The original documents are located in Box 66, folder “White House - Curator Paintings (2)” of the Philip Buchen Files at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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Dear Dillon:

Regarding the presentation of the Trumbull miniature of Thomas Jefferson to Mrs. Ford on behalf of the Italian people as their Bicentennial gift to the people of the United States, we are very sympathetic to your suggestion that the National Portrait Gallery be designated as the permanent home of this portrait. We are well aware of the importance of the National Portrait Gallery's growing collection. Mr. Clement E. Conger, the Curator of the White House, and Dr. Marvin Sadik, the Director of the National Portrait Gallery, have a long history of helpful association in sharing by loan some of the national treasures in each institution.

It so happens that the Curator of the White House was also aware of this important miniature of Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull and he too for a long period of time had been in correspondence with the Apostolic Delegate in Washington, Instituto "Maria SS. Bambina," Lodi, Italy, and with the American Ambassador at Rome, to secure by purchase if necessary this miniature for the permanent collection of the White House. We are confident as a result of these interests as well as the interest of the National Gallery of Art for the "Eye of Jefferson" exhibition, the Italian government made the decision to acquire the portrait from the convent at Lodi to present to the American people.
In the past, many gifts presented by foreign Chiefs of State to the American people have been placed in the permanent collection of the White House. Many more have gone to the Smithsonian Institution and its component museums. This is one of the few Bicentennial gifts from a foreign country which has been desired for the permanent collection of the White House. It may interest you to know that at the present time, President Ford has the miniature in a place of honor on his desk in the Oval Office.

The miniature will be accessioned as part of the permanent collection of the White House. However, inasmuch as it was a gift to the people of the United States, the White House has every intention in the future of lending the miniature to important national exhibitions and would be very pleased to give first preference in lending the portrait to the National Portrait Gallery whenever it is not shown in the White House or at special exhibitions.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,
Dear Mr. Brown:

Thank you very much for your letter of September 13 in which you suggest that the miniature portrait of Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull which has recently been given to Mrs. Ford for the American people should find a final home at the National Portrait Gallery.

The Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution has written to the President on this same subject. The substance of your informative letter is closely related to his letter. Therefore, I take pleasure in sending you herewith a copy of the reply which the President has sent to Dr. S. Dillon Ripley, Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, on this subject.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,
MEMORANDUM FOR: Clem Conger

FROM: Phil Buchen

Attached is a copy of a letter from Dillon Ripley to the President concerning the Trumbull miniature of Thomas Jefferson.

I would like your suggestions as to how the letter should be answered in behalf of the President.

Attachment
The President  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500  

Dear Mr. President:

I was delighted to learn that Signora Leone earlier this week presented the John Trumbull miniature of Thomas Jefferson to Mrs. Ford on behalf of the Italian people as their Bicentennial gift to the people of the United States. I am writing to urge most respectfully that the National Portrait Gallery be designated as the permanent home of this important portrait.

As you know, the National Portrait Gallery was established in the Smithsonian Institution by Act of Congress in 1962, to "function as a free public museum for the exhibition and study of portraiture and statuary depicting men and women who have made significant contributions to the history, development, and culture of the people of the United States . . . ." In the brief period since its establishment, the National Portrait Gallery has managed to acquire life portraits of an impressive number of distinguished Americans, has mounted a succession of brilliant historical exhibitions, has published a number of superb catalogues, and has become a major source of enlightenment and inspiration for millions of Americans visiting their nation's capital. Like all the museums of the Smithsonian, in a very real sense it belongs to the people of the United States and serves them.

Unfortunately, in the fourteen years of its existence the National Portrait Gallery has been unable to acquire a suitable life portrait of our third President. Despite the most strenuous efforts of the kind that have succeeded brilliantly in other cases, this goal has eluded us. About two years ago the Director of the National Portrait Gallery, Marvin Sadik, began making inquiries about the possible
availability of the Trumbull miniature, corresponding both with officials of the Roman Catholic Church and with Ambassador Gaja. Upon learning a few weeks ago that it was the intention of the Italian Government to present the portrait as a Bicentennial gift, he of course suspended his efforts to acquire it directly for the National Portrait Gallery.

