

L'ART =

A L'ÉGLISE

AU FOYER

DESPLANQUES, DUFFOUR

ET NOEL

Paris, le 14th January 1921.
4, RUE DES PETITS-PÈRES, (2^{me})
(en face l'Église Notre-Dame-des-Victoires)

✧ Mr S. F. Houston
509 Real Estate Trust Building.
Philadelphia

Dear Sir

We duly received your favor of 27th December ult which we have had easily translated.

The Calvarie to Lieutenant Houston will be erected within a short time. We have already sent to Arcis-le-Ponsart the Cross in wrought iron. Our men are completing the inscriptions on the base.

The ground which has been appointed to us by the Mayor of Arcis is ready.

Our estimate provides, as you desire it, foundations on which the whole monument will rest so as to obtain a very great stability.

However, here is a remark which in our opinion has some importance as regards the bottom layer which bears the inscription of Lieutenant Houston: this inscription will be somewhat too near the level of the ground, thence not so legible and liable in course of time of a less good preservation.

To remedy this inconvenience it would be possible to make a bottom layer of 25 centimeters in height.

Paris, le 19

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and the inscription would be so much higher.
The said layer would be bevelled ~~and~~ edged, this is to say will have a rather accentuated chamfret on its superior ridge.

Our observations are above all dictated by professional scruple.

On the other hand it is clear that the proposed layer would involve an additional expense of - 2000 francs.

The layer would be of 2 meters in width and 1^{meter}, 60 in return, it would not be in one block only, but made of blocks paired one with the other and joined after the rules of art.

We shall feel obliged for your reply on this point and thankful for your remittance for the cost of the Calvarie as you kindly offered to make it in your last letter.

As regards the furniture for the church of Arcis-le-Ponsart, that is to say the two altars, the pulpit, the confessional, ^(the benches) we beg to relate the situation in which we find ourselves.

When we went to Arcis-le-Ponsart in order to examine on the spot the technical details relating to the execution of the furniture we have seen the Mayor of Arcis who informed us of a wish expressed by the architect of the Ministry of Fine Arts when he came to Arcis

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This Architect requested to receive from us the communication of our plans and it was necessary to refer them to him as the Church of Jorcis has been classified as "Historical Monument" by the Ministry of Fine Arts.

We send you by mail the new plans which we have studied and made out in accordance with the "Fine Arts" so as to submit them first of all to your appreciation and eventually to your approbation.

We had to repeat our solicitations in order to succeed in producing designs meeting with the wishes of the "Fine Arts" and that would not involve such high increases in cost as was anticipated when we started on our steps. We felt conscious by doing so to act in accordance with your wishes and with your feelings.

The new designs which we refer to you and which have been approved of by the Ministry of Fine Arts are plain but of great style and this stylisation requires a rather important workmanship.

To correspond with the desire expressed by the Board of Fine Arts everything is provided so as to be executed more massively than in our first estimates.

We give you hereafter the details of the extra cost that the execution of the work would involve.

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Naturally it remains understood that if you prefer to hold to the first estimates as agreed between you and us, we would have to restrict and cancel one part of the furniture as was foreseen; either by reducing the number of the benches for instance or in some other way which you would appoint yourself.

	<u>New estimate</u>	<u>Original estimate</u>
A - Stone altars. (The altars would have the inscriptions as foreseen in the original plans)		8460 - 846 -
B - Holy-water basin, in stone		1500 -
C - Stone sub-basement of pulpit } 19.800 -	19.800 -	
D. Pulpit, of plain oak, with back and sounding board ... 11.000 (By cancelling the back and sounding board the cost would be of 7.800 ^{fcs} only)	11.000	6.900.
E Confessional, plain oak	4.500.	2500.
F. Benches: 107 meters at 250 ^{fcs} ... 26.750.	26.750.	19.675.
The benches are distributed as follows:		
Great nave, right & left sides: 65 meters		
Right side of church	12 "	
Left side of church	30 "	
altogether ... 107 meters	~~~~~	~~~~~
Totals.	62.050 ^{fcs}	39.881 ^{fcs}

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The figures show a total extra cost of
22.179 francs.

As soon as we receive your decision as to
one way or to the other we shall be able to set on
work and make all necessary arrangements to
make up for the time which has been taken by
the study, the elaboration of new plans and their
approval by the Board of Fine Arts.

Madame Noel has already forwarded to the
Curate of Arcis-le-Fonsait all what concerns
the ornaments and garments.

We have been quite touched by the wishes which
your kind letter conveyed to us and we beg
to reciprocate ours for yourself, for Mrs Houston,
for Miss Eleanor and Mademoiselle Jacques.

We beg to remain, dear Sir

yours respectfully and very sincerely

Desplanques Duffour Noel

The Mayor of Arcis-le-Fonsait wrote us a few
days ago saying he did not know the amount
you deposited with the Bank; we trust we
are not inquisitive by asking you to let us know.