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HARPER'S  
BAZAAR

NEW YORK · 572 MADISON AVENUE

CARMEL SNOW  
EDITOR  
FREDERIC DRAKE  
GENERAL MANAGER

September 22, 1937

Dear Mr. Mabry,

I will be terribly disappointed if I get a refusal from Mr. Hearst to publish the Dahl-Wolfe photographs of the Negro sculptor. I have no hope of hearing about this for another week or ten days.

If I can't use the photographs I will at once release them for publicity in other magazines. I think Dahl-Wolfe has done a beautiful job on them. Be sure that I will let you know the minute I hear from Mr. Hearst.

Very sincerely yours,

*Carmel Snow*

CS.dm

Mr. Thomas Dabney Mabry, Jr.,  
The Museum of Modern Art,  
14 West 49th Street,  
New York, N.Y.

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## BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY

...the people of the United States."

### EDMONDSON'S ANGELS

The reception which has been accorded the angels of Nashville's Negro stone-cutter, William Edmondson, by New York art students, suggests the eagerness of the sophisticated world to find something to praise, rather than to scoff at or condemn.

Edward Alden Jewell, art critic of the New York Times, devotes half a column or so in that newspaper to the work of the crude sculptor, who himself views his carvings as the "Word of Jesus speakin' His mind in my mind." The art critic considers the crude images of the stone-cutter as a "folk" expression and consequently deserving of study.

"William Edmondson," writes the critic, "must be added at once to our not inconsiderable gallery of American 'folk' expression. The question isn't whether this work of his should be considered, per se, 'important.' It is a question of spontaneous aspiration, achieving form by means of a craftsmanship unskilled yet oddly, sometimes enchantingly, eloquent."

Specimens of Edmondson's work, angels and more realistic characters, have been given a place in the Museum of Modern Art in New York and their display there will continue through November.

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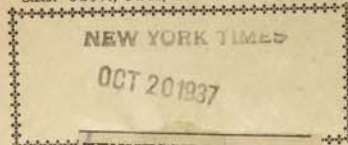
*Editorial in Nashville Banner  
10/22/37*

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 OTTO SPENGLER, DIRECTOR  
 352 THIRD AVE., NEW YORK

TERMS: Payable in advance  
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WE FILE NEW YORK DAILIES FOR 12 MONTHS  
 ASK US ABOUT "THE BOOKSHELF SCRAP BOOKS"  
 Sizes: 6 x 9 1/4, 9 x 12, 11 x 14 and 18 1/2 x 23 1/2.



**TENNESSEE NEGRO  
 SHOWS SCULPTURE**

William Edmondson Displays  
 Small Exhibition at Museum  
 of Modern Art

**INSPIRED BY CONVERSION**

Work Viewed as Contribution to  
 American 'Folk' Expression  
 —House Designs Shown

By EDWARD ALDEN JEWELL

It is a very modest little show that serves to introduce to the New York public America's latest "find" in the realm of sculpture, the Tennessee Negro, William Edmondson. Nine or ten of his small, quite "primitive," untutored and unpretentious figures have been installed in a recessed space at the Museum of Modern Art (temporary quarters on the Concourse level at 14 West Forty-ninth Street). There they will continue to be displayed through November.

An account of Mr. Edmondson's career, if a career one choose to call it, was printed in this paper some ten days ago. There we learned that, a handy man about town until he was converted to religion, this simple Southern Negro afterward became a tombstone cutter and—expressly, he reports, "at God's command"—a carver of rude though lovingly fashioned little stone figures in the round. "It's de word of Jesus speakin' his mind in my mind. \* \* \* I see these things in de sky. You cain't see 'em, but I can see 'em." And he speaks of "m'kels," by which, the museum explains miracles are meant.

Though all of them, no doubt, were done, in a sense, at Heaven's behest, some of the forms are purely secular—such, for instance, as the delicious "Two Women Seated on a Sofa," the forcefully, if crudely, stylized "Lady With a Cloak" and "Woman With a Bustle." Mr. Edmondson of Nashville would, I dare say, gaze out in childlike wonderment if you were to call him a humanist. There appears, at any rate, no salient difference in treatment between mundane and celestial subjects; between the strong-minded "Bride" and the "Angel," whose strange pair of wings attached somewhere to the back alone denotes membership in the hierarchy of the skies.