Quite simply, Mr. President, there is no figure in the history of our nation whose portrait is more sorely needed by the National Portrait Gallery than that of Thomas Jefferson. A decision to give the portrait to the National Portrait Gallery would be deeply appreciated not only by the Smithsonian Institution and the Gallery but, I am sure, by future generations of Americans who would see it there among the portraits of all our Presidents.

With best wishes and warm regards, I am,

Respectfully yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUCHEN

FROM CLEM CONGER

As you can see from the enclosed drafts, we strongly recommend that the miniature portrait of Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull remain at the White House. I felt the letter to the President from John Nicholas Brown, member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and Father of J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, should be answered by the same office, so I have attached a suggested draft for your use.

As you know, the Preservation act of Congress in 1961 permits the White House to lend to the Smithsonian Institution. We would be happy to cooperate in this instance for exhibition purposes whenever possible. We trust that our willingness to share this important historical object will satisfy their suggestion for a permanent home for the portrait of Thomas Jefferson.
Tuesday 10/5/76

10:50 Wilma Sands in the Curator's Office called to ask whether the letter had been sent to Dillon Ripley re the Jefferson Miniature.

They want to get someone in to work on it -- but didn't want to do it until the letter had gone out.

Mr. Buchanan said to tell them it was being staffed and we would let her know when it goes out.
MEMORANDUM TO: PHIL BUCHEN
FROM: JACK MARSH

Phil, I think it would be helpful if, in your reply to Dillon Ripley, you were to suggest the possible availability of one of the other three Jefferson portraits already at the White House (this would, of course, have to be cleared through Clem Conger).
Dear Dillon:

The President has asked me to reply to your letter concerning the John Trumbull miniature of Thomas Jefferson.

I have been advised by Clem Conger that as Curator of the White House he has long been making efforts to obtain this miniature for the permanent collection of the White House, by purchase if necessary. He believes that his show of interest in acquiring the work for the White House led to the decision by the Italian government to acquire the portrait from the Convent at Lodi, Italy, as a present to the American people.

Presently, the President is displaying the miniature on his desk in the Oval Office and plans to have it accessioned as part of the permanent collection of the White House. Of course, it will be available for loan to important national exhibitions just as other items in the White House collection have been made available, and a request of the National Portrait Gallery for a particular exhibition would, of course, be given preference.

I trust that the foregoing explains why it does not appear appropriate for the John Trumbull miniature to be transferred to the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUCHEN

FROM CLEM CONGEE

As you can see from the enclosed drafts, we strongly recommend that the miniature portrait of Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull remain at the White House. I felt the letter to the President from John Nickolas Brown, member of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution and Father of J. Carter Brown, Director of the National Gallery of Art, should be answered by the same office, so I have attached a suggested draft for your use.

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Dear Mr. President:

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availability of the Trumbull miniature, corresponding both with officials of the Roman Catholic Church and with Ambassador Gaja. Upon learning a few weeks ago that it was the intention of the Italian Government to present the portrait as a Bicentennial gift, he of course suspended his efforts to acquire it directly for the National Portrait Gallery.

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With best wishes and warm regards, I am,

Respectfully yours,

S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
Dear Dillon:

The President has asked me to reply to your letter concerning the John Trumbull miniature of Thomas Jefferson.

I have been advised by Clem Conger that as Curator of the White House he has long been making efforts to obtain this miniature for the permanent collection of the White House by purchase, if necessary. He believes that his show of interest in acquiring the work for the White House led to the decision by the Italian government to acquire the portrait from the Convent at Lodi, Italy, as a present to the American people.

Presently, the President is displaying the miniature on his desk in the Oval Office and plans to have it accessioned as part of the permanent collection of the White House. Of course, it will be available for loan to important national exhibitions, just as other items in the White House collection have been made available, and a request of the National Portrait Gallery for a particular exhibition would, of course, be given preference.

