

10 FEB. 1981.

P.M. TO JOHN FOSTER.

1. WHAT IS BEING DONE BY CHANNON
RE THE CODEX. [AS IN PAPER]

2. THANK. DR. HAMMER, THROUGH JOHN

FOSTER, FOR HIS UNDERSTANDING AND
SYMPATHETIC APPROACH TO THE PROBLEMS
WHICH HAVE ARISEN. SAY HOW GRATEFUL
YOU ARE THAT HE WAS SO READY TO
AGREE THAT NOTHING SHOULD BE DONE
WHICH MIGHT HARM YOU PERSONALLY.

3. REGRET THAT HAMMER'S FRIENDSHIP WITH
YOU SHOULD PRODUCE THIS UNFORTUNATE
RESULT, BUT YOU CANNOT RISK ANY SMEAR
ON EITHER OF YOUR REPUTATIONS.

4 WARM REGARDS.

FILE

VLB

Arts & Amanties

11 February 1981

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Channon's minute of 10 February, about the Leonardo Codex and the Edward Haytley painting.

As I told you on the telephone, she is content that Mr. Channon should announce his decision as he proposes. We agreed that you will be making contact with Dr. Armand Hammer's representative to inform them of the timing of the announcement. The Prime Minister hopes that it can be made with the minimum further delay.

M A PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

h



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

Here is Mr. Channon's proposed decision on the Leonardo Codex. As forecast, he has in mind a one month delay. The press release to accompany the announcement is attached to his minute.

You wanted to have a word with Sir John Foster. We should be able to get hold of him in the morning, and I will arrange this after your diary meeting. I am also attaching - Flag A - David Wolfson's suggestion about what you might say to him.

Agreed me *MA*

10 February 1981

CONFIDENTIAL



PRIME MINISTER

I have seen the account of your meeting with Dr Hammer last Thursday about the Leonardo Codex. Under all the circumstances I suggest that I accept in principle the Reviewing Committee's decision to delay export, but reduce the delaying period before a licence is granted from 3 months to 1 month.

2. This is a wholly exceptional case. The object is a manuscript, so that at most 7 or 8 institutions in the UK would be seriously interested. They would have to mount a public appeal for money. I understand that in fact none of them wish to do so.

3. Your office has told mine that Dr Hammer would be unlikely to cause trouble over a delay of say a month. Of course the crucial thing is that he should keep to his generous offer of exhibiting the Codex regularly in this country.

4. If you think this is a reasonable course I could announce this with another case within the next few days as a routine matter, though I would want Dr Hammer to have a day's advance notice.

5. I enclose a possible draft Press Notice. Would you be content with this?

P.C.

PAUL CHANNON

10 February 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

TWO EXPORT LICENCES SUSPENDED

Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, has decided that licences to export the Leicester Codex by Leonardo da Vinci and a painting by Edward Haytley 'Sir Roger and Lady Bradshaigh with Haigh Hall, Lancashire, beyond' should be withheld for one month and three months respectively.

The cases were considered by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art at their meeting on 28 January 1981. The Committee considered that both items were of national importance under the criteria laid down by the Waverley Committee. They recommended that licences should be withheld for three months in both cases.

In deciding that the suspension period for the Leicester Codex should be one month rather than three months as recommended by the Reviewing Committee, the Minister took into account information available to him and the result of particular enquiries made both before and after the sale about the prospects of a public collection seeking to acquire the Codex. These consultations have shown that there are at present no plans by any major public collection for launching an appeal which would be needed in order to raise the necessary funds. The Minister considers nevertheless that a waiting period is desirable to establish beyond all doubt whether any public collection wishes to make an offer to purchase the manuscript, but considers that in the particular circumstances one month will be adequate.

Mr Channon also took into account the offer which has been made by Dr Armand Hammer, purchaser of the Codex, to exhibit the manuscript regularly in the United Kingdom. He has described it as "a very generous offer which would achieve the regular display in this country of a manuscript that has been on public view only once in the last 300 years".

Any public collection in the United Kingdom which is interested in making an offer to purchase either of the items can obtain further information from the expert adviser concerned.