All the same, this recently discovered Louisiana "primitive," with his gauche yet very manifest feeling for plastic form, has a knack of indicating character. With the utmost simplicity he will suggest in "The Lawyer" straight, factual eyebrows; in "The Clergyman" (especially marked, this trait, in a variant of the subject not placed on view) eyebrows that flutter a bit upward, as with benignity and holiness. Nor are the essential characteristics of costume overlooked.

William Edmondson must be added at once to our not inconsiderable gallery of American "folk" expression. The question isn't whether this work of his should be considered, per se, "important." It is a question of spontaneous aspiration, achieving form by means of a craftsmanship unskilled yet oddly, sometimes enchantingly, eloquent.

Elsewhere the museum has put up some photographs of designs for houses to be erected in "The Town of Tomorrow" (a promised feature of our 1939 World's Fair), contrasting with them examples of modern architecture by Groppius that figured in the 1927 exposition at Stuttgart. But is it possible that these American antiques will actually materialize out in Flushing Meadows? Is an architectural "cut-back" so pathetic as this to constitute America's vision of the future?

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BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY  
423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

Oct. 27, 1937

Dear Tom:

Louise told Elizabeth of the success that marked the opening of William's show. If I were less blase I would be staggered by the turn of events that have made him a figure in the art world, all of which of course is due to the respect with which your Museum is regarded by those who control your media of publicity.

I am greatly relieved to know that William will have some money coming in, if only a few hundred dollars.

Can you send me about a dozen of your programs for the show? Would it be a lot of trouble to send me copies of New York newspapers containing reviews (two copies of each)? I will keep up with most of the magazines.

I am especially anxious to get copies of your catalog.

One more thing - Louise has told me several times that Julien Levy is writing to me, but he has not done so. Please let me have his address, as I want to write him about the things Edmondson has done recently.

Many thanks.

*Alfred*

*a*

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Sept. 20, 1937.

Dear Tom -

I have yours of the 17<sup>th</sup> which crossed mine.

The best way to thank me for assembling the Edmondson pieces is to give Louise all the publicity you can. All the credit for discovering William is hers, anyway.

What I want you to do is to look over the pieces with Louise after they are uncrated, then let me know if you want more - especially any that Louise photographed but which I did not send. Elizabeth has a fairly large lion that is excellent, and I could send it if you want it.

I will try to persuade Elizabeth to write your program notes, and will get this off to you in plenty of time for publication in your catalog.

Address me B1500 THEATRE (mail or telegrams) as my mail will be lost in the shuffle of moving.

I hope the pieces I sent are comprehensive enough.

Yours,  
Ayard.

Attached is duplicate B/L.

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September 17, 1937.

Dear Alfred:

Dear Mrs. Snow: I learned today in talking to Louise Dahl-Wolfe that your contemplated layout of the Negro sculptor included a literary account of his work, his own comments, etc. This material would be exceedingly valuable to us in our publicity releases, and I am writing this note to ask if you could let me know sooner than you mentioned over the telephone whether or not you will be able to use the material. We have planned to hold the exhibition about the first of November and I should be very anxious to use Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe's photographs and text elsewhere if you do not care to use it in Harper's Bazaar. Incidentally, I hope you can use it because I am sure the exhibition will be of considerable interest. May I have word from you in regard to this?

Very truly yours,

Along this line: I would be interested to write a short article on Willins's work and Willins in general, which we could use for a Museum Bulletin or for an introduction to the exhibition catalog in case we should find we were able to publish one. She could write such an article very well and it could be as long or as short as she liked. I wish you would make her do it.

We hope to open the exhibition the last week in October. What is Willins's last name?

Thanks for the newspaper picture of Lola. I notice it is a portrait of you as well.  
Mrs. George Palen Snow  
c/o Harper's Bazaar  
572 Madison Avenue  
New York City.

TDM:lf

Sincerely,

Mr. Alfred Starr  
200 Craighead Avenue  
Nashville, Tenn.

TDM:lf

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September 17, 1937.

October 28, 1937.

Dear Alfred:

I understand from Louise that you are shipping William's sculpture today by fast freight c.o.d. Will you also let me know the cost of crating the material?

Dear Julian:

I am very eager to put on a good show and I cannot begin to tell you how much I appreciate your doing all the work at that end. Although I have not seen the material Louise sent to Harper's Bazaar, which included certain quotations from William's own comment about his work, I have spoken about it to Alfred Barr and he and I both would like to have not only that (which I shall get from Louise) but also all additional such material as you and Elizabeth will be good enough to supply us with. It will be most interesting material to use in the exhibition either in a small catalog or in a Museum Bulletin. In other words, please send me as much literary material as you can get together in regard to William and his work.

