

Alfred Bader Fonds

Correspondence

Miller, Deborah

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MASTER OF ARTS IN LIBERAL
STUDIES PROGRAM

McDowell Hall
University of Delaware
Newark, Delaware 19716-2504
Ph: 302/831-6075

558 N. 18th St.
Philadelphia, PA 19130 USA

10 March 1995

Mr. and Mrs. Alfredo Spagnoli
Via Castelmorrone 12
20129 Milan, Italy

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Spagnoli:

Alfred Bader forwarded to me the photograph you sent him of your painting by Jan Victors depicting Samson and Delilah. It is surely an authentic and representative work by the artist, probably dating from the 1660s--much later than Victors' painting of The Blinding of Samson in Braunschweig (Herzog Anton Ulrich-Museum), which I believe is one of his earliest works from the 1640s. Your painting is closest in style and compositional arrangement to Victors' undated Jacob and Laban, last recorded in New York with the art dealer Victor D. Spark (see Debra Miller, "Jan Victors (1619-76)," Ph.D. diss., University of Delaware, Newark, 1985, vol. 1, p. 293, cat. 43).

Before I received your photograph, I had catalogued two versions of the subject of Samson and Delilah by Victors: the aforementioned painting in Braunschweig (Miller, vol. 1, pp. 301-02, cat. 64--I believe Dr. Bader sent you xeroxes of the relevant pages); and one unidentified work of unknown whereabouts (vol. 1, p. 335, cat. U14). It is likely that the following references (from the fiche collection at the Rijksbureau voor Kunsthistorische Documentatie, The Hague), which do not conform to either of those two versions, are to your painting:

1. VICTORS

Peint sur toile, larg. 48 p., haut. 40.

83. Composition de quatorze figures, representant le sujet de Samson surpris par les Philistins. Dalila vient de lui couper les cheveux. Des guerriers tiennent des chaines et se presentent en armes pour le saisir; Samson est couche sur un tapis, et semble menacer ses ennemis.

Une couleur brillante et vive, la touche facile de cette composition rappelle l'ecole de Rembrandt.

Veiling [Billandel], Parijs (Delaroche, C.P.: Balbastre), 31 Maart 1813, nr. 83.

and

Alfred,

many thanks for the photos.

I hope all is well with you.

Best regards,

Deb

2. J. VICTOORS

37. Samson, assis par terre et s'appuyant sur les genoux de la perfide Dalila, est arrete par les Philistins et charge de chaines.

Veilling [Montigneul, Deliere], Parijs (Henry, C.P.: Olivier), 20-21 Januari 1817, nr. 37.

It looks to me like there are, indeed, 14 figures in your painting, although it is difficult to tell from the photograph. If you have any additional information on the provenance of your painting, I would appreciate your sending it to me. How, and when, did the painting come into your collection? I plan to publish my monograph on Victors in the future, when the necessary funds become available to my publisher; your painting should be included. In the meantime, I will send you off-prints of three of my published articles on Victors under separate cover.

With best regards,



Dr. Debra Miller
Assoc. Prof. of Art History

cc: Alfred Bader

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the results of the work during the year.

2. The second part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the results of the work during the year.

3. The third part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the results of the work during the year.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the results of the work during the year.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year. It is divided into two main sections: the first section deals with the results of the work during the year, and the second section deals with the results of the work during the year.

Very truly yours,
J. B. Smith
Secretary

1911



Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman

February 22, 1991

Dr. Deborah Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Deborah:

May I ask you for your help with a Victors problem?

As you will see from the enclosed, Sotheby attempted to sell in New York on April 5, 1990, Lot 173, a painting described on the enclosed Xerox, which they called Horst. It seems to me that Sumowski is right in calling the painting and early work of Victors, but you must keep in mind that Sumowski knew only the engraving which he reproduces in his Volume IV.

I wonder whether you have seen the original, or if not whether you can tell from the black and white photograph and the small color illustration given on plate XXIV of the Sotheby catalog whether I am correct in my thinking that this really is an early Victors.

The painting was unsold in 1990 and was sold for a much lower price at an arcade sale at Sotehby New York this January.

