MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD OCTOBER 4, 1918.

Indexed

12 Sub-headings in here

The second meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1919 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, D. C. on Friday, October 4, 1918.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore;

Mr. Adams;

Mr. Weir;

Mr. Kendall;

Mr. Pope;

Mr. Greenleaf;

also Colonel C. S. Ridley, U. S. A., Secretary and Executive Officer of the Commission.

The Commission was called to order at 9:30 a. m., and immediately proceeded to the business before it.

1. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the preceding meeting held on July 26th-27th, and of committee meetings held on July 30th and September 4th in New York City, were presented by the Secretary and approved.

2. RESOLUTION IN RE MR. CHARLES A. PLATT: As Mr. Platt of the Commission will be absent in Europe for perhaps a year the members adopted the following resolution in the belief that it would facilitate his work, and enable him to secure material of value in connection with the Washington plan.

> RESOLVED BY THE NATIONAL COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, That Mr. Charles A. Platt, a member of this Commission, be and he is hereby authorized and requested to make studies of the parks and public gardens in England, France, and Italy and their relation to Washington problems, and to report the results of such studies; RESOLVED FURTHER, That this Commission shall be at no expense in connection with such studies.

The suggestion of the Chairman that it might be possible to get Mr. Olmsted to sit in with the Commission during Mr. Platt's absence, met with hearty approval.

3. PROVISION IN ESTIMATES OF COMMISSION: Colonel Ridley called to the attention of the members his action in having a provision added to the Commission's estimates submitted to Congress for the ensuing fiscal year to the effect that the expenses of subsistence of the Commission shall not be restricted by the limitations of existing law; in other words, that expenditures for room at hotels, and meals and tips shall not be limited as at present to $5 per day, but shall be actual expenses incurred. The members expressed their approval of this action.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN: Colonel Ridley stated that upon the expiration by limitation of the terms of service of Mr. Moore and Mr. Olmsted the President had reappointed Mr. Moore, and had appointed Mr. James L. Greenleaf to succeed Mr. Olmsted. The positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman, which Mr. Moore and Mr. Olmsted respectively held under their tenure of office, were considered automatically vacated by their limitation of service under their last appointment. This necessitated an election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Upon taking separate ballots for these vacancies, Mr. Moore was reelected Chairman, and Mr. Herbert Adams Vice-Chairman.

5. CONFERENCE WITH COLONEL DICKINSON, OFFICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF, WAR DEPARTMENT: By appointment, Colonel R. L. Dickinson of the Office of the Chief of Staff, War Department, appeared for a discussion of the problem of getting adequate designs for war medals and other insignia under the War Department. He covered in some detail the methods heretofore used by the Department in securing such designs, and his general dissatisfaction over the results so far apparent. He suggested that propaganda be started through the art press of the country and by letters from interested societies, in asking the War Department to entrust the designing of such insignia to competent artists, the designs to be passed upon by the Commission of Fine Arts. The Commission expressed their hearty sympathy with his views, and assured him that his suggestions were very valuable, and that efforts had not been and would not be lacking on their part to bring the matter of securing proper designs to the attention of the Secretary of War.

Since the meeting, as the result of presentations on the part of the Commission

both the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy have issued orders that the Commission be consulted in the preparation of all future designs for medals, insignia, &c.

6. BARNARD STATUE OF LINCOLN: Colonel Ridley read to the Commission a letter from Assistant Secretary of State William Phillips, transmitting a letter of the Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, which conveyed the suggestion of the Rt. Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, M. P., First Commissioner of His Brittanic Majesty's Office of Works, to the effect that the question as to whether a replica of the Barnard statue of Lincoln or of the Saint-Gaudens' Lincoln be accepted from American donors for erection in London be submitted to a body of experts in the United States, and suggesting the desirability of a report on this matter from the Commission of Fine Arts. Maps showing the site allotted for the statue, and a photograph of the statue of George Canning who will be the neighbour of the Lincoln statue were inspected.

The Commission understood from the above-mentioned correspondence that the matter came before them as a question of art and not as a matter of controversy. They were of opinion that the man and the site call for a statue representative of the highest achievement of American sculpture, - that the statue of Abraham Lincoln executed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and erected in Lincoln Park, Chicago, a copy of which has been offered to the British Government was such a statue, - and that the Commission advised that the Saint-Gaudens' Lincoln be accepted for erection in London on the site set a-part. (See Exhibit A for letters referred to above and report of Commission.)