Along this line: I wonder if Elizabeth would be interested to write a short article on William's work and William in general, which we could use for a Museum Bulletin or for an introduction to the exhibition catalog in case we should find we were able to publish one. She could write such an article very well and it could be as long or as short as she liked. I wish you would make her do it.

Mr. Julian Levy

25 E. 87 We hope to open the exhibition the last week in October. What is William's last name?

Thanks for the newspaper picture of Lyle. I notice it includes a handsome portrait of you as well.

In case you should want to telephone me at night, my home telephone is Wickersham 2-3826.

Sincerely,

Mr. Alfred Starr  
250 Craighead Avenue  
Nashville, Tenn.

TDM:lf

left  
Sept 21  
40 Bryn Mawr Theatre

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*negro  
sculpture*

October 28, 1937.

October 15, 1937

Dear Julien:

Mrs. Wolfe and I have gone over your prices and she feels, as do I, that they are a little high.

I am sending you a price list which she has agreed upon after going over the material again with me.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

Dorothy E. Ludley  
Registrar

Mrs. Hyman Schroeder  
8 West 10 Street

Mr. Julien Levy  
15 E. 57th St.  
New York City.

Enclosure

TDM:lf

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September 12, 1937.

October 15, 1937

Dear Mr. Brodovitch:

I am very anxious to show you the photographs  
by Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe of the sculpture by the Negro, William, of  
Bachville, Dear Mrs. Schroeder:

I am enclosing a receipt for the sculpture you have  
so kindly lent to us. If the insurance valuation is  
not correct will you please let me know. I was unable  
to reach you by phone so insured the sculpture for the  
same value as the other pieces lent by Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe.

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

Executive Director

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mrs. Hyman Schroeder  
9 West 10 Street  
New York City

Enclosure

Mr. Alexey Brodovitch  
Art Director  
Harper's Bazaar  
572 Madison Avenue  
New York City.

SH:lf  
by hand

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September 13, 1937.

Dear Mr. Brodovitch:

I am very anxious to show Mr. Barr the photographs by Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe of the sculpture by the Negro, William, of Nashville, Tennessee. *Edmondson*

Mrs. Snow, to whom I talked this morning, said that you would be good enough to let me have these photographs if I returned them promptly,--which I shall be glad to do by tomorrow afternoon at the latest.

Dear Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe:

Very truly yours,

We have returned to you the loan which you so kindly made to our Exhibition of Sculpture by William Edmondson. Will you please sign and return *Executive Director*

Very truly yours,

*Dorothy B. Dudley*  
Dorothy B. Dudley  
Registrar

Mr. Alexey Brodovitch  
Art Director  
Harper's Bazaar  
572 Madison Avenue  
New York City.

TDM:lf  
by hand

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BIKOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY  
414 FIFTH AVENUE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 4, 1937

October 4, 1937

December 28, 1937

Dear Mrs. Starr:

I am enclosing a receipt for the sculpture which you have so kindly lent for our Exhibition.

Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe tells me that a piece called "The Ark" is missing. I believe she was going to write you and ask whether or not it was shipped.

Dear Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe:

We should like to have Mr. Edmondson send us the correct title. We have returned to you the loan which you so kindly made to our Exhibition of Sculpture by William Edmondson. Will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

Very sincerely yours,  
Very truly yours,

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mrs. Alfred Starr  
Eastern Time Art  
Mrs. Louise Dahl-Wolfe  
58 West 57 Street  
New York City

DHD:DK

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BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY  
423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 6, 1937

October 4, 1937

Dear Tom:

Pathe News had their local cameraman take some shots  
of Edmondson. These are in Pathe News #31, just  
released.

I am enclosing a receipt for the sculpture which you have so  
kindly lent for our Exhibition.  
Mrs. Dahl-Wolfe tells me that a piece called "The Ark" is  
missing. I believe she was going to write you and ask whether  
or not it was shipped.

Best regards.

We should like to have Mr. Edmondson send us the correct titles  
for his sculpture. If we send you a set of photographs, would  
you be so kind as to ask him to supply the titles.

Very sincerely yours,

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mrs. Alfred Starr  
Western View Ave.  
Nashview, Tenn.

