

Alfred Baber Fonds

Correspondence

○ 1995-96

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES	
LOCATOR	5098.5
BOX	3
FILE	2

To whom it may concern

I am applying to the Foundation for a fellowship to assist in the creation of a series of paintings dedicated to the memory of the Holocaust.

This submission had its genesis in 1992 when I make a pilgrimage to Auschwitz Poland. This was a personal odyssey to fulfil a lifelong wish to be able to say mourning prayers a Jew on the site of what represents the longest night in Jewish history.

I arrived at Auschwitz in early March. There were few tourists, which enabled me to fulfil my goal with an undisturbed and reflective stay. I had not intended to do a lot of photography yet I photographed relentlessly. It was not until I returned to Canada that I realised that I had accumulated not just a photographic record of a visit but the type of imagery that needed to be explored, internalized and interpreted on canvas.

To portray the Holocaust seems an impossibility yet I felt what I must make an attempt. This amounts to knowing whether the Holocaust yields to interpretation; to what extent it is open to this, and if to interpret it is not to destroy it. The Holocaust is extraordinary. It escapes conventions and lies outside all disciplines, it transposes and inverts everything. In spite of this, I believe that at this point in my painting career I have arrived technically at a level of proficiency and confidence to embark on this most difficult task.

Within the last six months I have created two Holocaust paintings in addition to other types of imagery. A slide of one is included with this submission. The second, my most recent piece, includes the reflections of victimized children. I would like the opportunity, through the assistance of the Foundation, to complete this series of paintings.

Thank you,

Barry Oretsky

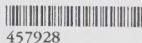
Barry Oretsky

JOHN SIMON GUGGENHEIM MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Confidential Report on Candidate for Fellowship

Mr. Alfred Bader
Astor Hotel, Suite 622
924 East Juneau Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53202

Candidate:
Oretsky, Barry



457928

REPORT:

December 1, 1995

I would like to comment on Barry Oretsky's application for a Guggenheim Fellowship to create art related to the Holocaust on three levels.

First, he is a very competent, realistic painter, close in style to what has been described as magic realism. He is well-trained technically, and his exhibitions in galleries in New York and Toronto have been well-received.

Secondly, he is a caring human being, and I believe that he is sincere when he writes about his personal odyssey to Auschwitz.

The Holocaust was extraordinary because the Nazis applied such technical skill to the murder of millions. I am not certain that it was unique; over a million Armenians were killed earlier this century and many thousands of Bosnian Muslims just recently. There is a fatal flaw in human nature that leads men and women to deny that there is some of God in each of us. Whether individual efforts like works of art depicting the horrors of Auschwitz or Goya's prints showing the horrors of war help to correct that flaw is uncertain, yet I believe it is worth the effort - even if the efforts affect only a few.

Hence, I recommend Barry Oretsky for a Guggenheim Fellowship.

