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Salvator Mundi International Hospital,  
Viale Mura Gianicolensi, 67-77,  
Rome.

16th September, 1958.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,  
Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street,  
New York.

Dear Alfred.

Correspondence: MOTHERWELL

- 1) Cable to Mr. Motherwell from Mr. McCray
- 2) Mr. Motherwell's reply of July 9th (cable)
- 3) Mr. Motherwell's letter of July 9th:  
"Dear Alfred"
- 4) Mr. Barr's reply of July 25th
- 5) Mr. McCray to Mr. d'Harnoncourt, July 25th  
**Missing:** Mr. Motherwell's cable via New York  
of July 26th
- 6) Mr. McCray to Mr. Motherwell, cable, July 27
- 7) Mr. Motherwell to Mr. McCray, July 29th  
(says: "tell me what you said in the letter  
I never received.")
- 8) Mr. McCray to Sidney Janis, August 2
- 9) Mr. McCray to Mr. Motherwell, August 2 (**unsent**)
- 10) Mr. McCray to Mr. d'Harnoncourt, Aug.2 (**unsent**)

encouraging comments  
and wishes for the state

useum, and particularly  
the planned re-opening  
, every institution in  
greatest of interest

Philip Hendy's letter  
lip again impressed me  
and toughly for the  
operations at the Venice  
you more of this upon

and Marga.

*Age.*  
*copy SES*  
*Motherwell*

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Salvator Mundi International Hospital,  
Viale Mura Gianicolensi, 67-77,  
Rome.

16th September, 1958.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,  
Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street,  
New York.

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your encouraging comments about the Motherwell situation, and your good wishes for the state of my health.

My thoughts are very much with the museum, and particularly the collections, during the preparation for the planned re-opening of the museum in early October. Certainly, every institution in Europe looks forward to this event with the greatest of interest and admiration.

I am also grateful for the copy of Sir Philip Hendy's letter to you, and your very generous reply. Philip again impressed me very genuinely when he pled so brilliantly and toughly for the moral principles involved in the jury deliberations at the Venice Biennale this year. I shall hope to tell you more of this upon my return to New York.

With very best wishes to you and Marga.

Ever,

Porter McCray.

PM/amc

*Age.*  
*copy SCS*  
*Motherwell*

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Salvator Mundi International Society  
Viale Mura Gianicolesni,  
Rome.

16th September, 1958.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,  
Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street,  
New York.

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your encouraging comments about the Motherwell situation, and your good wishes for the state of my health.

My thoughts are very much with the museum, and particularly the collections, during the preparation for the planned re-opening of the museum in early October. Certainly, every institution in Europe looks forward to this event with the greatest of interest and admiration.

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With very best wishes to you and Marga.

Ever,

Porter McCray.

P/410

cc. Jes  
Motherwell

at  
M  
MICE  
G  
amp  
M  
Barr

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Salvator Mundi International Hospital  
Viale Mura Gianicolensi, 57-77,  
Rome.

16th September, 1958.

Mr. Alfred H. Barr, Jr.,  
Museum of Modern Art,  
11 West 53rd Street,  
New York.

*Motherwell*  
*Barr*

Dear Alfred,

Thank you very much for your encouraging comments about the Motherwell situation, and your good wishes for the state of my health.

My thoughts are very much with the museum, and particularly the collections, during the preparation for the planned re-opening of the museum in early October. Certainly, every institution in Europe looks forward to this event with the greatest of interest and admiration.

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With very best wishes to you and Marga.

Ever,

Porter McCray.

PM/AMO

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
NEW YORK 19

copy SCS

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

9 September 1958

Dear Porter:

Back to this bedlam to find at least one reassuring document attesting to human intelligence and virtue, not to mention tact and eloquence. All these were in your letter to Robert Motherwell, which in many ways made me proud to be your colleague.

I think you handled the whole situation with skill and integrity and I am delighted that Motherwell seems to have accepted your decision and understood your predicament with sympathy.

I am much distressed to hear that you had a recurrence of your illness in Rome. I do hope that you are pulling out of it and that in any case you will have some rest, which heaven knows, you deserve!

Sincerely,

*and with love  
from Tanya and  
me*

Mr. Porter McCray  
Salvator Mundi International Hospital  
Rome, Italy

AHB:ma

*A. J. [Signature]*

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MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53<sup>RD</sup> ST  
TELEPHONE CIRCLE 5 8971  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW YORK

9 September 1956

*Barr*

Dear Porter:

Back to this bedlam to find at least one reassuring document attesting to human intelligence and virtue, not to mention tact and eloquence. All these were in your letter to Robert Motherwell, which in many ways made me proud to be your colleague.

I think you handled the whole situation with skill and integrity and I am delighted that Motherwell seems to have accepted your decision and understood your predicament with sympathy.

I am much distressed to hear that you had a recurrence of your illness in Rome. I do hope that you are pulling out of it and that in any case you will have some rest, which heaven knows, you deserve!

Sincerely,

*Alfred Barr*

Mr. Porter McCray  
Salvator Mundi International Hospital  
Rome, Italy

AM:re

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
NEW YORK 19

✓ CCNY SC 5

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW YORK

9 September 1953

Dear Porter:

Back to this bedlam to find at least one reassuring document attesting to human intelligence and virtue, not to mention tact and eloquence. All these were in your letter to Robert Motherwell, which in many ways made me proud to be your colleague.

I think you handled the whole situation with skill and integrity and I am delighted that Motherwell seems to have accepted your decision and understood your predicament with sympathy.

I am much distressed to hear that you had a recurrence of your illness in Rome. I do hope that you are pulling out of it and that in any case you will have some rest, which heaven knows, you deserve!

Sincerely,  
*and with love  
from Marga  
and me  
Alfred*

Mr. Porter McCray  
Salvator Mundi International Hospital  
Rome, Italy

AH:ma

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CONFIDENTIAL

*Reve*

August 30, 1958

Mr. Barr  
Miss Miller  
Mrs. Shaw  
Susan C. Senior

Robert Motherwell

Porter asked me to send you a copy of his letter to Robert Motherwell. Also attached is a copy of Porter's letter to Sidney Janis.

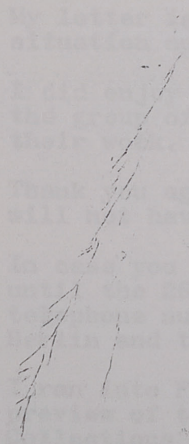
Porter has since written René that Motherwell and he have talked by phone since Motherwell received Porter's letter and that all is well; and Motherwell says he has put the matter completely out of his mind.

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Excerpt from letter from P.A.M. to R. d'H. , Aug. 9, 1958, Geneva

You will be relieved to hear I spoke again this morning with Bob Motherwell in St. Jean-de-Luz and he says he would like to have raised Hell in Madrid but that my letter partly pacified his anger and that love and good painting had removed some of his anguish and that he putting the whole matter out of mind.



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ABM

Confidential

Mr. Luis Gonzales Robles,  
Jefe Del Servicio de Exposiciones  
del Museo de Arte Contemporaneo,  
Paseo de Recoletos 20,  
M A D R I D.-  
Spain.

Rotterdam, Parkhotel, 6 August '58.

Dear Luis,

I have had a very unpleasant experience with Motherwell about his Elogy, the title of which, as you know, we sought to change for the Madrid exhibition. Since he is a very impetuous type I am sending you my most recent exchange of letters with him in order that you may be forearmed in case he either writes you or appears in Madrid.

My letter is quite frank in relation to the Spanish political situation and I would appreciate your holding it in confidence.

I did enjoy meeting your artists and look forward to receiving the group of material, which you will send to New York representing their work.

Thank you again for your generosity in Madrid and I hope that you will not have to become involved with this controversy.

In case you must reach me I am going to be in Rome from August 9 until the 26 at the Salvator Mundi International Hospital. The telephone number is Rome 580.166 or 580.972. Afterward I go to Berlin and then to New York.

