

From : Dan Rahimi [danr@rom.on.ca]
Sent: October 15, 2001 10:24 AM
To: weldon.epp@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; Etytc@gate.sinica.edu.tw
Cc: james.mitchell@dfait-maeci.gc.ca; Barry McQuade; Cara McEachern; Chris Palmer; Melissa Thompson; Susan Richardson; Trudy Nicks
Subject: packing and shipping of ROM collection

Thank you, Yi-Ting, for your message of October 12th. I am pleased that the arrangements for Chris Palmer's travel have been finalized and that he will soon be on his way to Taipei.

I have met with our registrars and conservators to discuss the storage of the collection in the Shung Ye Museum. First, we agree with you that storing the collection off-site is out of the question for reasons of climate control, possibly security, and cost. However, the storage of the collection in the museum is a serious concern for us. If the collection is to stay in Taiwan for a period of months then it would have to be securely packed in its crates. This is safest for the objects and would allow easiest transfer to its next destination. It is unfortunate that there is no possibility of finding a space large enough to store the material in its crates.

Since our conversation of 27.09 the ROM has not received any further information from the Taijung Museum, nor have we had an update on the proposal for facility improvements from the National Science and Technology Museum in Kaohsiung.

Given these circumstances, it seems to me that the loan material might be expected to stay in the Shung Ye Museum for quite some time before being moved and, due to its great fragility, I feel that it would be best to crate the material in the next few days and to ship it back to the ROM while Mr. Palmer is in Taipei to supervise the packing and shipping. This is safest for the objects and it frees the Shung Ye Museum of the need to store them.

I regret that circumstances of packing, space, and the indecision about further venues makes it necessary to recall this loan, but at this point I see no alternative.

Could you and the CTOT please make arrangements for land transfer and air shipment of the collection in time for Chris Palmer to be present to see the material onto the aircraft? It is essential that the crates be loaded without an unsupervised or lengthy stay in the airport. As in the outbound shipment from Toronto, shipping and customs arrangements should be coordinated with Barry McQuade at our end.

I will telephone Weldon to discuss these arrangements further.

Sincerely,

Dan Rahimi
Director, Collections Management
Royal Ontario Museum

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