I trust that the foregoing explains why it does not appear appropriate for the John Trumbull miniature to be transferred to the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery.

One possibility that I have discussed with Clem Conger is that of having the White House collection loan the
Jovett portrait of Thomas Jefferson to the National Portrait Gallery. Although that particular portrait might not be one you would purchase as a solution to the gap in the portraits of Presidents at the Portrait Gallery, it might be of interest to you under these circumstances. If so, I would be glad to help initiate discussions in that regard.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

The Honorable S. Dillon Ripley
Secretary
The Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D. C. 20560
Dear Mr. Brown:

In behalf of the President, I am acknowledging your letter of September 13 in which you bring up the suggestion of the miniature portrait by John Trumbull of President Thomas Jefferson.

Just before receiving your letter, Dillon Ripley made a request to the President for transfer of this portrait to the National Portrait Gallery. After consulting with Mr. Clem Conger, I prepared a response to Dillon, a copy of which is enclosed.

Sincerely,

Philip W. Buchen
Counsel to the President

Mr. John Nicholas Brown
Regent
50 South Main Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

Enclosure
The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Mr. S. Dillon Ripley, the distinguished Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has just told me that Mrs. Ford has been presented with the famous miniature of President Thomas Jefferson by John Trumbull. This is, of course, good news that this delineation of our third President will finally be in this country. Nevertheless, it does seem to me that such an important document, as well as work of art, should find a final home at the National Portrait Gallery, together with the portraits of the other Presidents and many other distinguished Americans.

I shall not lengthen this letter by outlining the many distinguished achievements of the National Portrait Gallery under the able directorship of Dr. Marvin Saffir. His exhibitions have been outstanding. We have been able, despite the lateness of time, to assemble a truly remarkable basic collection; yet we have never been able to acquire a life portrait of Thomas Jefferson. I respectfully submit that this Trumbull miniature should find a final permanent home in the nation's National Portrait Gallery.

Very respectfully yours,

John Nicholas Brown
Regent
We are sending you today, by your carrier, the object(s) listed below which have been on loan to the White House:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Museum number</th>
<th>Artist</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66.168</td>
<td>Milton C. Avery</td>
<td>Ploughed Landscape</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.505</td>
<td>Albert Bierstadt</td>
<td>Fanaloon Island, Pacific Ocean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.690</td>
<td>William M. Chase</td>
<td>Good Friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.1715</td>
<td>Louis Eillasimus</td>
<td>Sunday in the Park</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.3064</td>
<td>Jack Levine</td>
<td>Flowers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72.238</td>
<td>Edward Potthast</td>
<td>Enchanted</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.4667</td>
<td>Reuben Tam</td>
<td>The Shores of Ontario</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.5022</td>
<td>John Twachtman</td>
<td>Hemlock Pool (A Waterfall)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.5590</td>
<td>Andrew Wyeth</td>
<td>Approaching the Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.198</td>
<td>Eugene Balzerman</td>
<td>Seated Woman, Right Hand on Hip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.200</td>
<td>Eugene Balzerman</td>
<td>Undressed Girl Resting Mr. Buchman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.467</td>
<td>Thomas Hart Benton</td>
<td>The Cliffs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.1386</td>
<td>William Dole</td>
<td>More Flags</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.2177</td>
<td>Morris Graves</td>
<td>Spirit Bird</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66.2405</td>
<td>Childe Hassam</td>
<td>Nymph and Sea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you please sign and return one copy of this receipt, retaining the second copy for your files.

APPROVED BY: Betty C. Momjian Date: Jan. 17, 1977
Curator's Office The White House

RECEIVED BY: John Breeden Date: 1/17/77
For The Registrar
The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
We are sending you today, by your carrier, the object(s) listed below which has been on loan to the White House:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>museum number</th>
<th>artist</th>
<th>Title</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74.229</td>
<td>Grandma Moses</td>
<td>The old Oaken Bucket (or) Fzam Landscape</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you please sign and return one copy of this receipt, retaining the second copy for your files.

