

CONDITIONS OF USE FOR THIS PDF

The images contained within this PDF may be used for private study, scholarship, and research only. They may not be published in print, posted on the internet, or exhibited. They may not be donated, sold, or otherwise transferred to another individual or repository without the written permission of The Museum of Modern Art Archives.

When publication is intended, publication-quality images must be obtained from SCALA Group, the Museum's agent for licensing and distribution of images to outside publishers and researchers.

If you wish to quote any of this material in a publication, an application for permission to publish must be submitted to the MoMA Archives. This stipulation also applies to dissertations and theses. All references to materials should cite the archival collection and folder, and acknowledge "The Museum of Modern Art Archives, New York."

Whether publishing an image or quoting text, you are responsible for obtaining any consents or permissions which may be necessary in connection with any use of the archival materials, including, without limitation, any necessary authorizations from the copyright holder thereof or from any individual depicted therein.

In requesting and accepting this reproduction, you are agreeing to indemnify and hold harmless The Museum of Modern Art, its agents and employees against all claims, demands, costs and expenses incurred by copyright infringement or any other legal or regulatory cause of action arising from the use of this material.

NOTICE: WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

Arthur Sachs to Paul Sachs, on the occasion of Chauncey Stillman's death (selections), September 9, 1926

I know how you must have felt about Stillman's death. He was very fond of you. I was at Durand and Welles in Paris one week after he died, and they told me he had selected eight pictures to present to you on his return. At least to be sent to New York for you to choose from. I am wondering what he did for the Fogg in his will. He's a great loss to Harvard.

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

From Seal Harbor, August 14, 1929

Dear Mr. Sachs:

Both my sister and I enjoyed greatly having Mr. Barr here for two days. We liked him tremendously and found him most sympathetic in every way. I like his point of view and his ideas of what a modern museum of art should be. I also feel that he not only has good taste but good judgment.

We talked a little about the set-up of the museum from a purely business point of view. Of course, Mr. Barr has had very little experience in this, and I have had none at all. It would help me very much indeed if you would be good enough to write me what business system the Fogg Museum has worked out.

Mr. Goodyear wrote me that the Museum would like to have me continue as treasurer. It would help me very much indeed if I could have some advice on the subject. I am opening an account with the Bankers Trust Company for the Museum, which cannot be drawn on until the Museum is incorporated in September, but I will pay any small bills that come along, and then reimburse myself later.

The questions that I should like most to have solved are: who are to OK the bills? shall the director be given a certain sum each month with which to pay the smaller bills? are the checks to be signed by one or two persons? what system of book-keeping would be best? When should Mr. Barr's salary begin, and is the amount definitely decided, and who will authorize the payment of it?

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

August 14, 1929

Another question we thought of: would it be advisable to approach Mr. Heckscher to donate us a space in his building as his contribution to the work?

I don't happen to know of anyone who knows Mr. Heckscher. Have you any suggestions in this? Is there any chance of your being up in this part of the world this summer? Sincerely,

Abby A. Rockefeller

I'm delighted to hear that you are to continue as treasurer. I think you and Mr. Day will find an excellent guide and counsellor in the business matters in Mr. Knapp's office. Since, however, you are not certain as to the matter, I am glad to answer them specifically, subject to change and modification by Mr. Knapp when he returns.

- (a) Regarding the bills, it would seem to me that they ought to be paid by the treasurer and by Mr. Day.
- (b) I certainly believe that the director ought to be given a sufficient sum each month with which to pay petty office expenses.
- (c) It would seem to me, except for these petty expenses, all money ought to be signed by only one person, and that is by the treasurer.
- (d) I strongly advise, in view of Mr. Day's very limited business experience, that a system of bookkeeping be installed as a kind of public accountancy and will give Day the necessary

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

August 20, 1929, Sachs to Mrs. Rockefeller at Seal Harbor, Maine

Dear Mrs. Rockefeller:

I appreciate your interesting communication of the 14th inst. I'm delighted to hear that you enjoyed the visit from Mr. Barr and that you find him sympathetic. I also appreciate his point of view and his ideas of what a modern museum of art should be, and I have every confidence that we have chosen the right man and that he will develop admirably if we are reasonably patient.

I'm delighted to hear that you are to continue as treasurer. I think you and Mr. Barr will find an excellent guide and counsellor in the business matters in Mr. Goodyear on his return. Since, however, you put certain questions to me, I am glad to answer them specifically, subject to change and modification by Mr. Goodyear upon his return.

(a) Regarding the bills, it would seem to me that they ought to be OK'd by the treasurer and by Mr. Barr.

(b) I certainly believe that the director ought to be given a moderate sum each month with which to pay petty office expenses.

(c) It would seem to me, except for these petty expenses, all checks ought to be signed by only one person, and that is by you as treasurer.

