

Lisboa, March 20, 1941

Honorable Senator  
Ed. Fletcher  
California Legislature  
San Diego, Calif., U.S.A.

Dear Mr. Ed. Fletcher,

I had the pleasure to receive for your kind letter of Dec. 20 and newspaper clippings which I have found of great interest. I am still looking forward for the arrival of the diagram previously required and want to express my best thanks for your efforts to turn possible my presence at the unveiling of the Cabrillo's statue in next year.

As a further biographical note I have the pleasure to state that I have just been conferred for the 1st. prize of sculpture granted by our Secretariado de Propaganda Nacional in its 1941 Exhibition. This is the first time this prize has been granted and not being regularly conferred it is only granted when exceptional work appears.

Awaiting the pleasure of your news and remain

Sincerely yours

(Alvaro de Brée)  
Quinta do Monte S. Miguel  
Barcarena, Portugal



Lisboa, 14 th Oact. 1940

Dear Sir ED. FLETCHER

I will be very grateful if you can find cutting from our DIÁRIO DA MANHÃ of the 30 th Septembre last, reffering the inauguration of Cabrilho 's monument, on the 29 th.

Due to the amount of work at my studio I had to postpone once more my visit to you, and sincerely regret beeing unable to be present in such a memorable occasion.

I will, therephore, request you to kindly obtain for me some of the more interesting journals, photographs and press cutings of that celebration, for my files.

Thanking you very, very much and hoping to visit San Diego and have the pleasure to meet you very soon, I remain, Dear Sir,

Yours very truly

Sculptor:

A. de Brée

Quinta dos Brées - BARCARENA - PORTUGAL

February 16, 1954

Escultor Alvaro De Brée  
Quinta do Monte de S. Miguel  
Barcarena, Portugal

Dear Friend:

Mrs. Fletcher and I expect to be in Lisbon the night of June 7th, arriving by Pan American Airlines F 2 65 at 9:20 P.M. and leaving for Paris at 1:15 A.M. on the 9th.

We are looking forward with much pleasure to seeing you and your country as well.

I am bringing letters and gifts from the City of San Diego and from Washington as well, also, in all probability from the State of California, to your President and to you in deep appreciation of the Cabrille statue.

I hope that you will be available and that arrangements can be made either through you or through our Ambassador to meet your President and present the memorials above mentioned to him as well as to you.

Let me know if you will be in Lisbon the 7th and 8th of June as well as the President.

Hoping to meet your worthy President and with kindest personal regards I am,

Sincerely yours,

Lisbon, 30-3-1954



Dear Mr. Fletcher,

I have to thank you for your letter of February 16, contents of which have been noted with pleasure.

Through the S.N.I. (State Tourist Dept) arrangements have been made for our Prime Minister, Dr. Salazar, to receive you. The interview is, therefore, guaranteed in principle, but it is too soon to fix a definitive date because, as you can well imagine, he is a very busy man.

So, everything will be tried to secure the visit for the 7th or 8th of June next, but I would thank you, in any case, to confirm your arrival with about two weeks anticipation and, as well, to let me know whether you will be prepared to extend your stay for some few days should it be necessary.

I am, Dear Mr. Fletcher

Sincerely yours,

Álvaro de Brée

Quinta do Monte de S. Miguel  
BARCARENA - PORTUGAL

March 31, 1954

Escultor Alvaro De Bree  
Quinta de Monte de S. Miguel  
Barcarena, Portugal

Dear Friend:

Mrs. Fletcher and I will be in Lisbon on the 7th and 8th of June.

Already official action has been taken by the City of San Diego and also the Legislature of California and I am bringing their greetings and appreciation for the Cabrillo statue to the President and yourself.

May I hear from you by return mail that you will be there as we will be leaving here in about four weeks as we are going to Egypt, the Holy Land and Greece and Turkey before coming back to Naples and will fly from Rome to Lisbon.

I hope that your worthy President will also be available so that I may make the presentation, representing the City of San Diego and the State of California and showing our deep appreciation.

Awaiting your reply, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

April 2, 1954

Friend deBree:

Thanks for your kind letter of March 30. Mrs. Fletcher and I will arrive in Lisbon by plane at 7:50 p.m. Sunday, June 6 and have made arrangements with the Aviz Hotel. We will be in Lisbon only June 7 and June 8, leaving early Wednesday morning for Paris by plane.

I will represent the City of San Diego and the State of California in connection to the Cabrillo statue and may represent Washington as well. I will be more than pleased to meet your Prime Minister Dr. Salazar at any time and place, either Monday or Tuesday (June 7 and 8.)

I also have a letter of credentials from our U. S. Senator, William F. Knowland, and I am expecting to have a letter of appreciation to present from the Federal Government in Washington. Mrs. Fletcher and I are very appreciative of the privilege of meeting with you and the Prime Minister to show in some way our deep appreciation.

We will see our great-granddaughter in Cairo, Egypt and are also taking in the Holy Land, Turkey, Greece and Europe as well. In fact, we are taking the Stella Polarris (a twelve-day trip to the Arctic Circle) and then flying from Copenhagen across the Atlantic home. So, you see we are having a real trip.

We leave San Diego April 25 for a visit to Massachusetts and sail on the U.S.S. Exeter from New York on May 7, leaving the boat at Naples on June 5. We have been several times to Rome, so we leave our daughter and granddaughter, who are taking the trip with us, there and fly to Lisbon. Am looking forward to our visit with you with much pleasure and hope to get a letter from you by airmail that you have received this itinerary before April 25, when we leave on our trip.