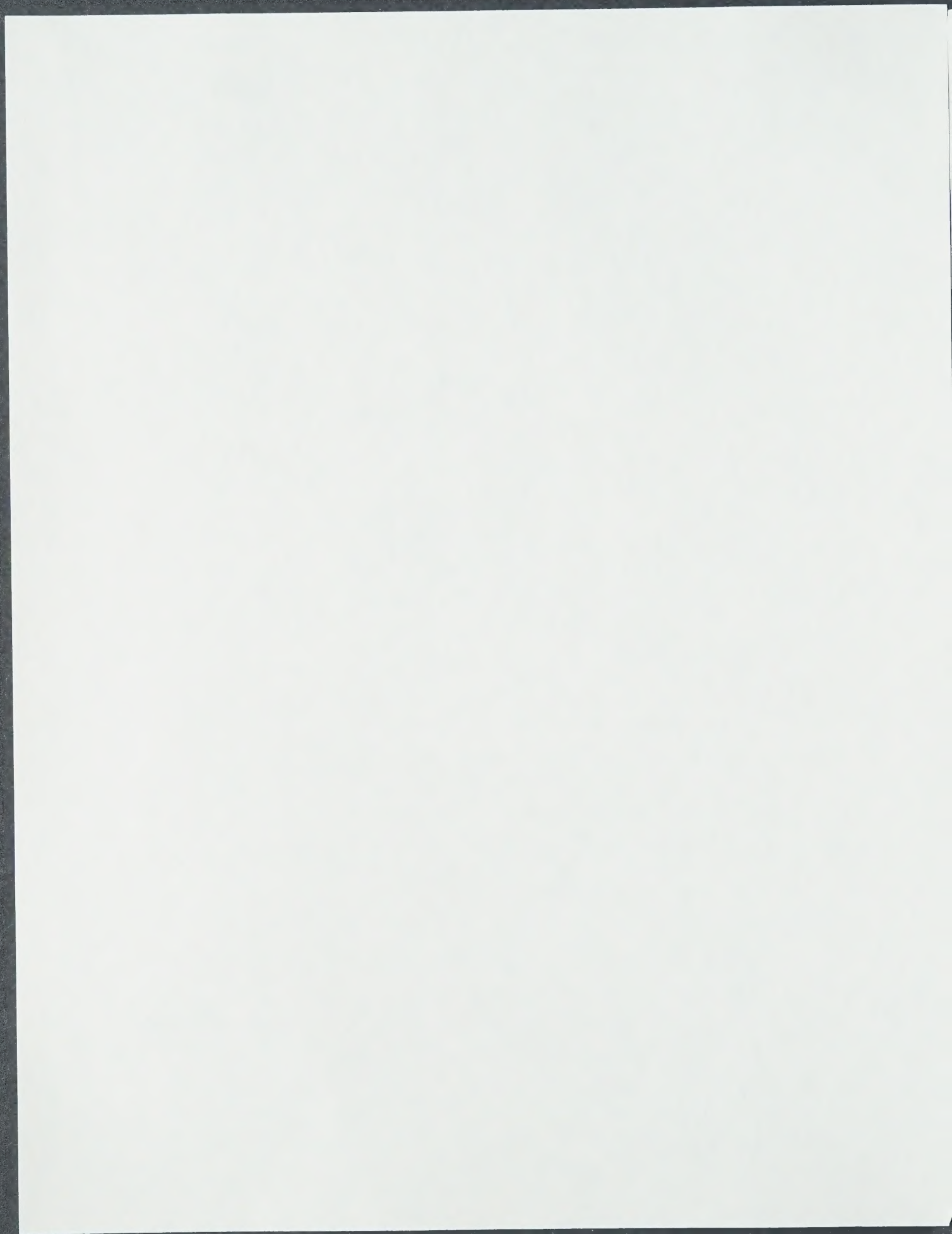
Many thanks for all your help, and best regards from house to house.

As always,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosure

SIGMA-ALDRICH

P.O. Box 355, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201 USA, Telephone (414) 273-3850, Cable Aldrichem TWX 910-262-3052, Telex 26-843, FAX 414-273-4979





Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman

January 7, 1987

Dr. Debbie Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Debbie:

Shortly after returning from a trip to Holland and England last week, I called Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann and discussed your book. I pointed out to him how very highly Prof. Sumowski has spoken of your thesis, and how much I liked it and used it. Egbert told me that he had been exceedingly busy, helping on the translation from the German of a book on Duerer and so had not yet sent his report. I very much hope that my reminder will encourage him to complete his appraisal of your fine work.

Thank you so much for sending your three photographs to Prof. Sumowski, and I hope that he has returned them to you. Did you receive an answer from the Art Journal about the picture there depicted in 1965. It was then called Victors, but probably is not by him.

My son David has now found an architectural job in Philadelphia, and so I very much hope that we will now get to Philadelphia more often and will have a chance to visit with you.

Undoubtedly you have seen the rather boring Victors of the Search for an Honest Man that will be sold in New York next week.

All good wishes for 1987.

As always,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman



November 21, 1986

Dr. Debbie Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Debbie:

Isabel and I are so happy to have your letter of November 7 with the news about your work.

Quite some time ago, Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann told me that he liked your thesis very much indeed, and frankly I find it difficult to believe that he would hold up a manuscript so long. I telephoned him immediately to inquire, only to find that he is out of the country until early December. Unfortunately, Isabel and I are leaving for England and Holland next Tuesday and so I won't be able to try to get in touch with him again until our return at the very end of December. I will talk to him then and let you know. I have a sneaking suspicion that Davaco is not very efficient and are blaming Egbert.

May I ask you for a very great personal favor? Prof. Dr. Werner Sumowski is now working on Volume IV of his monumental work on Rembrandt students. In that volume will be Victors. He needs photographs of three paintings in your thesis, specifically, your Nos. A2, A24 and A41. Would it be possible for you to send these to him on loan for just a very few days so that he can have prints made for his book. His address is: Hessenwiesenstrasse 4, D7000 Stuttgart-Rohr, West Germany, and I would suggest that you send them by registered air mail. He has promised to return them to you within a few days.

Needless to say, I know how vital these photographs are for your book, and if you would like to have good copies made, just for insurance, please have your photographs photographed and I will be happy to reimburse you for all of your expenses.