I ran into Fernando Chueca Goitia in Rotterdam and gave him a preview of the beautiful exhibition of French Drawings from American Collections " VAN CLOHET TOT MATISSE ", which we have just opened at the Boymans' Museum.

Looking forward to greeting you in the States,

Sincerely,

Porter McCray.

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Mr. Sidney Jones  
Sid Jones Gallery

file  
cc Rene  
Shaw

Patricia Aug 2

Dear Sidney:

Since Bob Matherwell is in your stable and since the painting which started all ~~of~~ controversy in Spain is your property I feel I should furnish you copies of the enclosed ~~as~~ exchange of correspondence with Bob in order that you may not be taken by surprise in case this matter ~~directly~~ ~~you~~ ~~comes~~ comes to your attention.  
Hope you're having a good summer

Yours  
Patricia

- enclosures & my case to Matherwell asking permission to change title.  
(This was sent in earlier letter.)
- (2) his case reply.
  - (3) his case via New York
  - (4) ~~his~~ my case reply.
  - (5) his letter.
  - (6) my letter in reply.
  - (7) his letter to AAPB.

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cc: Mr. d'Harnoncourt  
Mrs. Shaw  
TNAP - Madrid Lenders  
" " File  
Extra  
Green

Rotterdam, August 2, 1958

Mr. Sidney Janis  
Sidney Janis Gallery  
15 East 57th Street  
New York 22, New York

Dear Sidney:

Since Bob Motherwell is in your stable and since the painting which started our controversy is your property I feel I should furnish you copies of the enclosed exchange of correspondence with Bob in order that you may not be taken by surprise in case this matter comes to your attention.

Hope you are having a good summer.

Yours,

Porter A. McGray  
Director  
The International Program

Enclosures:

- 1) Cable to Mr. Motherwell from Porter A. McGray, Venice, asking permission to change title.
- 2) Mr. Motherwell's reply of July 9, 1958
- 3) Mr. Motherwell's cable, via New York, of July 26, 1958
- 4) Reply to Mr. Motherwell from Porter A. McGray of July 27, 1958
- 5) Mr. Motherwell's letter to Mr. McGray of July 29, 1958
- 6) Letter to Mr. Motherwell from Porter A. McGray of August 2, 1958
- 7) Mr. Motherwell's letter to Alfred H. Barr of July 9, 1958

PAM/rs

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Biennials

Robert Mathew  
Villa Ste Barbe  
St-Jean - du-Lac,  
Geneve

Rotterdam - Park Hotel

Aug 2 1958

cc: d'Hanneman  
Barr  
Shaw  
JAW/S

Dear Robert

Your letter of July 29<sup>th</sup> reached me on the day of our <sup>public</sup> opening at the Boymans Museum of the exhibition "French Drawings from American Collections." This fact and the very disturbing tone of your letter have caused me to delay reply for two days.

Meanwhile in reply to your requests I have telegraphed

my addresses for the month of August as follows:

August 1-4 ROTTERDAM - PARK HOTEL

(This has been confirmed) 5 BRUSSELS - 90 ROBERT GRON - PALAIS DES BEAUX ARTS

6-8 PARIS - HOTEL VENDÔME

9-27 ROME - SALVATOR MONDI INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL

The Spanish Catalog of the exhibition was posted to you 1st class mail upon receipt of your letter. You will note that it does not list your painting "Elegy to the Spanish Republic, XXXV" nor does the painting appear in the exhibition.

The person in Madrid responsible for the exhibition is LOIS GONZALES ROBLES (called by his last name), JEFE DEL SERVICIO DE EXPOSICIONES DEL MUSEO DE ARTE CONTEMPORANEO, PASEO DE RECOLETOS 20, where the exhibition is on view. The director of the museum is a figure head who did not appear except once or twice during the preparation of the exhibition. Robles has been the Spanish Commissioner at the most recent Biennials at Sao Paulo and Venice and has done a great deal to advance the standing of the rising school of young abstract artists working in Spain.

The Madrid showing of "The New American Painting" opened on July 16<sup>th</sup> and closes on August 10. Reception there is reported in

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last week's issue of Time magazine.

I most earnestly hope my letter from Madrid written in the confusion of the installation of the show has reached you by now. It contained a brief explanation of the dilemma in which I found myself after receiving your telegram in Switzerland on July 11, and gave my reasons for handling the situation as I did. In view of your recent letter to me and yours to Alfred dated July 9 which has just now reached me without comment I am aware of the necessity of reassuring you that I very much respect your moral position and its implications for it is fundamentally the same position to which I hold.

As soon as the question of the change of title of your picture arose and before I called you originally I was confronted with exactly the same moral issue to which you then reacted in your replies to me. The question in my mind was not that of the withdrawal of a single picture or even a single artist but rather the withdrawal of the entire exhibition.

In making my decision the choice was between the probable sensationalism that would have resulted from the withdrawal of yours or all of the pictures and the moral issue of placing in jeopardy a group of persons with integrity no less than ours who already by association would have been identified with our action. Believe me this argument is not an academic one but is based upon actual experience with other situations which have arisen in carrying out the International Program. From this experience and that of the last war I have learned that a consideration for the welfare of other people of principle is a part of the act of being right.

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Your telegram to me expressing that you would "rather" not have your paintings included I took not as a command but as an opinion which I was free to interpret in the light of the existing circumstances. Upon my arrival in Madrid the day following your telegram I found all of the catalog except the <sup>form</sup> concluding the listing of your paintings already printed. Advance publicity had also been received listing you among the artists in the exhibition. <sup>\* meant a</sup> By taking the initiative of removing "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" rather than alter its title I maintain that your moral position was established quite clearly.

Although I am a good deal older than you I vividly remember the sensations that our generation experienced in the Spanish War and I know how these indelible convictions affect our being today. For this reason I have the greatest understanding for your feeling and indignation. You must believe that I have not betrayed these sentiments. I shall telephone you from Paris hoping that by then this note will have reached you.

We are packing the exhibition on August 11<sup>th</sup> where after more than usual difficulty with customs and varying railway track gauges we are moving it into Berlin for their Cultural Festival. There, I am sure, the paintings will give great <sup>pleasure,</sup> courage and hope to the East and West Berliners.

With fondest regards to you and Helen

Sincerely

Pablo

<sup>meant A</sup> The younger artists <sup>+ critics</sup> in Madrid & Barcelona had already written special articles on the artists in the exhibition and had obtained means to publish these articles in honor to the organizers.

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Mr. Robert Motherwell,  
Villa Ste Barbe,  
St. Jean de Luz,  
France.-

~~not~~  
Rotterdam, Parkhotel,  
August 2 1952

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
11 WEST 53 STREET, NEW YORK 19, N. Y.

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr. Robert Motherwell  
Villa Ste. Barbe  
Ste. Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
France

exhibition. Robles has been the Spanish Commissioner at the most recent Biennals at Sao Paolo and Venice and has done a great deal to advance the standing of the rising school of young abstract artists working in Spain.

The Madrid showing of the New American Painting opened on July 16th and closes on August 10. Its reception there is reported in last week's issue of Time magazine.

I most earnestly hope my letter from Madrid written in the confusion of the installation of the show has reached you by now. It contained a brief explanation of the dilemma in which I found myself after receiving your telegram in Switzerland on July 11 and gave my reasons for handling the situation as I did. In view of your recent letter to me and yours to Alfred dated July 9 which has just now reached me without comment I am aware of the necessity of reassuring you that I very much respect your moral position and its implications for it is fundamentally the same position to which I hold.

As soon as the question of the change of title of your picture arose and before I cabled you originally I was confronted with exactly the same moral issue to which you have reacted in your replies to me. The question in my mind was not that of the withdrawal of a single picture

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Mr. Robert Motherwell,  
Villa Ste Barbe,  
St. Jean de Luz,  
France.--

~~207~~  
Rotterdam, Parkhotel,  
August 2 1958

Dear Robert,

Your letter of July 29th reached me on the day of our public opening at the Boymans' Museum of the exhibition "French Drawings from American Collections". This fact and the very disturbing tone of your letter have caused me to delay reply for two days. Meanwhile in reply to your requests I have telegraphed my addressee for the month of August as follows:

August 1-4 Rotterdam, Park Hotel  
5 Brussels, c/o Robert Giron, Palais des Beaux Arts  
6-8 Paris, Hotel Vendôme  
9-27 Rome, Salvator Mundi International Hospital

The Spanish catalog of the exhibition was posted to you 1st Class mail upon receipt of your letter. You will note that it does not list your painting "Elegy to the Spanish Republic, XXXV" nor does the painting appear in the exhibition.

