

826 Seagirt Court
San Diego 9, California
July 28, 1964

Mr. Jerry MacMullen
Maritime Museum Association
Star of India Embarcadero
B Street Pier
San Diego, California

Dear Mr. Macmullen:

First of all, please allow me to introduce myself to you. I am Mary Wakefield Buxton, and I am writing to you representing my father, Mr. George P. Wakefield of Vermilion, Ohio.

My father has always has a great interest in ships and museums. The Wakefield family in Vermilion turned the family homestead into the Great Lakes Historical Society Museum which houses many historical relics of the lakes. Recently my father had the opportunity of viewing the Star of India while vacationing in California. He, needless to say, was extremely impressed with the Star, but immediately noted the need for nation wide publicity for such a prize.

Since that time Daddy has been in contact with one of the last really fine sea painters, Mr. Charles Rosner. He was fortunate in having the opportunity of securing one of his very fine paintings. Now, Mr. Rosner, as I understand, is available for painting the Star of India, and Daddy believes that he could be commissioned for a very reasonable price. A Charles Rosner Original would give the Star the rightful boost to her dignity and stature, and be perfect for post card and color picture reprints which could be sold on a local and national level to all the "bards." Undoubtedly, this would be a wonderful means for you to raise additional funds for your Historical Society.

Now, my father has a great concern over this matter, mainly, because he is acutely aware through his close association of Mr. Rosner, of the terrible financial difficulties our great artists endure. It seems tragic that the genius of Art have such difficulties maintaining themselves. This seems to be as true today, as it was true throughout history and all the other great names of Art.

I have also enclosed a copy of my father's letter to Mr. Rosner, knowing that this will help to explain the situation. I cannot help but feel as strongly as my father that this project would not only add to the fame of the Star plus aid you in raising necessary funds, but also extend a helping hand to one of our truly great artists of today.

My father can be contacted in care of the Wakefield Lighting Division, Vermilion, Ohio, in case you would like further information.

Sincerely,

Mary Wakefield Buxton
(Mrs.) Mary Wakefield Buxton

