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THE BYZANTINE INSTITUTE, Inc.

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PARIS
4 RUE DE LILLE

ISTANBUL
PERA PALAS HOTELI

June 30, 1941

July 3

My dear Mr. Gano -

The great Deesis has arrived safely on the good ship Ada, which has been more than four months at sea. The painting in some respects is the greatest which has yet come to America from Constantinople. I do wish I could have you see it before it goes on exhibition anywhere and of necessity into the market.

The Turkish Government has courteously asked me to open the imperial portraits and the Deesis in the south gallery. Although these mosaics have not yet been published, I have agreed to their unveiling and their publication in the new catalogue of the Museum.

In view of the always possible confiscation of scientific rights as well as property by Germans, I have decided to make a very popular preliminary publication here in America of all the mosaics that I have found in Aya Sofya not before published, but I have not yet decided in what magazine.

The Oxford Press says that further delay in publishing the third report is inevitable.

Some of the Slavonic libraries in Paris, I am told - although it may not be true - have been taken from Paris to Berlin. Our library is, or was on the 16th of March, still unmolested.

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We have for months been trying to bring two of our collaborators in Paris over to America, but it is still impossible to get permits for them to leave occupied France. That would leave one man in Paris to guard the library and its records. We have one man working in Cairo.

Our effort in reaching these men with money for food in Paris you will understand is exercising all our skill.

I should like very much to come to the West Coast to give some lectures on the mosaics and Byzantine art in general, which could be illustrated with colored moving pictures.

There is a question which face to face I can discuss with you. It is in regard to additions to your coptic collection at Dumbarton Oaks, which could be lifted to a place of unique eminence in this country, but for this I must wait until we can discuss the matter together.

Yours devoted and affectionate
T. W.