

May 21st, 1915

J. C. Olmsted, Esq.

Brookline, Mass.

Dear Mr. Olmsted:

At first reading your letter was a great disappointment, but reading it over again and again I am confident that your memory at least so far as the point I wish to make is concerned is at fault.

Very possibly Allen did sketch some sort of a plan for the Fair on the present site; indeed, must have done so in order to be sure of his ground, but this was never published to the best of my knowledge and belief either in San Diego papers or elsewhere. On the other hand, I have here a great variety of tentative general plans made some for the original site and some for the new one. As I said in my letter to Allen many of the features of the plan for the original site were transferred <sup>for instance</sup> bodily to the new one, - the bridge, which in the original site crossed the canyon at an angle to the main axis, in the new site became merely its continuation.

From the moment I arrived in San Diego I visualized a big bridge with the permanent buildings forming its termination; that is, the square enclosed by the permanent buildings and the long tree-lined avenue are, I hold, the essential features of the general plan as built.

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No doubt in making this plan I received aid from a dozen different directions, for instance, you, Allen, Blossom and our clients in San Diego; but that Allen determined this arrangement or even suggested it I wholly deny.

-----And such data as I possess here in the way of correspondence and drawings would seem to absolutely support my own remembrance. At any rate, I have here a tracing from a drawing made right here, initialled by Mr. Winslow as draughtsman (not tracer), and dated May 25th, 1911; in other words, over six months before ~~before~~ Allen claims to have sent any drawing to me.

However all this is beside the mark for I have "not got into a public controversy" with Mr. Allen, and have no intentions of doing so----nor into a legal one either.

There is, as you know, more or less acrimonious correspondence going on. In reply to my reply (which you saw) I got a letter from him which together with my answer thereto I showed your brother day before yesterday. In this last letter of mine to Allen I did my best to close the correspondence, <sup>very</sup> <sup>well</sup> ~~the~~ whole being as curt as possible and declining to go further into the matter. Your brother's opinion of Allen's letter he will no doubt express to you.

In a way the whole thing is not worth talking about. There is no doubt in anybody's mind but that I <sup>it</sup> designed and had

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working drawings and specifications made here for the two permanent buildings and it is these that I am chiefly interested in. Nor would I have taken up the matter in any way but for the fact that I had been receiving clippings from newspapers, magazines, etc. ever since the opening of the Fair in which it was claimed, frequently without any mention of either me or my firm, that Frank P. Allen was the architect of the Exposition and designed all the buildings, the most glittering example of this sort of thing being an article in that filthy little yellow sheet called the Philistine by the late Elbert Hubbard, called, "A little journey to San Diego. This article--I am informed on the best of local authority--was directly inspired by Allen and his 'pals.' -----Had the whole thing been run decently and had the author of the first article interviewed me I should have made quite clear <sup>at</sup> the value of the services of everyone concerned, valuing mine, whatever you please, on the architectural side those of Winslow's stand very high. All but four, I think, of the temporary buildings were designed by him<sub>x</sub>---of course, the floor space was determined by Allen---one other, the Southern Counties Building, was designed by me personally at small scale when I happened to be in San Diego and worked up by Winslow. The other three, so far as I can make out, were designed---or more probably modified by Allen---after Winslow had presented and had had accepted his

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resignation.

The Pacific Coast Architect in the near future is going to publish a special number dealing with the Fair. In this will appear an article (which I have already read in manuscript, written by Frank P. Allen) <sup>the text of</sup> in which he credits Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson with the two permanent buildings and makes no attribution whatsoever for the rest of the work. However, with this article he sent them, and they have announced to me that they were going to publish, a number of photographs, each with a title on the back to be printed as written. These titles in each case gave the building's name and beneath it the architect according to Mr. Allen's theories.

The permanent buildings, i.e. the California State and the Fine Arts Buildings are credited to Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson. Under all the rest appears, "Frank P. Allen, architect," with the single exception, as I remember it (the photographs have gone back to the Pacific Coast Architect) of the Southern Counties Building, on which he has put, "Frank P. Allen, Architect, Bertram G. Goodhue, Advisory and Consulting Architect."

I have telegraphed the editor of the Pacific Coast Architect withdrawing from publication an article Mr. Stein of this office had prepared for him to publish, and asking him to omit all architectural attributions in the titles of such

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photographs as this office had supplied. In other words, have left Allen to take credit in the titles for all the buildings with the exception of the permanent ones. As to whether the 'Pacific Coast Architect' will feel inclined to follow this program out exactly I don't know, but at any rate, they cannot, with my permission, publish my name on anything.

-----So you see that I am not making a fight of the thing at all. My opinion of Fairs as an architectural opportunity and of San Diego as a town of unsullied public and private virtue is somewhat less than it was once, but no doubt I shall survive my disappointment.

Always faithfully yours,

BSS