

"Algonac," Newburgh, New York
Interior Building
Washington, D. C.
July 18, 1937

Mr. George W. Blodgett,
Box 74,
Santa Fe, New Mexico

My dear Mr. Blodgett:

I had heard from Miss Malvina Hoffman before she went to Europe of the work in which you are interested concerning an Indian Museum at Washington, and I told her that I would do what I could to help along the project.

The Project is of a good deal of importance, and I also think a very suitable site can be found for it near the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

I note with interest the excellent letter of William Allen White. There is no doubt about it that he will have a good deal of influence on the project and will help if he can.

I have been for some years on the board of the Carnegie Institution and have visited Yucatan where they have been for a number of years making researches. I think there is no institution that has done more in a quiet, intelligent way than the Carnegie has and that the effect of what they have done in Mexico, Guatemala and Honduras is very evident; that is, while this work which they have done is archaeological and historical, it has had more effect in improving our relations with Latin America than almost all the diplomatic service that we have been maintaining.

Sometime when you are in the East, I wish you would visit a museum near Newport News, Virginia, which the Huntington family have established in memory of the late C. P. Huntington. It is an interesting marine museum but one of the things I particularly like about it is the simplicity of the design and its inexpensive nature. I cannot help thinking that a simple one-story museum like this is less tiring and more impressive than museums designed with multiple galleries filled with a wealth of material. The Fogg Museum at Harvard University is also a good example of a museum which does not attempt to show too much at once, but which, through separate study rooms, gives an opportunity to students to see many examples of art. The needs of the students and the needs of the general public in studying artistic or historic data are not the same, and show windows on Fifth Avenue in New York City impress the public more by their restraint in showing works of art than a museum like the Metropolitan which crowds into one case fifty different objects.

I am recovering from a serious illness and operation, and am taking it rather easy this summer, but shall hope to get in touch with you this fall.

Sincerely yours,

(SIGNED) FREDERIC A. DELANO

Chairman.