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Correspondence August 04, 1943

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MUSEUM OF ART
Rhode Island School of Design
Providence, Rhode Island.

August 4, 1943.

Dr. Henry M. Wriston, President,
Brown University,
Providence, Rhode Island.

Dear Dr. Wriston:

I could not have been more surprised than by your letter with its enclosure to Dr. Farnum, which he had not as yet shown me. How unfortunate the whole situation is only now becomes apparent to me.

Evidently Dr. Farnum was so convinced that the project would fold up that there remained no question in his mind about it. Certainly I was given the impression that it was only a matter of holding a meeting to formally conclude its activities. Furthermore, no one could have been more convinced than I that it was worth carrying on this project. My only concern has been how we could pay for the activity, since it seemed to require the services of at least one paid worker. It now appears that we have lost a grant of money in the process, to say nothing of our having lost a worth while relationship with the University.

This is most painful to me, and I have no doubt that I have contributed to this by my failure to understand the situation. It has, however, been difficult, so far as we in the

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Dr. Wriston

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August 4, 1943.

Museum are concerned, since there seemed no way by which we could meet with the principals involved to gain enlightenment.

To the degree that we have erred in publishing a statement concerning the windup of the project I feel deeply chagrined, and not a little guilty, since I suppose I could have mailed the article in question to the parties involved, and should have done so. The only reason I did not was that Mrs. Noble was understood to have checked the matter with Dr. Farnum previous to our receiving the article in question.

In conclusion may I suggest that you and I meet and discuss this matter with anyone you may suggest as a participant in the conference. I should like to know in considerable detail what values you have seen in the project and what aspects you would like to see us carry on. Naturally, I have my own opinion, but since I am a newcomer it may not be sufficiently informed. I will be very glad to meet in your office at any time you would find convenient.

Sincerely yours,



Gordon Washburn
DIRECTOR

GBW/h