

Morgan, Julia and Arthur Bynne, Mar 1930

B-A-45-17

MEDIEVAL

*2/21*  
SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

March First  
1 9 3 0

Miss Julia Morgan,  
Merchants Exchange,  
San Francisco,

Dear Miss Morgan;

Through his New York Office I received a telegram message from Mr. Hearst this morning. I have answered him directly but I neglected to make a copy for you.

He makes an offer of \$40 a yard for 500 yards of the Spanish velvet which is out of the question (it cost us \$50 in Spain). On the strength of the present favorable exchange between dollars and pesetas I quoted him a price of \$55 a yard instead of \$60 (which was the price I gave when at San Simeon).

Also he expresses interest in the several other items the canopy bed, the painted frieze, the portrait of a Lady, and the gilded wooden ceiling, but says that at the moment cannot reach a decision. The sum total of these four items, as outlined in my letter of Feb. 9th was \$23,300.

I have just written him to say that if he can decide on these four pieces and cable me to that effect before the end of March I will let him have them for \$19,000. I am no bargainer as you know but these objects were really acquired with Mr. Hearst in mind and now, given the favorable exchange due to the political upset in Spain, I can let them go at practically what they cost me six months ago.

From somewhere in California I sent you a photograph of an Italian mantle but believe I neglected to speak of it. This piece was bought by a friend of mine in Santa Barbara during a trip in Italy. He purchased the mantle for a house which he hoped to build in Santa Barbara but which now for reasons of health and money

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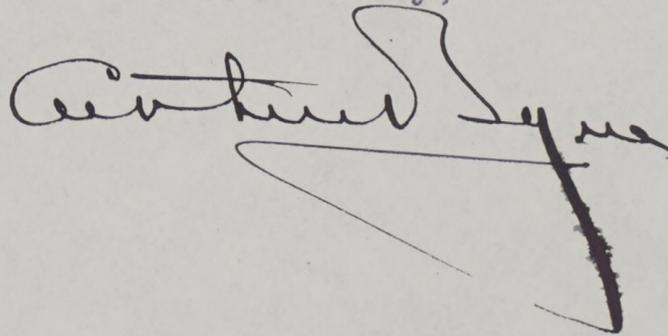
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has been abandoned. The mantle now lies at Santa Barbara and is a very creditable piece of work, absolutely genuine and in good state of preservation. All the particulars are written on the back of the photo. The price asked merely covers the original cost and the transportation to Santa Barbara. It could be placed on a motor truck and carried up the "hill" without the cost of packing.

The visit to San Francisco and the enjoyable trip to San Simeon seems like a dream as we look back upon it. Such good friends, such fine weather, and such beautiful country. Here all seems drab by contrast. I only wish that someday you might come to Spain so that we might in some measure reciprocate. But, alas, we realize that you have many responsibilities and getting away is not very easy.

Mildred joins me in the kindest of wishes to you and we both wish to be remembered to the Joys.

Sincerely,



P.S. We are sailing on March 5th and expect to be back in Madrid by the 15th

MEDIEVAL

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ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

March 18th  
1 9 3 0

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
The Los Angeles Examiner,  
Los Angeles, California

Dear Mr. Hearst;

I have just arrived in Madrid and after consulting with my colleagues on the subject of the Spanish velvet from the Cathedral of Santiago have sent the following cable:

IF YOU CAN DECIDE IMMEDIATELY AND PAY BEFORE APRIL FIRST SO THAT WE MAY INSURE ON FAVORABLE EXCHANGE VELVET IS OFFERED AT FIFTYTWO DOLLARS YARD FOR FIVE HUNDRED YARDS OR FIFTY DOLLARS YARD FOR THOUSAND YARDS QUALITY AND COLOR SUPERB - BYNE

In other words we offer the velvet to-day, in dollars for the same price in dollars that we bought it six months ago; our gain being on the difference in exchange only.

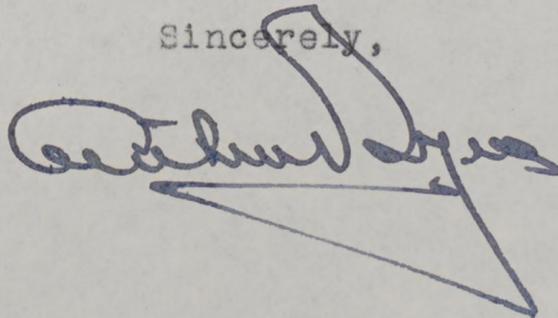
I regret to constantly seem to hold you to a cash payment but as we are playing entirely on the fluctuation of the exchange there is no other possible way to proceed.