DHD:DK

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## BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY

423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

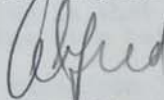
November 6, 1937

Dear Tom:

Pathe News had their local cameraman take some shots of Edmondson. These are in Pathe News #31, just released.

If you want to see this, RKO Radio Pictures (New York distributing Exchange) can tell you where it is playing in Metropolitan N.Y. If you find out please let Louise know.

Best regards,

  
Alfred Starr.

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## BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY

423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

November 27, 1937

Dear Mike:

Thanks for the information about the Edmondson pieces at the Ferargil Galleries. There is a German boy working in Nashville named Alfred Aufhauser (he is the one who wrote Julien Levy). At the time Louise was planning the show at the Modern Museum, Aufhauser and Sam Joseph got the idea of shipping some pieces to New York to sell. The only hitch was that Edmondson would not sell them anything. The Mary and Martha was bought by Evelyn Lyons last summer, and the preacher was bought by Aufhauser shortly before I began to buy up the pieces for Louise.

I had been promised by both Sam and Aufhauser that they would drop their idea entirely, but Aufhauser is pretty much of a bastard and I would not expect him to keep any agreement. The important thing is that neither is able to get any more pieces for the time being.

It may be that Sam feels he knew Edmondson long before Elizabeth did, and feels free to sell what he has, which of course he is. At any rate, Elizabeth does not wish to push the matter any further, and she will not communicate with either Sam or Evelyn about this matter.

As far as I can see, there is nothing to be done about it, except see that Edmondson does not dispose of anything else cheaply, which of course I am trying to do. I could not blame Levy if he should refuse to handle the show, in which case the owners of the pieces at Ferargil will have the satisfaction of knowing that they sold Edmondson out for the thirty dollars they are going to get.

If Levy raises the point you might assure him that no more pieces will be offered by these people.

I have been in and out of bed for two weeks with flu, and the baby is quite ill today with an infected ear from a cold.

*Agued*

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Tom -

mile found  
out the prices  
Ferragil is asking  
I think about

\$60 →

Kolo

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22 East 82 St  
N. Y. C.

Gentlemen —

I regret exceedingly that **June 13, 1938**

shall have to forego my plan to purchase the sculpture, "Angel" by Edmondson.

Mrs. Alfred Starr  
Western View Avenue  
Nashville, Tenn.

Dear Mrs. Starr:

We are returning to you the rest of your Edmondson sculpture which you so kindly lent for our exhibition. When you have received it will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

Very truly yours,

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Enclosure

Please pardon any trouble or inconvenience this may cause you —

Sincerely —

Osmond L. Weber, Jr.

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22 East 82 St.  
N. Y. City

Gentlemen —

I regret exceedingly that I shall have to forgo my plan to purchase the sculpture, "Angel", by the negro sculptor as it will not, on second thought, fit in its intended surroundings.

Please pardon any trouble or inconvenience this may cause you —

Sincerely —

Othello F. Weber Jr.

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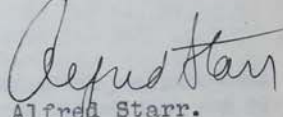
Page 2.  
Miss Dorothy H. Dudley,

October 7, 1937

In a few days I will let you know the amount of money I have spent for hauling and packing on the pieces I have sent to New York so that the Museum ~~will~~ <sup>can</sup> reimburse me.

I will greatly appreciate your showing this letter to Mr. Mabry.

Sincerely,

  
Alfred Starr.

A/k

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*Edmondson*

November 12, 1937  
December 27, 1937

Dear Mr. Baker:  
We are sending to you this morning the sculpture by W. Edmondson.  
Dear Mrs. Post: Has your name received it, will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt. The enclosed bill  
The sculpture by William Edmondson which you purchased has now been sent to you. Will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt. Sincerely yours,

Very truly yours,

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mr. Lyon Baker  
310 East 64 St.  
Mrs. C. K. Post  
345 East 57 St.  
New York City

DHD:DK  
DHD:DK

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November 22, 1937  
November 18, 1937

*Paid*

Dear Mrs. Fischer:

Dear Mr. Baker:

We are sending to you this morning the sculpture by William Edmondson. When you have received it, will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt. The enclosed bill for the sculpture includes a charge for delivery.