NOTES TO EDITORS

The Leicester Codex by Leonardo

1. This manuscript, which was compiled in about 1508, consists of 36 sheets (ie 72 pages) in folio, measuring approximately 299 x 225mm. It is written in Leonardo's hand from right to left. There are drawings on 59 of the pages. The main theme of the manuscript is the flow of water or, more broadly, physical geography. The manuscript was sold at Christie's on 12 December 1980 by order of the Trustees of the Holkham Estate.
2. A licence was granted on 29 December 1980 for the temporary export of the manuscript to Washington for the Inauguration ceremonies. The manuscript was returned to this country in time for the meeting of the Reviewing Committee on 28 January 1981 to consider the application of an export licence for the longer term.
3. The Reviewing Committee attached to their recommendation a note of concern about Dr Hammer's plans for the manuscript to be displayed throughout the world in view of the risks involved. This has been drawn to Dr Hammer's notice.
4. If a public collection offers to buy the manuscript for £2,420,000 by midnight on March 1981, an export licence will not be granted. (This figure represents the auction price plus the 10 per cent buyer's premium.) The expert adviser, from whom further details can be obtained, is:

The Keeper of Manuscripts
The British Library
2 Sheraton Street
LONDON
W1V 4BH

Painting by Edward Haytley

PRIME MINISTER

Arts + Ham
c. Mr. Wolfson

The Leicester Codex

Mr. Channon is considering this overnight. The recommendation made by officials is that he should announce on Thursday a one-month delay on the export licence, to allow public collections a further opportunity to consider whether they are interested. He will make it clear that he has already been in touch with the major public collections, and has found no sign of interest. He would also be announcing his decision on two other cases considered at the same meeting by the Reviewing Committee.

David Wolfson spoke to Sir John Foster on your behalf on Friday. Sir John confirmed that Mr. St. John Stevas had made it clear that it was within his power as Minister to overturn any recommendation of the Reviewing Committee. But Sir John was also clear that Dr. Hammer would not wish anything to be done which could damage his excellent relations with you. Sir John Foster has telephoned us several times today, after learning from Dr. Hammer that you said you wished to see him. He is inclined to press to see you. I do not think this is necessary, and you have very little time this week. Do you want to try to find two minutes to speak to him on the telephone, or can we leave it? *Yes Mr*

Mr. Channon's office have also considered the possibility of his announcing on Thursday that he would now issue an export licence because he had already been in contact with the major public collections, thus meeting the spirit of the Reviewing Committee's recommendations. But this would nevertheless be seen as overturning the Reviewing Committee's recommendations, and this has not been done before - the length of delay has simply been varied, and usually upwards rather than downwards. Thus such a decision would be very much open to attack. The Arts office are pretty confident that the arts world would accept it, but it is more the general muckraking journalist that we need to have in mind.

When Hammer left you, he hoped that there would be no announcement about the Codex until Mr. Channon had finally satisfied himself about the position of the public collections. Hammer in fact believes that he has got a bargain, and he is genuinely

/ nervous

nervous that somebody else may spot this and therefore try to compete. We think he is mistaken in this. It is also very difficult to leave aside any announcement, because Mr. Channon cannot further delay a decision on the other two pending cases. If he simply makes no mention of the Codex, that will immediately arouse suspicion.

If Mr. Channon does recommend that he announce this week a decision to impose a one-month delay, I suggest that you should accept it and that we get the announcement made as quickly as possible. There can be no further argument with Dr. Hammer. In the interim, you need to decide whether to be in touch with Sir John Foster.

MD

9 February 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

HS



SUBJECT

Arts + American

10 DOWNING STREET

ex. Master set

From the Private Secretary

6 February 1981

Thank you for providing briefing about the Leicester Codex for the Prime Minister's meeting yesterday with Dr. Hammer. The Prime Minister had a brief word with Dr. Hammer about it at the start. Dr. Hammer is clearly most disappointed with the Reviewing Committee recommendation, and believes that it is not well founded. He nevertheless appreciates that Mr. Channon will wish to have the opportunity to confirm that there is no public collection in this country which has both the funds and the inclination to seek to acquire the Codex, and that an export licence will not be granted until Mr. Channon has satisfied himself of this.