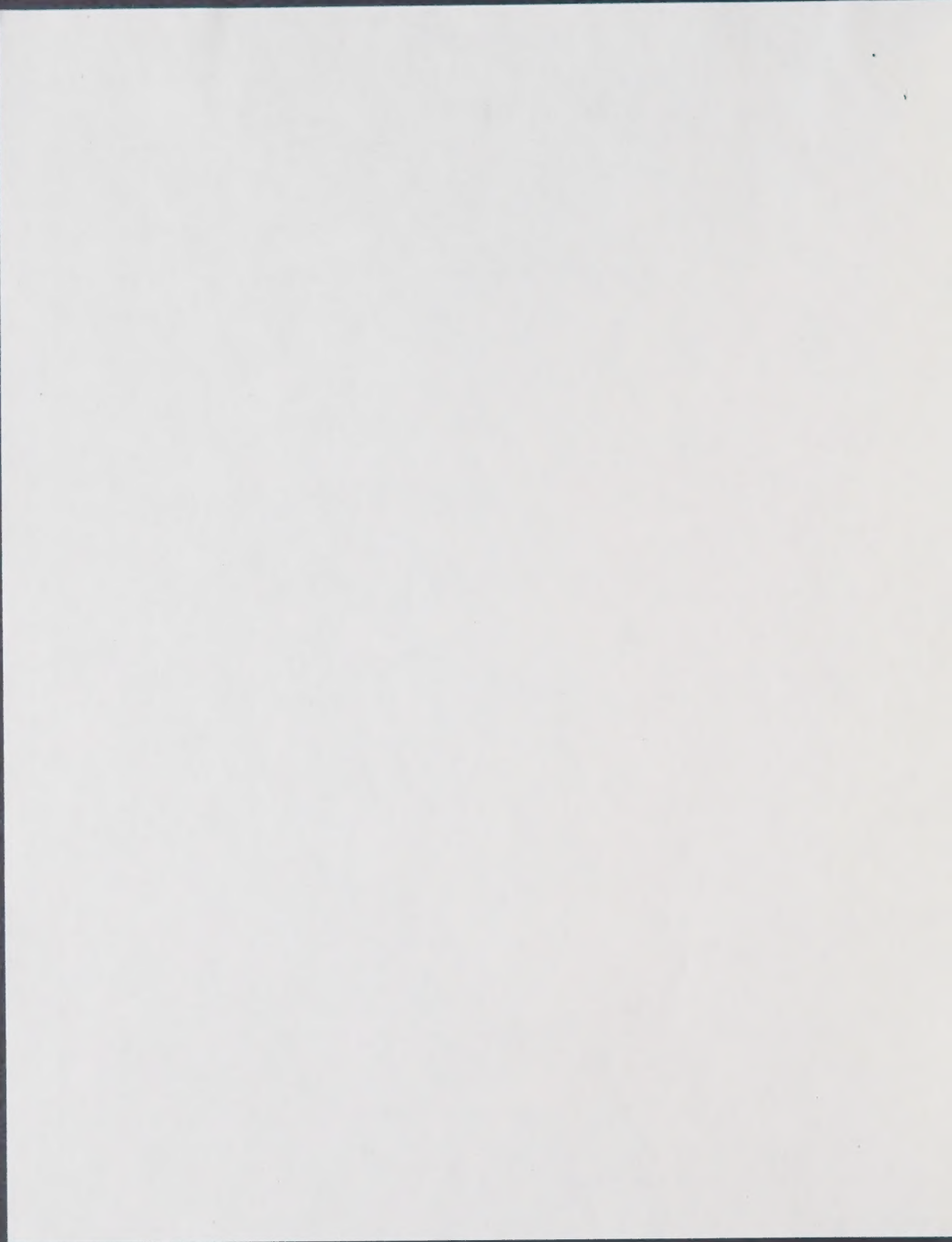
Signed _____

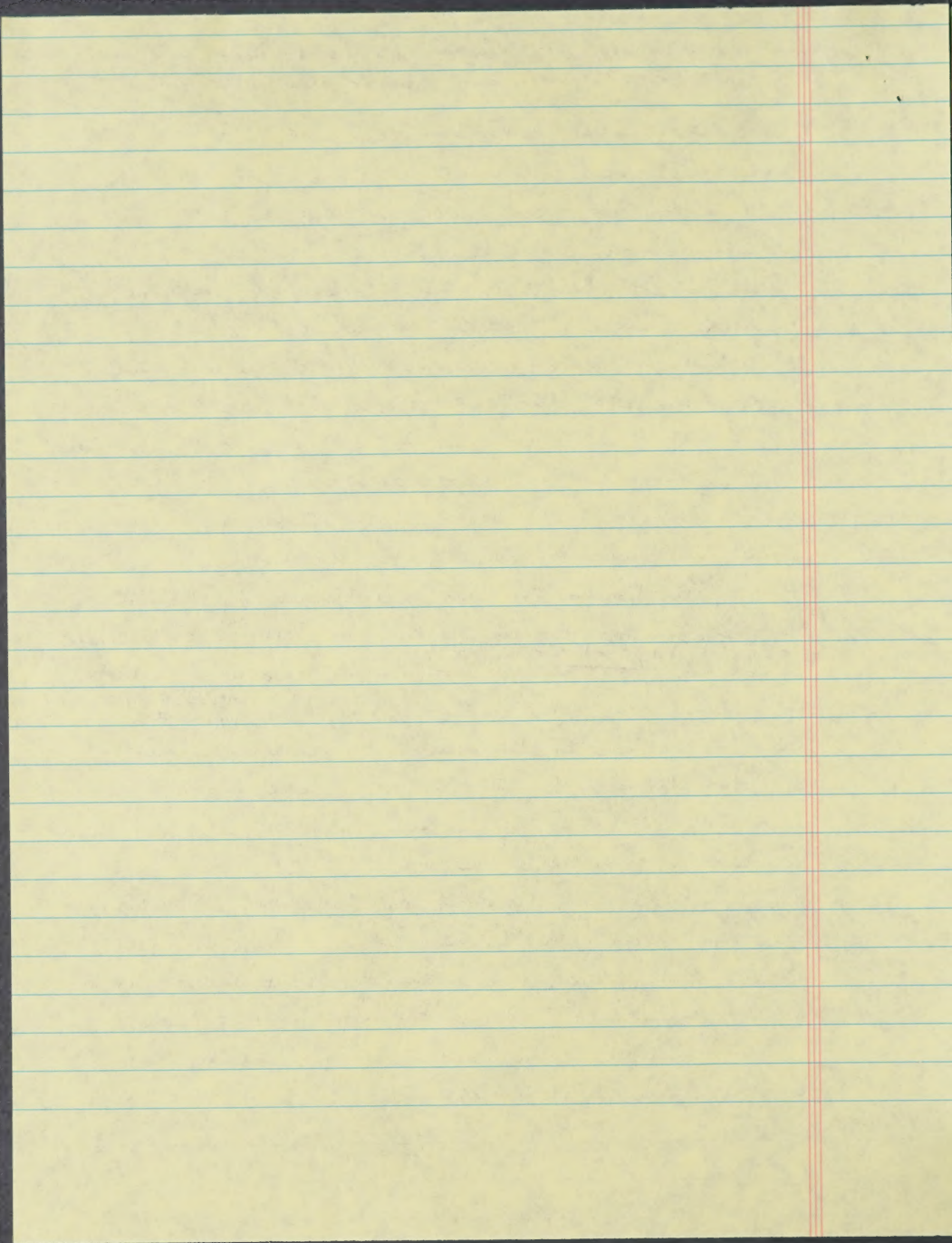
Date _____

Position or Title _____

Address (if different from above) _____

(Please return to John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, 90 Park Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016, at your earliest convenience. An addressed envelope is enclosed.)





014243 773365

Hadfields,
87, North Trade Road,
Battle, E. Sussex, TN33 0HN.

3rd July, 1995.

Dr. Alfred Bader,
52, Wickham Avenue,
Bexhill-on-Sea.

Dear Dr. Bader,

Guido Reni Painting - property of St. Mary's
Church, Battle.

I refer to your correspondence of 19 April 1995 with Mr. Richard O'Hagan concerning the above painting. Should you wish to see the Guido Reni, Mr. John Upton, one of our church wardens, would be pleased to show it to you. His 'phone number is Battle 772319. He will be away on holiday from the 15th July so after that time would you kindly get in touch with me.

Yours sincerely,

E. Small

(Mrs. E. Small)

