

Morgan, Julia and Arthur Byne, Oct 1930

5-A-45-23

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 3rd,
1930

*"Domicalceil"
photo + sketch
photo + sketch
photo + sketch*

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
Los Angeles, California

C
O Miss Morgan
P
Y

Dear Mr. Hearst;

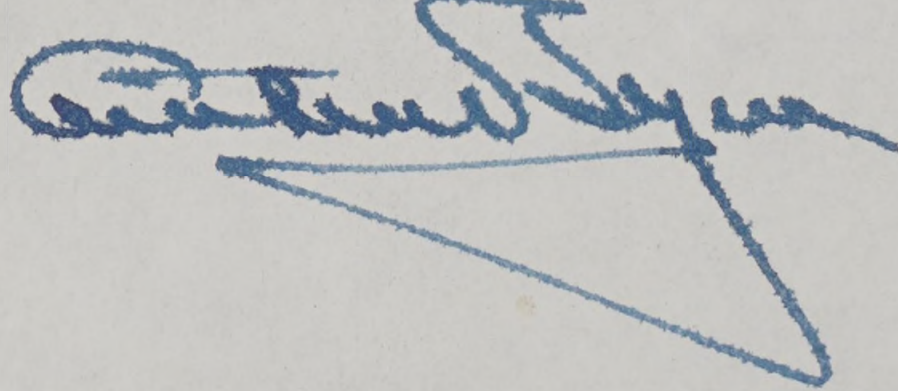
Enclosed herewith please find sketches and detail photographs of a domical wooden ceiling which I have just brought to Madrid. If you will refer to Plate LVI (left) of Byne & Stapley's Decorated Wooden Ceilings in Spain you will get a good idea of this type of ceiling. As a rule they were used over stair halls but this is not obligatory.

I have never been able to secure one of this type before for which reason it should be a valuable example in your collection. The approximate dimensions of the hall or room are 22 feet six inches square; the opening of the well 17 feet 6 inches in diameter. As you will readily understand this gallery makes a charming feature.

The ceiling is all dismantled and ready for immediate shipment. The price, due to the further depreciation of the peseta, is \$6,500. (SIX THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED). I needn't tell you that this is cheap.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,



Reference DOMICALCEIL

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 6th,
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
Los Angeles, California

C
Ø Miss Morgan
P
Y

Dear Mr. Hearst;

I am enclosing herewith two projects of considerable importance and interest. The first is a little Gothic facade from the town of Arcos de la Frontera in Andalucia, the second an early Renaissance portal from Ronda.

The photos of the little Gothic facade are very inadequate but as the street is only two meters wide comprehensive photography was next to impossible. The width of the facade is 24 feet. The material is a sort of coarse grey granite, in perfectly sound condition. The chief glory of the composition is the rich Gothic window at the top. Even with the very favorable exchange I can't say that I find this cheap (the owner knows its value); on the other hand where is one to find a little Gothic facade to-day? Price \$16,500. (Sixteen thousand five hundred)

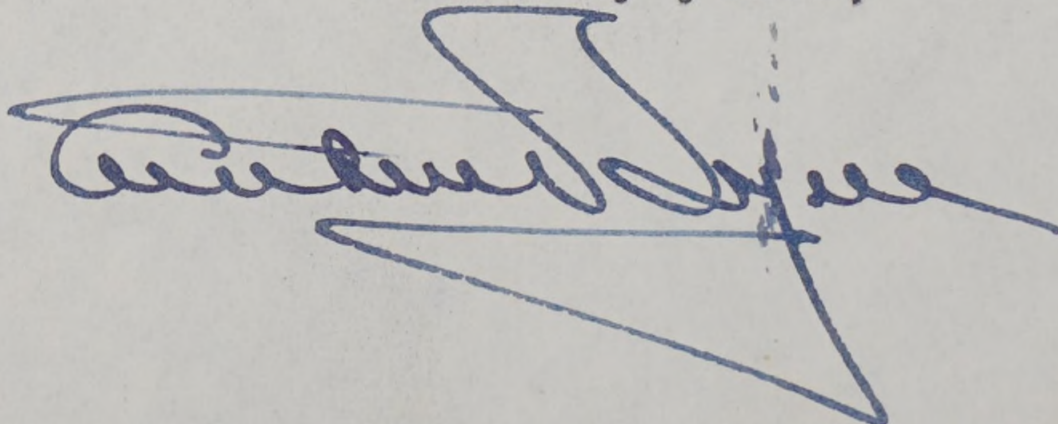
The Renaissance portal, which is in reality a facade also, is shown to better advantage. The dimensions are clearly given in meters. The detail of the busts over the door are particularly fine; likewise the crowning motif. The stone is of smooth grain like our sandstone and warm in color. The price of this facade I consider very fair; \$9,000 (Nine Thousand)

