

10th January, 1927.

My dear Baldry,

I have just received your letter - and first of all let me send you our heartfelt congratulations on the arrival of your grand-daughter. I am sure you will all be very happy about it and I hope that both you and the parents will enjoy much pleasure from her presence.

I wish now to tell you that we returned from the country about luncheon time, so I used my free afternoon and we went to the Academy just to get an idea of the Exhibition, which is quite splendid.

Of course you can well imagine how much I admired the Vandycks and especially the portrait of a lady - which I already knew when at the Duke of Devonshire's house - also a large group of men and women by Jacob Jourdaens, who did the nude picture in my studio. He has not got the subtlety in colour of Vandyck - on the other hand, I like him better in force, colour and realistic scheme, than Rubens. I was also much inspired by the splendid drawing collection.

But, dear friend, I am afraid I shall be unable to go on Wednesday, as I hoped to, with you - the crowd was tremendous, in spite of its being Monday afternoon. I think it would be much better to put it off for a fortnight and to go later on when the crowd will have lessened.

Always yours,