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Letters (1979): Correspondence 78

Gregory Verdon

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ST. ANSELM'S ABBEY
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20017

The Hon. Claiborne Pell
3425 Prospect St. NW
Washington, D.C., 20007

Dear Senator Pell,

I am writing to you at the suggestion of Mr. Hugh Latham, about a project in which we are engaged which may interest you. This is a symposium in honor of the 1500th anniversary of St. Benedict's Birth (480-1980) which we will be co-sponsoring with the Yale Divinity School next year. Our working title is MONASTICISM AND THE ARTS; I have enclosed a description of the project's history and goals with this letter.

As indicated in the description, we are forming an honorary coordinating committee for the two phases of the symposium, in New Haven and in Washington. Cardinal Baym has consented to be one of our patrons, and we have asked President Giamatti of Yale also. Dr. O.B. Hardison and Dr. Giles Constable are advisors for our program. May we list you as a patron of the Washington end of the event, Senator? We are the "sister-house" of Portsmouth Abbey, and we expect monks of Portsmouth to take part in the symposium, and in this respect as well as in others, your support would be most appropriate, we feel. This is an honorary position, and entails no obligations, although we should be delighted if you want to take a more active part in our effort.

Also as indicated in the enclosed description of the symposium, we will be seeking assistance in funding the Washington events from a variety of public and private sources, NEH included. In fact, Marvin Sadik has urged me to apply to Mr. Duffy for a direct Chairman's grant for the sum we estimate we will require, and has offered to write a letter in support of our application. Doctors Hardison and Constable have agreed to be references or reviewers, and J. Carter Brown, with whom I discussed ways the National Gallery might contribute to our effort, also agreed to let us mention him as a reference - privately, however, and not in our promotional material. We wondered whether, if our project interests you and seems worthwhile, you would care to help us in this way too - particularly vis-a-vis NEH.

If you care to discuss any of this, I will call on you at your convenience. I will ring up in several days to learn how you feel about our requests. Meanwhile, please accept our thanks for your patience in looking this over. I am

Very truly yours,

Gregory Verdon, OSB

Gregory Verdon, O.S.B.

P.S. Our phone number here is 526-1414.

As called by...
4/11
Application to NEH...
NEH enclosed 18 then →

AC
I spoke to him on phone & request to be an Hon Patron & to write a letter to Duffy.
Pls. write of Verdon

confirming this & write one to Duffy