

GEORGE W. MARSTON

OLMSTED BROTHERS
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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

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READ BY *JCC*

January 5, 1912.

Mr. John C. Olmstead,

Brookline, Mass.

My dear Mr. Olmstead:

*This letter not be
better read by Mr. Blossom
or anyone - JCC.*

*Vib
JCC*

This has been such a very busy season that I have been unable to write you as I would like to have done concerning exposition matters and especially in relation to your letter of September 16th, which contained your valuable suggestions regarding the placing of the permanent buildings. I haven't time even now to answer this letter properly, but I wish to have you know that I thought carefully about it and decided that it was impossible to get any changes effected in the plans that have been adopted by the directors of the exposition. Allen's influence is paramount and Goodhue and he are getting their recommendations in almost every instance. I think that Allen is doing effective work along the line of their plans, and on the whole it seems to me he is a valuable man for Collier and Sefton.

In November I resigned the office of the chairman of the building and grounds committee, and the ostensible reason for my resignation was my pre-occupation in private business affairs, especially the change in organization ^{of my firm} and the time I had to give to the new building. I may say to you confidentially that the withdrawal of Olmstead Brothers from participation in the park and exposition work, and the changes contemplated by Allen and adopted

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by the exposition had also a great deal to do with my own withdrawal from active service. It wouldn't do to have this known in San Diego, but I wish to assure you of my belief in the value of your advice and to say that it will be a life-long regret to me that San Diego lost the services of you and your firm, by the action taken on the part of the building and grounds committee.

I sometimes think that I might have done more to avert the change. While this is true, I still believe that the greatest possible exertion I might have put forth would have been unsuccessful. The other side was too strong for us, and this opinion is continually confirmed by the later decisions, not only of our exposition managers, but by the Chamber of Commerce and other organizations.

A few days ago, Mr. Sefton told me that he should try to see you the next time he went east. I suppose Joe expects to show you how much better the new plan is for the San Diego exposition.

With cordial regards for Mr. F. L. Olmstead, Mr. Dawson, Mr. Blossom and yourself, I am

GWM

Sincerely yours,

George W. Murston

P.S. I have just come from a meeting of the B. & G. Comm. the first one held since R. C. Allen became Ch. & Pres. The Parks Comm. reported that a certain bill of account for your firm (about \$1000.) had not been paid as yet. On my motion, Chairman Allen & Mr. Luce, were appointed a Special Committee to confer with the Parks Comm. re relation to this matter to examine contract - to report to larger Com. Later before the matter. G.W.M.