

E. O.

2. Woodland Villa
Wells Road
Glastonbury.

March 1st
[1914]

AL/1936

Dear Mrs Roberts

I am so sorry not to
have written before. I have done
no work since I have been here
At first my typewriter which
was to come after me did not
arrive. When it did it had
got out of gear. Also up to now
it has been a little difficult
to get my regular hours each
day. I hope this week to
start.

When Dr. Deamer heard I was
coming here he suggested my getting
an introduction to the Dean of
Welles ^{Dean} Ambridge Robinson so
as I could not obtain a copy
of the history of Seaconess
I wrote to ask if he could very
kindly let me know if I could
get one lent. He sent to his
sister Miss Robinson and she
lent me a copy. Through this
the Dean wrote again to say
I could get permission to use
the Library of the Theological
College at Welles and this may
be of the greatest value.

I quite agree with what you
said in your letter and found
that I came to the same
conclusion as far as I have gone
so yet. There is no evidence
that women exercised priestly
duties except in Acts outside
the orthodox church. But
Principal Lidear said that
the humanists - amongst whom
women were priests - were not
so separate from the churches
is supposed and not as
heretical.

He must decide soon as to
whether the Conference shall be

held. If it is to be then will
be a great amount of work
to do to get the historical notes
as complete as possible -
I do feel that it would be the
greatest help to have someone
else to help me at the museum
when I return for the three weeks
or a months work.

Do you think this would be at
all possible? To write to
one or two of those who are
Really interested and anxious
that this research should be
followed up and ask them
whether they would be willing
to contribute a small sum

towards paying for a months
 research work. I have just
 heard of a girl who I believe
 knows Latin who is very clever
 and would do this work for
 very little. It would only be
 for the one - but her assistance
 would be great. He could
 cover double the ground
 was it you walked the one
 who would twice? husband
 knows her and will give me
 an introduction to her when
 I go up to London.

Do you think this suggestion
 possible? It would be when
 I go up.

I think this will not be until
the end of April. Would
you be able to come. This would
be much nicer.

I shall be sending soon for
one or two books if I may have
them. Have not got a good
enough French dictionary for
those magazines. The words
I do not know are not in the
small ones. If I cannot get
me at Leeds I wonder if you
could let me have one.

I am so thankful I have
had some kind of introduction
to Dean Ambridge Robinson.

I think if I am in any great
difficulties I could write to
him. As it is a subject he is
expert in.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

John B. Allen.

Did I tell you that Mrs
Foster Brown felt that the
research part of this work should
be rather a thing apart and
not associated only with a
movement in the Church of
England or when complete
any book on the subject would

be for the use of good of all
churches & sects.

She was anxious that the
research part should be independent
and not associated at first

with any claim of women in any
particular church.

I do not see how a book can
be ready before a conference of
such should be held in autumn.

I feel we must take the next
steps and be guided