



INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE
ANTROPOLOGIA E HISTORIA
S. E. P.

Departamento de Catálogo
y Restauración del
Patrimonio Artístico

AV. REVOLUCION 4
EX CONVENTO DEL CARMEN
SAN ANGEL, D. F.

July 9, 1965

Dr. H. J. Plenderleith
Rome Centre
Via Cavour 256
Rome, Italy

Dear Harold,

After such a long time of not having written you, I'm writing today - still very much upset by the sad news of the sudden death of our good mutual friend - a good friend indeed with his dry, but utterly humane nature, generous, a hard worker and passionately devoted to his activity. His departure has also been felt here in the office, as we have been living for a long time with two daily companions present in every conversation or plans we make in our work: Coremans and Plenderleith. I hope his work will continue at the level to which he brought it, as a due tribute to his memory.

I beg you to accept my humblest apologies for not answering your letters, as I was writing to you on the 11th of June and interrupted it on account of the sad news. In that same letter, I was telling you that we have been literally drowned by work - some of it rather useless - imposed upon us from above. We had to present on short notice and with no time to make due studies, a programme of the work to be done during the six future years - the term of the new government - complete with timing, the personnel needed and minute particulars of all expenses judged necessary for this realization (remember Santo Domingo?). Simple thing to do, isn't it? We solved it the best we could, emphasizing on one hand the necessity and importance of training rapidly the needed technicians, and on the other, the indispensable investigation - scientific and aesthetic -, studies and diagnosis of the subjects to be restored.



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A nice epilogue preventing that the part of the programme relating to the conservation work proper might prove at the end to be completely different, was written before the signature. All this and former experiences make us afraid of the possibility of being dragged along behind events, so we feel the absolute necessity of establishing a line production of rapidly trained technicians backed in a three-four years period by the solidly prepared conservators, exactly in the same programme as sketched in your report.

Things that have happened, most of them you probably know:

Apparatus from UNESCO already in the customs.

Letter from Mr. Daifuku: Dr. Plenderleith for installing the laboratory (I've already proposed to name it for Dr. Coremans); Mr. Keck and wife for commencing its activities (?).

Cruz Prado returning to us in November well prepared, according to a letter from Mr. Sneyers, in general problems and management of an investigation laboratory.

New premises given to us in the Churubusco Convent: over 1,000 M2 of modern construction to be properly adapted on 5,000 M2 of gardens - space enough for future enlargements.

Dr. Albornoz and us foreseeing the inauguration of activities during the next month of October: see Annex.

That will be all for today. I promise you another letter soon, as I would like to have your comments and help in some other things.

I would appreciate any further news you might have from the UNESCO.

Before closing this letter, a very important piece of news: Luis, the new member of the family since the 15th of March, sends "saludos" to Betty and Harold.

With kindest regards to you both,

Sincerely Yours,


Manuel Castillo Negrete