Elsa Brändströms papper L88:18 Manuskript, utkast, diverse - 4

Brändström, Elsa,

HS L88:18

National Library of Sweden

Amerika-resan 1923

Auswärtiges Amt.

Berlin, den 20. Januar 1923.

Sehr verehrtes Fräulein Brändström!

Anbei zwei Empfehlungsschreiben an die Herren Baruch und Pagenstecher in New York, die mir beide persönlich bekannt sind.

Was die Botschaft und unsere Konsulate (in New York, Chicago, St. Louis, San Francisco, New Orleans) angeht, so ist Entsprechendes veranlasst. Sie werden also dort sicherlich jederzeit durch Rat und Tat Unterstützung finden.

Mit den besten Wünschen für eine glückliche Reise und befriedigenden Erfolg und in der Hoffnung, Sie auch nach Ihrer Rückkehr aus den Staaten hier wiedersehen zu können, verbleibe ich

Ihr sehr ergebener

Richthofen

TUSKEGEE NORMAL AND INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE

FOUNDED BY BOOKER T. WASHINGTON

FOR THE TRAINING OF COLORED YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

G. W. A. JOHNSTON
BUSINESS AGENT

TUSKEGEE INSTITUTE, ALABAMA

July 12, 1930

Mr. W. M. Hayes, T.P.A.,
L & N Railway,
Montgomery, Ala.

My dear Mr. Hayes:

The bearer, Mrs. Ulich, desires lower on your train No. 4, to Chicago. I will appreciate it very much indeed if you will be in a position to take care of this party.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Very truly yours,

G W A Johnston

Business Agent.

GWAJ:CM

not understand why, he answers I am going to make for other people's where answers I cannot understand why the ... you would appreciate very much indeed if you would be in a position to share the cost of the ... 3 colored men ... 4 years on the other ...

Accompanied to the Bus ~~line~~
Hood Coach line by E. S. Washington
on Saturday the 12. leaving Tuskegee 1.15
~~I out~~ I saw that the bus was very
crowded. The driver seemed to make ~~room~~ people move in
order to make room
and when I entered the bus, the four
first rows were occupied by white
people, ~~the~~ with 4 seats in each
row, the fifth row was empty and
there I sat down and ~~the~~ The last
row five colored people were sitting.
After a ~~while one~~ at one of the
stops one of these got out and
the conductor came ~~to me~~ ~~went round~~
to my window and said "Move over
to the last bank, — ~~I said why~~
at my astonished "why" he said
in a rude impolite way, move
over at once, when I said I do

Detta syftar på en händelse från en av Amerika resorna (förmodl. 23)
Elsa hade besökt ett negroe-college och stod vid hållplatsen och väntade på bussen omgiven av negerstu denter som glatt vinkade henne farväl. Hon steg in o satte sig på en tom plats — det var bl. de vita som det fanns plats. Hon blev brysk avkörd o övervisad till den svarta avdeln.
Man tycker att hennes ljusa uppenbarelse skulle tyda på vit men konduktören förklarade att ingen vit skulle fraternisera so livligt med svarta studenter alltså var hon en s.k. vit neger med sitt burriga ljusa hår — —

angående
ett neger-interview
i Amerika
förmodl. 1923?

En varm tack till alla svenskamerikaner.

Jag skulle önska att detta mitt innerliga å varma tack kunde nå alla de landsmän, som genom sin storslagna offervillighet stödt mitt arbete å gjort det möjligt för mig att nu efter fem månaders vistelse i Amerika återvände med 100.000 dollars till de nödlidande barnen i Centraleuropa.

Mitt första tack går till Dr. Börje Brilioth, som genom sitt stora inflytande och vidsträckta relationer lyckades förskaffa mig stöd av hela den amerikanska pressen.

Till alla svensk-amerikanska tidningar står jag i en ondplänlig tacksamhetsskuld för den varma sympati och förståelse med hvilken de omfattade mitt arbete å i sina spalter ständigt gåfvo mig nytt stöd å (hvilket för mig var den största) uppmuntran.

?

