



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Freer Gallery of Art and Arthur M. Sackler Gallery*

## **Charles Lang Freer's letters to Frank Hecker during foreign travels, 1910-1911**

Extracted on Apr-23-2024 05:12:48

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(3) [[in pencil]] 166. [[in pencil]]  
 pencil]]  
 [[preprinted]] Astor House hotel  
 Mukden  
 [[Image]] [[two upside down triangles]] [[Image]]  
 Mukden, [[/preprinted]] [[in pencil]] Dec. 25  
 1910 [[in pencil]]

The situation in China as regards my collection is very interesting and may remain so for some years, or it may end abruptly any day. The kind of objects sought by me, have only recently been sought by others, and, as yet, few, very few people recognize the original objects when found - but some are learning and will ere long recognize the real thing on sight. This means soon many competitors. Then too, the number of real fine things, even in the interior, may be less than I have fancied. And worst of all for my interests, the intensely interesting political changes taking place daily at Peking, may include prohibition of <sup>exportation of</sup> all artistic objects at an hours notice. The situation seems very mixed to all of the foreign diplomats and every leading one of them advise me to make hay while the sun shines. Under such lively circumstances, I deemed it wiser to abandon all efforts to obtain consent from the Chinese Foreign Office to take away the large sculptures mentioned in an earlier letter and to confine my self to smaller objects. Consequently and fortunately, I managed to clear <sup>through</sup> the customs, at Tientsin four days ago, eleven liberal-sized cases containing over two hundred objects many of which, are highly important in the art history of China. This shipment is consigned direct to the Smithsonian and I am sending Bills of Lading and other documents to George. My return to Peking next spring, will delay my return to Detroit probably to June, but the only pressing matter there known to me, is the repairs to my house, and as the <sup>beginning of</sup> the work is put off till spring, I am sure to be back in time to look after the finishing details which alone requires my personal oversight. From here I go first to Shanghai and vicinity, then Hongkong and Canton, after which I shall probably go to Bangkok, Siam, for a stay there and at

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Astor House Hotel  
 Mukden  
 99  
 Mukden, Dec. 25 1910  
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