know how
much you dear woman
have helped in doing this.
All the support of the
English people has given

90
it just the keynote to
bring about these splendid
results - I am glad of this.
England & N.S.A. should be
like the right & left hand of
this Universe.

Again I thank you - I appreciate
so greatly what it has all
meant to write to people &
for them to reply to you
& with your own war difficulties
in hand too - I think it
magnanimous of you all.

Sincerely Yrs. Margaret Sanger



Aug 14. 1916.

HOTEL RUTLEDGE

WOMAN'S HOTEL

AMERICAN PLAN

LEXINGTON AVE. & 30TH STREET

NEW YORK

Dear Mr Martyn:

You indeed your
registered letter
came I have written
you some weeks
ago to thank you
for it - It was
simply splendid
of you to think of
it!

I am at the Lake
with my boys
trying to set up a

Dear Mr. Webb
The stenographic Campaign
of winter begins again.
I enclose a copy
of the first issue
of B. C. in N. S. S.
beside the Woman's
Union of Cleveland,
Ohio. & next we
want a big national
paper & a Clinic
& then we're off!
My thanks, sweetest
to you all.

Ever dearly
Margaret W. Sawyer

Letters from Margaret
Sanger to Edith How-Martyn.

1916.

Many S. asked

L L to read

MS

Read this letter AGAIN if
ever spirits
are "flagging" on the
project!

MS July 18

Read again by E.P. on
30.7.83: copy of
this sheet DEFINITELY
be in Smith College
Library !!

1916

letter again

HORACE PALMER

7, DEVONSHIRE ROAD,
HASTINGS

PHONE:
HASTINGS 6901

~~Date not given on this~~
~~letter~~ ~~but~~ It is
obviously one of
the earliest letters
from Margaret Sanger
to Edith How-Martya

(written when
M.S. was in
London.)

VERY
PRECIOUS.

Margaret Sanger to Edith How-
Martyn.

Date of year omitted:
reference to 7 arrested in Oregon
(all acquitted). Ref. 1914-18 War.

1916

Reply to

E H M

June 15
1916.