Prof. Sumowski is also looking for a photograph of a painting which was owned by Jan Klein in New York some 20 years ago, which he then called Victors, but which may not really be by Victors. It is a depiction of Joseph interpreting the dreams, and it was reproduced in the Art Journal XXV, 2, 1965, page 172, with reproduction. Jan Klein no longer has a photograph. Do you, per chance, have a photograph, or do you know someone

SIGMA-ALDRICH

P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee Wisconsin 53201 USA Telephone (414) 273-3850 Cable Aldrichem TWX 910-262-3052 Telex 26-843

Dr. Debbie Miller
November 21, 1986
Page Two

at the Art Journal whom I might ask about such a photo.

You know how immensely valuable Sumowski's work is, and, of course, I want to help him as much as possible.

Many thanks for all your help, and best personal regards.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader

AB:mmh



Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman

March 12, 1985

Mrs. Debbie Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Debbie:

Your thesis reached me only yesterday, and I have just had a little while yesterday evening to glance over it. Isabel and I are returning from Israel on April 14, and unfortunately I couldn't possibly be in Newark the next day. But, of course, we look forward to seeing you on April 24.

Do not worry for a moment about the attribution of my Joseph Explaining His Dreams. I would be worried if you thought that it was a bad painting or a copy, and actually I prefer puzzles to the sure thing. As you will see from the enclosed, Dr. Zafran also doubts that my painting is by Victors, but while I do believe there is a relationship between my painting and that in North Carolina, I do not really believe that both are necessarily by the same hand.

Your explanation for Victors not painting any New Testament subjects because he was a strict Calvinist is interesting, but can you support it? Were there in fact any other strict Calvinist painters who never painted New Testament subjects?

I will go through the thesis more carefully during the next week and write to you more, shortly. In the meantime, please note No. 16 on page 40 and 81 of the enclosed.

Best personal regards,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosures

1635 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

3 March 1985

Dr. Alfred R. Bader
2961 North Shepard Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Dear Alfred:

Enclosed is a copy of the penultimate draft of my dissertation on Jan Victors! My dissertation defense is scheduled for 15 April, 2:00 p.m., at the Art History Department of the University of Delaware. I have until 6 May to present the final copy to the Office of Graduate Studies. I would appreciate your comments and any suggestions you might have for revisions. You are of course welcome to attend my defense, as well, although I would certainly understand if your schedule does not permit it. I know you will be giving a lecture at the University on 24 April, and I look forward to seeing you then, if not before.

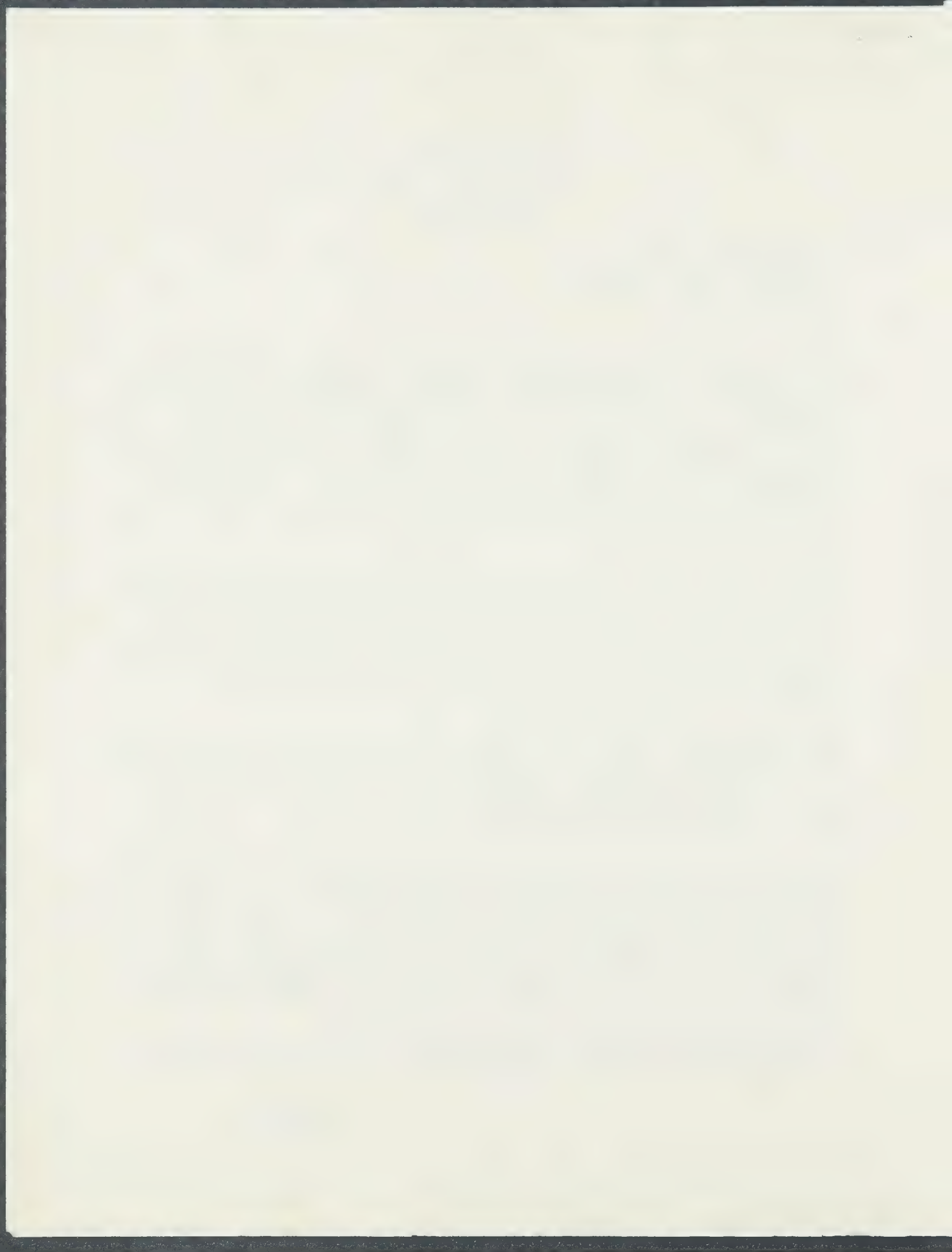
Thank you for your letter concerning the study of Volker Manuth in Berlin. I had corresponded with him a few years ago; at that time he was planning a dissertation on Victors, unaware that I was already so far along. I hadn't heard from him since, so I'm glad to know that he changed his topic, presumably to avoid overlap with mine. His new research topic should be quite interesting; I've only touched on some of the problems in my chapter on historical subjects.

