

GALLERIA SCHNEIDER
RAMPA MIGNANELLI 10 - ROMA
TEL. 684019

Nov. 27, 1954

Dear Richards and John,

I had placed your letter on top of my pile of "correspondence to be answered" and it is only now that I have a free moment to begin to tackle the accumulated pile. The reason is that the ten-day one-man shows have begun to succeed each other and I'm caught in a routine of preparing catalogues, supervising hangings, handling publicity. At the same time, Vance Kirkland, Director of Paintings and Sculpture at the Denver Art Museum, was in town and I had to take him around. This was worthwhile because he purchased a Maffa and two sculptures of Mirko.

Now, speaking of sculptures, the Professor Simpson of the University of Chicago who was interested in your astronomer returned to Chicago, consulted with his wife and then decided against making the acquisition. As for the "Belly Dancer," Mr. Richard Stark, of 125 E. 72nd St. New York 21, left a deposit of £10,000 (\$18) last July. After a considerable lapse of time, I wrote him to remind him I was still holding the bronze, but he didn't answer. I wonder if you could contact him, saying I had written you, etc.

Did John collect the remaining \$600 from Mrs. Steinberg of St. Louis? I heard from Perry Rathbone that the bronze was set up in her garden and has been a great success. My 10% on that almost equals the £30,000 check you returned = \$48. That gives me a credit of \$12. So, my dear Richards, I'm truly sorry that instead of my owing you, you owe me! It's time, though, that the wheel swung around to some more Rhodes sales. By the way, Queen Ingrid of Denmark came three times, once with her husband the King, to admire John's marble "Torso." She asked the price, and even sent a Lady in Waiting to ask the next day to sort of check up. Let's hope we hear from them. Vance Kirkland, Director of the Denver Museum I mentioned before, was interested only in Mirko because he had seen his things at the Venice Biennale. He did ask the price of John's bull, however. John's prices are fairly high, however, and it's just a question of waiting for the right person to come along, that is, good taste plus a good bent account. Rest assured I'll be prompt in remitting when the time comes. Dolores joins in sending both of you affectionate regards.

Cordially,
Bob

Dec. 24, 1954

Dear John and Richards,

I just received your letter of December 20 and don't want to delay until after the holiday, which I should certainly do if I were a true Roman, so here goes.

First, I received a telephone call from Mr. Roberts this morning asking me to be kind enough to consign to him the Belly Dancer, Bull, Astronomer, and Invasion. He sent his chauffeur and this has already been done. I am now left with only the Torso and Salome, check? O.K.

Second, I received a letter from Mr. Stark saying you had contacted him the very day he had already sat down and begun his answer to my second letter. In short, he said he sent you a check in the amount of \$334 (balance on price of \$350 less deposit of \$16). The price was only \$320, but if he wanted to pay \$350, that's okay with you, I'm sure! Now, speaking of money, I assure you all the deductions I made while you ~~were~~ were here were bona fide, just, and equitable. Indeed I did not take the commission on your last \$600 from Mrs. Steinsberg ahead of time. What a nerve that would have been on my part. I deducted only the commission on the amount you had received, that is, \$1,200. I assure you, John, my records are straight on this. Consequently, I still had a credit of \$13 from that last commission (you sent me back a lire check amounting to \$48⁺ and I now have a credit of \$54 on the Stark sale (20% of \$350 minus \$16 deposit)). Therefore, be a good boy and put a check for \$66 in the mail for R.E.S. pronto as I surely can use it. Business has been at a standstill for about a month.

Now last but not least I have received the blasts to be filled out for the Guggenheim Fellowship and I assure you I intend to go to bat for you. I was born at midnight on Hallowe'en and I'm something of a witch and I feel it in my bones Rhoden is sure to be A Guggenheim fellow. I feel very excited about your coming shoes and want to be kept posted about them. Please send me catalogues and copies of clippings, Richards. I'm sure I can depend upon you for this.

We're going to have a sad Christmas to-morrow because my poor Colores is sick in bed with a misery in her chest, an awful bronchial cough that even scares the dog away. But we'll make up for it New Year's, --especially if your check reaches us in time! The best this earth has to offer to both of you is the year to come!

Affectionately,
Bet