

April 2, 1959

Miss Eleanor Mitchell and Miss Catherine de Bary

Dear Miss Mitchell and Miss de Bary:

I am taking the liberty of writing you this joint letter because I know that all of us are interested in the same objective - that objective being to keep up this contact made by the artists - sculptor group with certain Russian individuals and organizations last fall.

Since my return, I have had quite a bit of correspondence with certain individuals in the Soviet Union, and although I had written "official" letters thanking the Ministry of Culture and all of the Unions for the hospitality shown us, I had not been able to receive a definite statement as to whether or not these Unions would accept a gift of books should they be sent in the name of the group that went over. In some cases, I sent through two or three letters to the same Union. I am pleased to report that I have received a registered letter from the Ministry of Culture in Leningrad thanking me for my expression of appreciation in behalf of the group. I have also received two official letters (both registered mail) one from the Union of Artists in Moscow, the other from the Union in Leningrad. A copy of the latter is enclosed, which I am sure will please you as much as it does me.

In addition to this information, I have also been in contact with the Embassy in Moscow and have had several letters from Harry Barnes, formerly of the Embassy but now stationed in Washington. It appears, on the basis of the information I have secured, that it would be perfectly safe at this point to send books to the Unions in Leningrad and Moscow, but that these books should go from a mailing address other than Washington or even through the Embassy in Moscow. They would, of course, go in the name of all four - Watkins, Smith, Rhoden and Dodd. I would strongly urge that we await similar word from the Unions in Tbilisi, Tashkent, Kiev, et cetera, and I would also suggest that if books are to be sent to individuals, they be sent from individuals - not from the group.

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