Very sincerely yours,

Secretary to Registrar  
Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mr. Lynn Baker  
315 East 68 St.  
New York City

DHD:DK

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*Edmondson Co.*

December 22, 1937

December 27, 1937

Dear Mrs. Fischer:

We are sending to you by way of Freight Collect the sculpture by William Edmondson. As soon as you have received it, will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

Very sincerely yours,

When you have received the sculpture will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

Secretary to Registrar

Mrs. A. Fischer  
6904 Wissahickon Ave.  
Mount Airy, Pa.

*George S. Bailey*  
Registrar

Mrs. W. M. P. Taylor  
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

*Hand 11-7-37*  
*248*

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*Edmondson Exp.*

**The Museum of Modern Art**

11 West 53rd Street, New York 19, N.Y. Telephone: MU 2-7476 Cable Address: Museumart

December 27, 1937

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
11 West 53rd Street  
New York 19, N.Y.

Dear Mrs. Taylor:

On December 23, 1937 we sent to you by Express Prepaid the two sculptures by William Edmondson. I am enclosing a bill covering the cost of the sculpture and the express charges.

When you have received the sculpture will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

\_\_\_\_\_ pieces, \_\_\_\_\_ Very truly yours,

E. Tresp.

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mrs. F. M. P. Taylor  
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

DHD:DK

*Paid  
check 6 1-7-38*

*Shipping Collect*

*Mrs. A. Fisher*

*6964 Wisconsin*

*Mount Airy Pa*

*37,14640*

*Register*

Form 7.

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# The Museum of Modern Art

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John Hay Whitney

**Modern Art**

Cable Address: Modernart

Date 10/29/37

THE MUSEUM OF MODERN ART  
11 West 53d Street  
New York City.

Received from \_\_\_\_\_

address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ pieces, \_\_\_\_\_ medium

Date \_\_\_\_\_ E. Tremp.

*Will imm*

*Shipping Collect*

FOYB # 7.

*Mrs A. Fischer  
6904 Wissahickon Ave  
Mount Airy, Pa*

*\$50 37.1464B*

*Flight collect*

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The Museum of Modern Art

le Address: Modernart

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President:  
A. Conger Goodyear

1st Vice-President:  
John Hay Whitney

Modern Art

Cable Address: Modernart

Date 10/29/37

Will win

\$ 50.00

PAID BY ? HELENE KOERTING FISCHER  
Mrs G. Hoeder  
1904 Wisconsin Ave  
Washington D.C.

Dear Mr Mabry

Your letters both arrived today  
I am very sorry Mrs Hoefe changed  
her mind but I do not blame  
her, still should she ever decide  
differently I wished she would  
give me first chance  
Enclosed please find \$ 30.00  
for bird bath

very truly

Helene Koerting Fischer

Oct 27. 1937

he  
tated  
ve

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

le Address: Modernart

Trustees

HERMAN KROEMER FOUNDED

Dear Mr. Board  
 your letter was  
 very good and  
 I am very glad  
 to hear that  
 you are still  
 interested in  
 the matter. I  
 will be glad  
 to hear from  
 you again.  
 Very truly  
 yours  
 Helen Kroeber

Oct 21. 1937

\$ 50.<sup>00</sup>

PAID BY ? MRS G. Fisher  
6904 Wissahickon Ave  
Mount Airy, Pa  
A/c EDMONSON SCULPTURE

10/26/37

37.1464 75.

Helen Kroeber  
(Mrs G Fisher)

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The Museum of Modern Art

le Address: Modernart

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John Hay Whitney

Modern Art

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Date 10/29/37

Will win

HELENE KOERTING FISCHER

The Museum of Modern Art  
New York city

Gentlemen

Kindly let me know  
when I may expect the 2 pieces  
by Edmondson which I purchased  
Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>

Very truly

Helene Koerting Fischer  
(Mrs A Fischer)

37.1464 A-13 Bird bath with  
begone pedestal 50 Paid  
30  
Dec. 13. 1937

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tated  
ve

r

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## The Museum of Modern Art

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Telephone: Circle 7-7470

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**Trustees**

President:  
A. Conger Goodyear

1st Vice-President:  
John Hay Whitney

570 Lexington Ave.

Mr. H. J. Halle  
5022 R C A Building  
Rockefeller Center, N. Y.

