

June 27, 1972

Rosa Rizzo (married name Rodia)  
Via Fiama Sabato  
Sala di Serino  
83028 Prov. Avellino  
Italy

Dear Rosa Rizzo:

I received a copy of your letter written to Professor Paul Laporte. In fact the correspondence on the case you referring to was transferred to me and to Mrs. Babitz who both are taking care of the Archives of the Simon Rodia (Sabatino) Towers in Watts. These interesting towers were built by an Italian tile setter and craftsman who called himself Sam (Simon) but in fact was Sabatino Rodia of Serino, Province of Avellino, deceased in 1965. He had built these towers with his own hands through 33 years than abandoned them to retire close to his relatives in Martinez, California. To preserve these unique towers artists, university professors, students, all sorts of intellectuals and art lovers in Los Angeles got together in 1959. The Building Department of the city thought that the peculiar construction was not safe, but the towers held out and kept stable through a well-engineer stress-test.

We knew very little about Sabatino-Sam's early years, not even the place of his birth was known to us. Only recently the Sindaco of Serino furnished us with this information. We would like to know about his family in Italy and America. Why and with whom he came in America as a young boy. Where in America did he live. If you, as his sister-in-law, would be gracious enough to help us fill out the early life of Sam Rodia (Simon-Sabatino) we would be very grateful. As you will notice from the package of information we sent Prof. Constantino Sabatino, (Il Sindaco di Serino), there is much information we need in order to complete our work. We are very proud of being the Committee who preserves and maintains and keeps the Towers open to the public. We have recently repaired the Towers.

Thank you once again for your interest. The information you can help us with about Sam's early life, his family, his travels, his interests, will help to make a scholarly summary of the life of Sabatino Rodia, the artist-builder of the beautiful Towers in Watts.

We wish to commemorate Sabatino (Sam-Simon) Rodia di Serino, prov. Avellino, Italy also of America, Los Angeles, California.

On behalf of the Committee, receive our grateful thanks for your help and concern.

Sincerely,

*Kate Steinitz*  
Kate Steinitz

*Mae Babitz*  
Mae Babitz

Archivists, Members of the Committee.