

19 Kensington Park Gardens,
London W. II. Bays. 7726.

I. Sept. 56.

The Hon Mr. Huang Hsiang,
Chargee of Affairs, The
Chinese People's Republic.

Copy for Dr Chen Han Sen.

Dear Mr Huang Hsiang,

In accordance with our talk last week I am writing to you regarding my request to visit China to finish the work I am doing on INDIAN INFLUENCES ON CHINESE ART and CHINESE INFLUENCES ON INDIAN ART.

As I told you I took up this particular work as a contribution towards Indo-Chinese understanding and friendship. Mr Pannikar and General Spkhey have both encouraged me in this project and asked me ^{to} ~~me~~ ^{by} ~~to~~ visit China in this connection.

This will entail a great deal of work to be done within a short time. I want therefore to take with me an assistant. The only other Indian woman, besides myself, to take up archeology is Romilla Thappar daughter of Col Thappar of New Delhi, and sister to Romesh Thappar, who used to edit the progressive paper called CROSS ROADS a few years ago. She has done her studies at the London School of Archeology and is now in London for another year on a special scholarship. She too has specialized in Chinese art history. If however I can not take her with me, I would need to have an assistant there who could also take photographs and sketch.

As my present work will take me upto the spring of next year, and I would like to have time to prepare my trip, I propose to go if this is possible of course, in September of 1957.

As it is not possible to pay for our trip we propose the following arrangement. That we would give a series of lectures in Pekin, ~~with~~ with slides, on Indian art. And give a complete set of all photographic material and full text of our work to your Government. If they would like to publish the work in full or part, in Chinese, we would be able to give them the rights free. If however you would like to suggest an alternative arrangement about finance please do so. We would be only too willing to come to any arrangement that would suit you.

It would be neccessary to visit the following places for our work. Tun Huang in the North; Yun Kang in Chan-si; Long Men in Honan. These are the three main sites that we need to visit, and we think it would take us at least two months to do our work.

As you know there are some studies done on the question of Indian influences on Chinese art. But there is no complete work on this subject and no work at all on Chinese Influences on Indian art. I have made this my special study and propose to do my thesis on this subject. However this work cannot be completed without a visit to China and a systematic study. We shall have to do sketches and photographs. We want to bring out ^{+publish} a complete volume with about 150 black and white photos and ~~about~~ 16 colour photos besides the text. It will be something on the lines of my book "THE LIFE OF THE BUDDHA, through art, of which you have a copy. I hope it will be possible to take Romilla Thappar to accompany me, as a collaboration is always better in such work.

I must thank you for your help in this matter and with best wishes to Madame Huang Hsiang,

Yours sincerely.

Anil de Silva-Vigier

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