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Letters (1980): Correspondence 153

Claiborne Pell

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December 11, 1980

Honorable Livingston L. Biddle
Chairman
National Endowment for the Arts
Washington, DC 20506

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the International Foundation for Art Research in New York has recently applied to the Museum Program at the National Endowment for the Arts. The application, which has been submitted to the Services to the Field category, requests support for the Foundation's publication, the Stolen Art Alert.

The Stolen Art Alert, as you know, is the only publication in existence that addresses security problems in museums and cultural institutions. It is also a systematic compilation and updating of stolen art records and has provided the crucial information leading to the identification and recovery of numerous stolen art objects.

The Foundation intends to further expand the scope of the publication in 1981 to include coverage relating to authentication, expertise and scholarly resources, as well as reviews of books and equipment relating to the documentation, security and conservation of works of art.

The Foundation urgently needs enough funds to continue publishing the Stolen Art Alert while it seeks a full-time sponsor from the private sector. It is an important publication which provides a unique service to the museum community. I am supportive of this application and hope that the Endowment will, after careful consideration, will act favorably on it.

With warm regards,

Ever sincerely,

Claiborne Pell
Chairman
Subcommittee on Education,
Arts and Humanities

AC/kc