

TODD & BROWN, INC.
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: January 4, 1933

TO: Mr. E. L. Smith
FROM: J.O. Brown
SUBJECT:

As you know, it was recently decided that Rivera would be permitted to do his mural in Fresco style. He told me at the time that he would be prepared to go in and start his work just as soon as the surface on which he was to install his mural had been prepared.

Will you please arrange with Hegeman-Harris to get the surface on which Rivera is to work ready for him and arrange to have him come on the job and do this work at the earliest possible date.

I would suggest in order to be prepared for his work that the marble wainscot against the walls where he is to work be completed. Also that enough of the ceiling be furred down and plastered so as to enable him to complete his fresco up to the ceiling. The entire lathing and plastering back of the actual fresco work must be done while Rivera is on the job to supervise it. You can thus see that it is only a matter of a few days' work to get ready for Rivera and this should be done without delay.

J.O. BROWN

Mr. Roger
Please attend to
report back to me -
S

TODD & BROWN, INC.
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 20, 1933.

✓
TO: Mr. J.O. Brown
FROM: E. L. Smith
SUBJECT:

I refer to your question attached to Hegeman-Harris Change Order H-507.

No plastering on the 1st floor was included in the plastering contract. Change Order 418 included plastering of 1st floor based on hard white finish of the spaces to be occupied by the murals. Later, as you know, our friend, Rivera, sold the idea of the fresco instead of a mural. The hard white plaster covered by order 418 had not been completed at that time. To receive the Fresco, it was necessary to furr and lath that entire wall area, plaster it with special materials including lime, marble chips and distilled water. The work was done under the direct supervision of Rivera. In fact, much of the work of applying the finished coat, which had to be done in small bits as the artist's work progressed because he had to paint on it while it was still wet, was done by Rivera and his assistants, but a union plasterer had to stand by on the scaffold and the tenders had to be union helpers.

Hegeman-Harris acting under instructions from us issued an authorization to O'Rourke to do this work on a time and material basis, which was the only way it could be done. This change order represents the checked time and material slips for the work, less a proper allowance for the contract plastering omitted.

You may recall that I remarked to you at the time this all came up, that it was going to be very expensive plastering.

E.L.SMITH

Handwritten notes and signatures on the right side of the page, including "Tom 6-21-33" and "J.S.G.".

TODD & BROWN, INC.
INTER-OFFICE CORRESPONDENCE

DATE: June 20, 1933.

✓
To: Mr. J.O. Brown
FROM: E. L. Smith
SUBJECT:

I refer to your question attached to Hegeman-Harris Change Order H-507.

No plastering on the 1st floor was included in the plastering contract. Change Order 418 included plastering of 1st floor based on hard white finish of the spaces to be occupied by the murals. Later, as you know, our friend, Rivera, sold the idea of the fresco instead of a mural. The hard white plaster covered by order 418 had not been completed at that time. To receive the Fresco, it was necessary to furr and lath that entire wall area, plaster it with special materials including lime, marble chips and distilled water. The work was done under the direct supervision of Rivera. In fact, much of the work of applying the finished coat, which had to be done in small bits as the artist's work progressed because he had to paint on it while it was still wet, was done by Rivera and his assistants, but a union plasterer had to stand by on the scaffold and the tenders had to be union helpers.

Hegeman-Harris acting under instructions from us issued an authorization to O'Rourke to do this work on a time and material basis, which was the only way it could be done. This change order represents the checked time and material slips for the work, less a proper allowance for the contract plastering omitted.

You may recall that I remarked to you at the time this all came up, that it was going to be very expensive plastering.

E.L.SMITH

Handwritten notes and scribbles on the right side of the page, including the name "Tom" and various numbers and symbols.

TODD & BROWN, INC.
420 LEXINGTON AVE.,
NEW YORK CITY

COPY

February 15, 1934

N. A. Kenworthy

W. B. Todd

Diego Rivera

Dear Ken:

We have looked all through the office and behind all doors, but have been unable to find Mr. Rivera! Why don't you try the 5th Floor?

W.B.T.