

Morgan, Julia and Arthur Byne, June 1930

5-A-45-20

ARTHUR BYNE  
PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19  
CABLE ADDRESS STAPLEY  
MADRID

June 2nd,  
1930

Miss Julia Morgan,  
Merchants Exchange,  
San Francisco,

Dear Miss Morgan;

Your letter of May 20th inquiring about a pair of Sevillian tile ceilings purchased by Mr. Hearst in 1926 has just come to hand. I have looked over my records carefully and think I have found the examples. At that time Mr. Hearst was looking for a large ceiling to cover a Gothic Room (27 x 70 feet) and I found these two twin rooms in a house in Seville and combined them making a ceiling 22'-6" x 65'-0" I enclose herewith a rough sketch giving the size and general disposition of the beams.

Unfortunately I can find no record of how the crates were marked. Ceilings of this type, purchased in southern Spain, were generally sent by "bundling" the beams together and holding them with cross pieces and lag-screws. The tiles would be in small barrels.

To-day we send most ceilings packed in lift-vans; this arrangement is better as the ceilings are more carefully packed and there is less danger of losing small pieces. Furthermore, to facilitate identification, I am painting all the lift vans of this year (since I returned from America in any event) bright blue; in addition they will have a number which will record the contents. Next year I will pick out some other conspicuous color.

For these shipments direct to California should photographs be sent to Nelsen in New York along with copies of the bills?

Leaving to-night to consummate the purchase of the cloister and vaulting of Alcantara.

With best wishes from both,

*Arthur Byn*

C  
O  
P  
Y

Madrid

June 2, 1930

Miss Julia Morgan,  
Merchants Exchange,  
San Francisco, California

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For these shipments direct to California should photographs be sent to Nelson in New York along with copies of the bills?

Leaving tonight to consummate the purchase of the cloister and vaulting of Alcantara.

With best wishes from both,

(Signed) Arthur Byne

MEDIEVAL

# SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

MADRID

June 9th  
1930

Miss Julia Morgan,  
Merchants Exchange,  
San Francisco

Dear Miss Morgan;

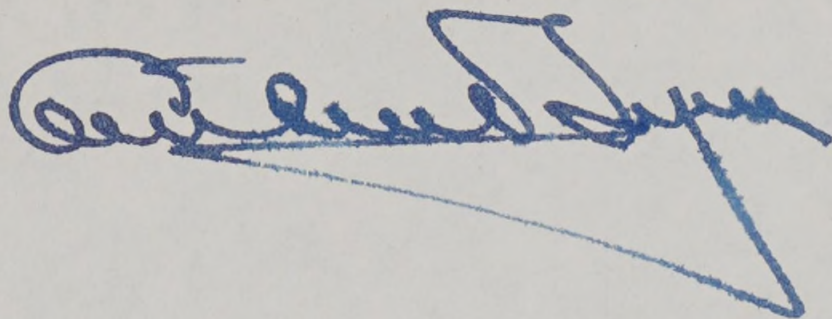
Enclosed herewith please find the text of the Gothic inscription in Spanish of the Castle of Benavente. It will be quite a job to disentangle and I am not so sure that it is complete. I have also sent an English translation. It is interesting to think that in this same chapel there stood an altar to San Luis Obispo!

Also I enclose herewith a complete view of the recently purchased ceiling from Barbastro. The photographs sent heretofore were of details only. Later we had a chance to set up the ceiling complete and of course I had a photograph made immediately.

We are working hard at Alcantara now. In a day or so the big wooden ceiling over the Refectory will be down and then we shall arrange for its transportation to Madrid and subsequent boxing.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,



JOSEPH GUARRO

(Copy)

INSCRIPTION CROWNING THE CHAPEL  
OF THE CASTLE OF BENAVENTE

Spanish (as lettered)

Esta capilla es del onrado cavallero; de: Almazan:  
Alcaide de la: fortaleza: de: Atienza: y de la  
Senora Dona Elvira de Morales la cual mandaron  
facere se hizo el ano de M e CCCC e XXV anos.  
E aqui se pusieron las armas de sus linajes las  
de Sotomayor las de la senora de Morales. Alavado  
Ntro. Senor Jesus Christo (Jhu Xpo) por siempre Amen.

English (translation)

This chapel belongs to the honored cavalier of  
Almazan, warden of the fortress of Atienza, and  
to his wife the senora Dona Elvira de Morales who  
ordered to construct the same and it was constructed  
the year One Thousand and Four Hundred and Twenty  
Five years. And here have been put the arms of  
their families, being those of the house of Sotomayor  
the arms of the Senora de Morales. Praised be our  
Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

In the same chapel stood an altar  
to San Luis Obispo (de Toulouse)

Note; the Fortress of Atienza  
referred to was the primitive  
name of Benavente.

