

Enkwarf Skizze

This is my answer  
to the letter from his firm  
of Sept. the 11<sup>th</sup>  
September 8th. 1913.

Messrs. George Hutchinson & Co.,

Sirs,

I am at a loss to understand the purpose of your letter, but I object strongly to its tone, which is one in which I am not accustomed to be addressed. Whatever your object in drawing my attention to the clauses in the agreement you quote may be, I would point out that I never undertook to act as agent for the sale of your publications and have no intention of doing so. I have already rendered you the greatest assistance in obtaining subscriptions, both by permitting, at Mr. Oakley Williams' request, the distribution of your prospectuses at the exhibition of my work at Messrs. Agnew's Galleries, and by bringing the book before the notice of many of my personal friends.

As several of the portraits included in the book were, to your knowledge, not painted until June, the question of publication in the Spring of 1913 was never even under discussion, but the waste of time in preparing it for ~~the~~ press has been lamentable. I did not see reasonably satisfactory proofs of material I delivered to your engraver at the end of February until six months later, and very few of the engravings, except those made in Vienna, are reasonably satisfactory now. I consider Mr. Williams to blame in that ~~when I entrusted him with looking after this work, he did not put~~ me in touch with a firm able to appreciate the standard of reproduction

~~a portrait painter~~ in my position has a right to expect. I have been put to annoyance, serious expense, and to the loss of valuable time in trying to correct the experiments of your engraver; I have also postponed very important commissions in order to paint portraits which, in my judgment, are calculated to contribute to the success and interest of the book. I therefore resent the tone of your communication the more if it is meant to imply that there is any occasion for calling my attention to the terms of the agreement.

Mr. Oakley Williams has spared himself no trouble in trying to convey my instructions to your engraver and to facilitate the passing of the proofs. In the circumstances I am not surprised if he is annoyed that you thought it necessary to send a clerk from your office to submit a batch of proofs and revises to me, without even informing him of their arrival, and <sup>has</sup> is now disinclined to undertake any further responsibility in the matter.

Yours faithfully,

I hope it will be most necessary  
to put further correspondence  
with Mrs. Smith in the  
hands of my secretary