



Smithsonian Institution

Archives of American Art

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: Ackerman, Phyllis, 1926

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 12:29:22

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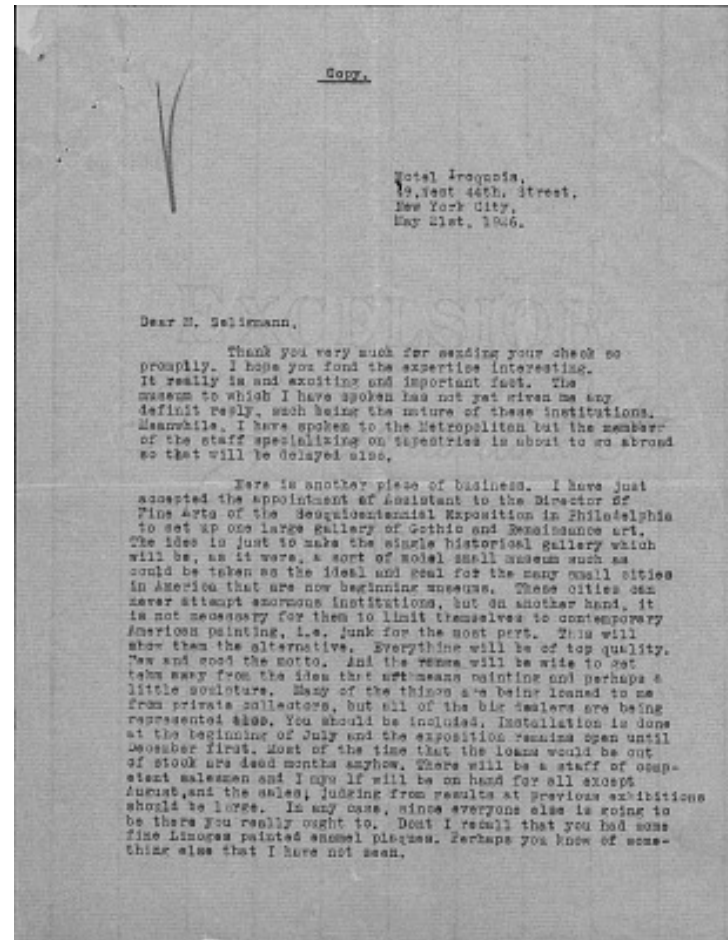
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Hotel Iroquois,
49, West 44th. Street,
New York City,
May 21st, 1926.

Dear M. Seligmann,

Thank you very much for sending your check so promptly. I hope you find the expertise interesting. It really is an exciting and important fact. The museum to which I have spoken has not yet given me any definite reply, such being the nature of these institutions. Meanwhile, I have spoken to the Metropolitan but the member of the staff specializing on tapestries is about to go abroad so that will be delayed also.

Here is another piece of business. I have just accepted the appointment of Assistant to the Director of Fine Arts of the Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia to set up one large gallery of Gothic and Renaissance art. The idea is just to make the single historical gallery which will be, as it were, a sort of model small museum such as could be taken as the ideal and goal for the many small cities in America that are now beginning museums. These cities can never attempt enormous institutions, but on the other hand, it is not necessary for them to limit themselves to contemporary American painting, i.e. junk for the most part. This will show them the alternative. Everything will be of top quality. Few and good the motto. And the range will be wide to get them away from the idea that art means painting and perhaps a little sculpture. Many of the things are being loaned to me from private collectors, but all of the big dealers are being represented also. You should be included. Installation is done at the beginning of July and the exposition remains open until December first. Most of the time that the loans would be out of stock are dead months anyhow. There will be a staff of competent salesmen and I hope it will be on hand for all except August, and the sales; judging from results at previous exhibitions should be large. In any case, since everyone else is going to be there you really ought to. Don't I recall that you had some fine Limoges painted enamel plaques. Perhaps you know of something else that I have not seen.



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