

C O P Y . -

166 E. 38th Street, N.Y. City, Feb. 20th 1915.

My dear Mr. Purcell:

I was very pleased to receive yours of the 18th, which just arrived, and which I have read over only once. There are two or three questions which you ask that I may answer immediately and save you that much time. The first is that I shall be very glad to take part in such a distinct work. I am entirely willing to collaborate and work with Mr. Schneider, Louis Sullivan's old modeller, and I appreciate the relation of his ornament or character of design being sympathetic with your character of work, all of which would ensure the unity that mine should have with yours. The volume or depth of relief cannot be determined with the information you gave me, neither do I see how you can escape wings if you want the particular spread you refer to, although that might be done -the subject warranting it- with draperies.

I ought to know something about the subject of both panels, and the subject of both should be the natural outgrowth of the building, it should be the voice of the building. I wish you would write me exactly what the building is for, and something of the traditions surrounding Sioux City. The only reason for putting ornament on at all, of a descriptive character, is to describe, to act as a kind of sign, of the temple or the building. I like the idea of a scroll tremendously, I like the idea of the terra cotta and mosaic. The measure of the relief should be governed by the general light and shade, the depth of shadow that you get over the rest of the building, although you might like to lead up to this centrepiece or you might like to reduce from it.

You ought to be in a position to put from six to ten thousand dollars in the work, I mean in the models that should be turned over to you to be used in making the clay forms that would be burned into the terra cotta, and of course they would be all full size. It is hard to state definitely how cheaply one could do such work, but if you give the importance to this which you are planning, accentuated by dispensing with all other ornament, it seems to me it is quite possible to meet these figures.

This letter is written to you without much reflection, or the re-reading of your own letter, because my afternoon is extremely full, and I have to catch an early train.

I want to thank you, also, for the January number of the "Western Architect", with the splendid illustrations of your work. By George, it does me good to see such work, it gives me courage and strength, and -if you will pardon the vanity- it makes me feel that I am not the only "crank" in the world. I am perfectly delighted with a number of things in the book, of which I will write you more fully next week.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) Gutzon Borglum