

April 15th, 1915

Frederick L. Olmsted, Esq.

Brookline, Mass.

Dear 'Rick' Olmsted:

Irving Gill's prediction that Allen would eventually "get my goat" has just been proved almost true for I received the other day from Allen dated San Diego, March 29th, a letter that is absolutely the most insultingly false document that has ever come to me. I should say maliciously false if it did not bear all the marks of megalomania (See Encyclopaedia. I have just sent my reply and since in it I have had to repeatedly employ your brother John's name, I am anxious to send copies of both Allen's letter and my reply to him.

Of course I did disagree with your brother and did agree with Allen with regard to the respective merits of the two sites, but I am sure that if the occasion arises your brother will be willing to write me that ~~so far as~~ my statements of matters-with which he is familiar-made in this letter are statements of fact.

Since both documents are of a highly personal nature I don't want to send them on without being sure they reach his hands, and I am not even sure

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he is in Brookline at the present moment, so if you will give me his address, I will send them to him by registered mail, or better yet if you will come in when you are next in New York I will turn them over to you.

The whole thing is disgusting but in its way diverting.

Please give my sincerest regards to your family, and believe me,

Always faithfully yours,

BSS

P. S. "You do not come around so often as you used to."

April 30th, 1915

John C. Olmsted, Esq.  
15 Warren Street,  
Brookline, Mass.

Dear Olmsted:

Thank you for your letter which I found on my return from a week's fishing trip.

I am sending you copies of the documents in question, i.e. a letter from Frank P. Allen to me dated March 29th, and a copy of my reply dated April 14th.

I don't need to ask you to regard these documents as absolutely confidential <sup>(-for</sup> though Allen no doubt had some advice--however bad--in writing his letter to me, and while I admit cheerfully that my lawyer aided in the preparation of my reply, the existence of both letters should, as a matter of strict propriety be known only to the two recipients) Of course, I don't mean by this that your brother or Mr. Dawson should not see them for I think they should, but there can be no question that you should, and I should be very grateful to you for an expression of opinion as to the accuracy of the statements made in my reply.



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"hen you have finished with the letters won't you either tear them up or return them to me?

Allen's letter was, is, and will always remain, incomprehensible to me. It has so sincere a ring despite its insulting quality that I am almost ready to believe ~~that~~ he has convinced himself of the truth of the ridiculous statements made. As for me--and Fairs--never again,

There are a number of articles appearing in the magazines, with some of which I have had to do. The 'Pacific Coast Architect' will in the near future publish a special number on the Fair containing two such articles, one by Allen and one by Mr. Stein of this office. The latter I hope you will read carefully when it comes out for in it I have, to the best of my ability, seen to it that Mr. Stein has stated the exact facts and no more. Of course, there is mention of the first and final sites, but I think that you will feel that you have been carefully guarded everywhere.

I am delighted to gather from your letter that you are in much better shape than you were a year or so ago.

Your brother Rick is one of the nicest fellows in the world but he doesn't come to see me as often as I think he should.

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I saw Brunner the other day at the Century and learned from him that your brother's absence was somewhat a matter of health, which I was very sorry indeed to learn.

With many thanks for the trouble I am imposing upon you, believe me,

Very faithfully yours,

*RSS*

Encs.

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.

B.G.G.

Mr. Goodhue - 2

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

B.G.G.



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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*



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>my note</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 <sup>& visited by me -</sup> him---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