

My dear good professor,

II. Margit Kovács 64/6
Thursday.

You excuse me don't you, that I am writing in English. I like it so much better than the Hungarian and really I feel I am getting out of practice slowly, which is no wonder, very few people are equipped with here in Budapest, and finally - without all the other moments of culture which I adore there so much. I wonder whether you have received my last letter concerning my photographs, - of course you have too much occupation, I know, - but you won't mind asking me, if you have ever received them? I am very anxious and inquiet about, because my friend Elisabeth wrote me before 2 1/2 weeks only and that he mentioned that he was ill, could not take them to you yet, but he has written to you for an appointment on a Saturday eve (2 weeks before now) and he assured me I will get them after a few days; I have not heard from him since we received the pictures, so you forgive and understand my impatience, I am awfully anxious of your critic which is so valuable and important for me; you will be perhaps interested to know the miserable thought of them? - I have been very distressed and downhearted in the first moment but when I went after and asked the members of the jury, Károly Gyóni, Szanis Kovács, I had to find that they were quite right - they accep-

See the portraits of my father (the gray ^{haired} gentleman sitting with hat
and gloves) than the round portrait of 3 kiddies and the one oval of a young
girl with a rather Japanese coiffure and strong smile, — and I got refused
the Archduke, the princess and the little girl in white in landscape. Mr. Van-
Togh said in the portrait of the Archduke the face is not enough dominated
not enough deep shadows under the eye holes, nose, chin and cheeks so that
the uniform is standing before, they objected the high place of the belt as
well, — I could understand this because the room where I painted this
R. H. was down in Hajmáster at his apartments, very dark, and the
days when as well very dull, rain and fog so I could not get deeper sha-
dows, specially with deep window light; now I will try to ask his R. H.
again for sittings again, perhaps he will be willing too, I would be most dis-
tressed if not. On the portrait of the princess (a tall lady with a lace
garment in the hands) they objected the same, not enough deep shadows,
so that the cloths like the effect of the face and besides that the hands
must be worked out more (I really don't know where!) I remembered immu-
diately your dear letter in which you gave me the same hints to get deep
shadows under eyes, nose, chin, but the picture was already finished, the
princess gone, I did not dare to paint without the model, but I will correct

in London, I don't think it may spoil the character? I wanted always
to get a very fine effect in colours harmonious and I see it isn't right,
I mean I looked always for very slight 'tender' differences in light and shade
especially by women portraits, I was afraid to be too puff otherwise, but
I have to loose this habit! I know now. So much I remember, all the other
pictures which I have sent, suffer of the same fault - besides the other
- of course.

I am very nervous and distressed since I am home, just on work &
commission at all, times and economic conditions are simply ^{Terrible}, ^{Tom} ^{per-}
ting present portraits for getting connections and portraits after photo
for the same ridiculous prices, people won't sacrifice anything, - and I have
to keep myself! It is too dreadful, and I am waiting everything from
my exhibited 3 portraits, my father is fairly well known here and the
other two as well.

I had to paint last two weeks before the portrait of the late Mr.
Frank Saksouff, M.P. of Fenwick for the Society of Young Epicureans
after a photograph, it succeeded fairly good, it is a tiresome work, and
I had to stand heaps of critics of course sides the ~~Committee~~, I was glad when

they finished. The Vernissage of the Winter Exhibition is Saturday at 5,
it is a crowded show, but very high indeed, very fine portraits in the
grand-salle from Horowitz, Glazer (the young) Bonneau, Patis, I did not see
nothing of yours did not you send some examples? The two directions
modern and conservative came together now, we had two groups (Vassily, Gerasim,
Kerdi Kovas, ^{Kacimir} Truski), and (Simey, Zensamine, Glatz, Selaini, Duris for the moderns),
and the walls are full of pictures now, here in the R.F. very badly hung!

I am anxious whether you are coming home the winter as you mentioned?
I should be so happy I can not see, to hear you speak to me again for a
short time, when, when time and my good fortune will allow, that I could
leave from here? ... all my hopes are darkened at present, no way,
no prospects at all; I am working diligently the whole day, yet no
success, even morally, for which I am struggling the most ...

So excuse for the depressed tone of this line, I can not help it if I am
at work I forget it - only after it grasps me again; write me,
my dear professor when you have time, about you as well, I am so glad
whenever I can read anything from you - believe me, with my heartfelt

regards to you and your dear wife
Yours most thankful & sincere
Sergey Sergey