(COPY)

SPANISH ART

ARTHUR BYNE

MADRID

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MEDIEVAL

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ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

June 9th  
1930

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MEDIEVAL

# SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

MADRID

June 9th,  
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Hearst;

Enclosed herewith you will find a photograph of the Mudejar ceiling, designated as TOLEDO, which was included in a set of ceilings submitted to you last year. There was considerable delay in reaching a decision on these ceilings terminating in a cable in the negative. This particular example was then sold to Loewi of Venice. At Miss Morgan's request I have tried to secure a price from Loewi but he evades a definite reply saying the ceiling is being considered by someone (this reply of Loewi I sent to Miss Morgan).

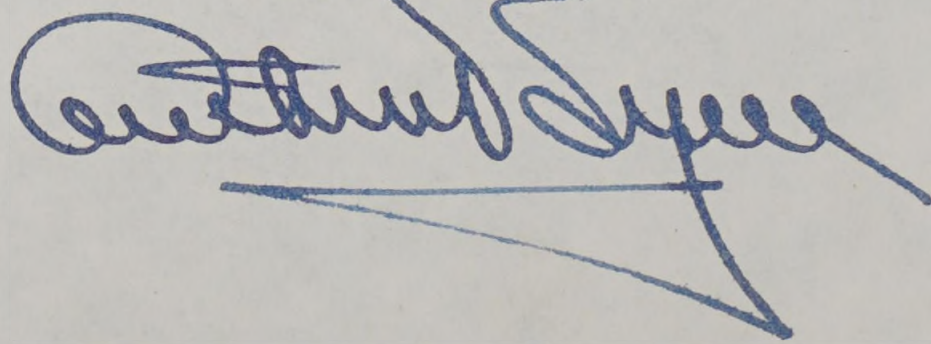
When this ceiling was bought I saw another of the same type, in fact exactly the same, but it was larger and in the living portion of the palace. The price asked for this at the time seemed too exaggerated to submit to you. Now however the exchange is more favorable and I think it could be procured at a more reasonable figure.

The one submitted a year ago measured only 9 x 17 feet and was priced at \$5,250. This one under consideration now measures 16 x 24 feet and the best price I can offer it at is \$8,500. I have put this price as low as possible realizing that you were disappointed over the loss of the other (though the fault was not mine). This is a unique ceiling of the best period of ceiling making in Toledo.

The cable reference will be the same as before TOLEDOCEIL

Awaiting your reply believe me with  
best wishes,

Sincerely,



MEDIEVAL

# SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

June 12th  
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
137 Riverside Drive,  
New York City

C  
P  
Y  
Miss Morgan

Dear Mr. Hearst;

As your recent cables are marked  
New York I am addressing this letter to your  
Eastern residence.

Enclosed please find a very inadequate photograph of a great carved wooden pendant, heavily gilded. Of these there are four (4), all exactly alike, each measuring Six feet in diameter. The quality of the gold leaf is so heavy and lustrous that the pendants give the impression of beaten metal.

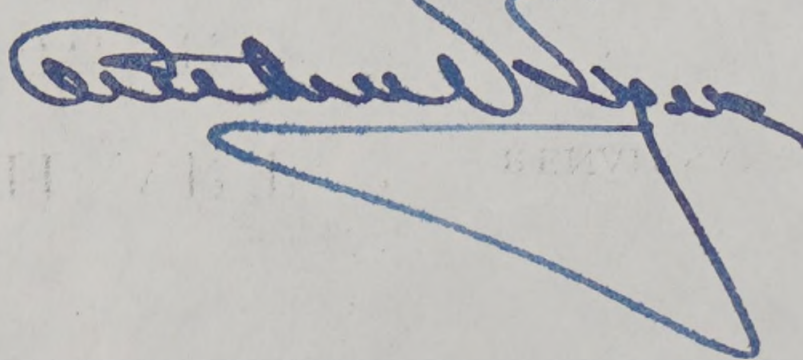
Originally these came from a great stone ceiling in Cuenca, forming the principal motifs, and made of wood instead of stone so as to reduce the weight. They might be used in the manner to-day, in conjunction with either a wooden or stone ceiling.

They were secured under favorable conditions for which reason I can offer them cheap, the four \$2,500 Cable reference GOLD PENDANTS

Please don't fail me on the first of the month as I am putting all your purchases in motion and a great deal of money is involved.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,



*Photo in photo book*

MEDIEVAL

# SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

June 12th  
1930

*For Mr. Hearst*

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
137 Riverside Drive,  
New York City

Dear Mr. Hearst;

Enclosed herewith I am sending  
a batch of photographs of pieces of furniture  
I thought my interest you. On the back of each  
photograph is clearly indicated the period of  
the piece, its dimensions, its price in dollars,  
and the reference number. I have many other  
pieces of lesser importance and some of greater  
and when I have a little more time to have the  
photographs taken I will send them on to you.

I will hold all these objects until  
I hear from you though I would appreciate it if  
you could advise me of your decisions in a reasonable  
time. I am sending copies of the photographs to  
Miss Morgan also.

Thanking you for your consideration,

Very sincerely,

*Arthur Byne*