The person in Madrid responsible for the exhibition is Luis Gonzales Robles (called by his last name), Jefe del Servicio de Exposiciones del Museo de Arte Contemporaneo, Paseo de Recoletos 20, where the exhibition is on view. The Director of the Museum is a figurehead, who did not appear except one or twice during the preparation of the exhibition. Robles has been the Spanish Commissioner at the most recent Biennials at Sao Paolo and Venice and has done a great deal to advance the standing of the rising school of young abstract artists working in Spain.

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-2-

or even a single artist but rather the withdrawal of the entire exhibition.

In making my decision the choice was between the probable sensationalism that would have resulted from the withdrawal of yours or all of the pictures and the moral issue of placing in jeopardy a group of persons with integrity no less than ours who already by association would have been identified with our action. Believe me this argument is not an academic one but is based upon actual experience with other situations which have arisen in carrying out the International Program. From this experience and that of the last war I have learned that a consideration for the welfare of other people of principle is a part of the act of being right.

Your telegram to me expressing that you would "rather" not have your paintings included I took not as a command but as an opinion which I was free to interpret in the light of the existing circumstances. Upon my arrival in Madrid the day following your telegram I found all of the catalog except the form including the listing of your paintings already printed. Advance publicity had also been issued listing you among the artists in the exhibition. The younger artists and critics in Madrid and Barcelona had already written special articles on the artists in the exhibition and had obtained means to publish these articles in Homage to the Americans. By taking the initiative of removing "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" rather than alter its title I maintain that your moral position was established quite clearly.

Although I am a good deal older than you I vividly remember the sensation that our generation experienced in the Spanish War and I know how indelibly these convictions affect our being today. For this reason I have the greatest understanding for your feeling and you must believe that I have not betrayed these sentiments. I shall telephone you from Paris hoping that by then this note will have reached you.

We are packing the exhibition on August 11th where after more than usual difficulty with customs and varying railway track gauges we are moving it into Berlin for their Cultural Festival. There, I am sure, the paintings will give great pleasure, courage and hope to the East and West Berliners.

With fondest regards to you and Helen,

Sincerely,

Porter

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THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
NEW YORK 19

August 2, 1958

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

I most earnestly hope my letter from Madrid written in the confusion of the installation of the show has reached you by now. It contained a brief explanation of the dilemma in which I found myself after receiving your telegram in Switzerland on July 21, and gave my reasons for handling the situation as I did. In view of your recent letter to us and yours to Alfred dated July 9 which has just reached me without comment, I am aware of the necessity of reaffirming to you I very much respect your moral position and its implications. It is fundamentally the same position to which I hold.

Rotterdam - Park Hotel

August 2, 1958

As soon as the question of the change of title of your picture Mr. Robert Motherwell Villa Ste. Barbe St-Jean-de-Luz France. I was confronted with exactly the same to which you have reacted in your replies to me. The mind was not that of the withdrawal of a single picture or single artist but rather the withdrawal of the entire exhibition.

Dear Robert: In making my decision the choice was between the probable sensationalism that would have resulted from the withdrawal of yours or all of the Your letter of July 29th reached me on the day of our public opening at the Boymans Museum of the exhibition FRENCH DRAWINGS FROM AMERICAN COLLECTIONS. This fact and the very disturbing tone of your letter have caused me to delay reply for two days. Meanwhile in reply to your requests I have telegraphed my addresses for the month of August as follows:

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6-8 Paris - Hotel Vendome  
9-27 Rome - Salvator Mundi International Hospital

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The Madrid showing of THE NEW AMERICAN PAINTING opened on July 16th and closed on August 10. The reception there is reported in last week's issue of Time Magazine.

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Mr. Robert Motherwell

- 2 -

August 2, 1958

I most earnestly hope my letter from Madrid written in the confusion of the installation of the show has reached you by now. It contained a brief explanation of the dilemma in which I found myself after receiving your telegram in Switzerland on July 11, and gave my reasons for handling the situation as I did. In view of your recent letter to me and yours to Alfred dated July 9 which has just reached me without comment, I am aware of the necessity of reassuring you that I very much respect your moral position and its implications for it is fundamentally the same position to which I hold.

As soon as the question of the change of title of your picture arose and before I cabled you originally I was confronted with exactly the same moral issue to which you have reacted in your replies to me. The question in my mind was not that of the withdrawal of a single picture or even a single artist but rather the withdrawal of the entire exhibition.

In making my decision the choice was between the probable sensationalism that would have resulted from the withdrawal of yours or all of the pictures and the moral issue of placing in jeopardy a group of persons with integrity no less than ours who already by association would have been identified with our action. Believe me this argument is not an academic one but is based upon actual experience with other situations which have arisen in carrying out the International Program. From this experience and that of the last war I have learned that a consideration for the welfare of other people of principle is a part of the act of being right.

Your telegram to me expressing that you would "rather" not have your paintings included I took not as a command but as an opinion which I was free to interpret in the light of the existing circumstances. Upon my arrival in Madrid the day following your telegram I found all of the catalog, except the form including the listing of your paintings, already printed. Advance publicity had also been issued listing you among the artists in the exhibition. The younger artists and critics in Madrid and Barcelona had already written special articles on the artists in the exhibition and had obtained means to publish these articles in homage to the Americans. By taking the initiative of removing "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" rather than alter its title I maintain that your moral position was established quite clearly.

Although I am a good deal older than you I vividly remember the sensation that our generation experienced in the Spanish War and I know how these indelible convictions affect our being today. For this reason I have the greatest understanding for your feeling and indignation. You must believe that I have not betrayed these sentiments. I shall telephone you from Paris hoping that by then this note will have reached you.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 785

Mr. Robert Motherwell

- 3 -

CC: Mr. d'Honnocourt  
Mr. Barr  
Mrs. Shaw  
Mr. Janis  
File  
Green

August 2, 1958

We are packing the exhibition on August 11th where, after more than usual difficulty with customs and varying railway track gauges, we are moving it into Berlin for their Cultural Festival. There, I am sure, the paintings will give great pleasure, courage and hope to the East and West Berliners.

With fondest regards to you and Helen,

August 2, 1958

Sincerely,

Mr. Robert Motherwell  
Villa Ma. Berta  
St-Jean-St-Luis  
Prague

Porter A. McCray  
Director  
The International Program

Dear Robert:

Your letter of July 27th reached us on the day of our public opening of the Regional Section of the exhibition. I am sure that the fact that the very interesting book of your letter had been sent us to delay reply for two days. Meanwhile to reply to your requests I have telegraphed my addresses for the month of August as follows:

August 1-4 Rotterdam - Park hotel  
5 Brussels - c/o Robert Dineen, Palais des Beaux-Arts  
6-8 Paris - Hotel Vendôme  
9-27 Rome - Salvia Hotel International, Via Veneto

The Spanish section of the exhibition was opened in Madrid on August 1st and your receipt of your letter. We will now have a new section of the exhibition "Group of the Spanish Republic, 1937" and will be exhibiting it in the exhibition.

The picture in Madrid is wonderful. The exhibition is being organized by people by his last view, and the exhibition is being organized by people of the Museum to a Museum and the exhibition is being organized by people during the preparation of the exhibition. I am sure that the exhibition is the most recent exhibition of the year and the exhibition is being organized to give you to advance the exhibition of the exhibition of being organized by people working in Spain.

