Personal [1]

Sullivan

Deaconess Hospital
Boston

Dear Alfred

When before I left for a holiday on the Canadian border of Vermont, I heard that you wd probably be in Greensboro the latter part of the month — That was one of the "far green hills" — That not only was Vermont air & a rest to give me perfect health & energy immediately, but, that being

accomplished I could step across from hill to hill. & crown a holiday with a quiet visit with you at Greensboro.

Instead poor food & dull days - only the stars & night skies were beautiful — & I packed & came to Dr. Joslin. Aid's doctor — & have had a satisfactory holiday in hospital. I go home early next week much better in body & spirits.

—

I have thought of you — often

[3]

vague rumors of difficulties make me apprehensive for you - resentful that yr. attention or energy be distracted & wasted - taken from yr. essential work.

There are only two or three others - through my whole life - in whom I felt not only greatness but rightness. I like to tell that to you once because it is accumulated friend - - & because it is somehow impersonal you have acheived - but what I feel most deeply is the inevitability of what you are

[4]

born to be for your generation inviolate.

Now having written what I have felt for years — & having said it once & forever — put it where you will — & thats That.

I trust Margaret is on her way home or safe with friends and you with no anxiety for her comfort. And that you are rested & content in Greensboro with yr. Mother.

[5]

Perhaps you will come to
Astoria for dinner soon -
before work chokes leisure,
and it is still lovely there

Faithfully -

Mary Sullivan

Please ! no acknowledgment !

MARINE TRUST BUILDING
BUFFALO, NEW YORK

July 20th, 1929.

Mr. A. H. Barr, Jr.,
Greensboro, Vt.

Dear Mr. Barr:

I have received from the members of our Committee authority to employ you as director of the Museum of Modern Art at a salary of $1,000.00 per month as soon as we have in hand subscriptions totalling $75,000.00 annually. To date we have received approximately $50,000.00 with a probable additional subscription of $10,000.00, which is not yet definite.

I have personally very little doubt as to our getting a total of $100,000.00 annually, but I do not think it wise to make any definite arrangements until we have $75,000.00. I knew that you would be interested in how matters were progressing, so I am writing this letter to explain the situation. If it is at all possible, I hope to have the matter definitely decided not later than August 5th when I shall be returning North after a Southern business trip which I find I must take. I expect to sail for Europe on August 7th, so perhaps it might be well if you would hold yourself in readiness to meet me in New York on the 6th or 7th.

While I am in Europe, I expect to go to London, Paris, Berlin and possibly Holland, and will spend most of my time looking at private and public collections of pictures, and discussing the probability of getting some of them for our exhibitions. I will be very glad if you will be thinking this matter over and be prepared to let me have any suggestions that may occur to you.

I have written to Mr. de Hauke, who is now in Paris, telling him what I have in mind, and will also get in touch with Dr. Stransky as soon as I learn his address. If Sir Joseph Duveen is in London when I arrive, I will get his suggestions also. I, of course, expect to see the Courtauld Collection in London and perhaps there are some others that you can suggest.

Sincerely yours,

A.C. Goodyear.

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

A. CONGER GOODYEAR, PRESIDENT

730 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK CITY

230 Park Avenue,
April 1, 1931.

Personal:

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,
Director,
Museum of Modern Art,
New York City.

Dear Alfred:

I was rather troubled to see in the "Times" on Sunday that you had published an article in controversy with Macbeth. Some time ago we spoke of publishing material of this kind, and I then told you that I thought it was a mistake to engage in controversies. It is better not to answer attacks but to allow events to take care of themselves. Two of the Trustees have spoken to me about your article to say that they thought it was a mistake.

In the future, therefore, I wish that you would not arrange to publish anything of the kind without taking the matter up with me. I may go farther and say that while we, of course, have no objection whatsoever to your publishing technical and critical articles, such as your article on the Russian Ikons, of course, nothing should be published on the policies of the Museum without reference to the officers, and with the approval of the Trustees.