I understand that Dr. Hammer has arranged that the Codex should be available to any public collection who might want to exhibit it. I believe that Occidental also have a few copies of the detailed catalogue prepared by Christies, which would similarly be made available.

We will need to speak further about this before your Minister makes a public announcement of his response to the recommendations of the Reviewing Committee. You will no doubt be in touch with me.

M. A. PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,
Department of Education and Science.

CONFIDENTIAL

HS

Es.P.
Arts
Amenities
M.A.P.
a/2

Prime Minister agrees

M.A.P. 4/2

PRIME MINISTER

Paul Channon wants to send a brief reply to Dr. Hammer today, as he will be seeing Hammer for the first time at the opening of the Daumier Exhibition tonight.

His draft - below - basically leaves the Codex issue to your meeting with Hammer tomorrow.

Content that Mr. Channon should write this afternoon as he proposes?

M.A.P.

4 February 1981

R.P.
DRAFT LETTER FOR MR. PAUL CHANNON TO SEND TO DR. HAMMER

Thank you for your letter which I received today.

I was delighted to be appointed Minister for the Arts and I am most grateful for your kind congratulations and good wishes and look forward to seeing you this evening.

I realise of course that you are anxious to have a ^{quick} separate decision about the Codex but the Review Committee is an independent body and judges each case referred to it according to strict guide lines derived from the Waverley Report of 1952. They were certainly aware of and expressed their appreciation of, as indeed I do, the generous offer you had made. The Committee did not, however, regard it as an overriding reason for departing from their normal procedure when an item ^{is} assessed as meeting one or more of these criteria.

So they recommended that three months should be allowed for a public institution, not, I must stress, a private buyer, to have the opportunity to raise the necessary funds to buy the Codex.

I know you are seeing the Prime Minister tomorrow. She is anxious to have a private word with you about the issues involved.

CONFIDENTIAL

Sub



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 February 1981

The Prime Minister has seen Mr. Channon's undated minute about the Leicester Codex.

We have since discussed this on the telephone. I told you that the Prime Minister entirely supports Mr. Channon's judgement. But there are other relevant factors in this case which, in her view, would make it injudicious to follow a course by the Minister of Arts, despite the arguments in favour.

The Prime Minister will be seeing Dr. Hammer on the afternoon of 5 February. She intends to raise the subject with him then, on the basis that she does not feel able to endorse the overturning of the Reviewing Committee's recommendation. You agreed to let me have a brief speaking note which will demonstrate Mr. Channon's belief that there is no significant prospect of any public collection having either the funds or the inclination to take advantage of the three month withholding period.

I understand that Mr. Channon would like to make public his reaction to the Reviewing Committee's recommendations on Monday, 9 February. You will no doubt be in touch with us further about the form of the announcement.

M. A. PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,
Department of Education and Science.

CONFIDENTIAL

VLS

original filed on: - Econ 101
Correspondence from Dr. Hammer : Sept 80

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Ingham
Mr. Wolfson

The Leicester Codex

As you know, the case for overturning the Reviewing Committee's recommendation is powerful.

But regardless of the grounds for overturning it, any such decision is almost certain to be damaging both to you and Dr. Hammer, because:

- (i) Dr. Hammer is well known to be a friend of yours with ready access;
- (ii) Publicity about Gordon Reece's departure from your service to his has hardly died down;
- (iii) Hammer's very presence in London next week is for his Daumier exhibition, which has benefited from Royal patronage;
- (iv) This would be the first time that an Arts Minister had overturned a reviewing committee's recommendation.

The alternative is this: when you see Dr. Hammer on Thursday, you explain that, in any other circumstances, you would have supported your Arts Minister's decision to overturn. However in this case you feel that you must protect him, and the reputation of the office of Prime Minister, from innuendo that would be unfair but nevertheless easy to make.

/ It is,

It is, unfortunately, a price that your friends sometimes have to pay. You are entirely confident that no national collection will have any prospect of raising funds for the Codex, even if they were inclined to try. It has already been more effectively displayed in three months of his ownership than in all its earlier years in this country.


Dr. Hammer should find it very difficult to resist this, especially considering his continuing interest in North Sea oil licences. He was, in any case, intending to exhibit the manuscript here again in the early summer, so that it should make very little difference to his plans. It will avoid much in the way of an unjustified smear campaign.

I understand that Mr. Channon now takes the view that it would be desirable to tackle the issue in this way.

Agree?

M. A. PATTISON

30 January 1981



FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

PRIME MINISTER

You will remember that Dr Hammer was given permission temporarily to export the Leicester Codex to Washington for the Inauguration ceremonies. It is now back and the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art met yesterday to consider his application for an export licence for the longer term.

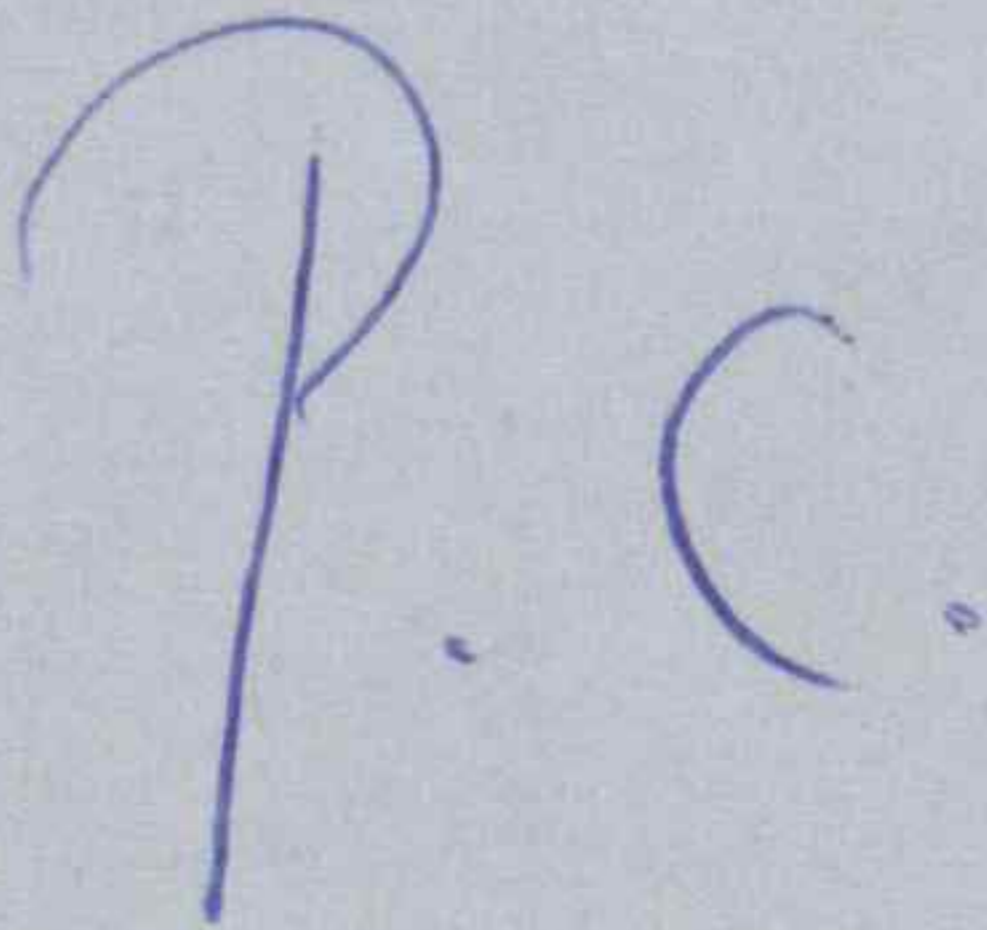
As you know, Dr Hammer has agreed to exhibit the manuscript in this country for three months every year until ten years after his death. He has asked his Foundation to bear in mind his wish for it subsequently to be shown in the UK at regular intervals.

But, as I feared, the Reviewing Committee have recommended to me that an export licence should be withheld for a period of three months to give a public collection the chance of raising the necessary £2.4m to buy it.

If I accept the recommendation or accept it but reduce the stop period to, say, one month, Dr Hammer who may well regard our treatment of his generous offer as mean spirited, may withdraw it. In that event the country may in the long term lose the opportunity of seeing the manuscript. If, however, I agree that a licence should be granted, this will mean overturning a recommendation by the Committee for the first time since it was established in 1952.

Dr Hammer is coming to London on 3 February and is seeing you on 5th. We shall need to decide what to do by then. My officials have taken soundings and I understand and would be able to say, that in fact there is no real prospect of any public institution launching an appeal to save the manuscript. Lord Charteris, Chairman of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, has already said privately that he has no intention of stepping in. There is one other complication. The Committee have expressed concern that the manuscript might be damaged by excessive travel. I am quite certain that Dr Hammer has already taken this point into account.

I judge that a decision to grant a licence, although likely to attract some publicity, will not cause too much trouble. Subject to your views, therefore, I would propose contrary to the Committee's recommendation, to agree to a licence being granted - and to announce the decision on February 3rd.



PAUL CHANNON



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

5 January 1981

Dear Mr. Hammer,

Thank you for your letter of 17 December about the Leonardo Codex. I am grateful to you for letting me know of your plans for its future.

I am glad that Norman St. John-Stevas was able to arrange at short notice for the issue of a licence for the temporary export of the manuscript to the United States for its restoration and exhibition during the Inauguration ceremonies.

I understand that the manuscript will be returned to this country later this month for the hearing by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art of your application for an export licence for the longer term. The Reviewing Committee will then submit their recommendation to Norman St. John-Stevas. Clearly an important factor will be the proposed arrangements for the exhibition of the manuscript in Britain for three months each year. I was very pleased to learn of the extensive arrangements you have made for that purpose.

/ I gather

Handwritten initials or signature

Handwritten notes: DSG, CDLO, Arts + Humanities

I gather that, since you wrote to me, the Royal Academy have suggested that the first showing of the manuscript in this country could be arranged as part of the Leonardo exhibition to be held at the Academy this summer. I hope that I shall have an opportunity to see the manuscript while it is on display this year.

Yours sincerely

Roger Federer

Dr. Armand Hammer.

PRIME MINISTER

You owe Dr. Hammer a reply to his letter of 17 December about the Leonardo Codex. Here is a draft suggested by the Chancellor of the Duchy, together with a note about future plans for the Codex.

Mr. St. John-Stevas suggests a draft which seems to focus very much on the important role of the Minister for the Arts in all this, but he has taken a considerable personal interest in it.

MA

2 January 1981



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 17 December about the Leonardo Codex. I ~~congratulate you on its acquisition and~~ ^{am for} am grateful to you for ~~informing me~~ ^{telling me know} of your plans for its future.

I am glad that

~~As you know,~~ Norman St. John-Stevas was able to arrange at short notice for the issue of a licence for the temporary export of the manuscript to the United States for ~~the purpose~~ of its restoration and ~~its~~ exhibition during the Inauguration ceremonies.

I understand that the manuscript will be returned to this country later this month for the hearing by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art of your application for an export licence for the longer term. The Reviewing Committee will ^{then} submit their recommendation to Norman St. John-Stevas, ~~with whom the final decision on the grant of an export licence rests.~~ Clearly an important factor will be the proposed arrangements for the exhibition of the manuscript in Britain for three months each year. I was very pleased to learn ~~from Norman St. John Stevas~~ ^{of the extensive arrangements} that you have

/ ~~now~~ agreed

made for that purpose.

~~now, agreed that the arrangement should continue to apply
for ten years after your death and thereafter at mutually
convenient intervals.~~

I gather that, since you wrote to me, the Royal Academy
have suggested that ~~it might be more appropriate for the~~
first showing of the manuscript in this country ^{could} ~~to~~ be
arranged as part of the Leonardo exhibition to be held at
the Academy this summer, ~~rather than during the exhibition
of your Daumier collection.~~ I hope that I shall have an
opportunity to see the manuscript while it is on display at
~~the Academy~~ this year.

Dr. Armand Hammer



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and
Minister for the Arts.

2nd January 1981

CONFIDENTIAL

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

I have seen the letter of 19th December from your Private Secretary to mine enclosing a copy of Dr Hammer's letter to you of 17th December about the Leonardo manuscript.

As I have already reported to you, I was able to arrange for the issue on 29th December of a licence for the temporary export of the manuscript to the United States. Dr Hammer has undertaken that the manuscript should be returned to this country by 28th January when the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art will meet to consider Dr Hammer's application for an export licence for the longer term. I propose to announce a decision on the grant of a licence within a few days of that meeting.

In reaching a decision I shall of course take the fullest account of the proposed arrangement for the exhibition of the manuscript in this country for three months each year. Since we met I have been in touch with Dr Hammer and I am pleased to report that he has now agreed that the arrangement should apply not only during his lifetime but also for a period of ten years after his death, and thereafter at mutually convenient intervals. I hope that it might be possible for the manuscript to be displayed in various parts of Britain, not just at the Royal Academy.

It has been suggested by the Royal Academy that it might be more appropriate for the first showing of the manuscript in this country to be arranged as part of the Leonardo exhibition to be held at the Academy this summer rather than during the forthcoming exhibition of Dr Hammer's Daumier collection. It seems likely, therefore, that the first exhibition of the manuscript in this country will be in June rather than in February as indicated in Dr Hammer's letter.

... I enclose a draft reply for you to send to Dr Hammer which takes account of the developments since he wrote to you.

Yours sincerely

S E Dancer

for

Norman St John-Stevas

(Approved by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and signed in his absence)

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO DR HAMMER

Thank you for your letter of 17 December about the Leonardo Codex. I congratulate you on its acquisition and am grateful to you for informing me of your plans for its future.

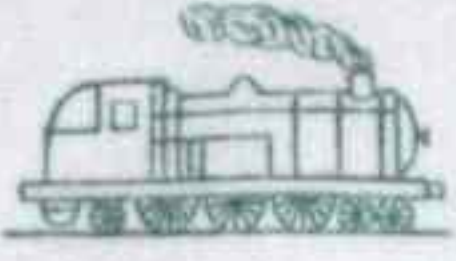
As you know, Norman St John-Stevas was able to arrange at short notice for the issue of a licence for the temporary export of the manuscript to the United States for the purpose of its restoration and its exhibition during the Inauguration ceremonies.

I understand that the manuscript will be returned to this country later this month for the hearing by the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art of your application for an export licence for the longer term. The Reviewing Committee will submit their recommendation to Norman St John-Stevas, with whom the final decision on the grant of an export licence rests. Clearly an important factor will be the proposed arrangements for the exhibition of the manuscript in Britain for three months each year. I was very pleased to learn from Norman St John-Stevas that you have now agreed that the arrangement should continue to apply for ten years after your death and thereafter at mutually convenient intervals.

I gather that, since you wrote to me, the Royal Academy have suggested that it might be more appropriate for the first showing of the manuscript in this country to be arranged as part of the Leonardo exhibition to be held at the Academy this summer rather than during the exhibition of your Daumier collection. I hope that I shall have an opportunity to see the manuscript while it is on display at the Academy this year.



PRESTON CAPES
(032 736) 620



NORTHAMPTON
BANBURY

pm seen. 1

THE OLD RECTORY,
PRESTON CAPES,
DAVENTRY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

Dec 29 1980.

Dear Prime Minister

I thought I should
let you know that the temporary
export permission was issued
to Arnold Hamner today at 2.30

and the Coleridge will depart for

the United States tomorrow.

It will return here & the
27th January in time for the
Review Committee meeting on
28th January. The Deputy
Queen did not wish the
work of return to the original
folio format to be done at
Winchcombe & this will now be
done in the United States by
Prof. Pedretti.



PRESTON CAPES
(032 736) 620



NORTHAMPTON
BANBURY

THE OLD RECTORY,
PRESTON CAPES,
DAVENTRY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

I have negotiated a rather
better deal with Dr Hamner
for the future of the codex than the
one I mentioned to you before Christmas.
Dr Hamner has now agreed
that the codex should be
displayed here for 3 months.

every year until his death -
The fund for 10 years will then
enter into the same arrangement and
thereafter it will be dispensed in the
U.K. at mutually convenient times
This will enable many more people
to see it here than ever before.

After 10 years we will be able to see
whether there is sufficient interest
in the Collet to warrant continuing



PRESTON CAPES
(032 736) 620



NORTHAMPTON
BANBURY

THE OLD RECTORY,
PRESTON CAPES,
DAVENTRY,
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

with the exhibitions.

I propose to tell the press
about the temporary arrangements but
not about the permanent ones. These
will go before the revenue committee
on the 28th with a declaration from
myself that I am minded to
grant a export license on those

terms. I hope they will consent
but if necessary I can overrule
them.

Dr Hanner will be here for
his Daumier exhibit on February
4 and I propose to announce
the arrangements to the press with
Dr Hanner on February 3.

I believe these arrangements
will be widely welcomed in the

ant world and will be
 minimal in cost.

I hope that you had a
 restful and blessed Christmas
 as we did here - I have had
 a decade of happiness in this
 beautiful house for which I
 am grateful
 1981 will be a difficult

Year but I pray that

the sky will brighten as the

year goes on

with every good wish for
your happiness and success
in 1981.

Love you

Marilyn

CONFIDENTIAL



Arts & Antiques ds

cc Master

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 December 1980

BF 2.1.81

When the Chancellor of the Duchy met the Prime Minister this morning, he raised two arts matters.

The Chancellor of the Duchy reported his conversations with Dr. Armand Hammer about the latter's purchase of the Leonardo da Vinci Codex. The Prime Minister received this morning the enclosed letter from Dr. Hammer, who describes the arrangements he has agreed with the Chancellor of the Duchy for regular display of the Codex in this country, and for restoration. The Chancellor of the Duchy explained that he had it in mind to require, as a condition of the export licence, that the Codex should continue to be displayed in this country until after Dr. Hammer's death. He also explained that the established procedure for considering export licence applications could not be completed in time for Dr. Hammer to display the Codex during the Inauguration celebrations on 17 January.

The Prime Minister said that she hoped that an export licence could be granted. She understood that this Codex was not an absolutely outstanding example of Leonardo's art. She very much hoped that it would be possible for Dr. Hammer to have the Codex available on 17 January, even if this was seen as a temporary absence from the country pending the decision on an export licence. In view of Dr. Hammer's declared intention to show it in this country in February, it should presumably be possible to come to some informal understanding. I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send to Dr. Hammer. It would be helpful if this could reach me by 2 January.

The Chancellor of the Duchy also informed the Prime Minister of his conversations with the Duke of Devonshire about the future of the Chatsworth collection. The Prime Minister said that she hoped the Duke could be persuaded to announce his trust proposals and his specific sale plans simultaneously.

M. A. PATTISON

Miss Mary Giles,
Office of the Minister for the Arts.

CONFIDENTIAL

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

10889 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • SUITE 1500

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

(213) 879-1700 • (213) 477-0066

ARMAND HAMMER
CHAIRMAN AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 17, 1980.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
Prime Minister and First Lord of the
Treasury,
10 Downing Street,
London, SW1.

Dear Mrs. Prime Minister,

As you undoubtedly know, I was successful in acquiring one of
Leonardo da Vinci's Codex (notebook).

I was motivated by the fact that the British Museum has another
Leonardo Codex, although somewhat smaller in size, consisting of
270 sheets - while the United States has none.

I thought you would like to know my plans for this notebook. I
intend to restore it to its original folios, have each folio
mounted between two layers of protective plexiglass, and framed
for exhibition purposes.

I expect this will be done either at the laboratory at Windsor
Castle, under the supervision of Mrs. Jane Roberts, Curator of
the Queen's collection of Leonardo works, or in California
under the supervision of the foremost Leonardo scholar, Professor
Carlo Pedretti, who edited and published the Queen's extensive
Leonardo collection.

I propose to offer it for a three-month show at the Royal Academy
next year and thereafter every year until my death. After that
the discretion to loan it will be with the Armand Hammer Foundation,
but I will inform it of my wishes to show the exhibition in the
United Kingdom at mutually convenient intervals.

Sir Hugh Casson has agreed that I should show it at the Royal
Academy at the same time as I am exhibiting my Daumier collection
of oil paintings, original drawings and bronze sculptures and
prints beginning February 4, 1981.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
London, SW1.

December 18, 1980.

In the meantime I have been asked by President-Elect Reagan's Inaugural Art Committee (of which I am a member), to show the notebook during the Inaugural festivities. Therefore, it will be a part of the Inaugural. I have arranged to have it shown at a reception on Saturday, January 17, on which day the ceremonies begin. The President-Elect, his cabinet members and all top officials in the new administration will view it.

After I have shown it at the Royal Academy and in Washington D.C. it is my intention to have it exhibited in various countries throughout the world.

I have bequeathed it to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and, upon my death, it will rest there, along with my collection of paintings and my Daumier collection.

With warmest personal regards and wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,



Armand Hammer.

P.S. I enclose a copy of my letter of today's date to Norman St. John Stevas.

OCCIDENTAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

10889 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD • SUITE 1500

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90024

(213) 879-1700 • (213) 477-0066

ARMAND HAMMER
CHAIRMAN AND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

December 17, 1980

The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John Stevas,
34 Montpelier Square,
London, SW7.

Dear Mr. St. John Stevas,

After you so kindly called on me on Saturday December 13, prior to my leaving for Budapest, in regard to my plans for the Leonardo Codex, I discussed them with Sir John Foster as I advised you I would do.

Since then I have had a telephone call from the Chairman of President-Elect Regan's Inaugural Art Committee, Mrs. Pascal Reagan, asking if I would show the Codex at a reception on Saturday, January 17, which is the first day of the Inaugural ceremonies.

Please let me know when you would like a press conference, as you suggested at the time of your visit, announcing my intention to loan the Codex for three months to the Royal Academy every year until my death, starting at the time of the opening of my Daumier collection on February 4, 1981.

My general plans are contained in my letter to Mrs. Thatcher, a copy of which I enclose.

I respectfully ask that the export license requested by Christies be expedited, because if I get delivery of the Codex immediately it can be ready in folio form for the Inauguration.

Please be in touch with my representative Tim Halford who is fully authorized to act as my agent. His telephone numbers are: office - 828 5600 or residence - 948-5061.

He has been informed by Christies that the basic procedure is to submit an application and request that you convene a meeting of the Review Committee to approve the offer.

The Rt. Hon. Norman St. John Stevas
December 17, 1980.

I would deeply appreciate your prompt action in this matter in view of the very short time remaining to get the folios framed.

With warmest regards and wishes for a happy holiday season.

Sincerely yours,

Armand Hammer

Armand Hammer.

cc. The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

cc: Mr. Whitmore
Mr. Gow
Mr. Sanders
Mr. Pattison

As A

PRIME MINISTER

The Chancellor of the Duchy would like to see you this week to discuss Duchy matters and also the recent sale of the Leonardo da Vinci notebook. I have put him in the diary at 1230 pm on Friday 19 December.

C STEPHENS

15 December 1980

Briefing?

No

PRIME MINISTER

DA VINCI MANUSCRIPT

You asked us to ensure that, if there was any question at all of Government intervention over the da Vinci Manuscript, you should be consulted in advance.

I understand that the Chancellor of the Duchy met Lord Coke yesterday. Lord Coke made it clear that the Holkham trustees were pretty well determined to go for auction in order to go for a true valuation. They are looking to raise funds to cover not only outstanding death duties, but expected death duties in the event of the death of the dowager.

The CDL took one step which might have led the Trustees to expect some Government interest. He asked whether they had in mind a minimum figure, which might allow them to contemplate a private sale. Lord Coke undertook to come back with an answer on this. But I understand that the conversation revealed that they had in mind the higher reaches of £4 to 10 million range canvassed in the press.

Lord Coke left by a back door to avoid the waiting press. Mr St John Stevas issued a brief statement saying that he and Lord Coke had a friendly discussion, and that it was clear that the Trustees were keen to proceed to auction.

22 October, 1980

Charles on

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