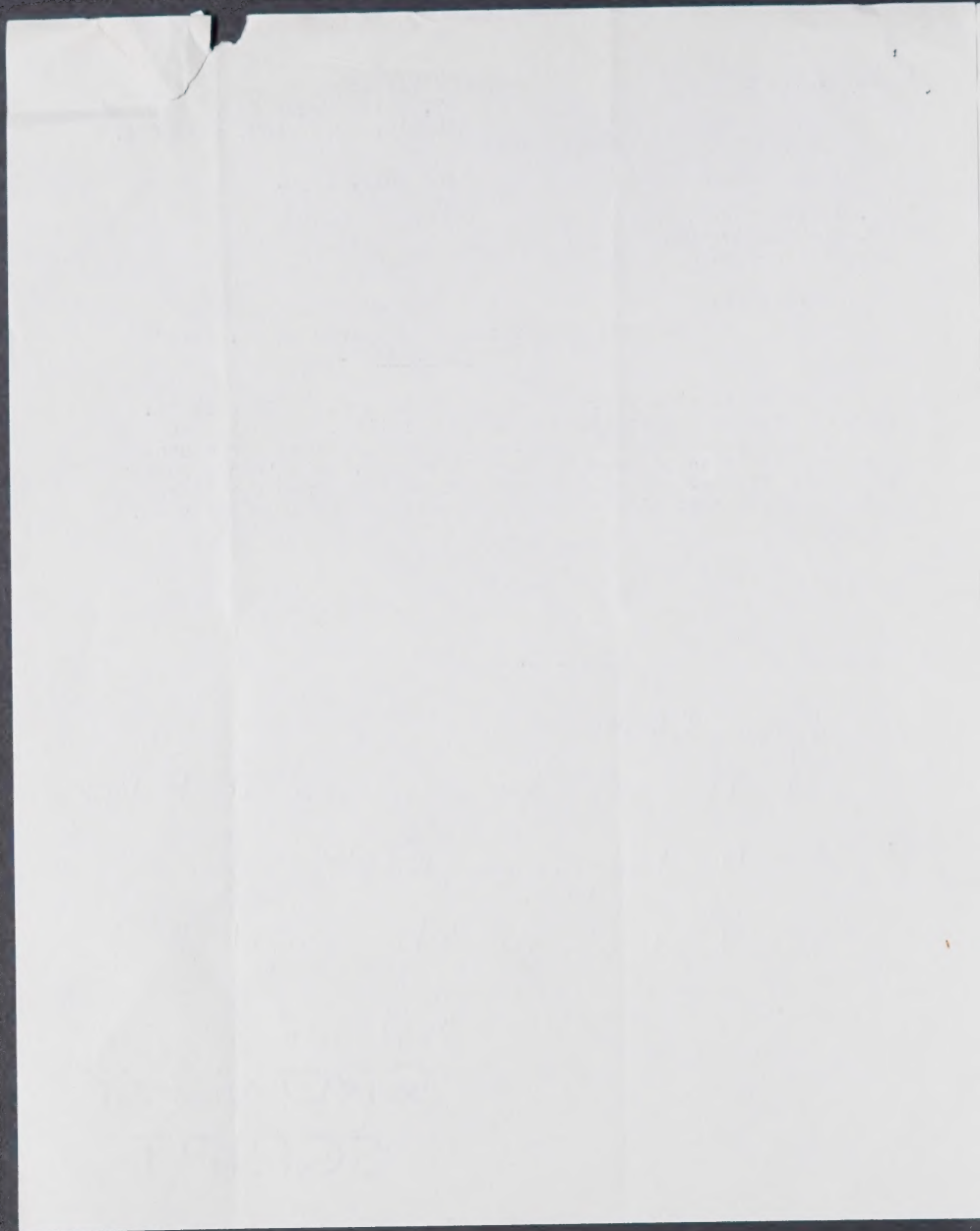
Dear Clavis:

This was twice upala at Phillips.
Should I offer anything?

Did we get Steensy etc?

Best wishes

James



June 16, 1995

Tel 772475

1, Abbot's Close
Battle, E Sx
TN33 OBZ

Dear Alfred,

Many thanks for your letter of May 26th, and welcome back to Battle, to you and Isabel.

I am enjoying your book so very much. Naturally, all the chemical technicalities go right over my head, but I have just finished the chapter on Universities. I was horrified at the wheeler-dealing described in the chapter on your expulsion, and it made me glad again that I had deserted the world of commerce (petroleum) in 1948 for the Civil Service in Canada!

After reading the chapter on Daniel and David, I turned back to the earlier chapter on Danny and Isabel to refresh my memory on the previous events in your personal life, which I find described with much humanity - and humility.

I hope it will not be a nuisance if I raise again the matter of the Guido Reni, since you wrote that you would be kind enough to have a look at it, for which St. Mary's Parish Church Council is most grateful. The picture is now under lock and key in Battle, I do not myself know the location, but it is in the custody of one of the churchwardens, Mr. J.Upton, whose telephone number in Battle is 772319.

He cannot ring you, as (like me) he does not know your telephone number in Bexhill, so I do not know whether you would prefer to ring him yourself, or if I can be of any more assistance in bringing you together with the Church authorities.

