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Celebrating 175: Aline Saarinen, Article for Harper's Magazine, "Uncle Sam as an Art Expert," 1954

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July 19, 1954

Mr. William Goetz
Delfern Drive
Holmby Hills
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Goetz,

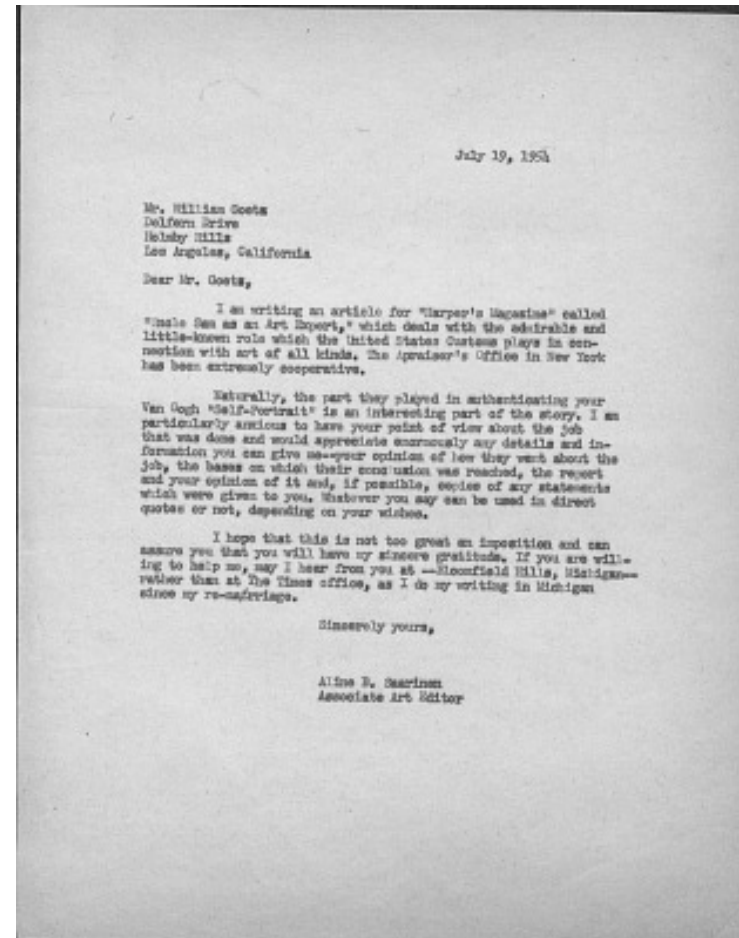
I am writing an article for "Harper's Magazine" called "Uncle Sam as an Art Expert," which deals with the admirable and little-known role which the United States Customs plays in the connection with art of all kinds. The Appraiser's Office in New York has been extremely cooperative.

Naturally, the part they played in authenticating your Van Gogh "Self-Portrait" is an interesting part of the story. I am particularly anxious to have your point of view about the job that was done and would appreciate enormously any details and information you can give me—your opinion of how they went about the job, the bases on which their conclusion was reached, the report and your opinion of it and, if possible, copies of any statements which were given to you. Whatever you say can be used in direct quotes or not, depending on your wishes.

I hope that this is not too great an imposition and can assure you that you will my sincere gratitude. If you are willing to help me, may I hear you at —Bloomfield Hills, Michigan —rather than at The Times office, as I do my writing in Michigan since my re-marriage.

Sincerely yours,

Aline B. Saarinen
Associate Art Editor



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