December 27, 1937

For:

37-1455 Mary and Martha by Edmondson

\$ 50.00

*Paid  
check Dec 30, 1937*

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**President:**  
A. Conger Goodyear

**1st Vice-President:**  
John Hay Whitney

570 Lexington Ave.

Mr. Lynn Baker  
315 East 68 St.  
New York City

November 18, 1937

1 Sculpture, Preacher by Wm. Edmondson  
Delivery to 318 East 68 Street, New York City

\$ 60.00

2.00

\$ 62.00

*Paid Dec 7 '37*

*DHD*

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The Rockefeller

Marshall

Edsel B. Ford

Philip C. Frenkel

William

Mrs. Charles

Mrs. Sta

Mrs. John

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Thomas

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Telephone: Circle 7-7471

11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Date 10/29/37

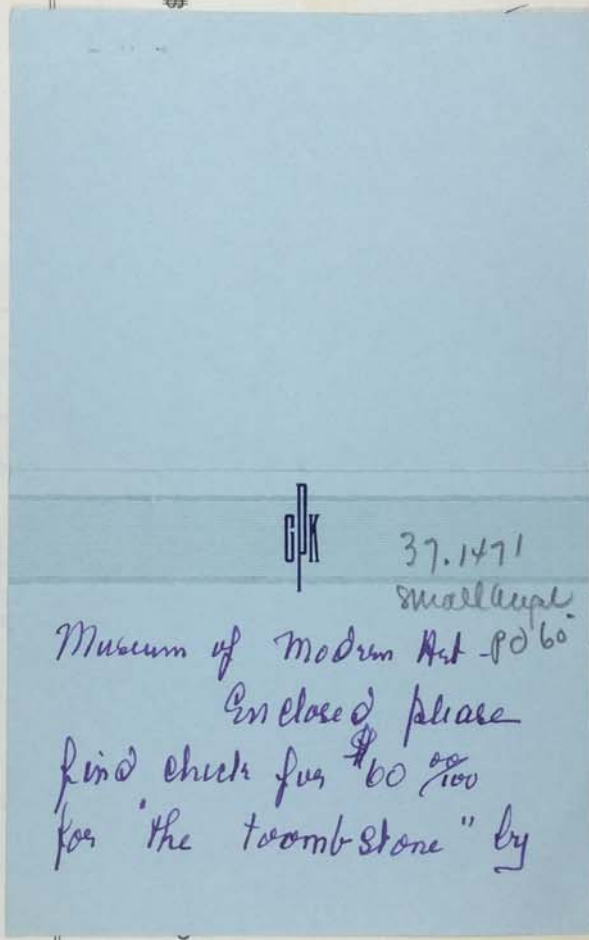
Terms

To Mr. A. Conger Goodyear  
570 Lexington Avenue  
New York City

Via

\$ 50.00

1 Ex



CHK

37.1471

Small kept

Museum of Modern Art - PD 60  
Enclosed please  
find check for \$60 <sup>00</sup>/<sub>100</sub>  
for "the tombstone" by

Do!!  
Check of Mrs. Bliss

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 Mrs. John D. Rockefeller  
 Edward C. Stearns

## The Museum of Modern Art

Cable Address: Modernart

Telephone: Circle 7-7471

11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Date 10/29/37

Terms

To Mr. A. Conger Goodyear  
 570 Lexington Avenue  
 New York City

Via

\$ 50.00

1 EG

*William Edmondson -*  
*Very truly yrs*  
*Mrs C.K. Post.*  
*345 Park 57<sup>th</sup>*  
*NY City*

*Check of Mrs Bliss*

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### The Museum of Modern Art

14 West 49th Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone: Circle 7-7470

Cable Address: Modernart

**Trustees**

**President:**

A. Conger Goodyear

**1st Vice-President:**

### The Museum of Modern Art

11 West 53rd Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone: Circle 7-7471

Cable Address: Modernart

To Mr. A. Conger Goodyear  
570 Lexington Avenue  
New York City

Date 10/29/37

Terms

Via

Order No.

Per

1 Edmondson sculpture "Martha and Mary"

\$ 50.00

*Please hold  
for later delivery  
if possible  
check of Mrs. Bliss*

*Paid  
11/12/37*

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## The Museum of Modern Art

14 West 49th Street, New York, N. Y.

Telephone: Circle 7-7470

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Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Jr.

Boardsley Ruml

Paul J. Sachs

Mrs. John S. Sheppard

Edward M. M. Warburg

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Alfred H. Barr, Jr.

#### Secretary and

#### Executive Director:

Thomas Dabney Mabry, Jr.

