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## Letters (1979): Correspondence 81

Gregory Verdon

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# MONASTICISM AND THE ARTS

A SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTENARY OF SAINT BENEDICT'S BIRTH: 480-1980

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YALE UNIVERSITY  
The Divinity School  
409 Prospect Street  
New Haven, CT 06510

SAINT ANSELM'S ABBEY  
4501 South Dakota Avenue, N.E.  
Washington, D.C.  
20017

July 17, 1979

Mr. Alexander Crary  
Room 4230  
Dirkson Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Crary,

Somewhat belatedly I am sending you the proposal we submitted to the National Endowment for the Humanities, and in reference to which Senator Pell has offered to write to Chairman Duffey.

The first seven or so pages of the descriptive part are a pretty accurate summary of the conference's main ideas; the remaining pages are rather more hypothetical, representing a tentative construction of what speakers will actually say and how we will arrange the papers. In fact, this is already outdated, since the National Gallery of Art has offered us use of the auditorium in the new East Wing for the second, not the first day of the symposium. Giles Constable graciously agreed to switch with NGA and let us be at Dumbarton Oaks on our opening day - but he did want the papers read at D.O. to relate to their (D.O.'s) interests. So I've rearranged the order of papers somewhat, and actually find that it all hangs together better. Also, Dom Jean Leclercq, O.S.B., the best known historian of Benedictine monastic culture, has accepted our invitation to speak. He will be coming from his abbey at Clervaux, Luxembourg.

The National Gallery seems very enthusiastic about this whole project. They have offered to collaborate with us in preparing a walk-through exhibit to accompany the symposium, and to lend us a member of their research staff to help put together a catalogue-cum-commentary. The exhibit will treat an important aspect of the symposium's interests: monastic themes in Renaissance iconography. The catalogue will provide an "itinerary" through the NGA permanent collection to the relevant works, and an appropriate paragraph or so on each. We're trying to raise the three or four thousand dollars it would cost to do such a booklet properly, and in sufficient number to be put on sale at the NGA even after the symposium. I've written to Harold Cannon about all this. The booklet would be printed as a National Gallery publication, in conjunction with the Yale-St. Anselm's Symposium. NGA also wants to discuss making a video-tape of this exhibit, perhaps including part of the symposium, for distribution in their Extension program.

Thus we feel confirmed in our belief that this project has significant potential to make a contribution to the state of scholarship, in art history

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*Coordinators:* GREGORY VERDON, O.S.B., St. Anselm's Abbey; JOHN COOK, Yale University, The Divinity School

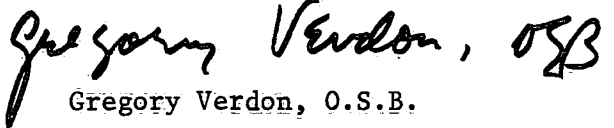
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and in other branches of the humanities. Any help Senator Pell can give in focussing NEH's attention on our proposal will be greatly appreciated.

Please convey my thanks, again, to the Senator, and assure him that we shall keep him informed of our progress. We should be honored if he would be our guest for the conference itself next March. Also: I'll be seeing John Cook in N.H. at the end of this month, and will mention your name to him. He will be pleased to know that all of this is, in a sense, in familia.

Let me know if there is anything else you need. Harold Cannon is trying to get our proposal into the August council meeting, and would like all relevant material as soon as possible.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Gregory Verdon, O.S.B. in cursive script.

Gregory Verdon, O.S.B.