

Morgan, Julia and Arthur Bynne, Nov 1925

5-A-44-16

Mr. Byne's letter dated November 5, 1925 -

"I enclose herewith sheet No.3, additional details of the Cloister, Chapter House, and various Portals. The demolition is proceeding with all possible speed. The Chapter House is entirely taken down and the more delicate portions are boxed; the simple wall stones are being shipped without crating; in this I am acting on the best advice. Portal No.9, entrance to the Cloister, is also down and boxed. Once I have sufficient cases and stones I shall commence the laborious work of carting to the railroad; this I expect will take place sometime before the end of the present month. The Cloister itself will be demolished during the winter months and removed in the spring.

SEPARATION RECORD
Special Collections
Robert E. Kennedy Library
Cal Poly

Date: 9/13/05

Collection Name: Julia Morgan 010

Item(s) Separated:

Photograph from letter

Other: _____
(description)

FROM:

Box 44

Folder 16

TO:

Box 62

Folder 09

Additional Comments:

Date on letter: Nov. 5, 1925

Processor's name: Andrew Mahlow

old: 11/04/12/33/10

ARTHUR BYNE
Paseo de la Castellana, 19
Madrid

November 5, 1925.

Miss Julia Morgan,
Merchants Exchange,
San Francisco, California.

Dear Miss Morgan;-

I enclose herewith sheet No. 3, additional details of the cloister, chapter house, and various portals. The demolition is proceeding with all possible speed. The Chapter House is entirely taken down and the more delicate portions are boxed; the simple wall stones are being shipped without crating; in this I am acting on the best advice. Portal No.9, entrance to the Cloister, is also down and boxed. Once I have sufficient cases and stones I shall commence the laborious work of carting to the railroad; this I expect will take place sometime before the end of the present month. The Cloister itself will be demolished during the winter months and removed in the spring.

11-8-1928

I have just returned from a tour of Spain in quest of a suitable place for Mr. Hearst. I had a half-dozen in mind before starting out as being likely prizes but some had to be abandoned because of the difficulty of securing permission for exportation. Where a building has been declared a National Monument there is no hope at all; where it has been declared a Provincial Monument there is hope but untold red-tape and difficulties. So we are more or less limited to little-known and abandoned edifices well off the beaten track. Fortunately years of wandering over the country in connection with our books has put me in touch with almost everything of interest.

I shall proceed to describe briefly the palaces I was most interested in. First, that known as La Casa de los Torres, in Ubeda, northern Andalusia. This palace possesses a remarkable facade and a most beautiful stone patio. It is well illustrated in our book PROVINCIAL HOUSES IN SPAIN, Plates 37 & 38. The owner is desperate to sell and though he asks \$40,000 I think he would accept \$30,000. But to my great disappointment I found that the palace had been recently declared a Provincial Monument. I don't say that it couldn't still be shipped out of the country but there is a certain risk in undertaking it. For reference we shall term this Ubeda.

ARTHUR BYNE

Julia Morgan (2)

Next in line is the very extraordinary palace of Penaranda de Duero. This is perhaps one of the finest and most typical of Spanish sixteenth century palaces. We chose it as the basis of a discussion of the Spanish House in SPANISH ARCHITECTURE OF THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY, Chapter IV. For years this place has been abandoned and crumbling. Recently it has been put on the market for sale with an idea of catching an American buyer. The facade is simple but the portal magnificent; the patio is only fair. The glory of the palace consists in fine old salons with beautiful wooden ceilings (plate 160, SPANISH INTERIORS AND FURNITURE). As this belongs to the family of the Duke of Alba they ask a great deal of money - nearly 1000,000 dollars. I have recently examined the palace and find it a perfectly practical proposition. At present I am waiting to see a member of the family so as to secure more definite terms. This palace we will term Penaranda.

Of a different style completely and dating from the 17th century is a palace in the Province of Cadiz. The exterior as a whole has no particular interest but the portal, in rose-colored marble, is a fine example of Andalusian Baroque. Likewise the patio, also in rose-colored marble with an excellent fountain to match, is a noteworthy example of Spanish architecture. The price of this is about \$35,000. In this case there would be no difficulty whatever concerning its exportation. Reference Cadiz.

There remains a fourth example in the north of Spain, Province of Leon. As the weather was bad and the excursion difficult I took only a small Kodak with me. The enclosed photographs give but a meager idea of the merits of this palace; in fact I was much impressed. Furthermore in this instance there would be no problem whatever concerning the exportation. The interest is centered in the patio, the grand staircase, and several portals, all in pure Plateresque of the 16th Century. The facade presents nothing of interest. As the place is only inhabited by a farmer lessee I have yet no idea of the asking price (though I know it is for sale). I am now in correspondence with the owner. Reference Leon.

I forgot to say that in connection to the Cadiz example (which in the Andalusian manner, is cheerful and colorful) I shall have photographs within a week or so and send them on.

All these prices quoted strike me as reasonable considering the importance of the examples (even taking into account the additional expenses of demolition and packing and transportation). You and Mr. Hearst are probably

ARTHUR BYNE

Julia Morgan (3)

acquainted with the patio of the Casa Infantado which the French antiquarian Schulz has in Paris (removed from Zaragoza twenty years ago; illustrated in PROVINCIAL HOUSES IN SPAIN, Plate 144). Schulz has recently expressed a desire to sell this famous example. I had a very good friend of mine, also a close friend of Schulz's approach him on the subject of price. He demands nothing less than 10,000,000 francs; worthless though the franc is this sum is the equivalent to \$500,000, which is a jolly price to ask for a patio intirely of STUCCO!