The Madrid exhibition of the exhibition is being organized by people and closed on August 11th. The exhibition is being organized by people of the exhibition.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

CC: Mr. d'Harnoncourt  
Mr. Barr  
Mrs. Shaw  
Mr. Janis  
File  
Green

AIR MAIL

Rotterdam - Park Hotel

August 2, 1958

Mr. Robert Motherwell  
Villa Ste. Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
France:

Dear Robert:

Your letter of July 29th reached me on the day of our public opening at the Boymans Museum of the exhibition FRENCH DRAWINGS FROM AMERICAN COLLECTIONS. This fact and the very disturbing tone of your letter have caused me to delay reply for two days. Meanwhile in reply to your requests I have telegraphed my addresses for the month of August as follows:

August 1-4	Rotterdam - Park Hotel
5	Brussels - c/o Robert Giron, Palais des Beaux Arts
6-8	Paris - Hotel Vendome
9-27	Rome - Salvator Mundi International Hospital

The Spanish catalog of the exhibition was posted to you first class mail upon receipt of your letter. You will note that it does not list your painting "Elegy to the Spanish Republic, XXXV" nor does the painting appear in the exhibition.

The person in Madrid responsible for the exhibition is Luis Gonzales (called by his last name), Jefe del Servicio de Exposiciones del Museo de Contemporaneo, Paseo de Recoletos 20, where the exhibition is on view. Director of the Museum is a figure head who did not appear except once or twice during the preparation of the exhibition. Robles has been the Spanish Commissioner at the most recent Biennals at Sao Paulo and Venice and has done a great deal to advance the standing of the rising school of young abstract artists working in Spain.

The Madrid showing of THE NEW AMERICAN PAINTING opened on July 16th and closed on August 10. The reception there is reported in last week's issue of Time Magazine.

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
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Mr. Robert Motherwell

- 2 -

August 2, 1958

I most earnestly hope my letter from Madrid written in the confusion of the installation of the show has reached you by now. It contained a brief explanation of the dilemma in which I found myself after receiving your telegram in Switzerland on July 11, and gave my reasons for handling the situation as I did. In view of your recent letter to me and yours to Alfred dated July 9 which has just reached me without comment, I am aware of the necessity of reassuring you that I very much respect your moral position and its implications for it is fundamentally the same position to which I hold.

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In making my decision the choice was between the probable sensationalism that would have resulted from the withdrawal of yours or all of the pictures and the moral issue of placing in jeopardy a group of persons with integrity no less than ours who already by association would have been identified with our action. Believe me this argument is not an academic one but is based upon actual experience with other situations which have arisen in carrying out the International Program. From this experience and that of the last war I have learned that a consideration for the welfare of other people of principle is a part of the act of being right.

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Although I am a good deal older than you I vividly remember the sensation that our generation experienced in the Spanish War and I know how these indelible convictions affect our being today. For this reason I have the greatest understanding for your feeling and indignation. You must believe that I have not betrayed these sentiments. I shall telephone you from Paris hoping that by then this note will have reached you.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.705

Mr. Robert Motherwell

- 3 -

August 2, 1958

We are packing the exhibition on August 11th where, after more than usual difficulty with customs and varying railway track gauges, we are moving it into Berlin for their Cultural Festival. There, I am sure, the paintings will give great pleasure, courage and hope to the East and West Berliners.

With fondest regards to you and Helen,

Sincerely,

Porter A. McCray  
Director  
The International Program

PAM:RS

Yours,

/s/Porter

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 705

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** Rotterdam, August 2, 1958

**To:** Mr. R. d'Harnoncourt

**Re:** MOTHERWELL

**From:** Porter A. McGray

CONFIDENTIAL

Dear René:

Thank you for your note. I am attaching Motherwell's last outburst and my reply and will telephone him when he has this in hand. I am sorry you have been bothered with this and I would prefer to keep this strictly as an International Program headache. I don't want Alfred involved in it if this can be avoided. Have given Liz a copy and have sent the correspondence to Sidney Janis who lent the picture and in whose gallery Robert is.

Not yet -  
SC5

The Dutch have been absolutely wonderful about the drawing show and have made one feel all the agony is somehow justified.

I have written Susie I am staying until the Berlin opening and have given her some details about my sojourn in Rome.

Not true

Hope this finds you and yours thriving and the dust in the Museum settled by now.

Yours,

/s/Porter

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 785

Do not  
distribute; am  
not sure if they're  
going out

## MODERN ART

Date Rotterdam, August 2, 1958

Re: MOTHERWELL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Dear René:

Thank you for your note. I am attaching Motherwell's last outburst and my reply and will telephone him when he has this in hand. I am sorry you have been bothered with this and I would prefer to keep this strictly as an International Program headache. I don't want Alfred involved in it if this can be avoided. Have given Liz a copy and have sent the correspondence to Sidney Janis who lent the picture and in whose gallery Robert is.

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Yours,

/s/Porter

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.785

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
Rotterdam, August 2, 1958

**To:** Mr. R. d'Harnoncourt

**Re:** ~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  
MOTHERWELL

**From:** Porter A. McGray

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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/s/Porter

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.785

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Date ~~Rotterdam, August 2, 1958~~

To: Mr. R. d'Harnoncourt

Re: ~~MOTHERWELL~~

From: Porter A. McGray

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Yours,

/s/Porter

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	IC / IP	I.A.785

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date:** ~~Rotterdam, August 2, 1958~~

**To:** Mr. R. d'Harnoncourt

**Re:** ~~MOTHERWELL~~

**From:** Porter A. McGray

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Yours,

/s/Porter

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.785

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** ~~Rotterdam, August 2, 1958~~

**To:** Mr. R. d'Harnoncourt

**Re:** MOTHERWELL

**From:** Porter A. McGrey

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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Yours,

/s/Porter

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	IC / IP	I.A. 785

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Re: \_\_\_\_\_

To: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten text, mostly illegible due to fading and bleed-through. Some legible words include: "I have given you a copy of the...", "The...", "The...", "The...".*

*Handwritten signature: "John P..."*

*Handwritten notes: "Collection", "Box 2"*

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 785

cc 4 copies  
Jesse

Confidential

Rotterdam  
Aug 2.

Dear Rene

Thank you for your note. I am attaching Matherwell's last  
outburst and my reply & will telephone him when he has this in  
hand. I am sorry you have been bothered with this and I would  
prefer to keep this strictly as an International Program headache.  
I don't want Alfred involved in it if this can be avoided.

I have given him a copy and have sent the correspondence to  
Sidney Jones who lent the picture & in whose gallery Robert is

The Dutch have been absolutely wonderful about the drawing  
show and have made one feel all the agony is somehow justified.

I have written Susie I am staying until the Berlin opening  
and have given her some details about my sojourn in Rome.

Hope this finds you and yours thriving and the dust  
in the museum settled by now

Jess. Patton

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	IC / IP	I.A.785

Gerhard Drechsler

01 09+  
13.35  
nykstg f rt 2  
parkhotel ndam

geen afschrift en geen giro van navolgend elt telegram wel gaarne  
de kosten

motherwell villa ste-barbe st jean de luz france

reply catalog mailed today address park hotel rotterdam til tuesday  
vendomotel pri e e e paris til ninth salvator mundi international  
hospitalvtil twenty seven

<sup>Rome</sup>  
=porter=

krijg ik hiervan de kosten mejuffrouw of belt u mij terug?+

please supply confirming copies.

NT

MOTHERWELL  
VILLA STE-BARBE  
ST JEAN DE LUZ  
FRANCE

REPLY CATALOG MAILED TODAY ADDRESS PARK HOTEL  
ROTTERDAM TIL TUESDAY VENDOMOTEL PARIS TIL  
NINTH SALVATOR MUNDI INTERNATIONAL HOSPITAL <sup>Rome</sup>  
TIL TWENTY SEVEN

PORTER

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	IC/IP	I.A.785

N° 713

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

POSTES - TÉLÉGRAPHES - TÉLÉPHONES

Bureau de PARIS - BOURSE  
COMMERCIAL

AVIS DE REMISE  
OU DE NON-REMISE  
D'UN TÉLÉGRAMME

....., le 30 JUIL 1958

M.....

