

I. Sept. 56.

19 Kensington Park Gardens,

London W. II

copy of letter sent by air mail  
from London

Dear Dr. Chen Han Seng,

I wrote you a hurried note and sent it by Sir Claude Corea, who headed the Ceylon Delegation visiting China.

I enclose here a copy of my letter to <sup>the</sup> Chinese Chargee d'Affairs in London, Mr Huang Hsiang. This explains the project. I know, and he too has told me that you could be very helpful in making this trip possible. It has always been my dream do you remember? And I did not want to come without doing some useful work. I would hate to visit <sup>China</sup> merely as a tourist. You know how much I have always wanted to push forward the knowledge of China even in the old days when you were in India and we published some chinese books.

I have asked to have Romilla Thappar with me, she is Romesh Thappars sister. You must have known him, as he was editor of Cross Roads. It will not be possible to do the work without help, and collaboration is always better.

You will see what I have suggested as a financial basis. I do not know if that is helpful but am willing to consent to any suggestion you may have to make on that matter.

I am sure without your help this will not bear fruit and I do ask you to help me now. All those who are interested in these matters urge me to try ~~and go~~ and finish the work I have started. It was Mr Pannikar who took me to Mt Huang Hsiang first, and General Sokhey who spoke to Zaw Wan Pitt when he was Sect. to the Chinese Embassy in New Delhi. I feel that much depends on your willingness to help.

I wonder if you have seen a copy of my book, The Life of the <sup>Chinese</sup> Buddha through Asian art. I have many things in the book and if I can send you a copy when the second edition is out at the end of the year I will do so. There are no more copies with the publisher <sup>here</sup> though you can get a copy through Rupa, Book Sellers, College Square, Calcutta, if you care to do so.

I am just now working on a History of Indian Art for Young People, which most probably the Govt: of India will print. I will send you a copy of that. I am longing to see you, Mabel, Yang Kang and Poshen. Please do write to me here. ~~xx xxxxxxxx your Embassy in London~~ <sup>or at least let me know you have got my letters</sup>  
With best wishes to you, Yours very sincerely  
Ariel de Siba-Vigier