

1912-01-11

SENDER

Henry D. Roberts

RECIPIENT

Jens Ferdinand Willumsen

FACTS

Document type:
Letter

Language:
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Sender's location:
Brighton (England)

Recipient's location:
Hellerup (Danmark)

Mentioned people:
Vilhelm Arnesen
Bing & Grøndahl
H.O. Brasen
Den Kongelige Porcelainsfabrik
N.V. Dorph
Dronning Alexandra
Valdemar Faber
Ludvig Find
Vilh. Th. Fischer
Viggo Jastrau
Johannes Kragh
Kunstnerforeningen af 18. November
Julius Paulsen
Henrik Schouboe
Joakim Skovgaard
Siegfried Wagner
Carl Wentorf
Jens Ferdinand Willumsen

Archive:
J.F. Willumsens Museum
Arkivkasse: C/II/4 - Den danske
udstilling i Brighton

Mentioned exhibitions:
1907-4-9 - 1907-7-13, Works by
Danish Painters, Guildhall Art Gallery
(London, 1907)
1912-4-13 - 1912-7-7, Modern
Danish Artist (Den danske udstilling i
Brighton 1912)

POST OFFICE TELEPHONE.
No. 154.



B.W.

HENRY D. ROBERTS,
DIRECTOR.

Enclosure

Tuesday 3 1/2 : Kuntz.

*Public Library, Museums,
and Fine Art Galleries,
Brighton.*

January 11th, 1912.

J. F. Willumsen, Esq.,
Strandagervej 28,
Hellerup,
DENMARK.

Dear Mr. Willumsen,

I am desired by the Fine Arts Committee to reply further to your letter of the 30th November, and also to deal with various facts which have been laid before them by Consul-General Faber.

In the first place I am directed to inform you that the Committee has unanimously passed by resolution the following statement :- *containing*

Proposed
"From the first inception of the proposed
"Exhibition it has been the object and intention of the
"Fine Arts Committee that it should be one thoroughly
"representative of all schools of painting by Danish
"artists now living or recently deceased.

"In order to avoid any misconception on this *misfortune*
"point, the Committee now re-affirm it as a principle
"and desire to express their conviction that the *convincing*
"Director in his general policy and in his correspondence
"has consistently endeavoured to carry out their *respective*
"wishes in this respect.

"In order also that their view should be clearly
"understood in Denmark, they, in the first instance,
"gave instructions that the invitation sent to the
"Copenhagen Committee should be published at once in
"the Danish press, in order that it should be seen to
"be a general one in which artists of all schools of
"repute might participate.

Amable
"As the exhibition is one for which the Fine Arts
"Committee is responsible to the Corporation of Brighton,
"the Committee do not feel justified in relinquishing *forland*
"their ultimate right to veto works sent for exhibition

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"if they should feel it necessary to do so, and they
"also reserve to themselves the right to exhibit
"other works than those sent from Copenhagen should
"they so desire.

"The Committee deeply regret some personal
"attacks made upon the Director by a certain section of
"the Danish press and have stated their full con-
"fidence in, and sympathy with him."

Returning now to your letter of the 30th November.
The Committee are prepared to accept the suggestion as to
the elimination of the names of Mr. Brasen and Mr. Wentorf,
and approve the Committee as it now stands, consisting of
the following gentlemen :-

- 1 J. F. Willumsen as President
- 2 N. V. Dorph
- 3 Ludvig Find
- ~~Vilh. Fischer~~
- 4 Johs. Kragh
- 5 Jul. Poulsen, Prof. R A.
- 6 Henrik Schouboe
- 7 Joakim Skovgaard, Prof. R A.
- 8 Siegfried Wagner
- V. Jastrau as Secretary.

The Committee confirm my letter of the 18th October,
but in order to make the matter perfectly clear, I again
state the conditions.

First of all, with reference to the financial question.
at Paarsø. In addition to providing the exhibition galleries, the
production of the catalogue, etc., the Committee will defray *the* *costs* *of* *the* *exhibition*
the following costs :-

- (a.) Carriage on all pictures from Copenhagen to Brighton, and from Brighton back to Copenhagen. *pictures shall show exhibits*
- (b.) Cost of packing pictures, and unpacking the same on their return to Copenhagen. The Committee desire that the work of packing the pictures should be entrusted to Salicath's Express.
- (c.) Insurance on all exhibits (with the exception of porcelain) from Copenhagen to Brighton, while on exhibition here, and back to Copenhagen, against all and every risk. This insurance will be carried out through Genforsikrings-Aktieselskabet, "Skandinavia"

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of Copenhagen. The cost of insurance is always very heavy, and the Committee had previously proposed to discontinue the practice of paying the cost of insurance, but they do not in this case press this point. They ask however that the artists shall assess the prices of their pictures for insurance as low as possible. *forbore* *perhaps* *best to make*

The Committee do not think they should be expected to pay the cost of transport of exhibits from various parts of Denmark to Copenhagen.

(d.) Printing and posting of circulars and invitations to artists.

The Committee of course quite understand that some of the pictures which will be sent to the exhibition will be lent by their owners, and others will be for sale. On any sales that may take place, it is customary for the Committee to charge a commission of 5 per cent, and they will make the same charge in the present instance also.