Reference for Gothic facade GOTHFACADE

Reference for Renaissance RENFACADE

Awaiting your decision and with kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,



MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

File
RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA. 19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 13th
1930

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

C
O Miss Morgan
P
Y

Dear Mr. Hearst;

On May 15th, by cable, you ordered a canopy oak bed dated 1578. My original price for this bed was \$1,800 but in the end, in consideration of other purchases, I accepted your offer of \$1,500.

In the rush of other work three months passed before the bed was cleaned up and waxed. Now it develops that the bed is not only dated but signed by its maker - Julian Morin. But of still greater importance, on the other side, it is inscribed: AMBOISE, MARIE P.M. CHARLES IX

In other words a French royal bed from the Chateau of Amboise. How the bed came to Spain is a mystery of course. I am delighted that it has fallen to you. It will be shipped within a few days.

I would ask as a favor, in view of my special interest in historic pieces, that if ever you came to be interested in the bed to let me know and I will be glad to give you what you paid for it.

Curiously enough a few months before I purchased the bed I bought a beautiful petit-point valance which I have since discovered came originally from the very bed. If you wish the valance the price is \$700. It is 22 feet long and 20 inches deep. To refresh your memory I enclose a photograph of the bed.

Thanking you for your attention, I am,

Sincerely,

Arthur Byne

photo 2516

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA.19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct.14th
1930

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

C
O Miss Morgan
P
Y

Dear Mr.Hearst;

This confirms my cable of to-day:

JUST FOUND 350 YARDS STRIPED GOLD AND GREEN MAJORCAN
SHAGGY VELVET LONG PANELS AND FRIEZE - ENOUGH TO
HANG ROOM 20 by 40 FEET 16 FEET HIGH - RARE AND
BARGAIN REPLY URGENT - PRICE \$8,500 - Byne

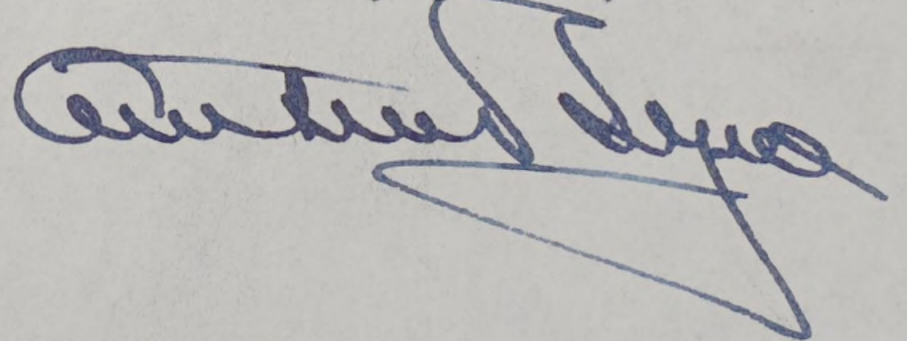
The fact is I consider this an opportunity. These hangings formed the wall coverings for the chapel of the Convent of the Dominicans in Toledo. The strips are 26 inches wide and 14 feet high (total of 56 strips). In addition there is a horizontal frieze of the same material which is 26 inches deep.

The coloring is most agreeable, each strip or panel divided into five vertical stripes of alternate soft green and gold-colored silk. This Majorcan velvet is somewhat like a heavy velour in character except that it is all silk. It is rare indeed to find in quantity. In our work Spanish Interiors and Furniture (Vol.1, Plate 72) there is a room in Majorca shown hung with this velvet, though of quite a different pattern.