7. REPORTS ON BILLS PROHIBITING EXPORTATIONS OF WORKS OF ART UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS: Colonel Ridley placed before the Commission for examination and report Senate Bill 4910, 65th Congress, 2d Session, and H. R. Bill 12981, 65th Congress, 2d Session, both identical in text, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refuse to permit the exportation of any work of art purporting to be a gift by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality, unless by consent of the Secretary of State", which were referred respectively by the Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library and

the Chairman of the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives. The latter had also furnished the Commission with the reports of the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury on the House Bill, and these were read by Colonel Ridley for the information of the members. After discussion, including reading of the resolutions adopted by the American Federation of Arts at their convention on May 24th last with reference to the Barnard statue, and of the original text of a bill concerning the same subject-matter as the bills under consideration drafted sometime ago by Hon. Elihu Root, the Commission recommended the bills by substituting a text combining the suggestions made by both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury. The replies to the Chairmen of the above Committees, and of the suggested amendment is shown under exhibit B.

8. DRAWINGS BY AMERICAN ARTISTS OF WAR SUBJECTS FOR PROPAGANDA PURPOSES: Mr. Moore called attention to a large number of original drawings which had been submitted by Major Kendall Banning, in charge of the Pictorial Work of the Army War College, for an opinion by the Commission. The drawings were by artists who had been sent to France for the purpose of preparing and sending back pictures which would stimulate war work here. It was understood that Major Banning felt disappointed at the results when they came in. (* These artists were Capt. Harry Townsend, Capt. Harvey Dunn, Capt. Ernest Peixotto, Capt. George Harding, Capt. W. C. Aylward, Capt. J. Andre Smith, Capt. Wallace Morgan, Capt. W. F. Duncan).

Each drawing was inspected by the Commission. It was the members' opinion that while much excellent work had been accomplished, the drawings as a whole were more valuable as War records than as a means of arousing our people to the necessity of each one doing his utmost. They felt that it is naturally clearer now than it was at the time these artists were appointed just what kind of work is most needed, that owing to the remoteness from the War, the American people needed something to stir the blood, - something which will take the place of having bombs dropped in the streets or of inhabitants being driven from their homes, and that for purposes of War propaganda the work should bristle with dramatic action, human sympathy, tragedy, comedy , and life. The Commission felt that the artists had returned much valuable material, and that with larger experience with actual warfare their work should become more and more vital.

(See Exhibit C.)

9. FRANCIS SCOTT KEY LETTERS: Colonel Ridley asked the members' advice concerning the wording and arrangement of the proposed inscription for the Key Memorial to be erected at Fort McHenry Park, Baltimore, Maryland. He said that the inscription that had been proposed for emplacement on the encircling band on the pedestal was "Francis Scott Key, author of the Star-Spangled Banner" but that this wording seemed to carry with it the idea that the statue on top would be that of Francis Scott Key; in other words, in his opinion, only a portrait statue should carry a direct titular inscription. To modify this however the inscription could be changed to read "In memory of Francis Scott Key, author &c...". But even with this modification made, he found that the memorial is not to Key alone, but to others, the Act of Congress reading that it shall be "in memory of Francis Scott Key, author of the Star-Spangled Banner, and the soldiers and sailors who participated in the Battle of North Point and the attack on Fort McHenry in the War of Eighteen hundred and twelve." He stated that it had been the intention of the sculptor to put the dedication on the encircling band, and a verse of the Star-Spangled Banner on the plate on the drum. The members agreed with Colonel Ridley that the dedication should include reference to the soldiers and sailors, and suggested that the plate on the drum be used for the dedicatory inscription instead of the band; this could be achieved by leaving off the verse of the Star-Spangled Banner. They also suggested the possibility of using the floor of the approach to the monument for some part of the inscription, provided it was descriptive.

Colonel Ridley also reminded the members of the fact that the site selected for the erection of the memorial had been covered with war buildings, and it had been decided to store the statue until the end of the war when the site would again be available for the purpose. With a view to a possible immediate erection of the memorial he said that it had been suggested to select a new site slightly in advance of the present one and nearer the entrance to Fort McHenry Park. The members felt that this was too serious a matter to be settled without the closest study, and suggested that he consult Mr. Olmsted who had studied the problem of the exact site very carefully at the

time of the competition and only recently had again inspected it.