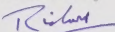
I have been dealing ^{ENTIRELY} with a member of the Church Council who is also a bridgeplaying friend of Anne's, Mrs Elizabeth Small, whose number in Battle is 773365, and she is well acquainted with the background of the efforts to sell the painting.

I do feel that, even if you are not tempted to make any offer yourself (!) you could most probably offer valuable advice to the Church Council as to how to proceed at this stage.

Anne and I are going to be away on holiday from June 28 to July 10, but we do hope that there will be a chance to see Isabel and you again before you return to the States at the end of July.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Richard O'Hagan.





ALFRED BADER FINE ARTS

DR. ALFRED BADER

ESTABLISHED 1961

May 19, 1995

Mr. Barry Oretsky
223 Coldstream Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5N 1Y4
Canada

Dear Barry:

You must have realized how very much Isabel and I enjoyed meeting you and your wife yesterday and how much I liked your beautiful, yet realistic paintings.

As promised, please find enclosed a copy of my contract with John Whalley. My autobiography includes a chapter on this artist, and I hope that that will lead to more sales of his paintings.

Note how very different that contract is from yours, which really bothers me.

I hope that you will have a chance to get to know Kurt Rothschild, who may well be able to advise and help you.

I will speak to Professor David McTavish, the director of the Queen's University art centre and suggest that he consider an exhibition of your paintings.

I also want to thank you for your *challah* which we will enjoy for our sabbath meal this evening.

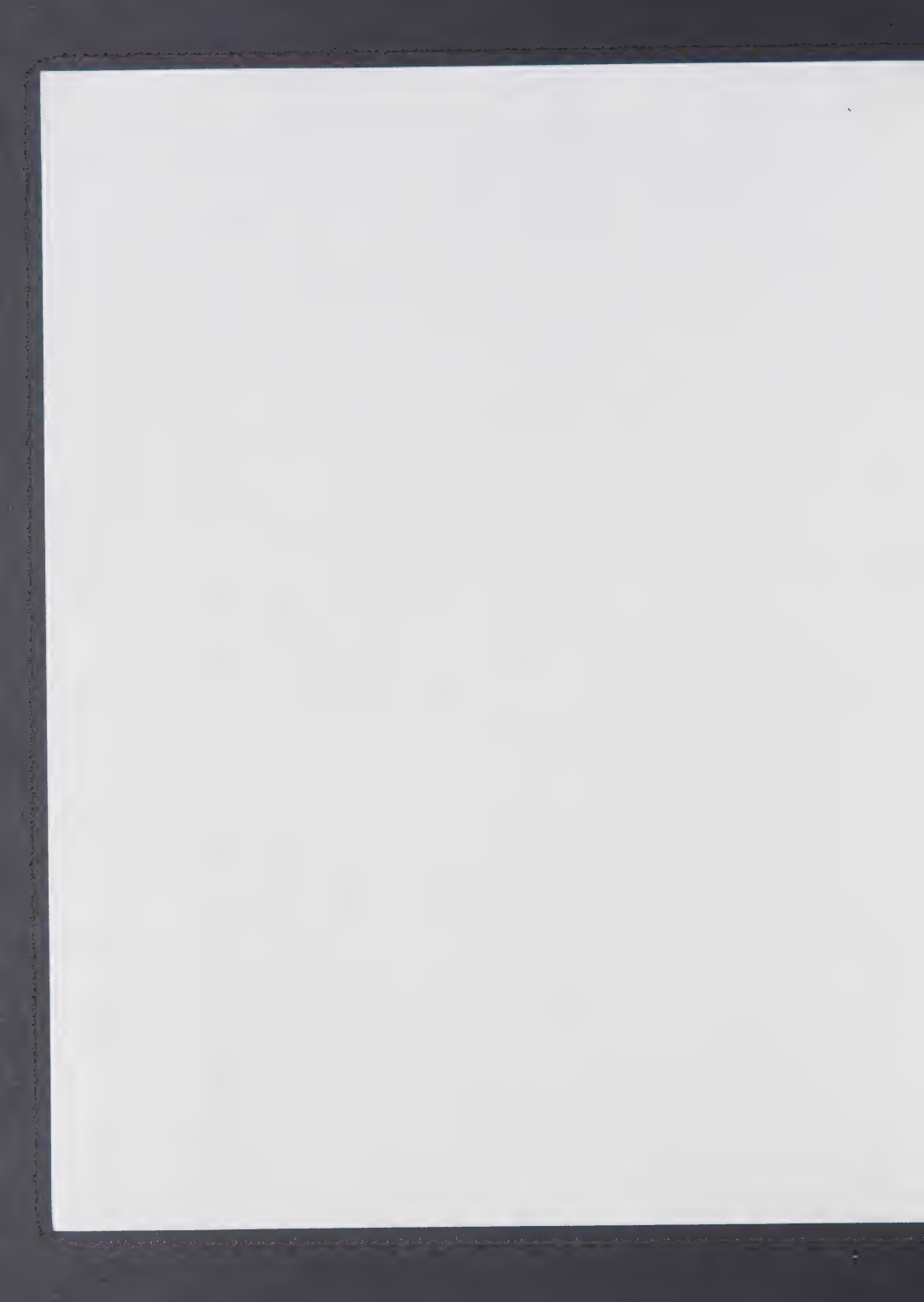
With best regards from house to house, I remain,