Yours very truly,

President.

150 to 18 - 83
18 150
60

The Eyrie
Seal Harbor, Maine

July 27th, 1929.

Dear Mr. Barr:-

Do you suppose it would be possible for you to come over here for a few days the week of August 5th? There are a great many things connected with our new venture that I am most anxious to talk over with you- practical questions in regard to the office of treasurer, publicity, and most important of all the pictures that we are to exhibit and the best methods of making our selections. I feel that our policy should be quite definitely stated. My few weeks of rest have done me a great deal of good, and I am feeling much more able now to do my share.

Miss Kelly, my secretary, and I have been spending some time looking up routes. If you have a car, I believe it would not be very difficult for you to motor over. I think the most direct route would be from St. Johnsbury to Bethel, Skowhegan, Bangor. Another route would be to Bethel, Augusta and Bangor; still another is via Poland Springs, Augusta and Bangor. There is a very good hotel at Bethel. If you would prefer to come by train, I think you could get a train from St. Johnsbury at 1 A.M. that would get you into Boston in time to take the Bar Harbor Express at 8.30 AM Standard Time. This would get you to Bar Harbor at 6.30 P.M. where we could meet you. There is a little shorter way from St. Johnsbury to Portland, changing there for the Bar Harbor Express, but I am afraid the connections are very poor. It is very difficult to get across the state of Maine by rail, as all the roads seem to run up and down. Of course if you do come, I should want the trip to be at my expense.

During that week my sister, Miss Lucy Aldrich will be here for a few days and Mr. and Mrs. William Zorach will also be here. They all have very stimulating ideas on the subject, altho they may not entirely agree with us.

Miss Kelly's brother, Mr. William Kelly of Greensboro, might be able to help you in planning a way over.

If you can come, I would suggest your arriving here on the 7th of August, to stay until Saturday or Sunday.

Would you be good enough to wire me collect your decision.

Sincerely,

Abby A. Rockefeller.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr
Greensboro, Vermont

April 14, 1934

Dear Mr. Clark:

I have your letter of April 12th and before discussing the Museum situation with you I wonder whether you would have a talk with Alfred Barr. My reason for suggesting this is that I do not believe his point of view is as alien to yours as might appear, judging from recent newspaper articles. In other words, he is not in sympathy with a great many of Mr. Goodyear's ideas but has been unable to do very much about it. In talking with him this morning on the telephone he said he would like very much to have the opportunity of going over the whole policy of the Museum with you and I took the liberty of suggesting to him that he get in touch with you sometime next week with the idea of possibly going into this whole matter. After you have talked with him and really find out just where he stands on these questions perhaps we could lunch together again and review the whole situation.

With many thanks for your patience in connection with these matters.

Sincerely,

NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER

Mr. Stephen C. Clark,
149 Broadway,
New York City.

C
O
P
Y

STEPHEN C. CLARK
Singer Building
149 Broadway
New York

April 12, 1934

Nelson A. Rockefeller, Esq.,
Room 5600, 30 Rockefeller Plaza,
New York City.

Dear Nelson,

I have received your letter of April 6th, and wish that I could oblige you by reconsidering my declination of the vice-presidency of the Museum and of membership on the Endowment Fund Committee, and on the Acquisitions Committee.

Of course I realize how the misunderstanding in regard to the vice-presidency arose, and I wish that I could see my way clear to accepting that office, but I am so much out of sympathy with the point of view of Conger Goodyear and Alfred Barr that any active association with the museum on my part would serve no useful purpose, and might prove a source of irritation to them and to me.

I am glad to learn that the statements which they gave out at the time of the acceptance of the Bliss bequest did not receive the approval of yourself and of some of the other trustees, but, on the other hand, the formal statements of the President and of the Director of the museum on an occasion of that kind will be accepted by the public as an expression of the policy and of the mental attitude of the trustees of the museum.