APPROVED BY: [Signature]  Date: Jan. 17, 1977
Curator's Office - The White House

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]  Date: 1/17/77
For the Registrar
The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden
Wednesday 1/5/77

4:00  Clem Conger called to say that the Hirshhorn Gallery is recalling the paintings that are on loan to the White House.

Wanted you to know it is no reflection; they just make it a practice to do so.

They will be picking them up on January 17th or 18th.
May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BETTY HUNKHAN

FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

For the Counsel's suite of offices in the West Wing of the White House, we would like to have borrowed from the Hirshhorn Museum the following paintings which are on their approved list for delivery to the White House.

74.229 (36A) Grandma Moses (American 1860-1961) The Old Oak Bucket, n.d., oil, 14 x 21

JH64.69(55B) Benton, Thomas Hart (American 1889-1975) The Cliffs, 1921, oil, 29 x 34 1/2

JH58.144 (82A) Graves, Morris (American b. 1910) Spirit Bird, 1956, tempera, 24 x32

JH288 (97A) Pribble, Easton (American b. 1918) May Ripley County, Indiana, n.d., oil, 20 x 24

Also, we would very much like to have the following which were not on the approved list but which Miss Rosensswag said she believed were available for loan.

Potthast. Children Wading. TH 64.136
2 small paintings by Eugene Baizerman
2 paintings by William Cole

Harewith are the photographs which you had kindly furnished to me.

Attachment
May 6, 1975

To: Betty Menkman
From: Eva Daughtrey

In the phone conversation with Mr. Conger, Mr. Buchen agreed to send over a listing of order of preference for the paintings which he would like to get from the Hirshhorn Museum.

Attached is a copy of his May 2 memo, numbered as to preference.
5:10 Called Betty Monkman and asked her to include in your request the following:

F61. 74 (39B) Hassam, Childe (American 1859-1935)

* Nymph and Sea, 1900, oil, 37 x 29 (mude)

She thinks the pictures may come in some time this week.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BETTY MONKMAN

FROM: PHILIP BUCHER

For the Counsel's suite of offices in the West Wing of the White House, we would like to have borrowed from the Hirshhorn Museum the following paintings which are on their approved list for delivery to the White House.


4. JH64.69 (55B) Benton, Thomas Hart (American 1889-1975) The Cliffs, 1921, oil, 22 x 34 1/2

2. JH58.144 (82A) Graves, Morris (American b. 1910) Spirit Bird, 1956, tempera, 24 x32


Also, we would very much like to have the following which were not on the approved list but which Miss Rosenswag said she believed were available for loan.

6. Potthast. Children Wading. TH 64.136

7. 2 small paintings by Eugenie Baizerman

8. 2 paintings by William Dole

Herewith are the photographs which you had kindly furnished to me.

Attachment
Monday 5/5/75

5:10 Called Betty Monkman and asked her to include in your request the following:

F61, 74 (39B) Hassam, Childe (American 1859-1935)
Nymph and Sea, 1900, oil, 37 x 29 (nude)

She thinks the pictures may come in some time this week.
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
May 2, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: BETTY MONKMAN
FROM: PHILIP BUCHEN

For the Counsel's suite of offices in the West Wing of the White House, we would like to have borrowed from the Hirshhorn Museum the following paintings which are on their approved list for delivery to the White House.

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May Ripley County, Indiana, n.d., oil, 20 x 24

Also, we would very much like to have the following which were not on the approved list but which Miss Rosenswag said she believed were available for loan.