Yours sincerely,

AB/cw

Enclosure

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



Bathurst Cr. Douglas

~~2101 Bath~~

BARRY
ORETSKY

501

784 5305

27.4.95

Dear Mr. Bader,

Thank You for your note.

I am a high realist painter who paints contemporary images, including some that are Jewish in theme. I paint images based upon my own research photography.

I am enclosing 2 transparencies of two paintings which I would be pleased to show you, as well as a magazine review. One image originated from a trip to Israel, the other from a pilgrimage to Auschwitz.

I am enclosing directions to my home, where I work. Your visit would be most welcome.

Mazel Tov to you and your wife for the honour she is to receive.

9:30 TL

Sincerely,
B. Oretsky



To Clovis

Richard O'Hagan

WHAT do you
THINK?

Alfred

2, Rowland Place
Little, Essex

April 1, 1955

Dear Alfred,
I am writing to ask you whether you are interested in the
purchase of a picture and picture that is available for sale
here in Little.

It was presented with a few years ago to the local church,
the Parish Church of St Mary in Virginia, as a result of a wish, but
it has become an embarrassment to the church, in that they ~~are~~ are
unwilling to own it in the church for fear of theft (many from
churches is becoming increasingly prevalent here); and they cannot
afford the storage, and especially insurance fees, to protect it.

The picture (which I have not seen, you say, as it is at
present in London, at Phillips, who have been unable to sell it, is
an oval, and is apparently part of a triptych - the whereabouts of the
other two parts of which is not known. It is about 24 inches, and
Phillips are satisfied with its authenticity, which has been done officially
but I don't know by who. It is entitled 'THE END OF THE WORLD', although
allegedly at some time it was known as the 'LORD OF THE WORLD' (copies
of the pre-raphaelite artist John Hunt!)

It was allegedly at one time in ^a ~~the~~ church in Italy at
Verrucina Capriana. It depicts the head and shoulders of a man, figure,
with one hand on the globe of the world and the other hand raised in
gesture of blessing.

It was put up for sale at Phillips in 1947 for £2,000, and was
not sold, and was in there later for I believe £10,000 to £20,000, and ^{never}
~~did not sell~~

As it is not in absolutely first class condition, I believe
the Church would be prepared to accept a lower figure than the latter
sum.