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le télégramme N° 11902 du 26 juillet 1958  
à l'adresse de Robert Mollenhau Villa + Berle Spandely

..... a été remis le 29/7/58

N'a pas été remis pour le motif suivant : .....

Veuillez agréer M<sup>es</sup> Blusphon Dedrynes

(J. A. 220070) K.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.705

*File*  
*8-27-58*

cc: Barr  
McCray hold ✓  
Senior  
TNAP - MADRID ✓  
interoffice

*Motherwell*

July 29, 1958

Mr. d'Harnoncourt

Motherwell - Spain

Susan Senior

Dear René:

Last Saturday afternoon, July 26, Helen recabled to Porter in Rotterdam the following cablegram from Motherwell:

TRAVEL PLANS HANGING MIDAIR REPORT PLEASE SPANISH  
AFFAIR URGENTLY-

ROBERT MOTHERWELL-

P.S. Attached is a letter from Alfred to Motherwell, which I thought you might be interested in seeing.

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 705

Telephone 601.44  
home at noon

Villa Ste-Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
29 July 1958

Dear Porter - When I received your original telegram about the Spanish affair, I sent you my cable asking that my pictures be withdrawn - since then I have heard nothing (until your cable today) from anyone, after a lapse of weeks & be so firmly situated here ~~there~~ (until July 25) that I carry on a correspondence from all over the world. I would like you

\* about the Spanish affair

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A. 785

To do several things ① give me your address (or addresses) for August ② tell me what you said in the letter that I never received ③ send me the Spanish catalogue ④ the name of the director of the Museum in Madrid and ⑤ the dates of the Spanish Show.

I should also like it clear that I accept that you act according to your lights, + esteem you for it; but from my perspective there are somewhat different moral problems + practical implications. Please write as soon as you have this.

Cordially yours + greetings  
Bob M.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

Villa Ste-Barbe  
St.-Jean-de-Luz

Telephone 601.44  
Home at noon

Dated July 29 1958.

Dear Porter,

When I received your original telegram about the Spanish affair, I sent you my cable asking that my pictures be withdrawn - since then I have heard nothing (until your cable today) from anyone about the Spanish affair after a lapse of weeks and me so firmly situated here (until July 25) that I carry on a correspondence from all over the world. I would like you to do several things :

- 1) give me your address (or addresses) for August
- 2) tell me what you said in the letter that I never received.
- 3) Send me the Spanish catalogue
- 4) The name of the director of the Museum in Madrid and
- 5) The dates of the Spanish show.

I should like it clear that I accept that you act according to your lights and esteem you for it; but from my perspective there are somewhat different moral problems and practical implications.

Please write as soon as you have this.

Faithfully yours and greetings

Bob

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N° 713

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE

POSTES - TÉLÉGRAPHES - TÉLÉPHONES

Bureau de

PARIS - BOURSE  
COMMERCIAL

AVIS DE REMISE  
OU DE NON-REMISE  
D'UN TÉLÉGRAMME

, le 20 III 1958

M.

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que le télégramme N° 224902 du 27 juillet 1958  
à l'adresse de Robert Mathewell Villard Bank of France de Paris

a été remis le

N'a pas été remis pour le motif suivant : *Signature absent toute*

*la semaine*

z agréer M.

*les salutations distinguées*

(J. A. 220070)

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

#4

Sent on July 27 1958

CABLE SENT R. MOTHERWELL.  
VILLA STE BARBE  
ST JEAN DE LUZ.

PARIS.

YOUR CABLE NEW YORK DIFFICULT UNDERSTAND. DID  
YOU NOT RECEIVE MY LETTER FROM MADRID ADVISING  
I TOOK RESPONSIBILITY REMOVAL ELEGY ONLY STOP.  
CHARACTER WHOLE SHOW, SUPPORT BY YOUNG SPANISH  
PAINTERS OF LIBERAL COMMITMENT AND CATALOG INCLUDING  
ENTRIES YOUR STATEMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN SEPARATED  
BY WITHDRAWAL. WOULD LIKE TO REACH YOU BY LETTER  
PLEASE ADVISE ADDRESS - PARK HOTEL ROTTERDAM. Regards.  
McCray.

FOR STUDY PURPOSES ONLY. NOT FOR REPRODUCTION.

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DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired, otherwise this message will be sent as a fast telegram	
TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>

# WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

1206 (4-55)

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired, otherwise the message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
LETTER TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHORE SHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

22 INTL (LT )

NEWYORK NY

JULY 26 1958

LT BOYMANS MUSEUM

ROTTERDAM (HOLLAND) ( VIA WU CABLE)

FOR MCCRAY FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM MOTHERWELL SAINTJEANDELUZ QUOTE  
TRAVEL PLANS HANG MIDAIR REPORT PLEASE SPANISH AFFAIR URGENTLY

FRANC

CIR 5 8900  
MAIL COPY

MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53 ST  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS  
HELEN FRANC

19

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.785

### STAATSBEDRIJF DER PTT

#### VERKORTINGEN VOOR BETAALDE DIENSTAANWIJZINGEN

RPx = Antwoord betaald x (bedrag)	PC = Bericht aflevering TC = Collationering	GP = Poste Restante MP = Eigenhandig LX = Gelukstelegram
BT } ELT } LT }	TR = Telegraaf Restant	

### TELEGRAM

Het STAATSBEDRIJF DER PTT vergoedt geen schade, veroorzaakt door het verminken, vertragen of verloren gaan van een telegram.

inleiding: serie-nr. — klasse\* — kantoor v. afzending — nr. v. h. telegram\* — aantal woorden — datum — tijd v. aanbieding — dienstbijvoegsels\*

101 NEWYORK NY 22 26 117P++ VIA WESTERN UNION++

\* deze aanwijzing is facultatief

FOR MCCRAY FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM MOTHERWELL SAINTJEANDELUZ QUOTE TRAVEL  
PLANS HANG MIDAIR REPORT PLEASE SPANISH AFFAIR URGENTLY == FRANC ++

TUJDSTEMPEL

*Coe Kerr*  
*Berkeley Hotel*  
*Ave Mateguin 1 Rue de Pantheon*

*July 26*

*3*

Ambtelijke herhaling

+ CT LT MCCRAY + + + +

Aanduiding van de verbinding

(Naammeldingen)

21300 RA RT NL 12650 WU NL++

Ontvangen te

(datum)

(tijd)

(paraaf)

ROTTERDAM

## NOTA

Voor navragen omtrent vermeende verminkingen wende men zich tot het telegraafkantoor ter plaatse. De kosten van rechtstreeks tussen afzender en geadresseerde gewisselde rectificatie-telegrammen worden niet terugbetaald.

NADruk IS VERBODEN

VERZEND UW TELEGRAMMEN VIA „HOLLANDRAD“ PTT

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	IC / IP	I.A. 785

FRENCH  
25 BR



FRENCH CABLE COMPANY  
25 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, TEL. HA 2-7934



COMPANY  
W YORK, TEL HA 2-7934

FRENCH CABLE CO.  
10 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA  
TEL PLaza 7-8157



FRENCH CABLE COMPANY  
25 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, TEL. HA 2-7934



FRENCH CABLE C  
25 BROAD STREET, NEW YORK, 1

JUL 26 1958

5\$;DS55/239- STJEANDELUZ 17 26 1720-VIAFRENCH-

PORTER MCCRAY MUSEUM MODERN ART NEWYORK

TRAVEL PLANS HANGING MIDAIR REPORT PLEASE SPANISH AFFAIR  
URGENTLY

ROBERT MOTHERWELL

(11 WEST 53RD ST)

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

MEMORANDUM

To: Mr. McCray  
From: RENE D'HARNONCOURT  
Date: 7/25  
Subject:

OF MODERN ART

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

Mr. d'Harnoncourt  
has left for Long  
Island but wanted  
you to get this as  
soon as possible.

Ellen.

