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Fellowship Comm.

PEPPINO MANGRAVITE  
224 EAST 49TH STREET  
NEW YORK CITY

April 18, 1944

Mrs. William C. Haygood  
Acting Director for Fellowships  
Julius Rosenwald Fund  
4901 Ellis Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Haygood:

During your recent visit in New York I meant to discuss with you a matter of interest to many of us here.

As you may know, for the last five years Frank Mechau has devoted all of his time to the task of teaching. His responsibilities at Columbia University have been heavy and wide. They have usurped the time he had reserved for his own creative work. With the exception of a few months last summer he has not been able to do any appreciable amount of painting. This growing situation has been a matter of serious concern to many of his friends.

Recently he returned from the Caribbean area with a magnificent pictorial record of war activities in that sector, for which he was originally commissioned by the War Department. Aside from their esthetic merits, these paintings convey a strong message and a profound understanding of human values.

Now that this assignment has been completed he is torn by the practical necessity of returning to the grind of teaching and the stronger urge to carry on his creative work. He could be convinced to pursue the latter at least for the coming year if he had a tangible incentive with some definite financial backing to enable the accomplishment of his task.

For sometime Frank Mechau has expressed a genuine desire



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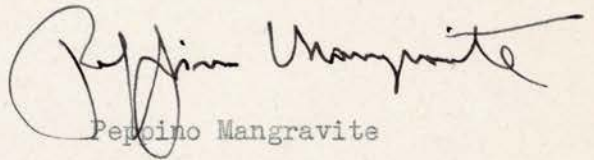
to make a pictorial record of the Mexican Minorities in the State of Texas. Somehow, it seems to me, that in the light of growing dissensions concerning the Mexicans in Texas the <sup>yo</sup> proposal of such a pictorial record would be an opportunity for the Rosenwald Fund to consider.

You no doubt realize that a collection of such paintings by one of our most distinguished artists would create enormous interest if planned to be widely exhibited.

Certainly my interest on the matter is not only for the art of Frank Mechau, it is also for the cause which I fervently believe can be ameliorated by intelligent interpretation.

With kindest personal regards -

Very sincerely,

  
Peppino Mangravite