

OLMSTED BROTHERS
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS, BROOKLINE, MASS.

JOHN CHARLES OLMSTED FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED
ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
JAMES FREDERICK DAWSON PERCIVAL GALLAGHER

18th May, 1915.

Mr. Bertram G. Goodhue,
2 West 47th Street, New York City.

My dear Goodhue;

I write in consequence of your telegram of yesterday to my brother, who is now in New York, to apologize for not sooner replying to your letter to me of April 30th.

At first I thought I would delay until I had a chance to consult with Mr. Blossom, and then after I had done so I thought it would perhaps be better to delay again until I could consult with Mr. Dawson. He has been away on the Pacific Coast but I think he will be back in about ten days or two weeks.

Meanwhile I can say that I am exceedingly sorry you have got into a public controversy with Mr. Allen. Perhaps it was inevitable, but, since you have referred to me, it seems to me it might perhaps have been wiser to have consulted me before you wrote him instead of afterward.

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As it is, I can only say now that my recollection of events in connection with the planning of the Exposition at San Diego is so vague and I have such inadequate records that I should be of no use whatever as a witness.

So far as my recollection, vague though it is, throws any light on the subject, I regret to say that it is not such as would bear out the claim which I understand you to make that the whole credit for the plan of the grounds is due to you and not to Mr. Allen. My impression is that Mr. Allen had worked out on paper with his own hands, privately and without the knowledge of any assistants in his office, a definite preliminary plan for the Exposition on the site where it was eventually built, and that he had this plan drawn out before you made your plan. My recollection is that he consulted me and showed me his plan and tried to persuade me to accept it and go on with it before you made your plan.

Of course I may be wrong, since my memory is not reliable in this matter, but I do not see how I could have got that impression in my mind as strongly as it seems to be unless there had been a substantial foundation for it.

I have a still more dim recollection that Mr. Allen had actually published in a local newspaper his plan

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and a description of it before you took up the planning, but as to this I am not at all sure. However, I feel that it is important that you should inquire thoroughly into the matter before you make any public statement which may subsequently be proved by evidence to be without adequate foundation.

My sympathies as a designer are with you, as I am convinced that the value of your services as designer of the Exposition was uncommonly great, but I do wish you had submitted to me the proofs of Mr. Price's article and a copy of your letter to Mr. Allen of April 14th before you sent it, as I should have cautioned you to be more careful.

Very truly yours,

John C. Olmsted

B.G.G.