(d) I strongly advise, in view of Mr. Barr's very limited business experience, that a system of bookkeeping be installed by a firm of public accountants who will give Barr the necessary

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

Aug. 20, 1929, Sachs to Mrs. Rockefeller -2-

simple instructions. I'm not sure, but I'm inclined to believe that the firm of LeBrand, Ross Bros. and Montgomery might as an act of friendship perform this service free of charge, as a contribution to our enterprise. If authorized by the board to do so, I shall be glad to approach one of the partners of the firm.

(d) I am quite sure that the amount of Mr. Barr's salary has been definitely decided. However, that is information that you can best secure from Mr. Crowninshield, in Mr. Goodyear's absence, and he will no doubt tell you also when Mr. Barr's salary should begin and who will authorize the payment of it.

(f) I think Mr. Crowninshield is the best person to answer your question regarding the advisability of approaching Mr. Heckscher to donate us space in his building as his contribution to the work. I am not personally acquainted with Mr. Heckscher and have had no hand in the renting of the space, which, as I explained, has been done by Mr. Goodyear and Mr. Crowninshield.

(e) It is possible, but not likely, that Mrs. Sachs and I may motor through Maine next week, as we planned to start on a little holiday a week from yesterday. If we do get to Maine, I shall telephone to you to learn whether you are home and care to have a further talk with me about the various matters that you write about. With kind regards, sincerely yours,

PJS

P.S. Thank you for sending me the list of names of the people who've contributed. I note that the actual pledges have not been received from Messrs Lehman and Bartlett, and that you are not

3mm

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

Aug. 20, 1929, Sachs to Mrs. Rockefeller - 3 -

sure that Mr. Bartlett will pledge for the second year. It seems to me quite in order to send both of these people a pledge card with a little friendly note. I'm glad to hand you enclosed my own pledge.

After a long and great hesitation about making first exhibitions only American. We suggest joint French-American with possibly following artists, Ryder, Homer, Frankfort Davis, Allen, Cassatt, Seurat, Gauguin, Degas, Renoir. Thanks for letter just received. Hope to see you next week.

I immediately sent her a long telegraphic reply reading as follows: "Regarding telegram, I had already forwarded a letter to Mr. Greenfield telling him that I agreed that the first show should be American. I question whether the artists suggested by you, both American and French, will be very important with good effect. In matters of this kind my advice is this. Let all of us on the board submit our opinions to the director, and let him alone take into account the suggestion of artists suggested as it seems to him, and then let him make a decision after weighing all artistic aspects and financial and other considerations. If our director is worthy of the place, his decision will be correct in the majority of cases. On forwarding part of this telegram to Mr. Greenfield, I am sure he will be glad to see it. With regards, etc."

All of which I beg to confirm. As a trustee of various organizations, and as the director of this museum, I am very sure

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

August 21, 1929, to Frank Crowninshield from Sachs

Dear Mr. Crowninshield:

After dictating a letter to you this morning, I received a telegram from Mrs. Rockefeller reading as follows: "Miss Bliss and I feel great hesitation about making first exhibition only American. We suggest joint French-American with possibly following artists, Ryder, Homer, Prendergast Davis, Aiken, Cezanne, Seurat, Gauguin, Daumier, Renoir. Thanks for letter just received. Hope to see you next week."

I immediately sent her a long telegraphic answer reading as follows: "Answering telegram, I had already forwarded a letter to Mr. Crowninshield indicating that I agreed that the first show should be American. I question whether the artists enumerated by you, both American and French, could be hung together with good effect. In matters of this sort my advice is this. Let all of us on the board submit our opinions to the director, and let him also take into account the expression of outside opinion as it comes to him, and then let him reach a decision after weighing all artistic aspects and internal and external diplomatic considerations. If our director is worthy of the place, his decisions will be correct in the majority of cases. Am forwarding copy of this telegram to Mr. Crowninshield. Deeply regret cannot call on you next week. Kind regards, PJS"

All of which I beg to confirm. As a trustee of various enterprises, and as the director of this museum, I am very sure

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

August 21, 1929, Sachs to Crowninshield-2-

that what I telegraphed to Mrs. Rockefeller exactly expresses my view. I look upon the board of trustees as advisers to a director, as a body charged with financial responsibility, as a body that selects the director in whom it has confidence, and as a body that shapes policy. When, however, it comes to even important details such as this, it seems to me difficult for a group to act. The function of the members of the group is to clearly and fearlessly express opinions to the director. Then the director, if he is any good, weighs all the facts, takes into account all sorts of tangible and intangible considerations, and then decides.

I have telegraphed and written at this length so that I may as clearly as possible express the views I hold. Needless to say, I gladly abide in all matters by decisions of the majority of the board. With kindly greetings, sincerely yours,

PJS

The Museum of Modern Art Archives, NY	Collection:	Series.Folder:
	Sachs	1

From John ?, to Sachs

Congratulations on starting the American Luxembourg,
which we have all prayed for. This is your triumph, after a long
fight for the recognition by museums of a significant contemporary
art. Alfred Barr will be perfect. I can do nothing but cheer
devotedly,

John

1929?