I am afraid you find my letters awfully long but as I am away a great deal I have to concentrate when I have the opportunity. And I haven't finished yet.

I am enclosing herewith also the photograph of a wall fountain I picked up on my last trip. The stonework has a wonderful old patin. The lion heads forming spouts and the bust above are marble insets. As I was obliged to build a modern trough in substitution for this it comes out rather high but it is a beautiful bit price net \$1250. Reference Through Fountain.

You may remember that you have a credit balance from your last cheque of \$2500 (received July 27th) of \$825. This sum I have kept apart from the Monastery account.

I am enclosing also a poor snapshot of the choirstalls I cabled you about. The church insists in retaining the lower set of stalls. Of the upper there are about 90 running feet of panelling and stalls. The price as I quoted was \$4000 net. I have your return cable in the negative but thought you might like to see a photo.

Awaiting your reply concerning these various matters and with kindest regards,

Sincerely,

(SIGNED) ARTHUR BYNE.

C O P Y

Arthur Byne
Paseo de la Castellana, 19
Madrid

November 5, 1925

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Merchants Exchange
San Francisco, California

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CABLE ADDRESS. STAPLEY
MADRID

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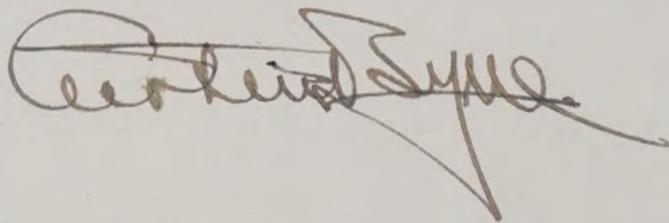
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Sincerely,



2/10
ARTHUR BYNE
PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19
CABLE ADDRESS: STAPLEY
MADRID

204

Referred to Miss Morgan by Mr. Hearst November 11th, 1925

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
238 William Street,
New York City

Dear Mr. Hearst;

I am addressing this letter directly to you, because, in a note of yesterday Miss Morgan said you had left for the East (I am also sending a copy to Miss Morgan), and I am anxious to make some corrections to a letter sent to San Francisco several days ago.

I refer to my letter of November 5th describing four palaces which I investigated with the idea of a possible purchase of one for you. The second described is that of Peñaranda de Duero. The real owners are keeping very much in the background and the sale is entrusted to the tenant-lessee. The price demanded is 350,000 pesetas - about \$55,000. I had been told months ago that \$90,000 was asked and this is the figure I quoted in my letter of the 5th.

In all my prices quoted for monuments of this sort (the monastery included) I have given you a net price including my commission, expenses of travel, measuring of monument, preparation of drawings, superintendance of demolition and packing, and the important question of invoicing. Only retaining for myself a modest profit all this amounts up to between 20 and 25 % of the cost price of the edifice; I have numerous assistants to pay, and in the course of six or eight months the motor hire alone becomes a great item.

Therefore the Palace of Peñaranda (aside from the expenses of demolition, packing, and transportation) would cost you about \$65,000. In addition at least \$5000 would have to be put in to keep everybody quiet and in good humor; I refer to the town and provincial officials.

So much for the cost of the palace. I have just made another trip and I find myself somewhat less enthusiastic over the venture than before. Peñaranda has recently received a great deal of publicity; five years ago it was declared a Provincial Monument (which makes exportation difficult); at present there is a movement on foot to make it a National Monument (in which case it is nailed down tight for ever).

William Randolph Hearst (2)

Three days ago I went over the Palace very carefully; at first glance it seems in fair shape but the truth is it is quite debapidated. Much of the fine ornament of the interior is in delicate carved plaster, very difficult to export and restore; furthermore the ceilings, once magnificent are in bad repair. The exterior can boast of only the main entrance, which in itself however is onest of the finest portals of the Renaissance in Spain. But beyond this feature there is not even a window that would warrant exportation.

The question of a palace for you then resolves itself to the third and fourth examples described, in the provinces of Cadiz and Leon respectively. Both of these are absolutely unknown and feasible propositions. That of Leon impresses me very much, and I must make the trip with my large camera. The exterior in this case also presents nothing; but on the other hand the patio is exceedingly beautiful, likewise the stairhall. There are in addition a half-dozen good portals, a fair chimneypiece and all the good, but simple, ceilings of the principal of second floor. This could be had net (aside from demolition, transportation etc) for between \$35,000 and \$40,000.

Seems good

You will understand this letter better once the first one concerning these palaces hs been sent on to you by Miss Morgan.

May I thank you here for your promptness in sending the \$10,000 fo be used in the demolition of the Monastery of Sacramenia. Next week I commence hauling a portion of the Monastery to the railroad and starting it on its way to the port of shipment. From December to March I can haul nothing as the wretched roads will permit of no moving at all.

Awaiting your instructions and thanking you for your attention, believe me,

Very truly,

Arthur D. Sayer

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Awaiting your instructions and thanking you for your attention, believe me,

Very truly,

ARTHUR BYNE

✓
November 24,
1925

Mattoon & Company,
516 Battery St.,
San Francisco.

Attention: Mr. Leggett

Dear Mr. Leggett:

We enlose herewith United States
Customs Owner's Declaration, covering a shipment
of six cases received on the S.S. Mongolia at San
Francisco on October 5th. Same has been executed
by Mr. W. R. Hearst.

Yours very truly,

Julia Morgan

By J. N. Le Frere

LeF:F

Enc.