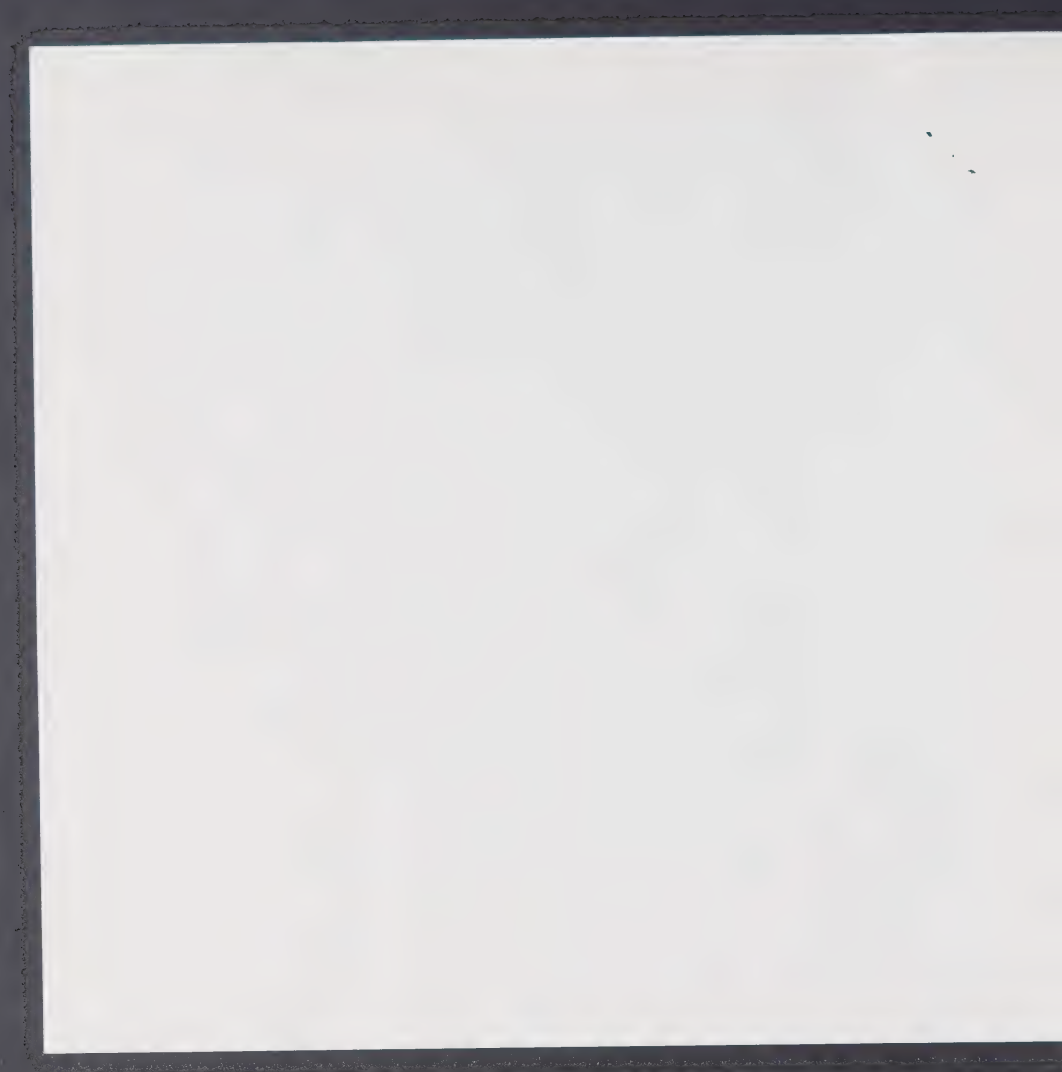
Maybe it's crazy, but I thought it might appeal to you, whether
to keep or to sell on, and it would certainly take a big worry off
the shoulders of a fine old church in a neighbourhood which I believe
is very nice to you.

If you could let me know whether you are interested, and when
you will next be in Little, I would be glad to discuss with you the
possibilities for the sale.

With warmest wishes to Isobel & yourself
in which I am from me - as ever
Richard O'Hagan







DATE: Nov. 2th/96

TO: Dr. Alfred Robert Baden

COMPANY/LOCATION: Ph # (414) 277-0730

FAX NO.: (414) 277-0709

NO. OF PAGES INCLUDING COVERSHEET: 2

FROM: Ben Pish Kouhani

Old Masters

COMPANY/LOCATION:

