

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
DEPARTMENT OF ART
ATHENS, GEORGIA

January 15, 1959

To: Mr. John Rhoden ✓
Mr. William A. Smith
Mr. Franklin Watkins

Dear John, Bill and Watty:

On Monday of this week I was in Washington for a brief - debriefing - session on that Russian trip. This debriefing session did not take place with the IES officers; rather with some members of the Advisory Committee on the Arts, although I did have lunch with Bob Weise and Sam Linch.

The main reason for this communication is to report to you on the success that I had there with some of the people in USIA relative to books which we wish to send to the artists unions in Moscow. After several letters to various ones in the different divisions of the Department of State, I finally located the gentleman who could help us. Unfortunately, no allocations are made for books for Russia - news which I am sure has not come to you as a surprise - however, they were so pleased and gratified over the contacts that we had made that they said that they would do everything that they could to use funds from some other source to provide books for us to send to those people whom we met. The reason I am writing to you at this moment is to get any specific suggestion that you may have relative to what books should be sent. Whether or not our recommendations will carry through I do not know - they could easily draw from books that they have on hand in USIS, however they have given us the privilege of making suggestions, and if you have a suggestion or two or three in regard to one, two or three outstanding books that you feel we should send, let me have them by return mail. And a million thanks.

While there, I also stopped in briefly to pay my respects to Ambassador Thompson who was over for a meeting, and the chances are I will see him again on January 23rd at a luncheon at the White House in connection with the exchange Russian exhibition. He spoke of the success of our trip.

I know that this will probably find Watty at home, John possibly somewhere in the Far East, and for that reason I am asking Richanda if she could speak for John at this time to please do so or if you, Richanda, think the letter will be received by John without delay and that he will respond immediately, forward it on to him. And Bill, I am informed that you are at home. Welcome home, and I hope that you found all well.