July 25, 1958

I can't imagine how silly I felt that after all our pictures and officials in Madrid our parting words a telephone conversation in a minor key. I won't details but just tell you that first things got Barcelona until I put on a dramatic fainting act in then I had two days to recuperate in Sitges and I good condition now. I only hope that your recuperation and as thorough as mine.

I think Susan sent you a copy of Motherwell's letter. If not, here is another one. It naturally worries me somewhat. I think Motherwell is in general disgruntled by his recent lack of success and wonder if you could get in touch with him by phone, in order to persuade him not to try to replace success by acclaim by success by scandal. Anyway, I know that since you have had communications with him I should not intervene from here not knowing exactly what you would like to have done.

You will be interested to know that Barcelona was full of the news of the opening of the exhibition in Madrid and that everyone I saw planned to go there.

Muchisimos saludos,

Faithfully yours,

Rene

Rene d'Harnoncourt

E.S.

Mr. Porter A. McCray  
Park Hotel  
Rotterdam  
The Netherlands

Enclosure (1)

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

NEW YORK 19

11 WEST 53rd STREET  
TELEPHONE: CIRCLE 5-8900  
CABLES: MODERNART, NEW-YORK

RENE d'HARNONCOURT  
DIRECTOR

July 25, 1958

Dear Porter:

You can't imagine how silly I felt that after all our wrestling with pictures and officials in Madrid our parting words were reduced to a telephone conversation in a minor key. I won't bother you with details but just tell you that first things got much worst in Barcelona until I put on a dramatic fainting act in the bathroom but then I had two days to recuperate in Sitges and I am in perfectly good condition now. I only hope that your recuperation was as fast and as thorough as mine.

I think Susan sent you a copy of Motherwell's letter. If not, here is another one. It naturally worries me somewhat. I think Motherwell is in general disgruntled by his recent lack of success and wonder if you could get in touch with him by phone, in order to persuade him not to try to replace success by acclaim by success by scandal. Anyway, I know that since you have had communications with him I should not intervene from here not knowing exactly what you would like to have done.

You will be interested to know that Barcelona was full of the news of the opening of the exhibition in Madrid and that everyone I saw planned to go there.

Muchisimos saludos, being able to go to Spain again.

Faithfully yours, a continually, growing

*Rene*

Rene d'Harnoncourt

E.S.

Mr. Porter A. McCray  
Park Hotel  
Rotterdam  
The Netherlands

Enclosure (1)

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C O P Y

ROBERT MOTHERWELL  
Villa Ste. - Barbe  
Rue Ste-Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
France

July 9, 1958

Dear Alfred-

I've cabled Porter McCray today to withdraw my pictures from the showing in Madrid since the Spanish want to delete all but the first word from "Elegy to the Spanish Republic." I wish that in subsequent showings in other countries you would see that a footnote is put in the catalogues saying that I withdrew the pictures from Madrid because of the title question. I personally dislike controversy, but one means what one means or one is nothing as a man, I think. I am sorry for whatever bother & nuisance this will be for your people at the Museum. I will pay worse, by not being able to go to Spain anymore, which is only 11K. away, & partly why we settled here. Helen & I are both painting deeply & superbly & continually. Greetings & best wishes to you and your wife,

Bob

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	IC / IP	I.A.785

cc: Dorothy Miller  
Porter McCray ✓

July 25, 1958

Dear Bob:

I have no responsibility for the American exhibition currently being shown in Spain but I have passed on your request that in subsequent showings of your pictures a footnote be put in the catalogues saying that you had withdrawn them from the Madrid show because of the title question. However, I don't entirely see the point of such a footnote which seems, at least to my point of view, to be somewhat gratuitous. On the other hand I do sympathize with your refusal to change the title of Elegy to the Spanish Republic.

I wonder if you're right in believing that you will not be permitted to go to Spain. Why not make a short trip to test the efficiency of the Spanish information. I certainly wouldn't assume that you would be excluded on account of the Elegy incident.

My very best to Helen and yourself. I'm delighted to hear that you are both painting with such satisfaction.

Sincerely,

Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

Mr. Robert Motherwell  
Villa Ste-Barbe  
Rue Ste-Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
France

AHB:bj

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	IC/IP	I.A.785

*file 8-27-58*

*TNAP. needed*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

cc: Mr. d'Harnoncourt  
Miss Miller  
ICE F 36 57

Date June 27, 1958

To: Susan Senior

Re: Address: ROBERT MOTHERWELL

From: Frank O'Hara

Until the end of August, Mr. and Mrs. Motherwell may be reached at:

Villa Sainte-Barbe  
Sainte-Barbe  
St. Jean de Luz, France

*J.*

have to proceed as at present.

*J.*

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	IC/IP	I.A.785

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

cc: Mr. d'Harnoncourt  
Mr. McCray  
ICE F 36 57 ✓  
*Miss Miller*

**Date** June 23, 1958

**To:** Susan Senior

**Re:** Postcard from Mrs. Motherwell

**From:** Frank O'Hara

re their post-Madrid itinerary

The card is marked Thurs. (which would be the 19th of June) and says:

"We got your cable this A.M.-- our first despatch from the outside world. We're leaving here Sunday and don't know yet if we're heading for (a) San Sebastian, (b) Barcelona and Costa Brava, (c) French Riviera, (d) St. Ives. Depends on auto complications and if friends find us studios in one of those spots. Anyway, considering the title of Bob's pictures we might be lynched if we appeared at the opening here, in Madrid! Or, they'll probably throw us out of the Ritz for painting all night in the hotel rooms. Olé, we're splendid. Hope you are."

/s/ Helen

Since they will have left Madrid on Sunday, June 22nd, and there is no sure way of contacting them unless we hear further, I guess we will just have to proceed as at present.

8.

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C O P Y

9 July 1958

ROBERT MOTHERWELL  
Villa Ste-Barbe  
Rue Ste-Barbe  
St-Jean-de-Luz  
France

Dear Alfred-

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Bob

Read to Liz Shaw by Herb

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cc: Mrs. Senior ✓

TNAP - Madrid

### Telegramm - Télégramme - Telegramma

48

+ + 41348 SUISSE DE STJEANDELUZ 762 26 9 1521 =

Erhalten - Reçu - Ricevuto

Befördert - Transmis - Trasmesso

von da Paris

Stunde-Heure-Ora

Name - Nom - Nome

nach - à - a

Stunde-Heure-Ora

Name - Nom - Nome

1958 JUL 9 PM

KB / 1/4

No 7H 09 VII 58 17-

PORTER MCCRAY HOTEL BAURAUAC

ZURICH =

(2)

RATHER NO AINTING BY ME SHOW IN MADRID PLEASE CONFIRM  
IN WRITING OR TELEPHONE 60144 THANKS FOR INFORMING  
ME BEST REGARDS+

60144

Indicaz  
Destina  
Testo

eventuali  
icio  
HAVE ASSURED HIM  
CHANGE ONLY POSSIBLE  
WITH ARTISTS CONSENT

GRAPH

enezia

Mittente 57. Auf Wunsch werden die Telegramme telephoniert Sur demande, les télégrammes sont téléphonés A richiesta, i telegrammi sono telefonati A 5 (210 x 148) - O 65.

300 bl. da 50 - 12-954

Rene d'Harnoncourt

Mr. Porter A. McCray  
c/o Grand Bretagne Hotel  
Athens, Greece

Enclosure: letter from Rene d'Harnoncourt to Sr. Robles - 6/18/58

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cc: Mrs. Senior X

TNAP - Madrid

#1) Motherwell  
Tate

COMPAGNIA ITALIANA GRANDI ALBERGHI

Ufficio Telegrafico di VENEZIA

TELEGRAMMA

Circuito sul quale si deve fare l'inoltro del telegramma

Indicazioni di urgenza

Il Governo non assume alcuna responsabilità civile in conseguenza del servizio della telegrafia.  
 Le tasse riscosse in meno o in seguito a rifiuto o irreperibilità del destinatario devono essere completate dal mittente.  
 Le ore si contano sul meridiano corrispondente al tempo medio dell'Europa Centrale, e per telegrammi interni di seguito da una mezzanotte all'altra.

