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Dr. Hildebrand Gurlitt (13a) Aschbach (Oberfranken), 10 February 47

Bamberg Rural District

[handwritten, in English in original:] Military

Dear Mrs. Valland,

The particular amiability with which you had the friendliness to receive me in Munich and the fact that you expressed that it was clear to you that I was surely no Nazi and had kept my distance from all Nazis in Paris give me the courage to turn to you.

As you know, in 1933, when Hitler came to power, I was dismissed from my position as director of the Art Union [*Kunstverein*] in Hamburg, particularly on account of my championing of so-called “degenerate art.” I have now been invited to apply for a position as museum director in Krefeld, a destroyed Rhineland industrial city. I would thus finally have an opportunity to return to my old profession, which I exchanged for that of an art dealer only because it was prohibited to me, like any kind of work as a writer and speaker.

Now, it is considered very important that I obtain certification from the French side also that there are no concerns about my returning to work in my old profession in the museum world. I therefore allow myself to politely ask whether you could certify this for me.

You would thereby help a true friend of France and an authentic opponent of the Nazi regime! I have always championed the art of France in speech and writing, and I also feel myself tied to France by my origins: not for nothing did my sister live in Paris as a painter—not for nothing does my brother work extremely closely with his French colleagues as a professor of music history at the university in Freiburg (he has just been offered a position in Bern)—not for nothing am I the son of Cornelius Gurlitt, who published the first German book on French baroque architecture and many other writings on French art. We were all severely attacked and persecuted during the Third Reich, and only unusual chance occurrences made it possible for me to escape to France as an art dealer, thereby avoiding forced labor in the armaments industry or even the half-breed battalions of the Todt Organization.

With very great thanks and the expression of my personal esteem,

Your very devoted,

signed Dr. Hildebrand Gurlitt

P.S. As a small token of my attitude, I enclose a copy of a certification. I have often provided similar help, but only the address stuck in my memory.