Iannone, Carol: Letters Opposing Nomination of (1991): Correspondence 41

Susan Ball

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April 5, 1991

The Honorable Claiborne Pell
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-3901

Dear Senator Pell:

I am writing to you in your capacity as a member of the Committee On Labor and Human Resources on behalf of the College Art Association regarding the President’s nomination of Carol Iannone for service on the National Council on the Humanities. I am also writing to other members of the Committee.

The College Art Association (CAA) was established in 1911 for the furtherance of all aspects of art and art history—practice, scholarship, and education—especially serving art historians and artists working in colleges, universities, art schools, and museums. Its 12,000 members comprise scholars, teachers, artists, critics, museum professionals, art dealers and collectors, and art librarians. The CAA board of directors, elected by the membership, is made up of distinguished scholars, artists, and museum professionals who have achieved national recognition in their fields. The Association publishes two scholarly quarterlies: The Art Bulletin, a leading journal of art history, which provides a forum for research and current thought on issues in the history of art and Art Journal, a publication with a broader focus, which explores methodological, aesthetic, and critical issues in art and art history. The Association’s Monograph Series publishes books in all periods of art history and, through the Millard Meiss Publication Fund, CAA provides publication subventions for scholarly books. The Association also confers annual awards for distinction in teaching, scholarship, and creativity.

The CAA Executive Committee joins with the Modern Language Association and the American Council of Learned Societies in urging the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources to decline to recommend confirmation for Carol Iannone. The CAA, a long-time and active member of the American Council of Learned Societies, shares the reservations of the ACLS and the MLA, the learned society that represents Carol Iannone’s scholarly discipline.
We are especially troubled by Carol Iannone’s lack of scholarly distinction. Her nomination seems to us in conflict with the legislative requirements regarding appointments to the national council which state that council members should “have established records of distinguished service and scholarship or creativity.” We do not find this in our reading of Carol Iannone’s curriculum vitae; on the contrary, her record indicates that the appointment is premature, on the grounds of scholarship and professional service.

The National Council has an enormous responsibility to the humanities community and, ultimately, to the American public in advising the Chairman about grants; for this reason, it is essential that the council’s academic appointments be the very best people actively working in the humanities. In our opinion, Dr. Iannone has not yet achieved this level of distinction.

Sincerely,

Susan Ball
Executive Director