

COLORADO SPRINGS FINE ARTS CENTER

WEST DALE STREET COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO

July 8, 1952

Miss Laura Gilpin
Box 1173
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Mitchell A. Wilder, Director

Dear Laura:

As you possibly know, I have recently been associated with the Central City Opera House Association in trying to establish an opera museum in the old Chin-O-Mines Hotel at Central. Last year you very kindly gave to the Association a blow-up of the Gish photograph which now serves as one of the key pictures in the early days section of the Central City festival exhibit. I have never had an opportunity to thank you for your cooperation in this and only learned last week that you did this as a contribution to the museum. Please accept my sincere thanks as well as that of the "museum branch" of Central City.

Two thoughts have occurred to me recently regarding the photographs which are in your possession. They both deal with the ultimate disposition of the negatives in your collection and I wonder what your plans might be.

I think I spoke to you some years ago regarding the museum's interest in the collection of religious materials which you have. Have you made any plans for the disposition of these negatives? I do hope that you would be willing that they be deposited with the Taylor Museum for in many cases they are an invaluable record of the structures as well as the contents of some of the churches. In a few spots I know that your negatives are the only good ones available of the structure as it was fifteen years ago.

The same problem applies to the photographs of Central City. It is appalling the way things have been lost in the offices of the asso-

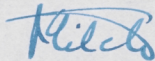
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ciation. To date I have found photographs taken by yourself of the following: Camille, Ruy Blas, Central City Nights, Othello, and that, I believe, completes the picture. I am certain that you had taken photographs of the Merry Widow and Yeoman of the Guard, also probably of The Gondoliers. Could you give me exact information on this and advise me how much it would cost the Association to have a selection of some of these pictures made up in 16 x 20 enlargements for use in the museum at a future date. I find that the exhibit is very hard to hold together with the material which we have as there are enormous gaps with nothing representative either of photographs or design plates. My thought is that I would ask Rick-etson to budget an amount sufficient to cover the cost of these prints so that we would have them for future use.

Also, of course, the Association, like the museum, would be interested in the ultimate disposition of the negatives covering this early phase of Central. Have you any thoughts on this subject which I could pass on to the Association?

All is quiet for the moment at the Fine Arts Center. As you know, there was considerable strife within the place during the spring as a result of Lawrence Barrett leaving the Fine Arts Center school. That seems to be clarified at the moment although Betsy Cowles' investigating committee has not reported to the membership yet. This is coming up on August 4. I imagine there will be much hair pulling at that time. Greetings from us all at the Fine Arts Center and I hope to see you in Colorado Springs some time this summer. Let us know if you are coming our way.

Sincerely yours,



MAW/ce