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1-25-1990

Pell Correspondence (1985-1992): Correspondence 07

Michael A. Werboff

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The American Artists Professional League INC.

Salmagundi Club, 47 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10003

(212) 645-1345

January 25, 1990

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Dear Senator Pell,

First of all, I want to thank you with all my heart for another proof of your cherished friendship and thoughtfulness. Thank you for the lovely flowers and note and for your telephone call that I received the next day at the hospital.

I was hit by a car from the side while crossing the street at eight o'clock at night on Christmas day. You know I believe in God, so I thank Him for preserving my life. The two weeks I spent at Bellevue Hospital were such a nightmare, but my friends have transferred me to St. Luke's/Roosevelt Hospital where I am now recuperating with the wonderful attention of the faculty. Luckily, nothing was broken and I don't have to have any operations.

The main damage was cracked bones of the left leg and the pelvis, which is painful and slow to recover. But, I am beginning to learn to walk with a walker, and probably in the not so distant future will be sent home which frankly frightens me because I live alone. One of the most painful things has been the inactivity and I am eager to again involve myself in the struggle for the inalienable rights of the classical realist artists of the United States for equal treatment in awarding of the individual grants to artists from the Endowment for the Arts. I do not know the new head of the National Endowment for the Arts nor the one of the Visual Arts Division, but I would like very much to meet them. I used to receive an annual report, but from 1984, I have not received them. If possible, I would like copies of the two most recent reports. I would also like very much to testify before your sub-committee about the inadequacies and failures to obey the law, as well the creation of two separate juries to judge applicants of the two main categories of art, the classical and the avante-garde. The applicants themselves may indicate which one of the juries they want to be judged by. I think it's only fair.

As you know, I have been invited by the Cultural Foundation of Soviet Russia to do a retrospective exhibit of my work. I am expecting their organization to give me the dates of the exhibit, which will probably be in either early or late spring.

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Frankly, I would like to have it arranged together as a combined effort with our State Department or some other similar organization of our country. My sister called me from Tashkent to tell me that there was a large interview with me televised on the entire Soviet television called "Our Heritage." Knowing that this happened has softened the blow of my accident of which I told her about in the gayest of voices so as to reassure her that it was nothing serious. I am also including with this letter, the program of my induction into the Hall of Fame of the Congress of Russian Americans. It might amuse you to look at it.

Once again, I want to express my profound gratitude for more than half a century of ever growing friendship, devotion and respect.

Please give my affections and greetings to your family.

Devotedly
Michael A. Werboff
Michael Werboff

P.S. I am now President Emeritus of the American Artists Professional League.

P.P.S. Subsequent to our telephone conversation, I received a call from the Soviet Mission informing me that early June has been chosen as the date for my exhibition of more than forty works from this country alone. This is the best news of all!