Spedito il ..... 195... ore... pel circuito N. ....  
 all' Ufficio di ..... Trasmittente .....

IFICA	DESTINAZIONE	PROVENIENZA	NUM.	PAROLE	DATA DELLA PRESENTAZIONE	Via d'istadamento	Indicazioni eventuali d'ufficio
		VENEZIA			Giorno e mese   Ore e minuti		

Indicazioni eventuali tassate

ROBERT MOTHERWELL

Destinatario

VILLA SAINTE BARBE

Destinazione

ST JEAN DE LUZ, FRANCE

Testo

WE HAVE BEEN REQUESTED BY VERY DECENT  
 DIRECTOR MADRID TO ~~BE~~ ALTER FOR MADRID SHOWING  
 TITLE YOUR ELEGY SPANISH REPUBLIC TO PAINTING  
 DATE OR SIMPLY ELEGY - I AM MOST ANXIOUS RETAIN  
 PAINTING IN SHOW ~~WILL YOU CONSENT~~ PLEASE TELEGRAPH  
 REPLY HOTEL BAUR AU LAC ZURICH THURSDAY LATEST  
 VERY BEST YOU HELEN PORTER McCRAY

HAVE ASSURED HIM  
CHANGE ONLY POSSIBLE  
WITH ARTISTS CONSENT

Mittente:

Gritti Palace Hotel - Venezia

300 bl. da 50 - 12-954

Rene d'Harnoncourt

Mr. Porter A. McCray  
 c/o Grand Bretagne Hotel  
 Athens, Greece

Enclosure: letter from Rene d'Harnoncourt to Sr. Robles - 6/18/58

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	IC/IP	I.A.785

cc: Mrs. Senior X

TNAP - Madrid

June 20, 1958

*McCray  
Motherwell  
Tuttle*

Dear Porter:

I too am one of the many who are sorry to greet you on your return with a question and a request.

To spare you unnecessary reading time, I will not go into details now why we acted as we did but just tell you what happened. The catalogue was sent to Robles in care of Morales, with the original title of the Motherwell painting. I then sent Robles the enclosed letter. Since we did not know if you talked to him, I tried to leave doors open. For all three possibilities: 1) The text stays as it is. 2) The picture and catalogue item are omitted. 3) If Motherwell agrees, the title is modified. I thought you will have to know about this since you might want to act right away on your return.

I now have reservations to go to Madrid on July 10th and July 15th and will make one of them definite as soon as I know which date, the 14th or the 18th, is confirmed as the opening date of the show. There is so desperately little time for all we have to do here that I can't afford more than four days in Madrid. I must spend afterwards a few days with my family.

Hope the trip was glorious.

Hasta muy pronto,

Saludos,

Rene d'Harnoncourt

Mr. Porter A. McCray  
c/o Grand Bretagne Hotel  
Athens, Greece

Enclosure: letter from Rene d'Harnoncourt to Sr. Robles - 6/18/58

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	IC / IP	I.A.785

*TNAP - Madrid  
Motherwell*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

CONFIDENTIAL (ICE F 36 57)  
cc: Miss Miller

Date June 13, 1958

To: Susan Senior

Re: MOTHERWELL Elegy XXV

From: Frank O'Hara

*Telefax* **WESTERN UNION** *Telefax* ↑

SENDING BLANK

CALL LETTERS \_\_\_\_\_ CHARGE TO \_\_\_\_\_ MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

VIA W.U. 6/18/58 *Motherwell*

LT  
ROBERT MOTHERWELL  
RITZOTEL  
MADRID (SPAIN)

AMERICAN SHOW OPENS MADRID MID JULY EAGER HAVE YOUR POSTMADRID  
ITINERARY FOR INVITATION LIST BEST

O'HARA  
MODERNART

Prepaid Reply

CHG: INT'L PROGRAM

ICE F 36-57 *TNAP - Madrid*

Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD

1269—(R 4-55)

do I, that to ship it separately from the rest of the exhibition would get us into untold difficulties with Italian and other customs officials. Because of the space available, it is unlikely that this painting will be the only one not to be exhibited.

**SUGGEST:** We send a corrective cable to Porter making clear that the painting can be omitted from the exhibition's showing in Madrid, but not from the shipment to Madrid and thence to Berlin. I attach a possible draft.

*J.*

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

TNAP - Madrid  
Motherwell

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

CONFIDENTIAL (ICE F 36 57)

cc: Miss Miller

Date June 13, 1958

To: Susan Senior

Re: MOTHERWELL Elegy XXV

From: Frank O'Hara

I have just spoken to Dorothy Miller and Alfred Barr about the question, and gather the conclusion reached also with Mr. d'Harnoncourt is that the title is not to be changed under any circumstances, but rather that the painting would be withheld from exhibition. As you know from our discussion, if this does turn out to be necessary I think it is the best way we can handle the situation. Since we do not know how Motherwell would feel about a change and cannot reach him in time, we cannot assume the prerogative of making any omission in his title.

**NOTE:** Both the above feel very strongly that the case containing the Elegy should not be withheld from the shipment, and Dorothy suggested that the case might be marked "not to be exhibited" or something else which Waldo might be able to suggest. I consulted Waldo and he feels very strongly, as do I, that to ship it separately from the rest of the exhibition would get us into untold difficulties with Italian and other customs officials. Because of the space available, it is unlikely that this painting will be the only one not to be exhibited.

**SUGGEST:** We send a corrective cable to Porter making clear that the painting can be omitted from the exhibition's showing in Madrid, but not from the shipment to Madrid and thence to Berlin. I attach a possible draft.

8.

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	IC / IP	I.A.785

DRAFT of CABLE

NEW YORK  
JUNE 13

*Motherwell  
T. J. H.*

MCCRAY  
GRITTI PALACE  
VENICE

CORRECTION MY CABLE ~~XXXXX~~ SUGGEST IF ELEGY UNACCEPTABLE BE WITHHELD FROM  
EXHIBITION BUT NOT FROM SHIPMENT DUE TO POSSIBLE CUSTOMS DIFFICULTIES IF  
SHIPPED SEPARATELY FROM REST OF SHOW

~~XXXXXX~~

SUSAN

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

cc: Anne Hecht

*W. H. Hecht*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date June 9, 1958

# ITALCABLE

Prefixo - Numero - Preavanzanza - Numero Parole - Data - Ore - Indicazioni eventuali

LUV40 NR303 NEWYORK NY 39 12 627P

PER LA RISPOSTA TELEFONATE AL N. **31-555**

MCCRAY GRITTI PALACE VENICE =

21



TELEGRAMMA via Italcable o via Radio



Spazio riservato al destinatario

RE ELEGY ARTIST VACATIONING SPAIN RENE SUGGESTS RETENTION EXISTING  
 TITLE AND YOUR DISCUSSING WITH COMMISSIONER SUGGESTING THAT IF  
 UNACCEPTABLE PAINTING WILL BE WITHELD FROM SHIPMENT PLEASE ALSO  
 ) ADVISE ME OTHER SHIPMENT AND CATALOG ARRANGEMENTS = SUSAN +

Mod. 100 - Nevografia - Roma - Ord. 3327/57 (700.000)

Il Governo Italiano e la Società Italcable non assumono alcuna responsabilità in conseguenza del servizio telegrafico  
 Le tariffe « VIA ITALCABLE » e « VIA ITALO RADIO » sono uguali a quelle delle vie meno costose

that we were not a front for the U.S. Government but were what we said- a private and a-political entity!

There had been some idea in the case of MODERN ART IN THE US that the Spanissh would react violently to Blume's Eternal City. Their only reaction was esthetic.

