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January 27, 1975

Dr. Ernest L. Boyer
Chancellor
State University of New York
99 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12210

Dear Dr. Boyer:

Further to our exchange of letters regarding the desire of the Trustees of Planting Fields Foundation and members of the Coe family to have returned to Planting Fields two carved wooden figures which I understand are now in Albany, I believe with you that the two items are those referred to on page 11 of the appraisal-inventory dated December 5, 1960 made by William H. O'Reilly covering pictures, objects of art, furniture, furnishings and equipment located in the house at Planting Fields built by the late Mrs. Caroline Graham Coe, as follows:

"First Floor - Library

"31b Pair of carved wood bird decorations
(on bookcases) \$300".

For the purposes of this letter, I assume that they are part of the property bequeathed by Mrs. Coe to The People of the State of New York by Article Second (A) of her will dated July 10, 1957, which reads as follows:

"SECOND: (A) I give and bequeath to THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK my portrait of William Robertson Coe by Salsbury and such of my other pictures, objects of art, furniture, furnishings and equipment as at my death shall be located in or set aside for use in the house which I am building on the land of The People of the State of New York, at Planting Fields, Oyster Bay, New York.

"I believe said house and the property herein bequeathed can serve a useful and dignified purpose in

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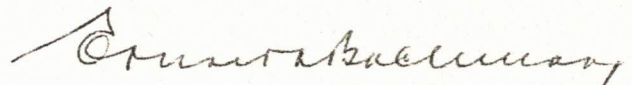
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connection with the operation of Planting Fields, and I request that The People of the State of New York use and maintain the same for such purposes as a memorial to William Robertson Coe."

Please note Mrs. Coe's request in the above-quoted portion of her will. The Trustees of the Foundation and members of the Coe family hold strongly the view that the appropriate place for the two items to be on display is in their original habitat—Planting Fields—where Mrs. Coe requested they be maintained. They do not understand why it will be difficult to have the items brought back to Planting Fields and displayed there or why the Attorney General comes into the situation.

Your help in this matter will be appreciated. A Foundation meeting is planned for late February. Could we have an answer by February 15th?

Sincerely yours,



Edward K. Bachman

EKB rvk