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Angel De Cora,
Carlisle, Pa.,
June 7, 1906.

Report on condition of Art Department, Carlisle Ind. School.

To De Cora 6/22/06
" Carlise "

File

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Holbrook, Ariz
June 16/02

Dear Major

Your big batch of mail, & the pads from Mare are here.

Please give Mrs Dellora all the freedom that the law will allow & the money at command will stand. Instruct her as to how to apply, etc., & I can't answer for questions, because I am not where I can find out. But I will write her that you will take care of her just as far as the law will permit. I am much interested in this experiment, I think, though, that one ~~F.~~ Lh weaker could do as

Major:

I think this letter from Miss Angie Dora should go to the Secy. for his personal directions for our guidance. I know he is very much interested in her work, and probably will wish to indicate what the office action should be in connection therewith. While I think I know generally what he wishes this seems to call for specific action. She can be granted one month's educational leave, or the Comr. could detail her under her salary alone to go to New York as she asks.

June 8/06

JHC

June 7th 1906.

Hon. Francis E. Leupp,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr Leupp,

I said I would make a report to you of the situation in the Art Department here, and of the possibilies as well as the needs of our work.

In the first place, I think that even the few samples that you have seen will have convinced you that the work might develope into a weaving industry of some kind. I am more than interested in it, and am willing to go to any trouble to learn the art of weaving to help the students along. The main thing

that presents itself to me as a practicable industrial opportunity is the weaving of handmade rugs. Little machinery would be required. There would be no outlay except for the material out of which to make the rugs, for I think that some ingenious Indian might make the required looms, and that, with them, the skillful Indian hand would eventually be able to turn out as good and durable rugs as the Persians. My idea is to make this a permanent industry among the Indians, for I believe that in time it might become as traditional a thing with them as it is with the rug-making people of the East. What I have

already seen in the work of the classes under me at the School goes to convince me that the members of the different tribes influence each other in their style of designing. They have produced a very interesting design, of a composite Indian character, well adapted to such an art as rug-making. I have saved carefully all the designs made under my guidance, and shall reproduce them in draperies or rugs as soon as I have the material to use, and have mastered some of the technical phases of the art.

In order that I may be able to superintend the application to such an art of the designs

produced, I wish to employ, this summer, the educational leave allowed to teachers, in a Persian rug establishment in New York City. I have ascertained that there is such a place, and will furnish you with the name and other details connected with it. My purpose is to obtain an understanding of the technical side of the art, and I ask permission to make the necessary arrangements for the month of July or August.

You may be aware that we have had no art materials to work with here, since I have been here, except kindergarten colors and paper. I have made no demand for more supplies for the reason that I wished to test the pupils

as to their ability and their sympathy with me in the work. The results, I think, have been wonderful.

The ability and sympathy shown by the pupils have been such, indeed, that I feel that I can depend upon them to carry on the industry that I wish to develope. If it is not asking too much, and for the purpose of carrying out this plan for ~~the~~ help of the whole Indian race, I wish you would endorse my demands for all the material. I have kept it down to the very least that I think we could do with.

If I see that the work is going to be a success in a commercial

day, I want - the student artists and workers to realize something from it. Any designs that is seen to be good and capable of being used repeatedly should be copyrighted and the student should realize some gain from it.

I also would like to encourage them to make fancy articles that can be put on exhibition in a salesroom or other suitable place and for this purpose would like to put in an application for supplies and articles to be used. I shall make a list of such supplies, and also of drawing materials, which it will be desirable to have for another year. Of the material for weaving I shall not know till I have looked into the work in New York City; also as to fancy articles and what is to be popular for another season.

I think it would be a good thing to have a number of Navajo weavers at the school, to teach their art of weaving.

Will you kindly let me know whether I still hold the assistant inspectorship of Indian goods to which I was appointed last year, or whether that has lapsed? I ask because I would like to oversee the purchase of art materials.

Very truly yours

Angel DeCora

Indian School,
Carlisle,
Pa.