Are you interested in the proposition I submitted in my last letter from New York concerning the fine gilded ceilings and several objects brought to your attention; in this instance if you will let me know your decision payment may be made at your convenience.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,

COPY FOR MISS MORGAN



JOSEPH QUARRO

*Jm*

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

March 19th  
1 9 3 0

Hon. William Randolph Hearst,  
Los Angeles Examiner,  
1111 Broadway,  
Los Angeles

Dear Mr. Hearst;

I acknowledge the following cable of  
March 17th from you:

THANK YOU BUT DO NOT WANT VELVET WOULD LIKE HOWEVER  
STALLS CEILING AND ARCHITECTURAL STUFF WHAT HAVE YOU

Have just replied by cable:

UNDERSTAND VELVET OFF AM RESERVING FOR YOU GILDED  
WOODEN CEILING AT THIRTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS AND PAINTED  
FRIEZE AT THREE THOUSAND DESCRIBED IN LETTER FEBRUARY  
NINTH STOP MAILING OTHER PROJECTS - BYNE

I take it from your cable that the four-  
poster bed and the large painting of a Lady by Cuello  
described in this same letter of February 9th and brought  
to your attention while at San Simeon you are not in-  
terested in.

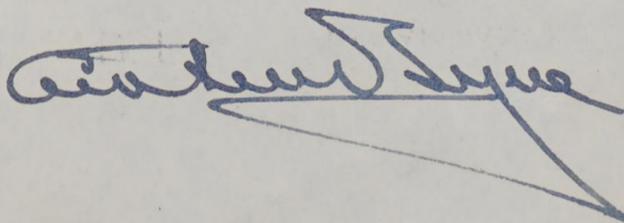
Both the ceiling and frieze which I am  
holding for you are at one half their originally quoted  
price due to the collapse of the peseta. Too bad we  
can't start some other projects immediately so as to  
take advantage of the situation.

I am enclosing herewith a photograph of  
one of the most remarkable buildings of the 16th century  
in Spain; it suffered severely in the Peninsula War but  
many decorative motifs remain; if I can secure permission  
to purchase it I am sure it would prove a rich "quarry"  
to work in. It is the Palace of the Knights of Alcantara.

With kindest regards believe me,

Sincerely,

COPY FOR MISS MORGAN



JOSEPH QUARRO

MEDIEVAL

# SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

March 26th,  
1 9 3 0

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
c/o The Los Angeles Examiner,  
1111 Broadway  
Los Angeles

C  
O Miss Morgan  
P  
Y

Dear Mr. Hearst;

During my stay at San Simeon I talked over with Miss Morgan the possibility of using an enormous painted wooden ceiling of the 15th century covering a convent church at a place called Campos.

This proposition is a little different from any hitherto submitted and needs special consideration. I enclose herewith a scale drawing which shows the ceiling in plan and section (a copy is being sent to Miss Morgan also).

Obviously in its present form the ceiling would not be practical from your point of view. But the point I made at the time was that if purchased you would have ceiling material to cover no end of bedrooms. There are over 4,500 square feet of painted ceiling composed of small beams and soffit panels; in addition there are over 800 running feet of painted frieze. This latter is particularly fine and with the novelty that the nude figure is employed from time to time - the Fall of Eve, I presume.

It is impossible to send you even a poor photograph for as you see in the drawing in the 18th century a vaulted plaster ceiling was built under the original wooden example with only a few feet between. To examine the ceiling one must crawl around on his tummy with a candle or torch. I enclose however a photograph of a ceiling recently sold you which is of the same period and which gives a good idea of the painted decoration.

The price is \$12,000, all taken down and ready for shipment. Out of this price I am obliged to re-timber the roof and put back the original pan-tiles. If not for the present exchange which continues favorable I would have to ask at least \$15,000. Reference CAMPOS.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,

*Arthur B. Byne*

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA.19

MADRID

Cable Address  
STAPLEY-MADRID

March 31st  
1 9 3 0

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.  
c/o The Los Angeles Examiner,  
1111 Broadway,  
Los Angeles

Dear Mr.Hearst;

Dealing with that portion of our conversation and your cables touching on choir stalls I am enclosing herewith photographs of a 16th century set of thirty units.

I brought these to your attention in 1926 the price asked then being \$15,000. These stalls are still in possession of a Madrid church and though their price has not varied the more favorable exchange to-day permits me to offer them for \$12,500.

These are not Gothic of course but don't look upon them as inferior. They are very lofty (over 12 feet high), beautifully carved in fine walnut, and perfectly sound. At \$400 a stall they are dirt cheap; any wall panelling would cost as much.

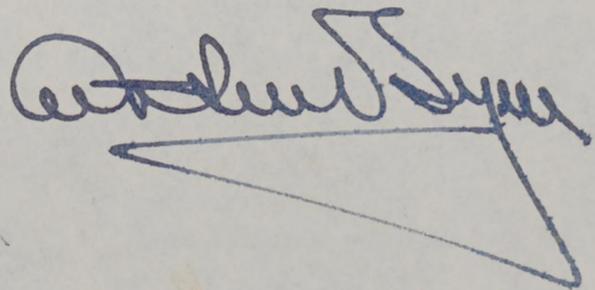
The reference is RENAISSANCE STALLS. *photo 2498*

I am investigating Gothic stalls but even if we have any luck in finding them they are sure to be fearfully expensive.

Thanking you for your attention and awaiting your decision, believe me,

Sincerely,

Copy for Miss Morgan



JOSEPH GUARRO