



NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN ART

Smithsonian Institution

WALTER FLAX
VIRGINIA

Gallery Place
Fifth and G Streets, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

March 17, 1986

Seymour Rosen
SPACES
1804 North Van Ness
Los Angeles, CA. 90028

Dear Seymour:

One more tidbit about environmental works in our collection... We own one small wood, metal, plastic and brick ship from Walter Flax's shipyard environment. It was given to us in 1981 by Chuck and Janice Rosenak, who own two other deteriorating ships by Flax. You can write to them at P.O. Box 549, Tesuque, New Mexico 87574. Bert Hemphill, the major 20th-century folk art collector, also owns a Flax ship (108 E. 30th St. New York, N.Y. 10016) as does the Abby Aldrich Folk Art Center in Williamsburg, VA. When you contact the Center, you should ask them to send you information on the various P.M. Magazine shows and other videotapes that have been done about ~~about~~ Flax. They know quite a bit of the documentation that has gone on in relation to his now-destroyed site. Our ship, by the way, measures 8½ x 36 x 8 in. (h x w x d).

You should also contact Richard Murray, Director, Archives of American Art, and his staff person, Liza Kerwin, who is very busy collecting archival material related to American folk artists. Who knows, they might want to become the repository for all of the material you've collected or at least provide an east coast home if you'd want them to have copies of what you're pulling together. You'll find them both very fine people to deal with.

Have you been in touch with the Jargon Society in Winston-Salem, North Carolina? They have an impressive program dedicated to protecting and preserving southern visionary folk art--see enclosed brochure, which I've xeroxed.

Have you been in touch with Greg Blasdel, whose pioneering documentation in the Midwest helped this field really take off? He's protective of his material but I'd urge you to involve him. As far as I know, he can still be reached c/o of the Art Dept. at the University of Vermont.

Do you also know that most of the carvings that remained in Elijah Pierce's barber shop now belong to the Columbus Museum of Art? A cross-section of the work they acquired has been on view since last July.

End of 2nd missive. My best!

Mailing Address:
National Museum of American Art
Smithsonian Institution

Lynda
Lynda Roscoe Hartigan, Assistant Curator
Painting and Sculpture

ORIG in Museum Survey

other copies of letter #1 Wash DC
(James Hampton's Throne)
Brother Mayes
Clarence Schmidt

Other copies of letter #2 to Walter Flax (VA)
Elijah Pierie
Wash DC (James
Hampton's throne