We shall rent an automobile and hope you and your good lady can join us, at least part of the time, to see the sights.

Sincerely yours,

Alvaro deBree  
Quinta do Monte de S. Miguel  
Barcarena, PORTUGAL

1020 - 9th Avenue  
San Diego 1, California  
July 19, 1954

Mr. and Mrs. Escultor Alvaro De Bree  
Quinta do Monte de S. Miguel  
Barcarena, Portugal

My dear Friends:

We arrived home last Tuesday after a wonderful trip through the Scandinavian countries and the North Cape, stopping to attend a family re-union in Massachusetts.

Once again, I want to thank you for the splendid courtesies and kindness showed us while in Lisbon. I was very much annoyed and embarrassed that we were forced to leave a day ahead of time, and through no fault of our own. We had purchased in San Diego a ticket, before we left San Diego, to leave Lisbon late in the afternoon of Wednesday; and having the tickets, we supposed, of course, there would be no change in schedule. Tuesday afternoon, after that lovely visit to your home, on arriving in Lisbon, I asked Mr. Benard to notify the airport that we would be on time and ready to fly to Paris on schedule Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Benard drove us to the office of the airport and we were told that that plane had been taken off the regular schedule and that there would be no other plane to Paris by that company until Friday. This was an impossible situation because we had made all the arrangements to meet our daughter and granddaughter in Paris Wednesday night and were then to go to London where we were to meet our son and his wife who were flying home. As it was, we only saw them for four hours. We also had a schedule that we had to maintain in order to catch our boat for the North Cape and the Scandinavian countries. (We also wished to see our grandson, whom you met in Lisbon as I remember it, in Paris.)

Mr. Benard found out that the only way that we could get to Paris before Friday was to leave on a night plane from Brazil enroute to Paris, if Mr. Benard could get special permission - which he did and no doubt he explained it to you. That was why, much to our chagrin and disappointment, we had to leave in such a hurry, because we had all of our hotel bills and transportation paid for before we left San Diego and had to keep to our schedule. Otherwise, we would have missed the ship sailing from London for the North Cape. I do hope you will forgive us and that you will understand that an emergency existed and we had to take that flight that night, after such a wonderful day and splendid hospitality out at your country home.

You will be glad to know that our U. S. Ambassador made a report to the Secretary of State in Washington as to our visit. The office of the Secretary of State telephoned the office of U. S. Senator William Knowland, the Republican leader in the Senate and a personal friend who was with me for four years in the State Senate of California, the following report dated June 22, as written by the office of Senator Knowland:

"The primary purpose that I want to write to you is to tell you that I received a call from the State Department late last week and their primary purpose in calling was to inform us how pleased they were with the meeting that you had with Premier Salazar. He indicated that the meeting had come off very well with, of course, is something you would know so well already. However, they were particularly interested in the after-effect and the fine things which Premier Salazar had to say about the meeting. Apparently, the press made comment on the get-together for several days following, and the general reaction among the Portuguese people was one of great pleasure toward the friendly display of good will from the people of the State of California as expressed by Senator Fletcher. I thought that you would be pleased to know of the international implications of your visit and the fact that the State Department felt that it is worth so much more than the efforts necessary to arrange the meeting."

Mrs. Fletcher and I have been invited to the annual meeting of the American-Portuguese Society and I will make a report to that organization of our trip to Lisbon, as well as make a report to the City, County and State Government, as well as the U. S. National Park Service.

I am going to keep after you and yours until you visit us in San Diego. I wish you could see my office. Your picture is here among a number of presidents and notables from all over the nation. I have one shelf dedicated to mementos from different countries - a French lady, a Swedish girl, a young lad from Lapland and representations from Jerusalem, Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Syria and also some souvenirs that I collected on our trip around the world and South America, including our Alaskan trip last year and our Scandinavian trip this year. But, the two brilliant and colorful cork dolls from Portugal (male and female) that you gave us brings back happy memories of your splendid country.

With kindest, personal regards and yours to command,

Sincerely yours,

EF:ls

1020 - 9th Avenue  
San Diego 1, California

August 11, 1954

My good friend De Bree:

As promised, enclosed herewith find enlarged photograph of your statue of Cabrillo in color. I was very embarrassed that through an error the photographer made only one enlargement of this picture, and I did not find it out until I arrived in Lisbon. And, I had to wait till we arrived home before I could find the negative and have another copy made.

Mary and I will never forget your kindness and courtesy and we hope sometime, someday, to return the compliment.

As you know, this beautiful work of art, the statue of Cabrillo, was first located and dedicated on U. S. Navy property. Later, we created the Cabrillo National Monument on Point Loma overlooking San Diego Bay and city, the Pacific Ocean, Coronado Island, and a splendid view of the mountains and Mexico, 15 miles away. The statue is on the most beautiful spot in California, in my opinion, and you must see it.

I hope someday that you will write us that you are coming to again see your statue of Cabrillo, and also a little something of southern California.

The gentleman on the left in the picture is Superintendent of Cabrillo National Monument, under the supervision of the U. S. National Park Service.

With kindest regards,

Sincerely yours,

EF:ls

Escultor Alvaro De Bree  
Quinta de Monte de S. Miguel  
Barcarena, Portugal

**Ed Fletcher Papers**

**1870-1955**

**MSS.81**

**Box: 6 Folder: 21**

**General Correspondence - De Bree, Alvaro**



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