10. ERICSSON MEMORIAL: Colonel Ridley informed the Commission that on September 17th last, representatives of the Swedish lay committee on an Ericsson Memorial, headed by Mr. S. Adolf Eckberg, Chairman, had met with the Congressional John Ericsson Memorial Commission, of which Senator Williams, Chairman of the Senate Committee on the Library, is Chairman, and then turned over to the United States a contribution of $25,000 towards the memorial. This made $60,000 available for the Ericsson memorial. He stated that Mr. Eckberg and his committee had requested the Congressional Committee to give one of the Swedish American sculptors, Mr. David Edstrom, an opportunity to submit a design, and that the Congressional Committee had agreed to this, stating at the same time that this would be a privilege accorded to anyone who wished to do so. This action on the part of both committees appeared to Colonel Ridley to eliminate the possibility of a direct selection of Mr. Henry Bacon as the architect with the right to select his own sculptor. He stated that the Congressional Commission were unanimous that Mr. Bacon should be consulted on both the site and design of any memorial, which is to be located in such close proximity to Mr. Bacon's Lincoln Memorial. The members discussed the situation at some length. They felt that Mr. Bacon has made a suggestion for a memorial for that place that would be excellent, and that they believed that under the circumstances the surest way to get results would be to employ him to develop his design architectural-ly, and then have a sculptor selected, if necessary, through a competition for the sculptural work indicated in his design; in other words, that Mr. Bacon act as the architectural adviser and architect, the sculptural work to be incidental and to be developed in competition. As all this discussion was informal, Mr. Adams was designated a committee with whom Colonel Ridley could consult whenever desired.

11. POSITION OF MESSENGER BOY: In view of the forthcoming resignation of the present messenger boy about the middle of the month, and the need of now having the services of a person who also would have knowledge of switchboard operating, the suggestion of Colonel Ridley that the position of messenger boy to the Commission be abolished upon the resignation of the present incumbent and that a new position of messenger boy and

switchboard operator be created at a compensation not to exceed sixty dollars per month was approved by the Commission. It is the intention to utilize for this position a messenger boy who has a knowledge of switchboard operating, selected from such certifications by the Civil Service Commission.

After a short interval for lunch, which was served in the office, the members spent some time in going over the war pictures submitted by Major Banning, and then left for an inspection of Rock Creek Park; this has recently been turned over to the jurisdiction and control of the Chief of Engineers, U. S. Army, and is under the immediate control of the Officer in charge of Public Buildings and Grounds.

This inspection was completed about six o'clock, when the Commission adjourned subject to the call of the Chairman.

Approved:_____

Chairman.

Colonel, U.S. Army,

Secretary & Executive

Officer.

October 9, 1918.

Sir:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the reference from the Department of State of the letter of the Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour, the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, conveying the suggestion of the Rt. Hon. Sir Alfred Mond, M. P., First Commissioner of His Majesty's Office of Works, to the effect that the question as to the particular statue of President Lincoln to be accepted from American donors for erection in London be submitted to a body of experts in the United States.

After careful consideration of the subject, the Commission of Fine Arts report: The British Government, recognizing the part played by Abraham Lincoln in the promotion of human freedom, has set apart as the location for a statue commemorating him a site related to the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. The man and the site call for a statue representative of the highest achievement of American sculpture. Such is the statue of Abraham Lincoln executed by Augustus Saint-Gaudens and erected in Lincoln Park, Chicago, a copy of which work has been offered to the British Government. This Commission advise that the Saint-Gaudens Lincoln be accepted for erection in London on the site set apart.

By direction of the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Honorable William Phillips,

Assistant Secretary of State.

EXHIBIT A.

EXHIBIT A.

October 9, 1919.

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By direction of the Commission of Fine Arts:

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. B. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Honorable William Phillips,

Assistant Secretary of State.

The Assistant Secretary of State

Washington

October 3,1918.

Dear Mr.Moore:

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of September 20th, in which you quote from a letter addressed to you by Lord Charnwood relating to the subject of the Barnard statues.

I have had our files searched and find a despatch from the American Embassy at London enclosing a copy of an informal note addressed to Ambassador Page by Mr. Balfour stating that Sir Alfred Mond, First Commissioner of Works of Great Britain, has suggested that this embarrassing question should be settled by a committee of American experts who should decide which of the two statues should have the preference in the matter of site.