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John E. Abbott

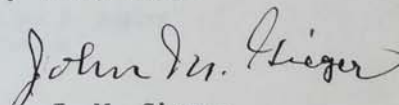
570 Lexington Ave.  
October 23, 1937

Mr. T. D. Mabry, Jr.  
14 W. 49th St.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I have talked with Mr. Goodyear on the telephone this morning and he says that he wants to purchase the Edmonson "Mary and Martha", which you stated can be bought for \$50 and which I understand you have reserved for him.

Very truly yours

  
J. M. Gieger

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*Edmondson 21*

October 26, 1937.

Dear Mrs. FISHER:

I regret that this letter December 27, 1937, my other was Mrs. Wolfe has just telephoned me to say that she is sorry but she feels it is absolutely impossible for her to part with the sculpture, "Mary and Martha." Therefore I shall be compelled to withdraw it from sale.

"The Bird Bath," however, is for sale and I have reserved it for you at \$80.00. May I have word from you in regard to this?  
Dear Mr. Halle:

Very truly yours,  
I am enclosing a bill for \$60.00 covering the cost of the sculpture by William Edmondson which you purchased. Will you please sign and return to us the enclosed receipt.

Executive Director  
Very truly yours,

Dorothy H. Dudley  
Registrar

Mr. H. J. Halle  
6022 R. C. A. Building  
Rockefeller Center, N. Y.

DHD:DK

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*regret*

October 26, 1937.

October 26, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Fischer:

I regret that this letter so closely follows my other one. Mrs. Wolfe has just telephoned me to say that she is sorry but she feels it is absolutely impossible for her to part with the sculpture, "Mary and Martha." Therefore I shall be compelled to withdraw it from sale.

Also, Mrs. Wolfe said that I should sell the "Bird Bath" in addition "The Bird Bath," however, is for sale and I have reserved it for you at \$30.00. May I have word from you in regard to this? May I hear from you in regard to these two pieces?

Very truly yours,

Very truly yours,

Executive Director

Executive Director

Mrs. A. Fischer  
6904 Wissahickon Ave.  
Mount Airy, Pa. Ave.  
Mount Airy, Pa.

TDM:lf  
TDM:lf

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BRON AMUSEMENT COMPANY  
425 SOUTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 26, 1937.

Dear Mrs. Fischer:

I have talked to Mrs. Wolfe, the owner of "Mary and Martha," who says that she will console herself with the photograph and is willing to part with the sculpture. I am therefore reserving this for you at \$60.00.

Also, Mrs. Wolfe said that I might sell the "Bird Bath" in addition to its pedestal. The "Bath" may be sold for \$50.00.

do not seem to warrant the museum's publication. The day reporter that at May I hear from you in regard to these two pieces?

I want to thank you for the article which Elizabeth or you wrote (it reads as more of you than Elizabeth). We used some of it in our publicity release but it was not long enough for a Museum Bulletin, nor "critical" enough, which is another reason why we did not publish it.

Very truly yours,

Executive Director

I have sold \$190.00 worth of sculpture—three pieces. Do not mention this if you write Levy. His address is Julian Levy, 15 East 57th Street.

Thank for all your help.

Sincerely,

Mrs. A. Fischer  
6904 Wissahickon Ave.  
Mount Airy, Pa.

TDM:lf  
Mr. Alfred Starr  
Sijou Theatre  
425 Fourth Avenue North  
Nashville, Tenn.

TDM:lf

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*negro  
husband*

## BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY

423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 26, 1937

October 29, 1957.

Dear Tom:

Thanks for your note.

Mike Wolfe wrote me that Louise agreed to let you sell the Mary and Martha for \$80.00, which means that you have Dear Alfred's pieces at the Museum for a total of \$185.00.

Thank you for your letter of October 27th.

I do not know what to say about Levy as I have never heard of him. I shall have sent to you two copies of whatever press a good comments come in on Edmondson's exhibition. We of prices that will bring in as large as possible gross. He surely would rather sell. We have no catalog of the exhibition. We publish catalogs \$100.00 only for our major shows. Many small ones are simply put up and do not seem to warrant the Museum publication. You may remember that at one time I thought of publishing a Museum Bulletin on Edmondson's work but decided against it. Which reminds me that I want to thank you for the article you sent up which Elizabeth will be for you wrote (it reminds me more of you than of Elizabeth). We used some of it in our publicity releases but it was not long for him enough for a Museum Bulletin, nor "critical" enough, which is to call another reason why we did not make a Bulletin of the show.

