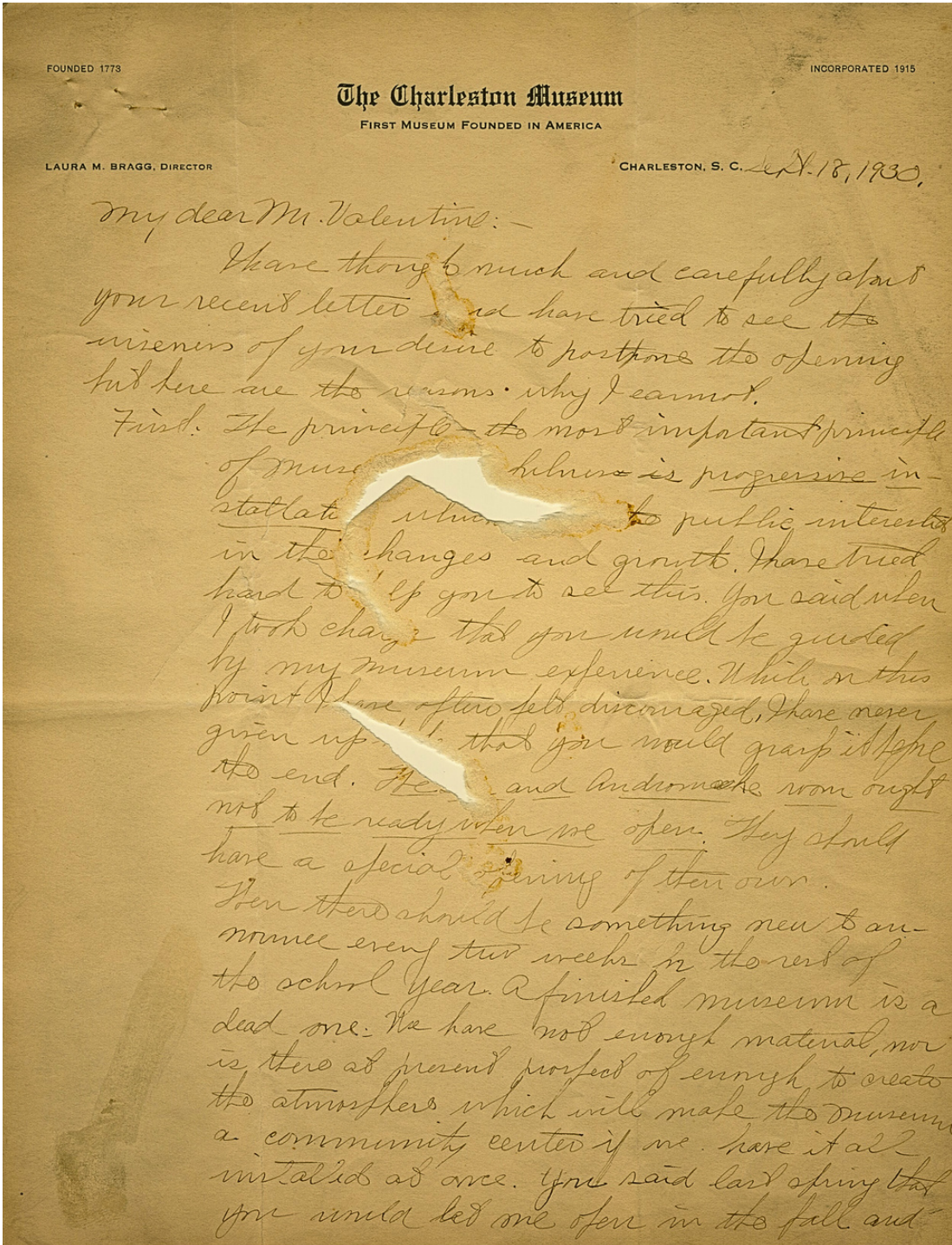


COLLECTIONS IN THE CLASSROOM

Letter from Laura Bragg to Granville Valentine, 1930



ERA

Early 20th Century

THEMES

Museums, Change v. Consistency

CITATION

Laura Bragg to Granville Valentine [excerpt], 18 Sept., 1930.

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. What are some pros/cons of change in a museum? Do you expect to see the same things every time your visit?
2. What does she mean when she says, "A finished museum is a dead one."?

CONTEXT

This is an excerpt from a letter by Valentine Museum Director Laura Bragg to Valentine Museum President Granville V. Valentine, about the reopening of the museum after a significant renovation.

**DISCOVER
RICHMOND STORIES**

For more stories visit thevalentine.org or email education@thevalentine.org



Summary

Excerpt from letter by Valentine Museum Director Laura Bragg to Valentine Museum President Granville V. Valentine written from Charleston in 1930 about the reopening of the museum in fall 1930.

Sept. 18, 1930,

My dear Mr. Valentine:

I have thought much and carefully about your second letter and have tried to see the wiseness of your desire to postpone the opening but here are the reasons why I cannot.

First: The principle - the most important principle of museum [illegible] fulness is progressive installation which [illegible] to public interested in the changes and growth. I have tried hard to help you to see this. You said when I took charge that you would be guided by my museum experience which on this point I have often felt discouraged. I have never given up [illegible] that you would grasp it [illegible] end. The [illegible] and Andromache Room ought not to be ready when we open. They should have a special opening of their own.

Then there should be something new to announce every two weeks in the rest of the school year. A finished museum is a dead one. We have not enough material, nor is there at present prospect of enough to create the atmosphere which will make the museum a community center if we have it all installed at once. You said last spring that you would let me open in the fall and...

The Charleston Museum
FIRST MUSEUM FOUNDED IN AMERICA

LAURA M. BRAGG, DIRECTOR

CHARLESTON, S. C. Sept. 18, 1930.

my dear Mr. Valentine: -

I have thought much and carefully about your recent letter and have tried to see the wisdom of your desire to postpone the opening but here are the reasons why I cannot.

First: The principle - the most important principle of museum administration is progressive in-
stitution when the public interests in the changes and growth. I have tried hard to help you to see this. You said when I took charge that you would be guided by my museum experience. Which on this point I have often felt discouraged, I have never given up that you would grasp it to the end. Hercules and Andromache room ought not to be ready when we open. They should have a special opening of their own.

Then there should be something new to announce every two weeks in the rest of the school year. A finished museum is a dead one. We have not enough material, nor is there at present prospect of enough, to create the atmosphere which will make the museum a community center if we have it all installed at once. You said last spring that you would let me open in the fall and