De som inom de olika landsdelarna planerade min föredragsresa ö genom en mödosam förarbete lade grunden till dessas framgång voro Generalkonsul C. H. Lamm, Dr. B. Biliotte, Konsul Carl O. Dardel, Vice Konsul J. Wessén ö last but not least den oförtröttliga f. d. Generalsekreteraren of American-Scandinavian Foundation Dr. Henry G. Leach.

Städerna, distrikten?

?

?

Men till hvad skulle alt förarbete och alla förhoppningar tjänat om ej svensk-amerikanarna öppnat sina hjärtan ö mött mig med sin ~~djupa~~ varma förståelse och ~~levande~~ sympati. Det arbete som i de olika städerna ~~städerna~~ nedlagts af enskilda personer eller kommittéer har varit så oerhördt omfattande ö kostat ~~en~~ så ~~dan~~ mycket omtanke ö möda att jag vid tanken däröf

ständigt kännen den förkrossande (Tacksamhetsskuld ~~[illegible]~~, som jag aldrig skall bli i stånd att gengälde. ~~Men ens lite fattig uttrycka min erkänsla för.~~ Måtte alla) ~~de, som genom oförtröttligt organisationsarbete~~ desse oförtröttlige organisatörer som offrat tid, kraften och pengar på att så framgångsrikt ordna allt för mina föredrag hänne att de hos mig uppväckt en beundran ö en tacksamhet hvilken jag ~~aldrig~~ ej ord kan förmå uttrycka.

Hur skall jag kunna tacka alla de svenska prästen, som läto mig tala i sina kyrkor, ~~Hur höglidligt var det ej i~~ (de backra Gusa templen där fid ö gammalsvensk gudstro ~~gap helgd~~. Eländskade.) ! deras.

Med glädje ö tacksamhet skall jag alltid minnas de många svenska klubbar och föreningar ~~som~~ hvilka beredde mig tillfälle att i deras kretö få berätta om mina stöfbanden

Aldrig skall jag glömma den
storslagna gästfriheten med
hvilken så många svenska
familjer togo emot mig
å min reisekamrat och mig S. D.
I. dessa trefne hem,
~~finge vi se~~ som genom
idogt arbete å malmedveten
strävan skapats på grunden

~~med~~ bevare vi så många
ljusa vackra minnen.

och (på det mest vänskapsfulla sätt ~~ofta~~ utvänkta nya vägar att hjälpa mig ~~i min arbete~~

~~Med~~ oöppenhäppad gästfri-
het öppnades för mig i
min vaskamrat fröken Ellen
Douglas ~~de tid~~ så många
trefna svenska hem och vi
fingo se ~~hvad~~ hvad idogt
arbete i målmedveten
strävan kunnat (skapa) ?
(bygga upp) på grunden av gammal
svensk kultur.

Att se hvilken aktad
ställning svensk-amerikanarna
intagit i sitt nya hemland
i hvilken heder de gjort det
svenska namnet, det ~~svenska kulturen~~ ~~mästa~~
kommer hvarje svensk att
känna glädje och stolthet. Och
med en sista innerligt tack
förenar jag en varm i
uppriktig önskan ~~till alla~~
(~~mina nya vänner svensk-~~
~~amerikanska vänner~~) om
fortsatt lycka och framgång i Edert (nya hemland) ?
sköna lika Amerika

aldrig skola jag glömma den ~~vänliga~~ i ~~vänliga~~ storslagna gästfriheten med hvilken så många trefna timmar tagit emot mig

till mina nya svensk-amerikanska vänner (till svensk-amerikanarna.)

~~svensk-amerikanska~~

New York den 26 Juli 1923.

Elsa Brändström

Deutsche Gesandtschaft

Stockholm, den 11. September 1924.