I am also enclosing drawings of the proposed site and a photograph of the statue of George Canning.

Unfortunately this correspondence was not referred to your Commission, but I now enclose a copy of Mr. Page's despatch together with a copy of Mr. Balfour's note. I am also enclosing the drawings and a photograph to which they refer, but inasmuch as these are the originals taken from our files I must ask you to be so good as to have them returned to us after they have served their purpose with you.

My Secretary has also brought to my attention the letter addressed to you by Senator Root, and has advised me of the action which it is proposed

EXHIBIT A.

will be taken concerning the subject matter of his letter.

I am returning Mr. Root's letter to you herewith in accordance with your request.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) William Phillips.

Enclosures:

Charles Moore,
Commission of Fine Arts
1729 New York Avenue, Washington, D.C.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

No. 8597.

London, March 19, 1918.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

A group of gentlemen, among whom are Mr. Elihu Root, President Nicholas Murray Butler of Columbia University, Mr. J. P. Morgan and Mr. Henry White, informed me a little while ago that they had secured funds to have a duplicate made of St. Gaudens statue of Lincoln to present to the British Government. Of course their proposition is to have this accepted instead of the Barnard statue which has also been offered, I think by the Peace Centenary Committee in the United States. The controversy about these two statues has caused the British Government very considerable embarrassment. They do not feel that they are in a position to make a decision between them, and while they are very eager to receive one such statue, I infer that they prefer not to have two. They have not distinctly said this but their attitude shows that this is their preference.

EXHIBIT A.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

No. 9527.

London, March 19, 1915.

The Honorable
The Secretary of State,
Washington.

Sir:

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At the request of this New York group of gentlemen I asked the Government if it would place a copy of the St. Gaudens statue in an appropriate position. In answer to that informal and personal inquiry I have received a personal letter from Mr. Balfour in which he asks me to propose to our Government that this embarrassing question, as to which of these statues should be sent, should be considered by a committee of American experts which should decide which of the two statues should have preference in the matter of site and he sends some drawings to show the position it will be given. Mr. Balfour doesn't say directly, you will observe in this note, that he hopes that I will refer this to our Government because he knows that our Government would not be likely to wish to make such a decision; but if our Government sees fit to have a proper committee make a decision, that would please everybody in England who is concerned about it. I venture, therefore, to inquire whether there be not an art committee or some such body who could appropriately decide it and I await your instructions as to whether you will comply with Mr. Balfour's request to submit the question to such an organization - either one that now exists, or one that might be appointed for the purpose.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Enclosures. (Signed) WLATER HINES PAGE.

At the request of this New York group of gentlemen I asked the Government if it would place a copy of the Mr. Balfour statue in an appropriate position. In answer to that informal and personal inquiry I have received a personal letter from Mr. Balfour in which he asks me to propose to our Government that this embarrassing question as to which of these statues should be sent, should be considered by a committee of American experts which should decide which of the two statues should have preference in the matter of size and he sends some drawings to show the condition it will be given. Mr. Balfour doesn't say directly, you will observe in this note, that he hopes that I will refer this to our Government because he knows that our Government would not be likely to wish to make such a decision; but if our Government sees fit to have a proper committee make a decision, that would please everybody in England who is concerned about it. I venture, therefore, to inquire whether there be not an art committee or some such body who could appropriately decide it and I await your instructions as to whether you will comply with Mr. Balfour's request to submit the question to such an organization - either one that now exists, or one that might be appointed for the purpose.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Enclosures. (Signed) WALTER HINES PAGE.

COPY
E. I.R.

FOREIGN OFFICE, LONDON, S.W.I.

Monday, 11 March 1918.

My dear Ambassador:

You may remember that in February last you were good enough to write to me on the vexed question of the Barnard and St. Gaudens statues of Abraham Lincoln, and to send me a copy of a cable from President Murray Butler, stating that the money for the St. Gaudens statue is now assured, provided that the original site proposed can be reserved for it.

This information I conveyed at once to Sir Alfred Mond, First Commissioner of Works, who has official charge of these matters. To-day he writes to say that he fears he must decline to take up the position of arbiter in a matter of taste which appears to have created much controversy among our friends in America. He therefore suggests that perhaps you would be good enough to propose to your Government that this embarrassing question should be settled by a Committee of American Experts, which should decide which of the two statues should have the preference in the matter of site.

