

*Chouinard Art Institute*

743 South Grand View Street, Los Angeles 57, California : Dunkirk 9-4138

November 13, 1959

Miss Laura Gilpin  
Box 1173  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Dear Laura:

I have had a chance to read through the several letters and minutes of the meeting which you forwarded to me, and I am very grateful for the opportunity to be brought up to date, not only on the things you were connected with, but also the thinking of the School of American Research.

I can make but one comment -- the thinking is sound and the written statements are excellent; now how to activate some of these ideas. I am afraid that my thoughts on this are rather scattered and ineffectual inasmuch as the only practical approach which I can conceive is a joining of the interests of all these people in a common cause. My words seem to have fallen on deaf ears, however, to judge from past years.

I think any agreement which you may enter into with the State should be iron-clad, both as to the independence of the Fund, and the responsibilities of the Museum. I am sure that Mr. Watson would be able to draft such a contract.

I cannot conceive of the operation of the laboratory with the downstairs closed off. I would think that the Fund would be happier to have the collection in a safe spot such as the warehouse idea until such time as they could be properly exhibited. My guess, however, that your threat to take action will bring some sort of proposal.

Miss Laura Gilpin

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The letter from Fred Wendorf seems calculated to pacify the Fund. I certainly do not take much stock in the proposals which they make, but I suppose it is the only thing that can be done under the circumstances.

Best wishes always.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mitch", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

Mitchell A. Wilder  
Director

MAW:pcp