

# BERGER ART CONSERVATION, INC.

(212) 861-2639 1014 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, N. Y. 10021

July 20, 1976

Mr. Gordon Jones  
Director  
Planting Fields Arboretum  
P.O.Box 58  
Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771

Dear Mr. Jones:

After careful examination of the murals in the "Breakfast Room" of Coe Hall we have come to the conclusion that the cause of the damage might have finally been found and further deterioration been arrested. If no evidence of continuing deterioration is found by next spring, restoration measures could be initiated.

Restoration would comprise of the following steps:

1. Removal of the areas damaged by crystall growth,
2. Reattachment of loose paint wherever possible,
3. Refilling and compensation for lost paint,
4. Revarnishing.

Unfortunately, parts of the ceiling must be considered lost, and the whole ceiling will have to be done over completely.

I estimate the price of the necessary restoration measures at \$ 8,000 provided the condition does not worsen between now and next spring. We would expect to have scaffolding and living quarters provided by the Arboretum, as before.

I have also examined the other paintings in the possession of the Planting Fields Arboretum and following are my findings:

1. Landscape, oil on canvas, by Zucarelli and/or studio, in the Manor.

This painting is flaking and shows some paint losses already. To arrest this condition the painting needs to be lined (mounted on a new canvas support), cleaned and restored.

Cost of complete restoration

\$ 1,000.-

2. "Holy Family", Renaissance painting, in the entrance hall of Coe Hall.

This painting shows cupping and paint losses. It needs to be lined, cleaned and restored.

Cost of complete restoration

\$ 1,500

Cont.

3. Baroque painting showing several male heads, in the entrance to Coe Hall.

This painting should be cleaned and restored.

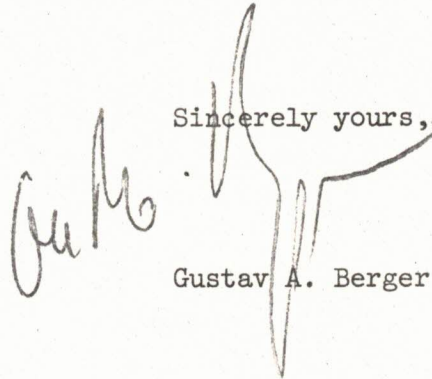
Cost of complete restoration

\$ 1,200

May I add that the above three paintings are valuable, too valuable to be left to continue to deteriorate.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Gustav A. Berger', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Gustav A. Berger