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Letter to Jean M. Holcomb reporting on use of SEAALL Scholarship funds, July 1, 1992

Paul M. Pruitt Jr.

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July 1, 1992

Jean Holcomb
Director, Norfolk Law Library
1300 Dominion Tower
999 Waterside Drive
Norfolk, Virginia 23510

Dear Jean:

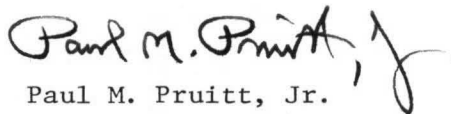
You're not going to believe that I am finally reporting on my SEAALL grant activities--but I am. My only excuse for the delay is that my travel (to the state archives, Birmingham Public Library, etc.) was spaced out over winter, spring, and early summer, as were the photocopy requests I made from distant libraries. My hundred dollars went for gas, food, and photocopies, and very welcome it was, too.

During the 1991-1992 year I worked on two Julia Tutwiler/Prison Reform projects. The first was my effort to put together a bibliography or pathfinder of late 19th century prison reform in Alabama. I have gathered many citations, but the project is momentarily stalled because I am unable to locate original copies of the yearly proceedings of the Alabama Women's Christian Temperance Union, which contain vital information on the WCTU's anti-convict lease work. Several earlier researchers have used these proceedings, but when I have followed up their footnotes, I have found that the collections were lost, misplaced, or weeded--or else that the archivists don't know where to begin to look. It is all very frustrating, but at some point I will either find what I need, or else conclude that it doesn't exist any more. At that point I will put together the information I have collected in some publishable form--possibly for the Law Library Journal.

My second project has been to piece together an account of Julia Tutwiler's early years, trying to show how she became a prison reformer. The result is the enclosed article, which I submitted only a few days ago to the Alabama Review. I expect that they will accept it, but lord knows what changes they may request. Anyway, I thought that it was high time I showed that SEAALL was getting something for its money; please note that I have thanked SEAALL in my pre-footnote note.

I hope that all is well with you and yours. If you need a more formal report from me, please let me know.

Sincerely,


Paul M. Pruitt, Jr.
Assistant Law Librarian