

7035 So. Cregier Av.
Chicago, Il. 60649
October 14th 1990

My dear Clara,

Hopes and prayers for health and peace of mind accompany this letter. I am, also, penning this letter with delayed enthusiasm after having visited our Cultural Center to view an art exhibit of Black artists. The artists were all associated or exhibited for the Harmon foundation which was established in 1922 by William F. Harmon, a wealthy real estate giant who died in 1928. His foundation awarded money (\$300,200,100) in those days to encourage Negro artist. Payton Hedgeman (Palmer Hayden) was awarded an honorable mention in 1926 by the Foundation. Hayden's work was displayed for four days in a room in the Foundation's building at 140 Nassau, New York City, and a private viewing for one hundred invited guest was arranged.

If my reading is correct it was after this recognition that Palmer Hayden traveled to France to remain for 6 years. One of his paintings done in France was on exhibit. I viewed two of his works in the recent show held here in Chicago.

The sheets that are being sent to you were taken from a book - Against the Odds - which was produced for the travelling exhibit of artists' work that were a part of the Harmon Foundation awards between 1922 and 1932.

Palmer Hayden settled in New York City after his return from France in 1932.

Photographs of Payton (Palmer) are kept in the National Archives Bldg. in Wash., D.C. Paintings of his are in Europe and in the galleries of several Black Colleges - Spelman College and Atlanta Un. to list two of them.

One other bit of information which is in the book - it was in 1926 that Palmer won \$125.00 for a painting. In the same year he was given \$3000.00 by a patron. This was indeed extraordinary for that period of our history.

Black artist especially American were not hardly recognized. Through this gift Palmer was able to reach Paris, France for study and work.

Well, I hope you enjoy this info as much as I am in learning all of these things at this late, late age. Do share this with others because of Palmer's work. Wide Water, Virginia is international. Not to mention that all of this information is in the Library of Congress and the National Archives in the District of Columbia.

God bless! I'll be in Brazil from the 21st. of October until the 3rd. of November. I would love to hear

from you. A part of my total being
will always be based in Virginia.

Please extend my deepest love to
Cousin Bea, Yvonne, and anyone who
might remember me. My schedule
is basically the same — teaching,
teaching, teaching — day and night!
Church music director on Sunday —
Grandfathering at home, two grand-
sons are still living with me. I
do wish that they would move.
Who needs a 19 year and 20
year old?

It's been great thinking and writing
to you.

My love flows
Alvernor
Jackson