

[4.1]

THE RICE INSTITUTE
HOUSTON, TEXAS.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

12 December 1927

My dear Mr. Watkin:

At the request of the Trustees of the Rice Institute I have great pleasure in expressing to you their warm thanks for your generous participation in the provision for a traveling fellowship in architecture for students in that department of this institution. For your coöperation in their efforts to increase the first-rate facilities which they have been endeavoring to offer to talent in a field at once so inviting educationally and professionally, the Trustees are most grateful. You will recall that in the earliest announcements of its educational programme, architecture was given a place of outstanding importance. The Founder had dedicated the future institution not only to the advancement of literature and science, but also to the advancement of art. When undertaking to realize this threefold dedication in a new and rapidly developing section of the country, his Trustees resolved to give the university bearing his name the physical setting of great beauty as well as of more immediate utility which it has already begun to enjoy. This they thought to be the first and most permanent contribution to art within their power. At the same time they sought to put this setting itself directly to architectural use by establishing a department of architecture, thereby hoping to ensure a constant current contribution to art wherever the students of that department might ultimately be working.

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In these high hopes for permanent and current advancement of art at the hands of the Rice Institute they have not been disappointed, and one of the best reasons for saying so appears in the altogether gratifying response on the part of yourself and others which the Trustees acknowledge with most cordial thanks and assurance of their deep appreciation.

Very sincerely yours,

Edgar Odell Lovett

William Ward Watkin, Esq.
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Texas