I have sold \$190.00 worth of sculpture--three pieces. Do not mention this if you write Levy. His address is: Julien Museum Levy, 15 East 57th Street. All anything it can without giving Levy anything. Then after the show turn everything over to Levy for whatever. Thanks for all your help. The last time you wrote me you said he would probably want more than 30% but I have heard nothing further about definite arrangements. Sincerely,

If you like, you can mail me a check made out to Edmondson for everything that you sell at the Museum and I will turn it over to him. I also expect to pay him whatever is collected from the insurance company for the damage done to the base of Mr. Alfred Starr Bijou Theatre 425 Fourth Avenue North Nashville, Tenn. ping.

TDM:lf Everything in this letter is subject to the approval of Louise Wolfe. The only piece that Elizabeth wants back is the relief which is marked with her name. Everything else belongs to Louise.

I am taking the liberty of sending Mike a copy of this letter. My final word is that anything you do decide will be perfectly satisfactory with me.

*Depend*

*I will be out of town - Friday night & Sunday morning -*

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*negro sculpture*

## BIJOU AMUSEMENT COMPANY

423 FOURTH AVENUE NORTH  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

October 28, 1937

Dear Tom:

Thanks for your note.

Mike Wolfe wrote me that Louise agreed to let you sell the Mary and Martha for \$80.00, which means that you have sold three pieces at the Museum for a total of \$185.00.

I do not know what to say about Levy as I have never heard from him. It seems to me that he ought to be a good enough business man to arrive at a scale of prices that will bring in as large as possible gross. He surely would rather sell 10 pieces at \$50.00 each than ~~to~~ sell 2 pieces at \$100.00 each.

It makes no difference to me what he charges. I have an idea that William's entire income from his sculptures will come to him during the next two months and thereafter he will be just a tombstone cutter. I feel pretty sure that no one in Nashville will ever pay him more than \$10.00 to \$15.00 for his work. This is the reason I am very anxious for William to cash in on the pieces that are now in New York.

With further reference to Levy: I don't know if either of you has made arrangements with him, but I think the Museum should go ahead and sell anything it can without giving Levy anything, then after the show turn everything over to Levy for whatever he can get for it. The last time you wrote me you said he would probably want more than 30% but I have heard nothing further about definite arrangements.

If you like, you can mail me a check made out to Edmondson for everything that you sell at the Museum and I will turn it over to him. I also expect to pay him whatever is collected from the insurance company for the damage done to the base of the Ark.

Please let me know if the Museum will pay me for the packing and shipping.

Everything in this letter is subject to the approval of Louise Wolfe. The only piece that Elizabeth wants back is the relief which is marked with her name. Everything else belongs to Louise.

I am taking the liberty of sending Mike a copy of this letter. My final word is that anything you two decide will be perfectly satisfactory with me.

*Alfred*

*I will be out of town - Friday night to Monday morning -*

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*repro sculpture*

COPY

JULIEN LEVY GALLERY  
15 EAST 57 STREET  
NEW YORK, N. Y.

November 5, 1937

Dear Mr. Starr:

We have a price range of \$35-\$60 on the work of William Edmondson, the Gallery taking one-third commission in the event of sale.

I cannot tell just yet what the demand for the sculpture will be and for the present, at least, think that we do not need to make any additions to the group already on sale. However, I shall get in touch with you later if the demand justifies our asking for more.

Sincerely yours,

*JK*  
(s) Julien Levy Gallery, Inc.

Mr. Alfred Starr  
Bijou Amusement Company  
423 Fourth Avenue North,  
Nashville, Tennessee.

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Mrs. F. M. P. Taylor  
Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center  
Colorado Springs, Colorado

December 27, 1937

For:		
37.1486	Mourning Doves by Edmondson	\$ 60.00
37.1489	Ram by Edmondson	35.00
	Express Charges	<u>13.03</u>
		\$108.03

*Paid  
1-7-38  
check*

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Nov. 6

Mr. Mabry:  
Miss Ulrich:

The following has been sold to Mr. O.J. Weber, Jr.,  
22 East 82 St. (Member):

37.1475 Large Angel, \$60.00

Mr. Weber will be in Monday or Tuesday to collect  
it and will bring check for \$60.

D. H. Dudley

*Telephone  
Did not want*