In case it may assist the deliberations of such a Committee, I am sending to you, with this letter, some drawings of the site together with a photograph of the statue of George Canning, who will be the neighbour of Abraham Lincoln.

In the hope that this suggestion, which I think a wise one, may meet with your approval,

I am, with great regard,

(Signed) ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

His Excellency

The American Ambassador.

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In the hope that this suggestion, which I think a wise one, may meet with your approval,

I am, with great regard,

(Signed) ARTHUR JAMES BALFOUR.

His Excellency

The American Ambassador,

October 21, 1918.

Dear Senator Williams:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 21, 1918, transmitting for examination and report Senate Bill 4910, 65th Congress, 2d Session, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refuse to permit the exportation of any work of art purporting to be a gift made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality, unless by consent of the Secretary of State". The Commission have also had the opportunity to read the reports on the subject-matter of the same bill from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Commission have the honor to report that the purposes of the proposed legislation will be accomplished by a bill in the following form, which embodies the suggestions of both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury:

> BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, That on and after the date of the approval of this Act, the exportation from the United States or its possessions of any work of art purporting to be a gift made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality is hereby prohibited, unless the work of art is accompanied by an export license issued by the Secretary of State, and collectors of customs shall refuse to permit the exportation of such work of art when not accompanied by the license herein required.
>
> Section 2. That the Secretary of State, by and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, is hereby authorized and directed to make and publish regulations governing gifts proposed to be made to foreign nations or municipalities by citizens of the United States or organizations, the purpose being to secure in such gifts a high standard of excellence.

The necessity for such legislation is made evident by the unfortunate and undignified controversy which has been waged during the past two years in regard to a gift purporting to be made by a certain organization in this country of a statue to be erected in London as an expression of the feeling of good will of the United States toward the British Government. A dispute having arisen as to the authority of the persons who proffered the gift to represent the organization from which the gift was supposed to come and the question as to whether there was in existence any such organization as purported to offer a statue, the question of whether the statue offered was the statue intended to be offered, and the further question of the merits of the statue offered, - all make it evident that no gift assuming to represent the American people should be made to a foreign Government without official sanction.

EXHIBIT B.

October 21, 1918.

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The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of your letter September 21, 1918, transmitting for examination and report Senate Bill 0, 65th Congress, 3d Session, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury rofess to permit the exportation of any work of art purporting to be a t made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality, ess by consent of the Secretary of State". The Commission have also had the ortunity to read the reports on the subject-matter of the same bill from Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury.

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Section 2. That the Secretary of State, by and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, is hereby authorized and directed to make and publish regulations governing gifts proposed to be made to foreign nations or municipalities by citizens of the United States or organizations, the purpose being to secure in such gifts a high standard of excellence.

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In the present instance it became necessary to make the subject a matter of diplomatic discussion, and, ina time of great pressure on both the British Foreign Office and the American Department of State, this subject was interjected with the result of causing the whole matter to be referred back by the British Commissioner of Works through the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the American Ambassador, and the Department of State, to the Commission of Fine Arts, and back again through all of the clogged diplomatic channels. It is submitted that one such experience is a sufficient argument in favor of the legislation proposed.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. Ridley,

Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. John Sharp Williams,

Chairman, Committee on the Library of

the United States Senate.

ABC

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By direction of the Dominion:

Respectfully,

(Signed) G. S. Gieles,

Colonel, G. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

. John Sharp Williams,

irman, Committee on the Library of

United States Senate.

October 21, 1918.

Dear Mr. Slayden:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 23, 1918, transmitting for examination and report H. R.Bill 12981, 65th Congress, 2d Session, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refuse to permit the exportation of any work of art purporting to be a gift made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality, unless by consent of the Secretary of State". The Commission have also had the opportunity to read the reports to you on the same bill from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Commission have the honor to report that the purposes of the proposed legislation will be accomplished by a bill in the following form, which embodies the suggestions of both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury:

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Section 2. That the Secretary of State, by and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, is hereby authorized and directed to make and publish regulations governing gifts proposed to be made to foreign nations or municipalities by citizens of the United States or organizations, the purpose being to secure in such gifts a high standard of excellence.