In desiring that the exhibition should be fully representative, the Committee would include oil paintings, water-colour drawings, etchings, pen and pencil drawings, etc., but they do not wish for much sculpture, mainly on account of the cost of carriage and the increased cost of insurance. However, they will have no objection to showing a few small pieces of sculpture and small bronzes, but they do not want large and heavy objects.

With the object of showing the British public the splendid work of the Copenhagen Porcelain Factories, the Committee would be pleased to exhibit two cases of small specimens, one collection to be sent by the Royal Copenhagen Porcelain Works, and the other by Messrs. Bing and Grøndthal - they cannot however undertake to insure porcelain. The Committee will provide the show cases. *single for*

As you will have seen from the resolution in the early part of my letter, the Committee feel themselves obliged to retain their final veto in all matters, including the admission of pictures to the exhibition, and also in hanging the same. *behold*

With regard to possible censorship, the Committee wish it to be understood that they would not attempt to exercise this right in any arbitrary way, as regards the artistic quality of the work, but it enables them to decline to hang a picture the subject of which they may consider as being too realistic or otherwise undesirable. *with a view to* *censorship* *perhaps*

J. F. Willumsen, Esq. Contd.

With reference to the suggestion that you have made to Mr. Faber that the Committee should give an undertaking that they will exhibit nothing except what is sent over from Copenhagen, they regret they are unable to accede to this proposal. They desire me to say that they have already approved my invitation to Mr. Arneson to exhibit his two pictures of the Coronation Naval Review. They are however quite willing to consult with your Committee before definitely inviting other objects to be added to the exhibition.

My Committee understand that your Committee desire to send over at their own expense an artist to assist in the hanging and arranging of the exhibition, and desire me to state that they will be very pleased to welcome any assistance in this direction, as was the case with the recent Swedish exhibition, but it must be distinctly understood that my Committee do not undertake the expense of this arrangement.

With my letter to you of the 18th October I forwarded you a copy of the circular which we sent to the Swedish artists, and stated that a similar letter ought to be sent to the Danish artists. My Committee confirm this statement and I return you the Swedish invitation form with a request that you will be good enough to draft a letter to be addressed to the Danish artists on identical lines, with of course variations where absolutely necessary. The invitations should be addressed from the Public Art Galleries, Brighton, as was the case with the Swedish Exhibition, and should be signed with my name on behalf of the Committee. A list of the Danish Committee should also be printed, as was the case with the Swedish circular. A schedule should also be attached to the invitation in the same way as the specimen I am sending you, but as also in the case of the Swedish Exhibition, all communications relating to the exhibition should be sent to your Committee in Copenhagen.

With reference to this invitation, I should like to know from you whether you still think it possible for the exhibition to be opened as we originally intended it should be, on or about the 30th March. If so, it will remain open until the 30th June, but all exhibits should be ready for packing not later than the end of February, in order that they may be sent over here with as little delay as possible, and arrive in Brighton about the 7th March. Even this will only give us about three weeks to hang the

J. F. Willumsen, Esq. Contd.

For facts

exhibition and issue the catalogue properly.

We hope that Her Majesty Queen Alexandra will be able to open the exhibition herself, in which case of course we shall be obliged to fit our dates in to suit Her Majesty's convenience. Her Majesty will be approached immediately I receive a reply to this letter, and I shall write you dates directly she has made any definite decision.

*After Fortholme: Denmark
unhappy*

The Committee understand that the Society of the 18th November decline to allow Mr. Fischer to serve on the Committee. They hope this decision may be re-considered, *overruled 1924* and that the Society of the 18th November will co-operate with your Committee to make the exhibition a success.

The Committee desire to point out that neither by themselves or through me have they at any time insisted that the Society of the 18th November should be accorded any special privileges, and no letters which have been sent from Brighton imply any such suggestion.

infamous
The Committee approve the suggestion which I made to you that it might be possible to arrange for those members of the 18th November Society who would contribute to the exhibition to have their pictures specially censored, and hung together, and they hope that it may be possible for this to be done.

*Indiscreet
for some
restoration
overriding*

The Committee are of course fully aware of the *invidious* *Libby's Hyde* *man* unfortunate discussion that has taken place in the Copenhagen papers recently with reference to the exhibition, but they feel quite sure (as I do myself) that it has been largely due to misunderstandings which have become intensified as time went on. The Committee do not wish further to refer to this matter but desire, as I trust we all do, that all untoward circumstances may be forgotten and that we may co-operate with you and your Committee in making this exhibition of Danish Art a most successful one. In cases where concession or compromise may be needed, we hope that our correspondence may be transacted in a friendly and conciliatory spirit, as I am sure our ultimate aims are similar in endeavouring to create an interest in and an appreciation of the art of your country.

-6-

J. F. Willumsen, Esq. Contd.

Awaiting your reply,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

Heinz Robert

P.S. The circular which I enclose is the only one I have, and I shall be glad if you will kindly return it to me when finished with. You will also remember you have a copy of the catalogue of the Danish Exhibition, Guildhall, four years ago, which is marked, with pictures, some of which we should like to have. This also please return when you have finished with it.

H.R.