

March 21, 1942

Miss Helen M. Engstrom, County Librarian
Los Angeles County Public Library,
302 So. Broadway,
Los Angeles, California

Dear Miss Engstrom:

The Public Relations men from the Museum Center think your suggestion of sending books suitable for women and children from your collection of gifts, would be a very fine thing, and fill a real need. The Japanese are getting the library service, and are making generous offers of books from their own libraries. Most of these seem to be expected to be reference or serious reading. So some lighter material would be appreciated.

I feel that no matter who handles the establishment of a library there, they will need some trained librarians, and if such (Japanese) persons are being sent away from the coast, we might as well have them. This man to whom I was talking heartily agrees with me, and thinks it very important that we do something about that immediately. He asked me to write to you to ask if you knew of any whom you could recommend. They can ask for any trained persons whom they need in building this new city from the ground up. They are doing it as to doctors, nurses, office workers, etc.

We would need some one to handle a large branch library, or if the Federal Government has entire charge of the plan, probably some one capable of acting as head librarian. They would be likely to follow the Army plan, would they not? Then we should have a children's and school librarian. Your suggestion of persons to take charge of a reading job would also come in here.

I am to see another man today, and shall write you later as to whom and how many books we shall want you to send. Probably I shall not have definite plans before next week.

Very truly yours,