Due to the depreciated exchange this lot may be had to-day at a figure 50% below its market value. Price \$8,500

Thanking you for your attention, I am
with kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,



Exerpt from Mr.Byne's letter dated Oct.23,1930

"Longceil"
"Gothicceil"

"The drawings of the two Gothic ceilings were mailed several days ago; today I am mailing under separate cover detail photographs of the ceilings. Needless to point out to you that these are two examples of the first water; I never again expected to see anything as fine as the smaller of the two. Please don't offer me less than the quoted price on these ceilings. In the first place they are worth double what I ask, and next when I made the price we were getting 10.50 to the dollar; today we are receiving only 9 pesetas."

Original
letter now
in file

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

MADRID

Oct. 22nd,
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
San Simeon, California

(Miss Morgan)

Ordered	Object	Price
1930		
Feb. 9th	✓ Sumptuous gilded ceiling, Mudejar (shipped Oct. 1st, vans 10, 11, & 12)	\$13,000.
Feb. 9th	✓ Order of bedspreads and runners (shipped May 12th, vans 1 & 2) <i>to NY.</i>	2,233.
Feb. 9th	✓ Painted Majorcan frieze, canvas (shipped Feb. 10th, S.B. Warehouse)	3,000.
Apr. 16th	✓ Pair Romanesque stone corbels (shipped May 12th, vans 1 & 2)	400.
May 5th	✓ Set of 30 Renaissance choir stalls (shipped May 12th, vans 1 & 2)	12,000.
May 15th	Royal Bed of Charles IX, France (held pending decision on valance)	1,500. 1,500.
May 19th	✓ Alcantara wooden Refectory ceiling (shipped June 28th, vans 7, 8 & 9)	6,000.
May 19th	Wrought iron Renaissance Grille, (shipped June 28th, vans 5 & 6)	12,000.
May 19th	✓ Painted Gothic Ceiling "Barbastro" (shipped June 4th, vans 2 & 4)	14,000.
May 19th	✓ Mudejar ceiling "Stalactite" (shipped June 1st, vans 2 & 4)	4,000.
May 19th	✓ Little Moorish ceiling, "Moorish ceil" (shipped June 1st), vans 2 & 4	2,000.
May 22nd	Set of 200 gold lustre tiles (shipped June 1st, vans 2 & 4)	1,650. \$71,783.00
Received Four payments of \$17,000 each		68,000.
Balance due . . .		\$ 3,783.00

Photo 2516

Photo 2416

Photo 2421

Photo 2417

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA.19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 23rd,
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
San Simeon, California

C
O Miss Morgan
P
Y

Dear Mr. Hearst;

I acknowledge receipt of your radio of the 21st in which you instruct me to draw on you in New York for the September installment (\$17,000). I regret having had to cable you for the money but the fact of the matter is I was faced with heavy payments on all sides and had to appeal to you for help.

Enclosed herewith please find a statement to date. I have chosen to employ the \$68,000 (four monthly installments of \$17,000 each) against only such purchases as have been actually shipped. The only exception to this is the French royal bed dated 1578 which I am holding pending your decision on the petit point valance. As explained in my letter of Oct. 13th this valance originally belonged to the bed but came to light after the bed had been submitted to you. The price of the valance is \$800.

You will note that there is a balance due me of \$3,783. on these shipped orders.

Referring to my list of May 20th in which I enumerated all your orders to date it is evident that three orders remained unfilled; - the great painted ceiling of Campos (\$12,000, and which is to serve as material for various ceilings); the set of Gothic stalls over which the Spanish State and the Vatican are still wrangling; and the Monastery of Alcantara.

This week I hope to start the demolition of the Campos ceiling (we were delayed there by Episcopal difficulties). The Gothic choir stalls will have to wait until there is a change in the political situation in Spain. As to the Monastery it proved advisable to purchase the property outright before commencing operations and that has taken the greater part of six months to accomplish owing to the searching out of the title and minor litigations.