When I lunched with you several weeks ago I was quite hopeful that a policy might be worked out which would tend to Americanize the institution in the eyes of the public and broaden the basis of popular support, and it has always been my feeling that that aspect of the situation is far more important than the question of raising an endowment fund, or of qualifying for the Bliss bequest. I realize, of course, that my views may be mistaken, but, feeling as I do, there is not much use in my becoming actively involved in an institution with whose policy I have been out of sympathy for some time.

On your own and on your mother's account I shall be glad to continue my annual contribution to the Museum, and, of course, I should be glad to talk this matter over with you in detail if you would like to have me do so, but I regret to say that I cannot change my decision to keep out of any active participation in the affairs of the museum at the present time.

With kind regards,

Very sincerely yours,

Signed--Stephen C. Clark

Barr-Personal

Paris, July 17, 1938

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Dear Mr. Goodyear,

We have learned in the most indirect and confidential fashion this information which, though not absoutely dependable, comes from the inside, by way of Mrs. Barr.

Apparently the reason why we have not recived any statements either of the attendance of of the income from admissions at heJeu de Paume goes back to Verne's feeling tat the Museum or, as our informant put it, you owe the Louvre money from the tour of Whistler's Mother. They calculate that Whistler's Mother earned 300.000 francs of which they feel they should get 150.000. I cannot recall the circumstances very clearly since the Whistler tur occurred while I was in Europe in ~~1933~~ 1932-33 but I do remember some rather insisent letters from Verne which I henk either Alan or you answered saying that the huge insurance bill had absorbed most of the income . This answer does not seem to have convinced Verne. If we should have trouble collecting his may be back of it. Did Verne mention this to you?

During this confidenail conversation the party of the second part brought up the matter of the btton without any initiative on Mrs. Barr's part. Mrs. Barr received the ~~[illegible]~~ impression that it was the Whistler's Mother problem which made the bestowing of the button somewhat improbable.

Mrs. Barr at Dezarrois' dinner was asked pointblank by M. Verne why you had not come to the dinner. Sheanswered by remerking hat the invitation t he dinner had come with very short notice andthat you, long before, had invited Mrs. Morrow, Lindberg's mother-in-law to come to Paris from London to be present at the vernissage. Mrs. Barr said that she had heard the telephone call by which your invitation to Mrs. Morrow was accepted and that, as Mrs. Morow was your house-guest you were giving a dinner in her honor that very night.

Mrs. Barr learned some oher items. It seems that Huismann and Verne are free-masons and that while Bureaucratically Huismann is Verne's superior, he is his inferior in the lodge. This accounts for the disregard of the National Museums toward Huismann. Huismann is a friend and ally of Dezarrois (who is very "right" politially) because they were in the same excadrille

greatest acquisition

during the war in the Flying Corps. There is great rivalij between Jaujard and Dezarrois because they both aspire to succeed Verne.

It is also insinuated that he extraordinary absence of American posters at the beginning of the exhibition was caused by he fact that he third secretary of the Louvre, M. Schoumer, was omitted from the Committee list in the catalog. He was asked neither to the official lunch nor to the official dinner on the day of the vernissage. It was furhermore observed that at Huismann's lunch no member of the Musees Nationaux was invited. Finally it is suggested that he great abundance of English posters and the general zeal aboutthe English exhibition has to do with the fact that Verne hopes to get he Oder of the Garter (!)

Personal

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mrs. R. Goodyear

I have had a lett from Tom mab in wh he says that the acq comm has purchased the foll ptgs w prices

I am very much disturbed by this action since i understood y to say that t paintgs in the lsita pproved by the acq committee wld not be pruchased at this time.

I hope that y will not feel that I am raising a ~~matterxof~~ personal issue when I say that I ~~hxxxxxxx~~ think it to be a most unwise policy on the part of ~~the~~ a mus to make purchases without consulting either th director or the surator (who in our case happent ot be the same person). It is possible that this procedure is unintentional on the part of the acq. comm. ~~has porceeded~~ but the fact remains that, this, by far the largest expendituers ever made by the mus ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ from its pirchase funds, ~~(if we except the Picasso)~~ has been made without consulting the curator.