You will find that I've catalogued your painting of Joseph Explaining His Dreams as an uncertain attribution to Victors, for the reasons given in the catalogue entry (catalogue U12, p. 334). I'm still not absolutely convinced that it is by Victors, but I don't feel certain that it can be rejected either. I'm sorry I wasn't able to reach a definitive conclusion.

Right now I'm working on an article for Mercury (the Hooqsteder-Naumann quarterly), on Victors' Ruth and Naomi. Otto told me you had seen it and had some comments about the fabric of one of the costumes, which I would be interested to hear. I would also like to request your help and expertise in identifying the subject of a painting in my catalogue, previously called a Family Reunion, which I believe to be an Old Testament theme, similar in conception to so many others by Victors. I have enclosed a separate photocopy of this work (catalogue 87).

I hope you enjoy reading my dissertation and anxiously await your comments. Best regards to you and your family.

Debbie



1633 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

March 16, 1983

Dr. Alfred E. Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 355
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Dr. Bader:

I just received word that I have been awarded a Kress Foundation Research Grant for 1983, for my study of Jan Vectors. I am sure that my application was greatly strengthened by the research I was able to undertake last year as a result of your generous funding.

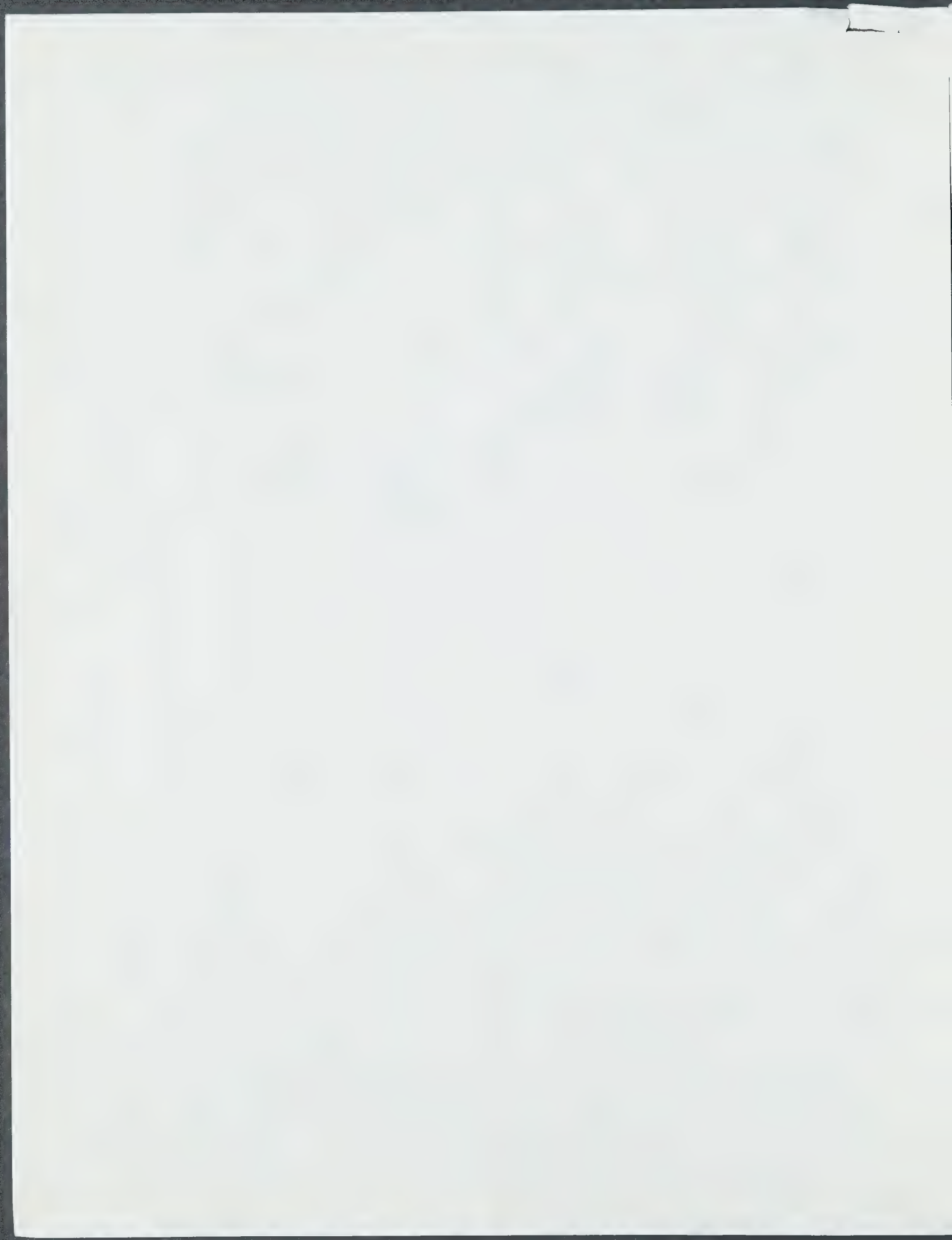
I have enclosed a copy of my successful grant proposal, which outlines the discoveries I made on my research trip of September to December, 1982. I am quite pleased with the manner in which my work is progressing, and thank you most sincerely for the very important role you played in it.