In the meanwhile I have sent you a number of interesting new projects some of which I am sure will attract your attention. With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,

Arthur Byne

MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA.19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 26th
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
San Simeon, California

Dear Mr. Hearst;

In confirmation of my cable to-day:

JUST FOUND PAINTED GOTHIC CEILING OVER HUNDRED FEET
LONG SEVENTEEN WIDE COMPOSED TWENTYSEVEN MASTERBEAMS
ON CORBELS BARGAIN AT PRESENT EXCHANGE SEVENTEEN
THOUSAND DOLLARS - STAPLEY

The fact is two fine Gothic ceilings
were brought to light in an old castle near Palencia.
I mention only one in the cable because you have been
looking for a long ceiling; the other though finer
in quality measures 30 feet long by 22 feet wide. ✓

I enclose herewith drawings of the two
ceilings; a glance will indicate that they are of
museum quality. Both are painted from beginning to
end and date from the best period of Spanish ceiling
making - that is the end of the 15th century. If not
interested I would appreciate a cable as I will then
submit them to the various American museums. The
respective prices are as follows:

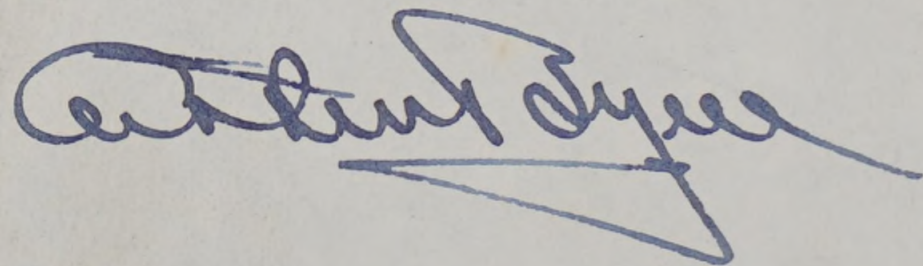
Ceiling 102 ft. long (reference LONGCEIL) \$17,000.
Ceiling 28 ft. long (" CASTLECEIL) \$11,000.

These are the net prices. Under normal
exchange conditions I certainly would have to ask
half again as much for ceilings of this importance.

I would appreciate decisions on the num-
erous projects now pending. Loewi of Venice comes
to Madrid next month and I don't want him to carry
off anything you might be interested in.

With kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely yours,



MEDIEVAL

SPANISH ART

RENAISSANCE

ARTHUR BYNE

PASEO DE LA CASTELLANA, 19

MADRID

Cable Address
STAPLEY-MADRID

Oct. 29th
1930

William Randolph Hearst, Esq.
San Simeon, California

C
O Miss Morgan

Dear Mr. Hearst;

P
Y

Repeat your cable received yesterday:

BYNE PLEASE OFFER SEVENTHOUSAND FOR RENFACADE STOP
THINK GOTHFACADE MUCH TOO EXPENSIVE STOP IS ESCUTCHEON
ON RENFACADE RESTORED - HEARST

Confirm my cable reply of to-day:

PESETA RECUPERATING CANNOT TURNOVER RENFACE UNDER
EIGHTHOUSAND (dollars) STOP TRYING TO REDUCE GOTHFACE
TO FOURTEEN THOUSAND (dollars) STOP LONGCEIL DRAWINGS
AND PHOTOGRAPHS ENROUTE - STAPLEY

From our point of view it is of course
unfortunate that the peseta has risen in value other-
wise I might have secured the Renaissance facade in
the Seven Thousand dollars you offered. But it is
still a bargain. As to the escutcheon you question
it has been on the house for the last fifty years but
is not part of the original fabric; however I have
a number of stone escutcheons and will supply one
that is more in character. You have a good eye!

The drawings of the two Gothic ceilings
were mailed several days ago; to-day I am mailing
under separate cover detail photographs of the ceilings.
Needless to point out to you that these are two ex-
amples of the first water; I never again expected to
see anything as fine as the smaller of the two.

Please don't offer me less than the quoted
price on these ceilings. In the first place they are
worth double what I ask, and next when I made the
price we were getting 10.50 to the dollar; to-day we
are receiving only 9 pesetas.

Thanking you for your attention and with
kindest regards, believe me,

Sincerely,

Arthur Byne