BAYERISCHE STAATSGEMÄLDESAMMLUNGEN MÜNCHEN
Munich, June 28, 1947

Dear Mr. Rae!

During the about two years Term of your Direction of the MFA & A-Section of Military Government for Bavaria and the Central Collecting Point Munich there has been a considerable amount of important events in the management of the Bayer.Staatsgemälde Sammlungen that found your assistance, your guidance and support.
At first there were more than 12,000 works of art from the stock of the Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen which had to be carried back to Munich. During the war they had been stored against air-raids in 9 different repositories all over Bavaria. Most of those paintings and sculptures could be safely deposited now in some rooms of the Central Collecting Point.

Since January 1946 another part of our paintings could be exhibited at the "Haus der Kunst", Munich. In the west wing of this building Military Government had transferred some rooms of the first floor and south-gallery to Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen in order to give us small compensation for the totally destroyed Pinakotheken. Our first exhibit at the "Haus der Kunst" was inaugurated on January 17, 1946 under the auspices of Military Government For Bavaria, MFA & A-Section; it was called: BAVARIAN PAINTINGS OF THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES. This exhibition was gradually extended and just during the past weeks the big centre-hall in the west wing together with the adjoining rooms were derequisitioned by Military Government and transferred to Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen. At least the most valuable ones of our paintings are exposed now to general view. For many a visitor of the younger generation this is a first meeting with the noble paintings of the Netherland and German Schools, - of the great Italien, Spanish and modern French masters. Memling and Rubens, Dürer and Grünewald, Titian, Greco, Velasquez and Manet have been combined with
their most famous contemporary painters to special collections within the exhibition. Many of the 200,000 visitors have found vital joy and new strength in those treasures.

Inaugurated under the auspices of American and French Military Government and that of the Bavarian State we had the pleasure of seeing the famous exhibition of MODERN FRENCH PAINTINGS in Munich, shown to the public in our exhibition halls at the "Haus der Kunst". On occasion of that exhibit, that attracted 55,000 visitors in two weeks time, you had been arranging a couple of lectures on themes of the paintings on exhibition. The lectures were held by known authorities and heard by more than 1,800 listeners. They were a great success and furthermore an essential share in bringing men to comprehension of modern art. We also followed your suggestion always to have at hand the right men and women for guidances. More than 2,700 pupils and students have been listening to such instructions vis à vis of the French paintings.

From the property of the Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen various exhibitions have been enriched by items of their stock in order to accommodate people in smaller Bavarian towns with the joy and instruction deriving from genuine works of art. The exhibition of IMPRESSIONISTS at Augsburg in August 1946 was amplified for a show at Kempten, that has gone on now to Memmingen.

The necessity of communicating the influence of European works of art to people in the country has led you to
taking a special interest in our subsidiary galleries. You were supporting our wishes for restoration of the damaged buildings; our subsidiary galleries at Schleissheim, Augsburg, Burghausen, Kempten and Füssen will thus soon be ready. – And you succeeded in promoting cooperation of all respective offices for the reopening of the BAMBERG RESIDENCE; on May 17, 1947 the New Residence with our subsidiary gallery were officially given to public view.

On June 4, 1947 an exhibition of OLD GERMAN PAINTINGS from the stock of many important German museums was inaugurated at Schaffhausen (Switzerland). The Bayer.Staatsgemälde Sammlungen was participating there to a great extent and you have been facilitating our efforts as much as possible. The second display of paintings from the Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen abroad will take place at Winterthur (Switzerland). We have discussed and prepared already all the details for this exhibition of 19th centuries' paintings.

You have also been interested in exhibitions of works from living artists. You lent a hand that pictures of South-German painters, collected in the Doerner-Institute, could be shown beyond the American Zone. In convenient cooperation we have been supporting the tasks of exhibition of MODERN SOUTH-GERMAN ART at Konstanz, Marburg, Munich, Nürnberg, Tübingen and Bamberg.

One year ago there has been a first meeting of wellknown art-historians from all parts of Germany and it was your understanding, your assistance and care that made the plan of this meeting a success. For the first time the problems of art at Universities and museums could be discussed in personal contact. Proposals for
dealing with the most urgent questions were prepared.

Just let us have a look at the DOERNER - INSTITUTE with its sections for technique of painting, foto-atelier and laboratories for physical and chemical researches. You have also taken it under your protection and have been adjusting its development with much care. Paintings are identified and restored here, students get instructions on questions of technics of painting, researches are made on different substances in order to learn their usefulness for painting. The genuineness of works of art is proved here by physical and chemical ways as well as by such of art - history.

This sober enumeration of facts can only be properly recollected by somebody who is intimately familiar with the amount of hard work, care and insight that had been prerequisite for you to lead all events to a happy issue. I should like you to know for sure, that you have been furthering much good with regard to the essentially important part of cultural revival and in rebuilding a new Germany. This work of yours will have its success in the future too.

My thanks I wish you to perceive to-day, Mr. Rae, are due to your official activity, but - even more - to your personality. You have been looking for and, I hope, you have found human contact
with us beyond your immediate business duties, and that decisive quality of human contact turned our collaboration into such a happy one.

You will never be forgotten here, and I should be glad, if you would keep your work for the administration of Bavarian Fine Arts and Monuments in kind remembrance.

All good wishes for your way home over the ocean and for a good start of your new work do accompany you —

very sincerely yours

(Dr. EBERHARD HAMPSTAENGL)

Generaldirector
Bayer. Staatsgemälde Sammlungen

NEW RESIDENCE BAMBERG SUBS. GALLERY