Yours truly,



Debra Miller

Enclosures



1633 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

November 2, 1983

Dr. Alfred Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company
P.O. Box 355
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Alfred:

I arrived safely back in Philadelphia, after an exhausting 7 weeks in Europe. I saw a lot of Victors, which was very helpful--there's quite a difference between black and white photographs and the real thing! I've changed my mind about a few paintings after seeing them in person. Everyone in the museums I visited was wonderful, they couldn't have been more receptive or interested in my research. Eastern Europe was quite an experience. It was exciting to see the collections there, the curators were among the most friendly and helpful I've met, and many of the cities were breath-taking (especially Prague)--but conditions there are disquieting, to put it mildly. I collected many more photos for my catalogue, and ordered the remainder from the RKD.

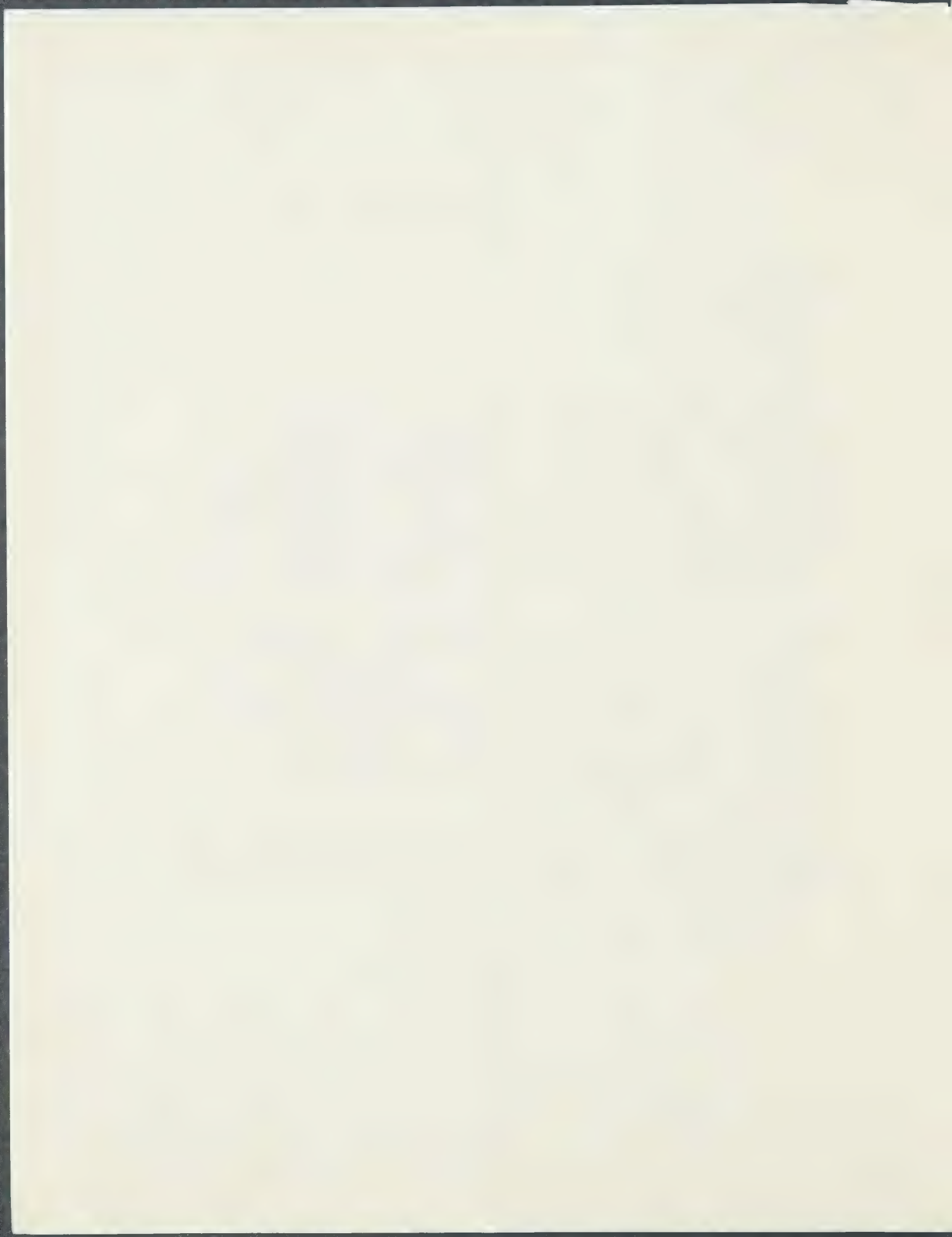
Since I've been back, I've gone over my catalogue raisonne again, and I've also gotten all the Victors' documents in order. I'm getting started on the biographical chapter now--I hope the writing will go smoothly. Otto's partner, Hoogsteder, recently bought a beautiful Victors (Ruth and Naomi). I haven't seen the painting yet (although I knew of it from a photograph in the Witt). They are thinking of publishing a quarterly journal featuring works in their gallery, and have asked me to write a brief article on the Victors. It is an interesting piece--formerly attributed to Jan de Bray, and also misidentified as Vertumnus and Pomona.