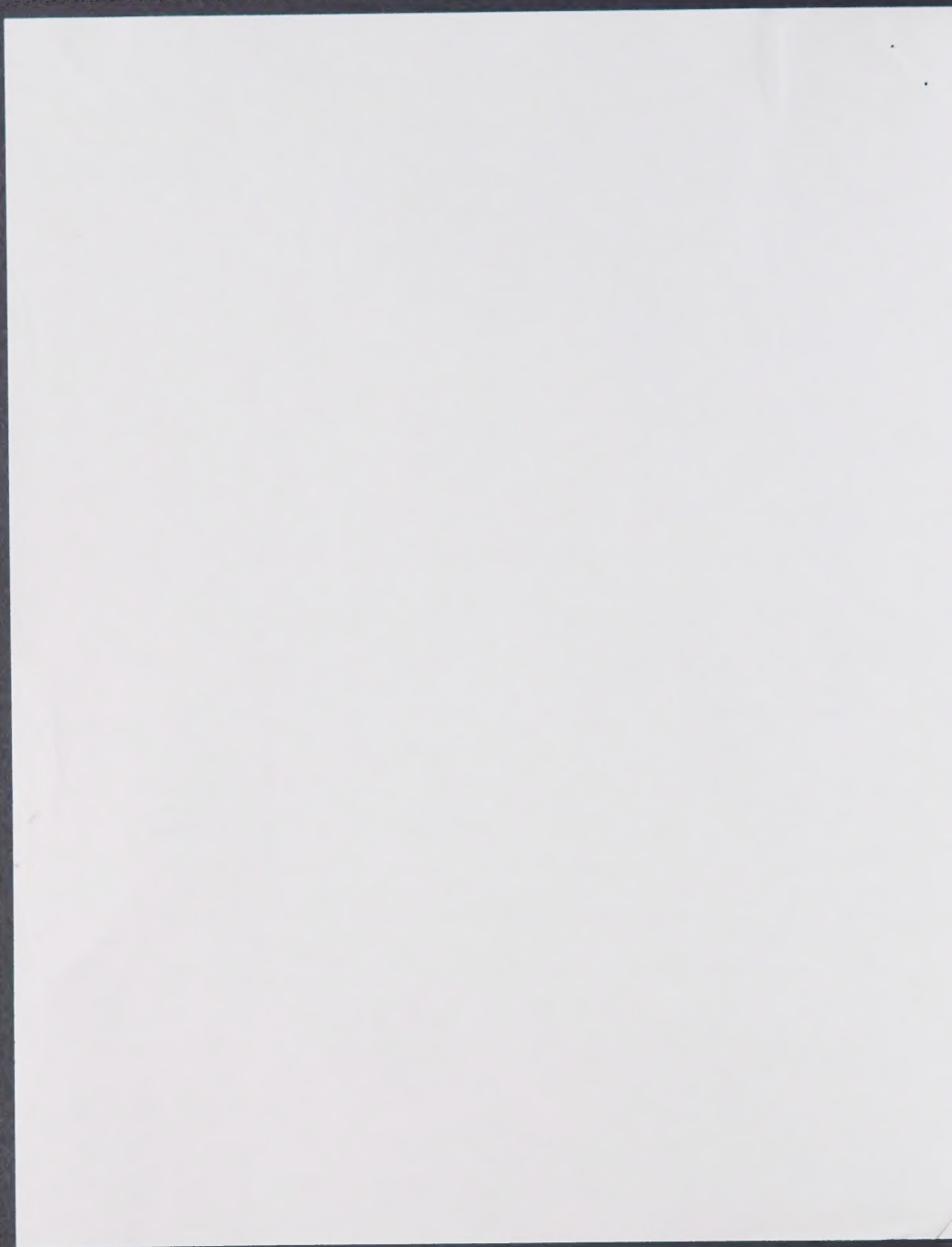
Fine Art & Restoration
(404) 605-0500

COMMENTS:

Thank you for taking the time to speak with me about this painting. I have personally taken care, though I do not have your expertise, to be sure that "St. Antonius" has been tested using technology, to assure a foundation for a trained eye to make a final decision.

Infra-red photography and radiographs were used to detect the "hidden" signature and other characteristic Rembrandt "signatures" that he place in all of his works. Other experts have viewed this painting from world know museums and have NOT declared them to be false or fake.

Please return the photo copies you requested



small photo
with white lens red arrow
to hid Rembrandts nose tip.



"Antonius" 1635 (canvas 114 x 94 cm)

"Antonius" - Lastman, "Jesu" - Rembrandt