I ~~was~~ had ~~apr~~ already sailed in to order to ~~in Eux.~~ ~~at~~ work on the Am exh so that I could not be pres at the meeting. Had I been pres. or had I been consulted as dir. or cur ~~xx~~ of ptg as the case may be I should like to have raised the foll. ~~questions~~ points: 1) These artists are I believe all represented either at the Met or ~~the~~ W hit mus. (in some cases possibly at both) I cannot ascertainat this distance); are we really serving the publ by adding their works to still a third publ coll. in NY. 2) ~~at the time of the~~ ~~We had an informal but active agreement~~

Greatest aesthetic disgrace

2) If as I had gathered these purchases are made in order to ~~augment or~~ get around our agreement with Mrs' Force that we would not include am oil ptgs in the Worlds fair show should we not have cosnsulted Mrs. F to see whether she would ~~mind~~ object to this device ? I understand from Mr. Clark's recent letter to you that the Whitn exh may be called off in eh case it would not be necessary to make purchses merely to include certain artists in the w, f show. 3) Since our purchses of am ptgs are in part the result of political expediency wld it not be ~~wise~~ realistic to consider these p rhcases ~~politically~~ strategically: The metr. takes little ~~almost no~~ interest in am ~~art~~ ptg outsid of NY and the Whitn ~~not much more somewhat more but is~~ though less local in its ~~[illegible]~~ program is also ~~still~~ primarily ~~largely~~ concerned with NY artists. ~~If the mus is afarid of bein~~ called unamarican The four purchases made by the comm. are all by NY artists ~~one of them born in Jap two of them in Russia~~ so that although The Museum thinks of itself as a national institution in its ~~its~~ ~~yet in this the its mos~~ most impt purchase of am art it has not gone outside of NY 5) I would also have suggested to the comm, that the character of the ptgs might have been more emphatically Am . ~~both from the pt of view~~ both from a polit al pt of view and from the pt of view of theinterest of our coll. I think I would not be mistaken in saying that all 4 of these ptgs could ~~be absorbed without a ripple~~ have been shown in the

~~Salon des Tuil~~ -

Sa... des T

salon des Tuile ies without arousing any suspicions that they were by Am artists. This fact and the fact that three of the artists are foreign born has nothing of course to do with the quality of their ptgs but it does have something to do with ~~the reputation of the Mus and the interest of the~~ our collection for I think that in our Mus ~~more than in any other~~ ~~our~~ am pictures should generally contrast with our European rather than form a ~~provicial~~ supplement to them. ~~I think pictures on the whole pictures by such artists as Sharles, Hague, Bastien Lepage, Boldini, Zorn, Sargent, Zo~~ ~~In other words we should Eg. emphasize in our permanent collection what is essentially American~~

6) About the pictures themselves: I think the Kuniyoshi excellent, good enough to have seen though it might have been painted in Paris or Tokio. The Stuart I haven't seen. But the Ciborowsky and Goldthwaite I ~~do not~~ are merely good pictures by second rate New York painters. So far as the ~~F. of~~ Museum is concerned I do not think they are worth the money paid for them ~~nor~~ or the considerable wall space they would require.