I just received copies of my article from Tony Janson in Indianapolis and thought you might like to have one. I presented a slightly different version of the paper last year at the National Gallery for the Middle Atlantic Symposium.

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

My best wishes,

Rebecca



April 22, 1983

Mrs. Debra Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Thank you for your kind letter of April 18.

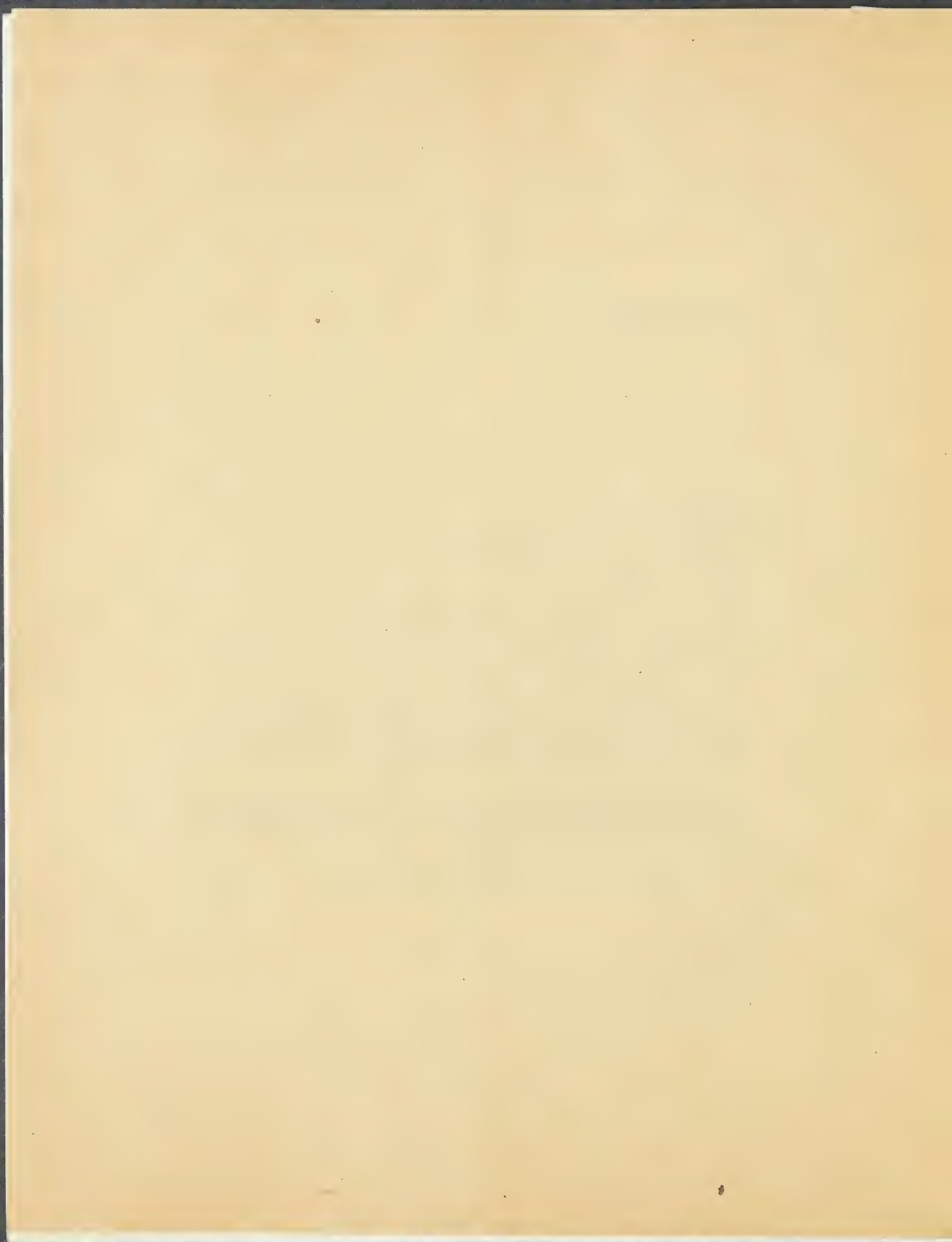
I so enjoyed being with you last Saturday, and I will do all I can to help with your book.

"The Selections from the Bader Collection" and "The Bible through Dutch Eyes" are going out to you under separate cover. Please do not mind that I did not give these to you as gifts, but they belong to the company.