Die Überbringerin dieses Schreibens, die schwedische Staatsangehörige Fräulein Elsa B r ä n d s t r ö m beabsichtigt die Direktion des Norddeutschen Lloyd um Unterstützung organisatorischer Art für ein Liebeswerk zu bitten, das von ihr für deutsche Kinder in den Vereinigten Staatan vom Amerika eingeleitet worden ist. Fräulein Brändström steht bekanntlich seit geraumer Zeit in der vordersten Linie der schwedischen Liebestätigkeit zur Linderung der deutschen Not und hat sich dabei einzigartige Verdienste um Deutschland erworben. Während des Krieges hat sie jahrelang den deutschen Kriegsgefangenen in Sibirien an Ort und Stelle in aufopfernder Hingabe und mit reichem Erfolge hilfreich zur Seite gestanden. Nach der Rückkehr der Gefangenen in die Heimat liess sie ihnen und ihren Angehörigen auf den verschiedensten Gebieten weitere Fürsorge zuteil werden; u.a.errichtete sie an mehreren Stellen in Deutschland für die Kinder der deutschen Kriegsgefangenen aus Sibirien Heimstätten, wo mehrere tausend Kinder Pflege und Erholung finden.

Die Deutsche Regierung lässt es sich angelegen sein, die Be-

An

die Direktion des Norddeutschen Lloyd

in

B r e m e n.

Bestrebungen Fräulein Brändströms in jeder Beziehung zu unterstützen und hat namentlich angeordnet, dass sämtliche für ihre Heimstätten bestimmten Sendungen auf den Bahnen frei befördert werden.

Bei dieser Sachlage würde ich es lebhaft begrüssen, wenn die Direktion des Norddeutschen Lloyd sich in der Lage sähe, den Wunsch, den Fräulein Brändström vorbringen wird, zu erfüllen.

von Rosenberg,

Deutscher Gesandter
Reichsminister a.D.

It has for me been a source of great joy to find that the finest traits of our proud Swedish ntaional character are to be found so untainted in our descendants om American soil.

Their kindness of heart and readiness to sacrifice — their deep sense of duty to help and assist the suffering has given me ample proof of this.

They honor the Swedish name by word and deed and fulfil their duties ~~as a part of~~ in and towards their new country ~~and of the American people.~~ in such an way that the American people ~~must as they do deeply appreciate~~ regard this stock of their people as their ~~strongest backbone~~ and we home in Sweden must feel proud over this fact even ~~if we cannot return our thanks for deeply regarding the best of so many good people.~~

I feel that I must express my deep and sincere admiration of the American people — and not least for those of Swedish descent. strongest source of pro- pride

And ~~to them all I wish to give~~ I wish to give them all my warmest thanks for their kind understanding of my work and aims.

When if we cannot help sometimes grudging America ~~this splendid source~~ for what ~~which~~ has bleeded away from our own country.

From all I have seen during my short visit to America I carry with me ~~after seeing, if only — — I feel~~ a deep and sincere admiration for the Am. people and not least for those — — —

And I wish to give them all

Amerika-resan

23

Till våra kära svenska landsmän och mina ämbetsbröder i Amerika!

Dyrtidens, hungerns och otrygghetens natt vilar tung över Europa. Massdöden fortsätter churu i oblodiga former. Den enda verkliga ljusningen är den kristna barmhärtighetens kärleksverk.

Då mitt personliga sammanträffande med Eder fördröjts är det mig särdeles kärt att kunna sända Eder hjärtlig hälsning och välönskan genom en av dem, som i denna tid, så full av elände, hänsynslöst maktbegär och förbannelsens utsäde, trognast och tapprast tjäna kärlekens ödmjuka stormakt.

Dotter till dåvarande ministern i Petrograd, general Brändström, egnade sig fröken Elsa Brändström från vintern 1914 till sommaren 1920 åt krigsfångarna i Ryssland och Sibirien med ett hjältemod, en offervillighet och en dugande förmåga, som ställer henne i första ledet av den kristna barmhärtighetens tjänare i alla tider. Hon höll frimodigt ut, där starka och behärtade män måste draga sig tillbaka, utmattade, hopplösa eller fruktande för sitt förstånd. Hon kallades på sin tid i amerikanska pressen för "the Angel of Siberia". Namnet är väl förtjänt. Ty, hur mycket Elsa Brändströms självständiga och anspråkslösa väsen uppreser sig däremot, måste jag upprepa, vad jag haft riklig anledning att tacksamt tänka och säga, nämligen att ingen gjort svenska namnet större heder, ja, att ingen har gjort det kristna namnet större heder under dessa år än denna unga svenska kvinna.