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Attachment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acquisition No.</th>
<th>Screen Location</th>
<th>Artist, Painting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>74.229 (35A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Grandma Moses (American 1860-1961) The Old Oak Bucket, n.d., oil, 14 x 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH54.54 (36A)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Johnson, Eastman (American 1824-1906) Child and Gardener, n.d., oil, 17 x 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH54.53 (36B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Robinson, Theodore (American 1852-1896) Landscape with Horses, n.d., oil, 30 x 42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH59.195 (38B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Chase, William Merritt (American 1849-1916) Good Friends, c. 1909, oil on panel, 22 x 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F61.74 (39B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bilsingshaus, Louis (American 1864-1941) Nymph and Sea, 1900, oil, 37 x 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH53.111 (43A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Webster, E. Ambrose (American 1869-1935) New England Vista, 1918, oil, 30 x 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH62.350 (46A)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Branchard, Emile (American 1880-1930) Seascapes, c. 1935, oil, 21 x 36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH58.184 (51A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Coleman, Glenn O. (American 1897-1932) Queensboro Bridge, East River, c. 1910, oil, 30 x 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH65.220 (52A)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benton, Thomas Hart (American 1889-1975) The Cliffs, 1921, oil, 29 x 34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH64.69 (35B)</td>
<td></td>
<td>Benn Ray (American b. 1890) As You Like It, 1948, oil, 20 x 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition No.</td>
<td>Screen Location</td>
<td>Artist, Painting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH3756 (61A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Avery, Milton (American 1893-1964) Ploughed Landscape, n.d., oil on board, 18 x 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH52.10 (67A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Baizerman, Eugenie (American 1899-1949) Flowers on Short and Long Stems, 1934, watercolor 22 x 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH61.346 (67A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>de Kooning, Willem (American b. 1904) (b. The Netherlands) Woman, 1964, oil on paper, 27 x 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH64.241 (72B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Rose, Herman (American b. 1909) Tompkins Square Park, n.d., watercolor, 25½ x 31½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH955 (80A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Graves, Morris (American b. 1910) Spirit Bird, 1956, tempera, 24 x 32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH62.76 (88B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Levine, Jack (American b. 1915) Flowers, 1962, oil, 24 x 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH907 (95B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Tam, Rauben (American b. 1916) Shores of Ontario, 1956, oil, 34 x 46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH288 (97A)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Pribble, Easton (American b. 1917) Nav Riple County, Indiana, n.d., oil, 20 x 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH41 (97B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Wyeth, Andrew (American b. 1917) Approaching the Island, n.d., watercolor, 22 x 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F61.153 (97B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Rail Fence, n.d., watercolor, 21 x 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH63.305 (102B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>Blaine, Nell (American b. 1922) Still Life, 1962, oil, 28 x 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH63.335 (38B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>*Chase. Harbour Scene, n.d., oil, 32 3/4 x 40 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JH62.71 (80B)</td>
<td>OK</td>
<td>**Rose. Orpheus &amp; Homage to the Poet Edward Field, 1962 oil, 30 x 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measurements given in inches

*Not on list: Pot House Children Wading JH 64.13* 2 small paintings by Eugenie Baizerman 2 paintings by William Dole.
Tuesday 4/29/75
Meeting
4/29/75
1:30 or after

11:00 An appointment has been scheduled for you and Mrs. Buchen to meet with Miss Phyllis Rosenwag (Assistant to the Curator -- Charles Millard). She will expect you around 1:30 this afternoon (Tuesday 4/29) -- or any time after that.

You should go to the front entrance (on Independence Avenue) and go to the information desk. When you tell them you have an appointment, they will issue a pass and you can go to the fourth floor, where Miss Rosenwag will meet you.
Monday 4/28/75

2:40  The Curator's Office said Mr. Millard of the Hirshhorn Gallery will be in and out of the office this week -- but the Assistant to the Curator is Phyllis Rosenswag and we can arrange an appointment with her at a time that would be convenient.
10:00 Betty Monkman in the White House Curator's office called to ask if you had had a chance to look at the pictures she brought over of the Hirshhorn Gallery collection -- would be glad to get any of the pictures for you.
Tuesday 4/15/75

4:00 Mr. Conger sent over these black and whites of pictures at the Hirshhorn gallery.