July 46

Have come home on purpose to write you although it is sunny and a fine day. I can't understand how my time gets used up. Found you little card from Duke's here. It sounds very depressed. I have never even heard of Goring's (is there such a hotel?) Let's hope Duke's quiet. In a way it is well that the English should not be interested in the show, it's that much less for us to do. I do hope however that the borrowing of the three pictures may come off in the end. I hope you reach Mrs. Beatty. I hope Clark may help. He is powerful I should think. You give no indication of when you think you'll be through. Anyway I shall send this airmail. I wish you'd go to the Glasgow show and see your native land.. Having lunched with Valland I have much to tell. As you will discover from Verne and Dezarrois letters they have made another poster to pump up the show. It is ready today and will be distributed hot foot. (Personally I think this useless because I think the skyscraper posters now that they are everywhere would do as well). Allen says his afternoon shows are always full. I was at the Jeu today at 12 and it seemed empty as usual. I had a colossal powwow with Valland which ended with her taking me to a palatial lunch so she got THAT out of her system. I thereby have learned many mysteries.

1. Verne, Jaujard and (I think) and Huismann are free masons and Verne is higher than Huisman in lodge though lower in bureaucratic hierarchy. Thence infinite intrigues and rivalities. Jaujard and D. (who is very right politically) colossal rivals because both aspire to succeed Verne.

2. In re Legion of H. She said to me don't you think Mr. Barr would like to get it. I said indeed not. Both of us most alien to such things. Long roundabout conversation after which I cautiously insinuated that A.C.G. might not have minded. At which she said. Oh heavens but don't you know about Whistler's mother? and I said no what about her. Well it seems that there is a contract between our Museum or between A.C.G. and the Musées Nationaux by which it was agreed that the profits on Wh's Moth would be split. They think she made 300.000 francs in her tour and so they think that A.C.G. has pocketted 150.000 which were due to the National Museums. Therefore when we demanded that they stick to their contract, and when we had reason to remind them of their contracts they kept think and what about THEIR contracts and what they owe us. I truthfully said that I knew nothing of this and that the name of Wh's moth had never been mentioned before me in this regard. V. was so scared at having dared tell me about this that she implored me not to tell even you. However if A.C.G. does not get the legion this will be the reason.

3. Much other conversation went on and finally I attacked the subject of reduced passages on French boats (with your complete disapproval) I learned most interesting fact. i.e. Verne is great buddies with Olivier head of French Line, and it is in his interest to get us reduced passages I don't know whether this gets him a percentage or whether it counts as getting trade for the line or what. But anyway V. thinks that without hesitation we can go ahead and ask for recuction and we'll get it all the more so as we did not get it coming over. She said that all I need do was to give her the word and she could work it all.

Poissonnier caved in this morning and brought over the Chirico and I gave him the check. Hope you are pleased. I think it is a lovely picture. Now all bills are paid and I have all the receipts

---

Received abject letter fo self-justification from Mr. Dublin in re insurance. Am holding it here lest we loose it.

Forgot to say that obviously reason why they are not telling us about their daily receipts is also attributable to W's mother. I did a great deal of indirect questioning of V to get idea of average number of attendance paid and not but got NOWHERE.

THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

September 22, 1932

Dear Mr. Barr, I have just read that you are off for a year's study and travel (more I judge from the doctor's desire than your own) and this is just a note to wish you well. and in doing that I must tell you what has been in my mind for a long time and hasn't until now got itself expressed. Now this isn't just the official opinion [forget the letter head] but my own, deep-seated and personal opinion: You have

done a really great thing at the Modern Museum and I hope everyone tells you so! When one is in the thick of it, there seem so many things which are imperfect and unachieved, but someone on the outside (like me) can really appreciate the rôle the Museum has played in the whole cause and your tremendous part in it. That is why I wanted to write you this (have wanted to for a long time).

I can only hope that you will return soon in better health and can carry on what you have begun. One of the most important things your organization has done is to <u>lead</u>: perhaps, it is chiefly remarkable in that. This leading has been accomplished with the best educational means in the way of catalogues, choice of exhibits etc. that have been possible, setting a standard which other institutions in America must take into consideration whenever they set up a few pictures on a wall or plan a comprehensive exhibition.

On reading over what I have just written, I find it takes on a little the quality of an epitaph. Horrors! Kick out the hint of flowers and metal wreaths and believe me sincerely yours,

Daniel Catton Rich