Alfred Bader Fonds

Correspondence

St. Louis Art Museum

PILE 24



ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

January 8, 1993

ESTABLISHED 1961

Dr. James Burke, Director
St. Louis Art Museum
Art Hill Place
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

Dear Jim:

Since my second letter to you, I have discussed this matter with a number of art historians who know both of us, and each has told me essentially the same thing. Every museum has the right, and perhaps even the obligation, to help companies by supplying works of art for reproduction.

Also, I was told I wrote to you too strongly and may have been hurtful. For that I apologize, and I certainly didn't want to be hurtful.

Jim, it is just that I feel so strongly that I have been treated horribly by Tom Cori, and I am so proud of what I built, both chemically and art historically.

I just wish that you and I had gotten to know each other better, personally, and I look forward to discussing this with you when next I am in St. Louis.

All good wishes.

Sincerely,

By Appointment Only
ASTOR HOTEL SUITE 622
924 EAST JUNEAU AVENUE
MILWAUKEE WISCONSIN USA 53202
TEL 414 277-0730 FAX 414 277-0709



ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

December 23, 1992

ESTABLISHED 1961

CERTIFIED MAIL.

Dr. James D. Burke Director The Saint Louis Art Museum I Fine Arts Drive Forest Park St. Louis, Missouri 63110 1380

Dear Jim:

I am deeply disturbed by your letter of December 2nd, telling me that the Saint Louis Art Museum has agreed to provide images of its paintings for Aldrich publications. My trip to London for the December auctions has delayed my reply.

I believe you are making a mistake for two reasons.

First, you cannot do as good a job as I can. Not that you cannot propose equally good or, in fact, better paintings. But you can only provide transparencies while I have always made the originals available to the printer. You know how bad color reproductions taken from transparencies can be.

Also, I have often made paintings of special subjects available, as needed. For instance, Aldrich was (and I hope still is) planning next summer to dedicate an issue of the <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u> to one of America's great chemists, Harvard's Nobel laureate Elias J. Corey, for his 65th birthday. I would be happy to give Aldrich the choice from several Eliahs.

The second reason is much more important. Should an art museum provide its images under such circumstances? The first museum to be asked was the Milwaukee Art Museum, and Russell Bowman, knowing the circumstances, declined.

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Dr. James D. Burke St. Louis Art Museum December 23, 1992 Page Two

The Aldrich catalog goes to over a million scientists, and the <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u> to some 250,000. Most of the chemists know that the paintings have always come from me, and that I was dismissed under the most horrible of circumstances. Many articles and letters have been published, and I have received hundreds of letters, faxes and phone calls from around the world. A few are enclosed. More detailed articles and some dealing specifically with the <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u> are in preparation. I believe that your involvement will be subject to a great deal of criticism from around the world.

Let me urge you to discuss this with some of our mutual art historian friends who know the background--say Egbert Haverkamp-Begemann, Seymour Slive, Bill Robinson, Christopher Brown, and I believe that all will confirm my recommendation not to get involved.

Of course, matters would be different if I refused to supply further images. But I was asked to supply material for the covers for the next five years, and all the reproductions and essays are ready.

The people at Aldrich would much prefer to work with me. The impetus for change comes only from Tom Cori--please reread my letter of October 28th and its enclosures. I note that your secretary, perhaps inadvertently, returned all the documentation of my horrible fight with Tom Cori, which you really should read, and so I am sending it to you again.

Do not consider our correspondence in any way confidential. Share it with you staff, your Board of Trustees and anyone else you wish.

My wife and I will probably be in St. Louis early next May, and we look forward to visiting you then.

All good wishes for 1993.

Sincerely,

Enclosures



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ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

October 28, 1992

ESTABLISHED 1961

Dr. James Burke, Director St. Louis Art Museum Art Hill Place St. Louis, Missouri 63139

Dear Jim:

As you know, I have worn three hats all my life, working with my ABC's--art, the Bible and chemistry.

In art, you know something about my collection; the Bible, you may know about The Bible through Dutch Eyes Exhibition at the Milwaukee Art Museum in 1976, and I am now working on a much more extensive book of the same subject.

In chemistry, I started a company in a garage in Milwaukee in 1951, Aldrich Chemical Company, and it has grown very steadily. In 1975, Aldrich merged with the world's best biochemical company, Sigma Chemical Company in St. Louis, and Sigma-Aldrich today has over 4,000 employees worldwide with annual sales in excess of \$600 million.

In 1965, some members of the Aldrich board suggested that we put old master paintings on the covers of our catalogs. I thought this a poor idea, because what did old master paintings have in common with research chemicals? The vote was 3:2 for the paintings, and I quickly discovered that I had been mistaken and that the old master paintings gave us a wonderful image for quality. Since then, we have used old master paintings on well over 100 publications, and I enclose a few reproductions of our catalog covers and a few of our publication, the Aldrichimica Acta, which is distributed to over 250,000 scientists worldwide.

Last April, Purdue University had a small exhibition entitled "From Private Collection to Corporate Image," honoring the Nobel Laureate Professor Herbert C. Brown. The catalog of that exhibition is enclosed.

For reasons that I do not fully understand, my successor at Sigma-Aldrich, Dr. Tom Cori, dismissed me as unpaid Chairman Emeritus last December, claiming-quite falsely-that I had "bet against the company." The details of that accusation are given in the letter to chemists,

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copy enclosed, and in the long articles from the official magazine of the American Chemical Society, <u>C & E News</u>, and from the official magazine of the Royal Society of Chemistry, <u>Chemistry in Britain</u>. There have been a great many letters published decrying my dismissal, and copies of a few are enclosed.

