

FAX TO: RV

May 15, 1996 (American time)

Seymour

Hi JOHN

2 pages

Spent the week trying to set up Towers visit and lecture etc. for Nek Chand. Not too easy considering I'm not sure if Chand is interested in talk and I really don't know the dates he is available. I've been spending a lot of time on the phone with Phyliss. It will happen. Looking forward to meeting him. Trying to set up something with local Indian community.

Asked Bernice to send a bunch of RV #9 (Chand issue) figured they could be sold at lecture, especially if Chand signs them. I suggested Bernice call Phyliss so she could sell them at lecture in Sheboygan or Chicago.

If you send me telephone numbers of RV subscribers in Southern California I could call some and invite them to lecture as a subscribers bonus.

- For the plaque

To the Honorable Padam Shri Nek Chand Saini

On the occasion of his visit to Los Angeles. May 1996

In honor of his tenacity and creative genius which gave the world his wonderful vision realised as the Rock Garden of Chandigarh.

In appreciation of the joy he has given the thousands and thousands of people with whom he has shared his lifetime work. OK?... if not let me know immediately, Thanks

RV stuff

- Received French version of last issue -- thanks
- save a paragraph in the review section for new information on the Edward James video
- Getting a review copy of the Gywn Headley book "Architectural Follies in America?" and have copy of catalog of new show at the Museum of International Folk Art (Santa Fe, - New Mexico) "Recycled - Re-Seen: Folk Art from the Global Scrap Heap."

Catalog looks good. Some incredible objects including some American environments. Great things from Africa.

Are you interested. Photos? When would you need the reviews.

did I send this already ?

RV page 2

If you have room you can put this in. **Bold** = new from last Fax

I wish to thank Art Falter for his criticism of my review of “Gardens of Revelation” (Letters to the Editor RV #13).

Many people in the field have really been far too generous in finding something nice to say about **everything, regardless of the quality of the endeavor. We should not be publicists** for bad art, bad books, bad shows, bad folks in the field of visionary art. This movement will never reach its proper significance unless we can call people to task. If the review sounded “unkind” I’m sorry, but a scholarly book must be held to a high criteria. **Pointing out factual mistakes is not a sin. ???**

A friend who saw the book — but not my review, summed the book up as “Same Old, Same Old — been done before, nothing new.”

Mr. Falter you also made my point — “It is the first time that all these American places have been presented together for some years”

Had the book been done in 1965 or 1975 it might of been one of the ~~great~~ **important** books in the field — for that time. However, it is 1996. Over 600 American sites, (**easily over a 1,000 worldwide**) are there to choose from and tons of data disproving much of the books’ narrative is easily accessible. The last statement in my review echoes Falter’s wish — “In spite of my criticisms, if you don’t take the text as gospel this is a nice book which throws the genre into prominence.” 250 words.

Seymour