Hon egnar allt fortfarande sin hela kraft åt krigets arma offer.

Låt mig varmt anbefalla henne och hennes kärleksverk till Eder.

Uppsala den 2. januari 1923.

Eder tillgivne

(Undertecknat) Nathan Söderblom.

(Sveriges Ärkebiskop)

ΣΥΝΕΡΓΟΙ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑΝ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ.

UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE ON LIFE AND WORK
ALLGEMEINE KONFERENZ DER KIRCHE CHRISTI FÜR PRAKTISCHES CHRISTENTUM
CONFÉRENCE UNIVERSELLE DU CHRISTIANISME PRATIQUE
ALMENKIRKELIG KONFERENS FOR PRAKTISK KRISTENDOM
KONFERENS FOR KIRKELIGT ARBEJDSFÆLLESKAB
ALLGEMEENE CONFERENTIE VAN DE CHRISTELIJKE KERK BETREFFENDE LEVEN EN WERK
EKUMENISK KRISTLIG GEMENSKAP I LIV OCH ARBETE
COMMUNIO IN SERVIENDO OECUMENICA
Οἰκουμενικὸν Συνέδριον τῆς Ἐκκλησίας τοῦ Χριστοῦ περὶ ζωῆς καὶ ἔργου ἡ *Κοινωνία τῶν ἐκκλησιῶν*

New York, London, Berlin, Uppsala den 2 Jan. 1923

To Everyone in the United States who is kindly willing to help my friend Miss Elsa Brändström in her reliefwork.

The darkness of misery, starvation and unrest lies deep over Europe. The only real break in the clouds is made by christian charity. We, immediate neighbours of the nations in distress, are the next ones to feel, how suffering humanity has a right to our generosity and to our sacrifices. And it has been a wonderful experience to see during these years, how the seemingly impossible is made by trustful love and charity and how faithful exercise in giving learns, that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

But our resources are restricted. And the great-hearted readiness to help that America has shown and bestowed upon the afflicted nations of Europe, means enormously for our whole civilisation. Everybody knows, that America is the country of the Biggest in the World. But I myself am one of those, who know also, that America has an Idealism, which belongs to that, which abideth and which is the Greatest in this world.

Miss Elsa Brändström, doughter of the late General Brändström, Swedish Minister in Petrograd, devoted herself to the prisoners of war in Russia and Siberia from the winter 1914 to the summer 1920 with a heroism, a selfsacrifying devotion and a strong capacity, that places her in the first rank of the champions of christian charity in all times. She still devotes herself to the victims of the war. In the American press she was called "the angel of Siberia". I think the name is well merited. Because she continued, where strong men felt bound to withdraw, exhausted, hopeless, afraid to lose their reason. I do not know anyone, who has done more honour to the human name and to the christian name in these horrible years.

Therefore I have the privilege of recommending her and her blessed releifwork to the numerous wholehearted gentlemen and ladies, whom she will meet in the United States.

Sincerely yours

Nathan Söderblom

ΣΥΝΕΡΓΟΙ ΕΙΣ ΤΗΝ ΒΑΣΙΛΕΙΑΝ ΤΟΥ ΘΕΟΥ.

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Sincerely yours

William Ostenson

Besv. 4/1.

Käre Fröken Ella Brändström!

Under jag haft min se-
kreterares hand, skulle jag ha svårig-
heter med det engelska introduktions-
brevet. Om Ni tänker på det, kunde
det tryckas eller skjutas numreras
i flera exemplar. Och kunna med
Fru Merrill m. fl.

Ni går Herren vägar. Då
skola stängsel öppnas för Eder.
Hälsa vänner. Och var
välsignad. Eder med tack
och min tacksamhet

Nathan Söderblom

Upsala
2 I 1923

Till våra kära svenska landsmän och mina enkelsbröder i Amerika!

Dystidens, hungerns och otryggheten nätt vilar tung över Europa. Massdöden fortsätter ännu i oblodiga former. Den enda verkliga lösningen är den kristna barmhertighetens kärleksverk.