Please find enclosed a color transparency of my Joseph, to give you some idea of its color. Please do return the transparency and come to look at the painting.

Best regards, also to your husband,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosure





Chemists Helping Chemists in Research and Industry

aldrich chemical company, inc.

Dr. Alfred Bader
Chairman and
Chief Executive Officer

March 28, 1983

Mrs. Debra Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Mrs. Miller:

Now that I know that Isabel and I will have a chance to meet you next month, we are particularly looking forward to our visit to Temple University.

We will be staying with our son David, 6901 Old York Road, telephone 224-3241, and I think that he will be tied up all of the Saturday, working for a specific exam. Could you perhaps check with him by telephone?

In any case, my lecture is likely to be over around four that Saturday afternoon, and we would surely have some time later that afternoon and the evening if you are free. We don't go in much for cocktails but perhaps you and your husband would like to be our guests for a simple dinner somewhere that evening.

I must warn you, however, that I am full of questions about Victors. For instance, when I saw the new title on the painting in Indianapolis, I thought it outlandish, but on reconsideration have changed my mind. I much look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
cc: Mr. David Bader

1633 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

March 24, 1983

RECEIVED
MAR 28 1983
MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Dr. Alfred Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.
P.O.Box 355
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Dr. Bader:

Thank you for your letter of March 21. I am delighted to hear of your forthcoming trip to Philadelphia, and look forward to meeting you and your family.

I will indeed attend your lecture at Temple University! I hope your schedule will also permit you to visit with my husband and me in our home. We would love to have you over, if you will be free, for dinner or cocktails. Would Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon be convenient?

We thank you for your invitation to visit Milwaukee, and hope we will be able to arrange a trip. I am, of course, anxious to see the paintings by Victors, as well as your private collection.

Sincerely,

Debra Miller

Debra Miller

1633 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

March 24, 1983

Dr. Alfred Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.
P.O.Box 355
Milwaukee, WI 53201

MAR 28 1983
MAIL ROOM

Dear Dr. Bader:

Thank you for your letter of March 21. I am delighted to hear of your forthcoming trip to Philadelphia, and look forward to meeting you and your family.

I will indeed attend your lecture at Temple University! I hope your schedule will also permit you to visit with my husband and me in our home. We would love to have you over, if you will be free, for dinner or cocktails. Would Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon be convenient?

We thank you for your invitation to visit Milwaukee, and hope we will be able to arrange a trip. I am, of course, anxious to see the paintings by Victors, as well as your private collection.

Sincerely,

Debra Miller



March 21, 1983

Mrs. Debra Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Mrs. Miller:

I am so happy to have your letter of March 16 and to know that you have returned home safely.

I very much look forward to your book on Victors.

As you know, the art museum has a pair of Victors portraits and Prof. Leonard Parker owns the Elisha which was No. 54 in "The Bible through Dutch Eyes". It would give me great pleasure to show you these three, and if you and your husband could ever come to Milwaukee, you would, of course, be most welcome to stay with us.

I own a painting of Joseph Explaining his Dreams to his Father, which Prof. Sumowski and others have attributed to Victors. While I like the painting, I am not at all certain that the attribution is correct, and I look forward to your opinion.

My wife and I will be in Philadelphia, staying with our son David at 6901 Old York Road, telephone 224-3241, from Friday through Sunday, April 15--18. It would be nice if we could get together. I will be talking on paintings, mainly 17th century, to chemistry students at Temple University that Saturday and, if perchance you might be able to come to the lecture, you could get details of time and place from Mr. Howard J. Wilk, telephone 787-1638/787-7118, at Temple University.

Best regards.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh

Page 1, 1917

Mr. John W. ...
1917 ...
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July 27, 1982

Ms. Debra Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Ms. Miller:

Thank you for your kind letter. It would give me great pleasure
if you could visit Milwaukee sometime when I would be most
happy to show you my collection.

Sincerely,

Alfred Bader

AB:mmh

1633 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, PA 19146

July 2, 1982

Dr. Alfred Bader
Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 355
Milwaukee, WI 53201

Dear Dr. Bader:

I just received a check from the University of Delaware, which represents a Dissertation Research Grant for 1982.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your generous funding of my dissertation on Jan Victors. Your support will enable me to complete my research in Holland. I have already made plans to be in Amsterdam from September 18 through December 11, 1982. At that time, I hope to uncover material related to the important problem of Victors' Old Testament subjects and possible Jewish patronage.

Once again, thank you for making this significant phase of my dissertation research possible.

Yours truly,


Debra Miller

cc: Otto Naumann

April 26, 1982

Ms. Debra Miller
1633 Rodman Street
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania 19146

Dear Ms. Miller:

