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April 16, 1957

Bishop's
Museum

Mr. John C. Ewers
Smithsonian Institution
United States National Museum
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ewers:

Thanks so much for your kind letter of the 10th. I am afraid I did not quite make clear what we have in mind here in the way of a museum. It will be devoted to the history of the Episcopal Church in Oklahoma and the exhibits, I suppose, will be largely documentary and photographic. Of course, there may be some objects in cases also, and I am grateful to you for your suggestion that the first and biggest step a new museum has to make is as to what must be the subject of the museum. It should be particularly useful to a museum which cannot pay anything, but has to depend upon voluntary contributions and gifts.

I once heard a curator declare that a museum is a collection of labels with specimens attached. It is such general guiding principles that I am anxious to get from you, if you care to offer them. Thanks, too, for the other suggestions, particularly with regard to early missions and missionaries.

Thanks very much for your kind invitation to stop by when in Washington. I shall certainly hope to take advantage of it.

I shall be in Sheridan for the Miss (Indian) America contest again this year the first week in August, and in Baltimore visiting my daughter, so just when I cannot say as yet.

Cordially yours,

W.S. CAMPBELL
(Stanley Vestal)

WSC:vhp