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Hon egnar allt fortfarande sin hela kraft åt krigets arma offer.

Låt mig varmt rekommendera denne och nämnes härlekverk till Eder.

Uppsala den 2. januari 1923.

Eder tillgivne

Nathan Söderblom

Thorsten Laurin
A.-b. P. A. Norstedt & Söner

Stockholm, den 29/12 1922.

Kära Fröken Brändström,

Härmed har jag nu omsider nöjet sända Fröken de tre utlovade rekommendationsbeven. - Det förefaller mig nästan löjligt skriva rekommendationer för Fröken Brändström,- en onödig sysselsättning.

Hjärtligt tack för 1922 och ett gott nytt år, d.v.s. mycken framgång för Frökens ädla strävanden under 1923

önskar Frökens tillgivne

Thorsten Laurin

Berggrist.
Petersen.
Leach.

LETTER FROM SWEDISH CONSUL AT NEW YORK.

OLOF H. LAMM,
Royal Consul General of Sweden at New York.
70 East Forty-fifth Street.

April 23, 1923.

Jason Rogers, Esq.,
The Globe, 73 Dey Street,
New York City.

My dear Mr. Rogers:—

From Elsa Brandstrom I have heard with great pleasure and interest that you have met her and been kind enough to promise her your powerful support in the campaign she is conducting at the present time in this country.

No doubt by hearing her lecture and by having conversed with her you got the best possible idea of what she is able to do, what she has done and what she wants to do; but, as all great personalities, Miss Brandstrom is very modest, and therefore it might not be out of the way for me to give you a little supplementary outline of her work and her aims.

Elsa Brandstrom is a daughter of the late General Brandstrom, for many years Swedish minister to Russia. After her mother's untimely death she was hostess of her father's house and made herself very well known in the highest class of Petrograd society.

In 1915 Miss Brandstrom, together with other ladies of Russian society, took a nurse's training course and upon completing this she entered the hospital. In the winter of 1915 she made her first visit to a prison camp and there found conditions which were almost unspeakable and which would have scared away most other women. Instead of being scared, however, Elsa Brandstrom stayed in this camp and did not leave before she had cleaned it up and made life at least tolerable for the wounded prisoners of war. From that camp she went on to others and for six years crossed and re-crossed vast territory of Russia proper and especially Siberia, where most of the prisoners were taken. At times she had the backing of some of the neutral Red Cross associations and she of course received supporting money from these institutions; but she worked practically single-handed, and it is no exaggeration to say that her wonderful deeds were achieved through her force of will, through her outstanding personality, and through her physical and moral strength. In the minds of those who know about it there is no doubt that she has saved hundreds of thousands of lives and that her achievements are the most outstanding in history. There is hardly a man or woman, from Petrograd in the west to Vladivostok in the east, who does not know her name. They call her "Angel of Siberia," which seems to show without further evidence what they think about her.

For six years she worked incessantly, with no other purpose than to save lives and to spare those living from too great sufferings. She travelled back and forth in that vast country; she went through hardships that only her marvellous moral and physical strength could help her to survive; she was stricken with spotted typhoid; she was arrested by various different governments of Siberia—sometimes accused of spying, sometimes put in prison, and at one time condemned to death—but she went through it all gloriously and was in the end acknowledged as the one person who could do what she wanted to do and say what she wanted to say irrespective of politics, countries or religions.

On account of her father's fatal illness, Elsa Brandstrom had to leave Siberia, and after his death she visited central Europe, where she found thousands and ten thousands of ex-prisoners of war, whom she knew from Siberia, with their health impaired and incapacitated to work for their living. In those countries conditions were such that the population could not take care of them, and when she found that these men, who had known her as the "Angel of Siberia" and who thought her omnipotent, looked to her for assistance, she could not resist their appeal, but, contributing her private funds, she managed to get quite some sums from Sweden and with these founded what she called two "labor sanatoriums." There incapacitated ex-prisoners of war are taken care of, given treatment and a chance to do such work as they are able to do. Through her wonderful ability of management, Elsa Brandstrom has made her institutions self-sustaining.