I believe Porter would prefer to have this referred to him, rather than to René.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC / IP	I.A.785

cc: Anne Hecht

*W. P. Marshall*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date June 9, 1958

DOMESTIC SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise this message will be sent as a fast telegram	
TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
DAY LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>
NIGHT LETTER	<input type="checkbox"/>

\$  
S  
E

## WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM

1206 (4-55)

W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE	
Check the class of service desired; otherwise the message will be sent at the full rate	
FULL RATE	<input type="checkbox"/>
LETTER TELEGRAM	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHORE-SHIP	<input type="checkbox"/>

NO. WDS.-CL. OF SVC.	PD. OR COLL.	CASH NO.	CHARGE TO THE ACCOUNT OF	TIME FILED
<b>CONFIRMATION OF CABLE FILED BY PHONE</b>				

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

*C. D. Miller*

39 INTL FR

NEW YORK NY JUNE 12 1958 627P

MCCRAY

GRITTI PALACE VENICE (ITALY) (VIA WU CABLES)

RE ELEGY ARTIST VACATIONING SPAIN RENE SUGGESTS RETENTION EXISTING TITLE  
AND YOUR DISCUSSING WITH COMMISSIONER SUGGESTING THAT IF UNACCEPTABLE  
PAINTING WILL BE WITHHELD FROM SHIPMENT PLEASE ALSO ADVISE ME OTHER  
SHIPMENT AND CATALOG ARRANGEMENTS

SUSAN

JUD2 5258

MAIL COPY S SENIOR MUSEUM OF MODERN ART 11 WEST 53 ST NYC

166

*McCray  
W. P. Marshall  
Tuttle*

Il Governo Italiano e la Società Italcable non assumono alcuna responsabilità in conseguenza del servizio telegrafico  
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that we were not a front for the U.S. Government but were what we said- a private and a-political entity!

There had been some idea in the case of MODERN ART IN THE US that the Spanish would react violently to Blume's Eternal City. Their only reaction was esthetic.

I believe Porter would prefer to have this referred to him, rather than to René.

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

cc: Anne Hecht

*W. S. Hecht*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

Date June 9, 1958

# ITALCABLE

Prefisso e Numero - Provenienza - Numero Parole - Data - Ore - Indicazioni eventuali

7=484 NR161 FAX NEWYORK 37 10 204P

PER LA RISPOSTA TELEFONATE AL N. **31-555**

PORTER MC CRAY GRITTI PALACE

VENICE :

204



TELEGRAMMA via Italcable via Italo Radio

*1958 GIU 10 20 1/1*



Spazio riservato agli estremi di ricevimento

*T.M.A.P. mod. sent*

Mod. 100 - Novagrafia - Roma - Ord. n. 57 (700.000)

= SEE ILLUSTRATION PAGE 59 MILAN CATALOG AND ADVISE RE TRANSLATION TITLE FOR NEXT SHOWING STOP RENE FEELS CANNOT GO AS IS OTHERS FEEL IT MUST YOUR DECISION NEEDED RETURN CABLE = SUSAN + C

Il Governo Italiano e la Società Italcable non assumono alcuna responsabilità in conseguenza del servizio telegrafico  
Le tariffe « VIA ITALCABLE » e « VIA ITALO RADIO » sono uguali a quelle delle vie meno costose

that we were not a front for the U.S. Government but were what we said- a private and a-political entity!

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series/Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A. 785

cc: Anne Hecht

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

*Motherwell*

Date June 9, 1958

To: Susan

Re: Motherwell's Elegy to

From: Helen

the Spanish Republic

*Telefax* WESTERN UNION *Telefax* ↑  
SENDING BLANK

CALL LETTERS	DLS	PD	CHARGE TO	THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART
--------------	-----	----	-----------	--------------------------

ind. W.U. CABLE - JUNE 10, 1958

PORTER MC GRAY  
GRITTI PALACE  
VENICE, ITALY

SEE ILLUSTRATION PAGE 59 MILAN CATALOG AND ADVISE RE TRANSLATION  
TITLE FOR NEXT SHOWING stop RENE FEELS CANNOT GO AS IS - OTHERS  
FEEL IT MUST - YOUR DECISION NEEDED RETURN CABLE.

SUSAN

chg. ICE-F 36-57 THE NEW AMERICAN PAINTING  
Send the above message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

PLEASE TYPE OR WRITE PLAINLY WITHIN BORDER—DO NOT FOLD  
1269—[R 4-55]

*Mc Gray*  
*Motherwell*  
*Tate*

works of art for political reasons, in its international showings.

One of the things that impressed the Italians in the 1954 Biennale (very shortly after the major MacCarthy crise, or even still during it) was that we showed two of Shahn's Sacco and Vanzetti series. I think the idea really got over to them that we were not a front for the U.S. Government but were what we said- a private and a-political entity!

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

cc: Anne Hecht

*Motherwell*

## THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** June 9, 1958

**To:** Susan

**Re:** Motherwell's Elegy to

**From:** Helen

the Spanish Republic

Anne Hecht tells me that there has been some question regarding Motherwell's Elegy to the Spanish Republic with reference to the Madrid showing. I understand there has been some idea of asking Motherwell possibly to provide another title for this showing, ~~or to do something to that effect.~~

I believe that this is a major policy issue and that it should be referred to Porter -- who I am sure will not want the title changed. During the course of the French showing of MODERN ART IN THE UNITED STATES Darthea Baskin's Speyer took it upon herself to rechristen ~~Baskin's~~ print, Man of Peace and call it "Man with Dove" or words to that effect; René rather went along with this but Porter was livid with rage.

If we once start this kind of thing we are gone geese. Above all I think the Museum cannot put itself in the position of asking artist's <sup>e</sup> to rechristen works of art for political reasons, in its international showings.

One of the things that impressed the Italians in the 1954 Biennale (very shortly after the major MacCarthy crise, or even still during it) was that we showed two of Shahn's Sacco and Vanzetti series. I think the idea really got over to them that we were not a front for the U.S. Government but were what we said- a private and a-political entity!

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.785

*Motherwell*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** June 9, 1958

**To:** Susan Senior

**Re:** Motherwell title: *Elegy to the*

**From:** Frank O'Hara

Spanish Republic XXXV in Madrid

Anne Hecht has been told by the Spanish translator that we may expect trouble over this title and suggested we call the painting *Elegy XXXV*. Dorothy Miller feels as I do that this is establishing a very dangerous precedent and one which is against our usual policy in the past. But this is the major Motherwell in the ~~subject~~ exhibition and we would hate to have it withdrawn for political reasons. Would you discuss this with Mr. d'Harnoncourt as to policy? We could not at any rate change the title without the artist's permission. I personally think it should remain exactly as is.

*8.*

receives title

*file ICC F-36-57  
Catalog*

# THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART

**Date** June 9, 1958

**To:** Susan Senior

**Re:** Motherwell title: *Elegy to the*

**From:** Frank O'Hara

Spanish Republic XXXV in Madrid

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The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series/Folder:
	IC/IP	I.A.705

August, 1958.

S. Senior

*See memo  
to R & H  
A & B  
DM  
L's hand*

MOTHERWELL, MADRID:

I have despatched to Sydney Janice my letter and its enclosures of the Motherwell correspondence. It is unfair to him - as Motherwell's dealer and as the owner of the painting in question - to be left in ignorance of the circumstances of this controversy. Particularly after the article in TIME, someone will certainly - upon reading the account of the Madrid showing and seeing the illustration of "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" - be inclined to ask the Museum or Janice for this background. His gallery probably opens next week, and I feel he must have this information in hand.

Yes, the letter to Motherwell went off directly from Rotterdam in my handwriting because I could find no one to type, and the hand copy forwarded you was for your files.

WILSON-BURDETT:

My cable regarding the whereabouts of Wilson-Burdett was prompted by a request from Laurence Roberts, Director of the American Academy in Rome, for a candidate as business manager for the Academy. Wilson's qualifications sounded interesting to Laurence. I have suggested he contact Rene's immediately about Wilson's suitability for this job. Would you see, therefore, that Laurence receives this information directly as soon as it can be obtained.

DESIGN TODAY- INDIA

Can you give me a brief memorandum on the progress and schedules of this exhibition?

Can you give me a comparative statement on the expenditures of this exhibition based upon the estimated costs in my memo to WAMB dated May 21.