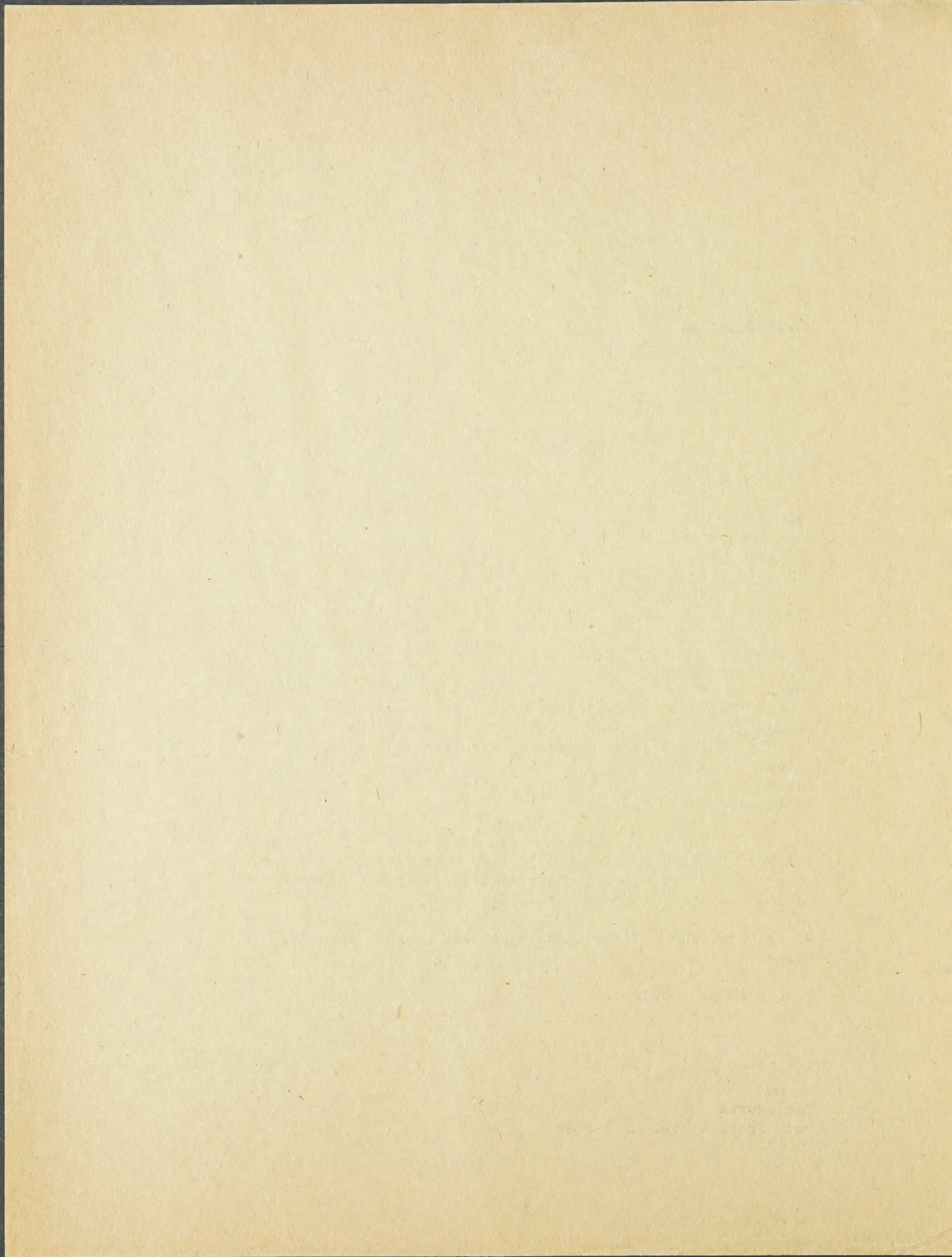
In response to your letter of April 19, the details of my Victors are given on page 61 of the enclosed Aldrichimica Acta. It will be published as Victors in Professor Sumowski's forthcoming book on Rembrandt students. I purchased it in August of 1981 from Julius Weitzner in London who believed that it depicted Jesus disputing with the elders by Jan Lievens. On February 14, 1975, it was sold by Christie's in London as No. 72 under the same title given to Gerrit Willemsz. Horst.

No. 54 in "The Bible through Dutch Eyes" belongs to Professor and Mrs. Leonard Parker of 2520 East Wood Place, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211, and they have kindly given me a photograph to send to you, per copy enclosed.

Do you know the two beautiful portraits in the Milwaukee Art Museum?

Best personal regards,

Alfred Bader
AB:mmh
Enclosures
cc: Prof. & Mrs. L. Parker



MILWAUKEE

ART
MUSEUM

OUTGOING

RECEIPT The object(s) described below, or on the attached pages, have been released by the Milwaukee Art Museum.

DATE
SHIPPED

May 14, 1996

SHIPPED

TO name

Dr. Alfred Bader c/o Astor Hotel

street address

924 E. Turean #622

city, state, zip code

Milwaukee WI 53202

business telephone

277-0730

home telephone

PURPOSE

return of loan to museum

INSURED

BY

Museum

TRANSPORT

VIA

Museum Staff

PACKING

soft packed

RELEASED

BY signed for the Milwaukee Art Museum

Leah A. Vibration Joseph P. Karanay

MUSEUM REFERENCE NUMBER

DESCRIPTION

INSURANCE VALUE

Unknown
Family Portrait c1816
oil on canvas
59 x 91 cm.

any work

Receipt of the object(s) described above, in good condition unless otherwise noted, is hereby acknowledged.

signature for recipient

Anna Bader

name and title

date objects received

14 V 96

COPY 1 — REGISTRAR

COPY 2 — RECIPIENT

COPY 3 — FILE

Please sign and complete the bottom section of this receipt, and return the white (top) copy to:
Registrar, Milwaukee Art Museum, 750 N. Lincoln Memorial Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53202.
The yellow copy is for your records.