The necessity for such legislation is made evident by the unfortunate and undignified controversy which has been waged during the past two years in regard to a gift purporting to be made by a certain organization in this country of a statue to be erected in London as an expression of the feeling of good will of the United States toward the British Government. A dispute having arisen as to the authority of the persons who proffered the gift to represent the organization from which the gift was supposed to come and the question as to whether there was in existence any such organization as purported to offer a statue, the question of whether the statue offered was the statue intended to be offered, and the futher question of the merits of the statue offered, - all make it evident that no gift assuming to represent the American people should be made to a foreign Government without official sanction. In the present instance it became necessary

EXHIBIT B

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Dear Mr. Hayden:

The Commission of Fine Arts acknowledge the receipt of your letter of September 24, 1919, transmitting for examination and report H. R. 2111, 66th Congress, 2d Session, "Authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury to refuse to permit the exportation of any work of art purporting to be a gift made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality, unless by consent of the Secretary of State". The Commission have also had the opportunity to read the reports to you on the same bill from the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury.

The Commission have the honor to report that the purposes of the proposed legislation will be accomplished by a bill in the following form, which embodies the suggestions of both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, that on and after the date of the approval of this act, the exportation from the United States or its possessions of any work of art purporting to be a gift made by an individual or organization to a foreign nation or municipality is hereby prohibited, unless the work of art is accompanied by an export license issued by the Secretary of State, and collectors of customs shall refuse to permit the exportation of such work of art when not accompanied by the license herein required.

Section 2. That the Secretary of State, by and with the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, is hereby authorized and directed to make such rules and regulations governing gifts proposed to be made to foreign nations or municipalities by citizens of the United States or organizations, the purpose being to secure in such gifts a high standard of excellence.

The necessity for such legislation is made evident by the unfortunate and publicized controversy which has been waged during the past two years in regard to a gift purporting to be made by a certain organization in this country of a statue to be erected in London as an expression of the feeling of good will of the United States toward the British Government. A dispute having arisen as to the authority of the persons who proffered the gift to represent the organization from which the gift was supposed to come and the question as to whether there was in existence any such organization as purported to offer a statue, the question of whether the statue offered was the statue intended to be offered, and the further question of the merits of the statue offered, - all make it evident that no gift purporting to represent the American people should be made to a foreign Government without official sanction. In the present instance it became necessary

to make the subject a matter of diplomatic discussion, and, in a time of great pressure on both the British Foreign Office and the American Department of State, this subject was interjected with the result of causing the whole matter to be referred back by the British Commissioner of Works through the British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the American Ambassador, and the Department of State, to the Commission of Fine Arts, and back again through all of the clogged diplomatic channels. It is submitted that one such experience is a sufficient argument in favor of the legislation proposed.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. S. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Hon. James L. Slayden,

Chairman, The Committee on the Library

of the House of Representatives, U. S.

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By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(Signed) C. L. Tilton,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

on. James L. Slayden,

hairman, The Committee on the Library

f the House of Representatives, U. S.

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C O P Y

October 11, 1918.

Major:

At their meeting held Friday, October fourth last, the members of the Commission of Fine Arts with the greatest interest looked over the drawings which have been returned from the artists sent to France.

You asked their opinion of the drawings as War propaganda.

Their opinion is that, while much excellent work has been accomplished, the drawings as a whole are more valuable as War records than as a means of rousing our people to the necessity of each one doing his utmost. In all our minds it is naturally clearer now than it was at the time these artists were appointed, just what kind of work is most needed. Owing to our remoteness from the War, our people need something to stir the blood, something which will take the place of having bombs dropped in our streets, or of being driven from our homes. We need to be brought to the scene as the bomb strikes or as the Hun arrives. We need to be shown the dramatic human interest of it all, rather than to view the scene as it appears the day after. For purposes of War propaganda, the Commission think that the work should bristle with dramatic action, human sympathy, tragedy, comedy, life.

These artists have been given a difficult task. They are working under new and trying conditions, and it is not to be expected that they will show their full power at once. The Commission feel that they have returned much valuable material, and that with larger experience with actual warfare their work should become more and more vital.

By direction of the Commission:

Respectfully,

(signed) C. S. Ridley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

Maj. Kendall Banning, U. S. A.,

The Army War College.

EXHIBIT C

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(signed) C. B. Hinley,
Colonel, U. S. Army,
Secretary and Executive Officer.

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