

WJN
JOHN W. RHODEN
SCULPTOR

May 20th, 1957

Mr. Robert C. Dean
Ferry, Shaw, Hepburn and Dean
955 Park Square Building
Boston 16, Mass.

Dear Mr. Dean,

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of May 7th, 1957 from which I quote, "we are asking in this letter if you would be willing to pick up the cost of the assistant yourself."

To quote your letter of May 7th again, "The cost, on the other hand, has gone completely beyond any of the amounts which we had contemplated spending. . .", to which I would like to point out some of the reasons of extra cost:

1. Delay of actually getting started in Philadelphia because of building construction schedule of McCloskey Co..
2. Because of lag in hotel construction schedule, the additional order for the three chandeliers was given.
note- many extra hours never given on time sheet - of course, I think it might be considered as true, that any artist who isn't thinking of his work as commercial would have done likewise.
3. Changing price of materials.
 - a. For the work done in my studio, I shopped for scrap and surplus bronze to cut costs.
4. The use of colored glass which you suggested as a highly artistic color value to be used throughout screen and chandeliers.
5. Professional iron welders lack of skill for making use of material which caused much waste of the same.
6. Slight change of design (bending metal and shopwork of Rodman Martin) and hiring of three extra men to speed up completion for January 26th date.
7. The ten percent given to McCloskey's Philadelphia metal purchasing agent hoisted costs (Rodman Martin).
example. I wanted 16 gauge bronze and through Rodman Martin would only get 14 gauge which is more costly.

8. Time spent in repairing damage done to chandeliers by McCloskey contractors.
9. Extra time and cost involved as as precautionary measures against burning of rug and floor were taken.
10. Gilding outer rods on the stairs and the cost of pure gold.
11. I have tried desperately, against all odds to finish this job and you know that this has been impossible. Realising this, and the fact that I have put in so many extra hours, my salary per hour has dropped to fifty percent of the original schedule, (and in the meantime I have had to refuse at least two other jobs.)
12. Please also remember that I asked for your advice and permission for the expenditures involved for each of the above points.

Mr. Dean, please be certain that because of the abovementioned points and the ethics involved I cannot waiver on our contract at any point.

Sincerely,

P.S.: I received the blueprints from Morris Savitt of Bloum and Fuller, for the lighting of the screen and noticed that the dimension from the outside of the screen to the inside of the fixture was 20" so I went to Philadelphia with the intention of working and to check these dimensions and I found out that the 20" should be changed from 6" or 8" depending on whatever is most convenient for the fixture. As this letter is being write I have received a call from Mr. Savitt and he is directing Keystone accordingly. Best regards to your family.