There were, however, many of these unfortunates in Siberia whose lives Elsa Brandstrom could not save and when present at their deathbeds she got their last messages to their mothers, wives, and children. She made note of all these messages, and when she had arranged for the incapacitated men she tried to locate all the mothers, widows, and orphans, to convey to them the last words of their late sons, husbands, and fathers. Again she met a state of dire distress and could not bear to see these people suffer without trying to do something to help them. However, she could not possibly find more funds in Europe to assist her and so she turned to America, feeling that here they would be glad to give their help to a home for orphans and widows of former prisoners of war in Siberia. This is the purpose of her tour in this country!

So far she has met with a success that is as surprising as it is gratifying to her well-wishers. She has been able to collect a much larger sum than most of us thought she would manage to obtain. But there is still a lot of money lacking before she gets what she needs for her purpose.

Elsa Brandstrom's success in this country reminds me of the success of another eminent woman who came here about fifty years ago and also achieved a success which was then something quite unheard of. I refer to Jenny Lind. But she had P. T. Barnum as her manager, and her success was to a great extent due to his publicity campaign. Elsa Brandstrom has no professional manager and no paid publicity agent. She wants all the money which she collects to go directly to the cause, and she pays for her own travelling expenses. Her affairs have been handled only by people who in their interest to help her have volunteered to do so. Maybe one can say that this has made her tour a somewhat amateurish affair; again, the success, as I said above, is quite beyond all expectation, and I do feel that this is very gratifying indeed.

I am vitally interested in Elsa Brandstrom and her work, and I assure you that I am only too glad if there is anything I can do to help her to achieve her purpose. Consequently, I beg you not to hesitate to call upon me for any supplementary information that you may like to have, and I will always be glad to be of service in any way I can. In the mean time I enclose copies of the original letters about Elsa Brandstrom from His Royal Highness Prince Carl of Sweden and from the Archbishop of Sweden.

I am, cordially yours,

(Signed) OLOF H. LAMM.

LETTER FROM ARCHBISHOP OF SWEDEN.

To every one in the United States who is kindly willing to help my friend Miss Elsa Brandstrom in her relief work:

The darkness of misery, starvation and unrest lies deep over Europe. The only real break in the clouds is made by Christian charity. We immediate neighbors of the nations in distress are the next ones to feel how suffering humanity has a right to our generosity and to our sacrifices. And it has been a wonderful experience to see during these years how the seemingly impossible is made possible by trustful love and charity, and how faithful exercise in giving teaches that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

But our resources are restricted and the great-hearted readiness to help that America has shown and bestowed upon the afflicted nations of Europe means enormously for our whole civilization. Everybody knows that America is a country of the biggest in the world. But I myself am one of those who know also that America has an idealism which belongs to that which abideth and which is the greatest in this world.

Miss Elsa Brandstrom, daughter of the late General Brandstrom, Swedish minister in Petrograd, devoted herself to the prisoners of war in Russia and Siberia from the winter 1914 to the summer 1920 with a heroism, a self-sacrificing devotion and a strong capacity that place her in the first rank of the champions of Christian charity of all times. She still devotes herself to the victims of the war. In the American press she was called the "Angel of Siberia." I think the name is well merited, because she continued where strong men felt bound to withdraw, exhausted, hopeless, afraid to lose their reason. I do not know any one who has done more honor to the human name and to the Christian name in these horrible years.

Therefore I have the privilege of recommending her and her blessed relief work to the numerous whole-hearted gentlemen and ladies whom she will meet in the United States.

(Signed) NATHAN SODERBLOM,
Archbishop of Sweden.

LETTER FROM PRINCE CARL OF SWEDEN.

Miss Elsa Brandstrom has during more than six years worked in the most unselfish, self-sacrificing and splendid way in behalf of the Swedish Red Cross among the prisoners of war in Siberia and is at present carrying on the same work of charity in Germany. As Miss Brandstrom now is going to the United States of America I most heartily recommend her and request that all authorities will kindly assist her at all events during her journey and give her all necessary support in her work.

(Signed) CARL, Prince of Sweden.
President of the Swedish Red Cross.

Stockholm, Jan. 13, 1923.