

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]] [[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 ^[[exportation of]] 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 ^[[through]] 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 ^[[beginning of]] 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

[[flush right]] 202a [[/flush right]]

Astor House Rotel Illakden 0.0 Muhden, Der 25 1910 The situation in theme as regards my callesting is very interesting our may remain so for some years on it may can't abruptly any bay the kows of abjects sought by one have only remailing been sought to others, and, as yet, four very few people recognize the original directs when found - but source are terming and will ce long recognize the read thing on topt - this many soon many competitive. Then too, the mumber of real fine through even in the interes, may be Less than I have formed, Indework of all for my interests, the interest interesting political changes taking place Valey at Beting . may include prohibition of all article offices at an hours notice. The situation secures very mised to all of the foring Siglamate and every leading one of them aris me to make hay while the dawn shound. Motor buch levely commendances, I Sumed it are to abandon all efforts to allan comment from the Chinese Foreign affect to take away the large soutplaces mentioned in an valuer letter and to confine my self to employ objects - Consequently dus fortunality, I managet to clear the auctions, at Fintere fourdays ago, clean liberat sigis cases mutaning our two hunges objects many of which are highly important on the art history of Think - Here Shipment is consigned Trick to the Anitemian and I am senting Bills of Laborg and other Sourcounts to George. My return to Setting asch spring, will Irlay my return to statut probably to fame, but the only precing matter there harrow to me, is the repairs sure to be back in time to look after the finishing & trails which above require my promet arright. From here de first to Thoughan and recently then Anything and Canton after which I shall probably go to Baughok, Seam, for a day there and at

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## **Smithsonian Institution**

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