

CHARLES F. BIELE & SONS CO.,

Metal Mouldings

SHOW CASES

Shower Bath Doors

WORKERS IN METAL, GLASS AND WOOD

33-39 BETHUNE STREET,

NEW YORK, Feby 13, 1934

The Buffalo Academy of Fine Art, Albright Gallery,

Mr. Gordon B. Washburn,

Buffalo, N.Y.

THE BUFFALO FINE ARTS ACADEMY
ALBRIGHT ART GALLERY
BUFFALO, N.Y.

REC'D FEB 15 1934

Dear Mr. Washburne,

We have your favor of the 12th together with sketches and photograph and enclose rough sketch showing our understanding of the requirements.

As to construction of the "all-glass" upper part, we figure that in as much as it will have to be screwed together at destination, it will be best to glue felt on the edges as the case is rather large to ship in one piece. In each of the upper corners we figure a small nickel plated three prong fitting on the inside, with only screw heads showing on the outside. In center of height, in each of the four vertical edges we also figure a small two way, angle, fitting on the inside. Around the bottom, inside of the glass, we have shown a small bronze channel against which the bottom of the glass rests. In the vertical face of the channel, towards the inside, will be a series of holes corresponding to similar vertical holes through the bottom. These holes will permit circulation of moisture. The vertical edges of the glass are figured mitered and all glass is of course polished plate of selected glazing quality. The inside of the bottom will show walnut.

The pedestal will be 62" square, with 12" rise and 12" tread and then have another vertical rise of 22" With a set back of 4" on this upper surface we will have 30" square for the case part. The pedestal to be built up of 13/16" five play walnut, selected for figure and have key strips in the vertical corners as shown on sketch. Around the bottom, along the floor, we figure a 3" high brass or bronze strip of #10 gauge. This will protect the woodwork from foot marks as well as from broom or mop marks.

On one side of the 22" high part will be a "drawer" about 2" high. This will be of zinc, with mineral wool inside and is to be dampened according to the conditions. From time to time this tray or pan should be scalded with hot water as the water in the tray will in course of time become foul. The entire inside of the pedestal is to be painted and the outside is to be finished in natural color wax finish.

To be carefully packed and delivered to transportation company here for the sume of *Three hundred and seventy dollars (\$370)* plus N.Y. State Sales Tax of 1%

As to the tendency of cemented "all-glass" vitrines to crack, there is no danger of this if the proper cement is used. At the Metropolitan Museum here we have made many hundreds of such cases in all sorts of sizes and we have had no such experience with our cases.

2/13/34

At the Freer Museum in Washington we understand there has been considerable trouble of this kind, though in the cases we made for Charles L. Freer personally between 1910 and 1919 when he died, no such trouble has arisen. We have also run across this cracking in cases imported from France. Back in 1893 we did considerable experimenting with glass cements and developed a cement which while holding the glass firmly does not set up unequal strains which would cause cracking. This cement, with but slight variation has been in use ever since and we have yet to hear of any cracking of glass where it has been used.

We have shipped "all-glass" cases up to 7ft. long to various parts of the country and have had no difficulty with cemented joints. Were your case set over a recumbent figure, we would suggest a cemented construction, shipped set up in one piece.

The photo you sent is very interesting and we would appreciate a few lines as to the sculptor, time and place.

Hoping to be favored with your order, which will have our best attention, we are

Yours truly,

Charles F. Biele & Sons Co.

Carl F. Biele, *Carl F. Biele* Vice Pres.

*Chicago Art Institute has a number of our
all glass vitrines, likewise Minneapolis,
also Joffe Gallery and we have still
to hear of "cracks"*

Sketch under separate cover -