

Fine Arts Committee
PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE PROGRAM
Corcoran Gallery of Art
Washington 6, D. C.

TO: Mr. David H. Finley, Chairman
DATE: January 22, 1959

FROM: Eleanor Mitchell

SUBJECT: Fine arts material for Soviet Union in support of visit of artists, Franklin C. Watkins, Lester Dodd, William A. Smith, John Hoden, Oct.-Nov., 1958, as guests of Soviet Government.

In addition to slides and slide-strips already given to Mr. Watkins, painter and member of the Fine Arts Committee, and Mr. Hoden, sculptor, for presentation in Soviet Union, the Fine Arts Committee will attempt to secure further slide material and reproductions to establish at an appropriate Soviet institution an archive of American art. The Committee will provide a follow-up to the visit by seeing that art books and periodicals are made available for presentation to contacts made among Soviet artists and other art personnel. The shipments will be sent in the name of the American artist, who will write in advance to the Soviet contact telling him that the material is being sent.

PROGRESS REPORT:

- 9/25/58 Visit to Fine Arts Committee office of Mr. Hoden; given slide-strips (300 frames) of sculpture in National Gallery of Art.
- 10/6/58 Letter to Mr. Watkins offering slide-strips of paintings from National Gallery of Art.
- 10/7/58 Letter to Mr. Hoden commenting on need of slide covers for slide-strips given him.
- 10/11/58 Letter from Mr. Watkins expressing interest in slide-strips; reporting he was taking selected set of slides of paintings in Philadelphia Museum of Art, with various art catalogs for presentation in Soviet Union.
- 10/17/58 Letter to Mr. William E. Pierson in regard to possibility of making available to Fine Arts Committee a set of the Carnegie Corporation color slides of American art for presentation to Soviet institution.
- Slide-strips of paintings from National Gallery of Art (600 frames), cover glasses, 10 color slides representing 9 paintings and one stained glass panel in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, sent to Mr. Watkins via air pouch in care American Embassy, Moscow, to be presented later to Union of Artists of U.S.S.R.
- Letter to Mr. Watkins, c/o American Embassy, Moscow, suggesting that material sent by Fine Arts Committee to him and Mr. Hoden be presented to some institution where a central deposit could be built up.

- 11/9/58 Letter from Mr. Watkins following his return from Moscow.
11/17/58 Letter to Mr. Watkins.
11/18/58 Letter from Mr. Watkins.
12/2/58 Visit of Mr. Watkins to Fine Arts Committee office; reported a few art books also presented mostly in Moscow to Union of Artists of U.S.S.R.; debriefing State Department-INT.
12/8/58 Suggestion of Mr. Lawrence A. Fleischman that Fine Arts Committee send him list of publications recommended for presentation in Soviet Union.
12/13/58 Letter from Mr. Watkins.
12/15/58 Telephone conversation with Mr. Firman Wilson, Art Department, D. C. Public Library.
12/16/58 Telephone conversation with Mr. Watkins.
12/17/58 Telephone conversation with Mr. Frederick Guthrie.
12/17/58 Letter to Mr. Watkins sending list of contacts made in Soviet Union for additions or corrections, and list of suggested titles of art books and periodicals to be sent to them.
Telephone conversations with Mrs. Polly Shackleton and Mr. George Pettengill, American Institute of Architects.
Letter from Mr. Walter A. Taylor, Director, Department of Education and Research, American Institute of Architects, offering 15 copies free of charge of Frederick Guthrie's "1857-1957, One Hundred Years of Architecture in America".
12/30/58 Telephone conversation with Mr. William Peterson, USIA, and Mr. Scott Lyon, Department of State, as to most advisable means of presenting publications.
1/15/59 Visit to Fine Arts Committee office of Mr. Burton Cussing, Director of Publications, New York Graphic Society; offer to make available free of charge 20-25 copies of John I. H. Baur's "New Art in America".
1/20/59 Telephone conversation with Mr. Watkins.
Letter to Mr. Lawrence A. Fleischman.
1/22/59 Letter to Mr. Walter A. Taylor, AIA.

cc: Mr. Franklin C. Watkins
Mr. John Rhodes ✓
Mr. Lamar Dodd
Mr. William A. Smith
Mr. Bernard H. Ridder