To me, the image of quality evoked through old master paintings has been very important. Of course, I offered the company to continue supplying paintings and descriptions for covers at no charge, and I have supplied photographs and descriptions sufficeint for the next five years' covers. You will note that the first two issues of the <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u>, published since my dismissal, carry reproductions of paintings by Lievens and Drost from my collection. Just last week the company borrowed a painting by Moeyaert, and I enclose a snapshot and description from what was to be the third issue of this year's <u>Aldrichimica Acta</u>.

The Director of the Milwaukee Art Museum, Mr. Russell Bowman, was asked whether the Milwaukee Art Museum would supply paintings to take the place of mine, and he declined.

I understand that you were asked whether the St. Louis Art Museum could help and that you agreed, I assume without knowing the background.

Please don't think for a moment that this could possibly be construed as a feud between two cities. Read, for instance, the very fair article enclosed, which appeared in the <u>St. Louis Post Dispatch</u>, or talk to officers of Sigma who were recently fired by Tom Cori in St. Louis. One of these is Dr. Donald Fagan, until last year the president of Sigma Chemical Company, whose office telephone number is 314 741 1704; another is Dr. Carl Tenpas, until last year Sigma's sales manager, whose home telephone number is 314 394 2546. You will then understand, I believe, that you have here a personal vendetta of Cori against me.

It may well be that sometime from now I will look back on my dismissal as a change for the better in my life, but right now I am bitter. I divide my time three ways: continuing to try to help chemists, working on two books, and dealing with paintings.

When next you come to Milwaukee, do visit both my gallery and my home, with many acquistions which you have not seen before.

Best personal regards,

Que a

Enclosures



THE SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

July 28, 1981

Dr. Alfred Bader Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. P.O. Box 355 Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53201

Dear Alfred:

I am delighted to hear from you with the happy news that you accept our invitation to speak here on Tuesday evening, October 6th. I look forward to your lecture, anticipating that it will be as informative and delightful as the talk on this subject I heard you give at Yale a few years ago.

I will pass a copy of your letter on to Nora Wiseman in our Education Department for her attention when she returns from vacation. I will let Nora decide on the possibilities of a talk on, "The Bible through Dutch Eyes."

I presume that you will be coming to St. Louis sometime in the next few weeks, and I wonder if it would be possible for us to get together for a brief meeting, or even for lunch? Of course, I would like to have you as my guest here at the Museum. If you will be coming in during the next few weeks, would you ask your secretary to call my office and we could arrange something. I'd like to show you the auditorium before you speak, but I would be interested in having your advice on a couple of conservation projects which interest us.

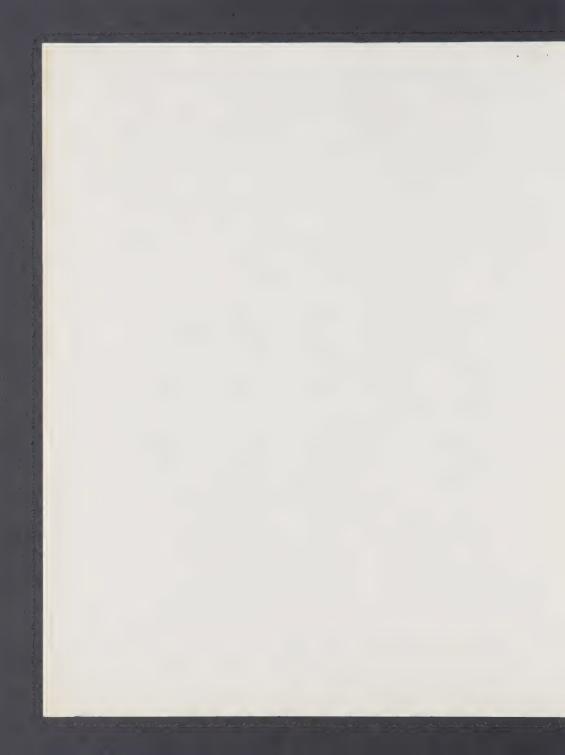
With warmest personal regards,

Yours very sincerely,

James D. Burke

/es

Forest Park Saint Louis Missouri 63110 314 721 0067



THE SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

JUL 17 15-10

Aldrich Greenweel So., Inc.

July 14, 1980

Dr. Alfred Bader Aldrich Chemical Company 940 West St. Paul Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Dear Alfred:

I've just recently seen your picture in the St. Louis newspaper in connection with the new organization of Sigma-Aldrich. I hope that means that you will be coming to St. Louis from time to time, which I suppose you have been doing all along! In any case, next time you're here, please give me a call and we'll try to get together for lunch or dinner.

With warmest regards,

Yours very sincerely,

James D. Burke Director

/es

Forest Park Saint Louis Missouri 63110 314 721 0067



Our exhibition, Currents of Expansion: Painting in the Midwest, 1820-1940, has come to a close and your generous loan should already have been returned to you. However, I did want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Museum, to thank you for lending. It was only through the generosity of the many lenders, both individual and institutional, that an exhibition such as this could come about. Your willingness to participate in the exhibition contributed enormously to its success. Curator /jh Decorative Arts APR 28 1977

ADMINI GLET CILES Temporary Offices 6665 Delmar Blvd. St. Louis, Missouri 63130 Telephone 314 721-0067

The St. Louis Art Museum
April 25, 1977

Dr. and Mrs. Alfred Bader Aldrich Chemical Company, Inc. 940 West St. Paul Avenue Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53233 Dear Dr. and Mrs. Bader: