

*Miss* Hotel Continental,

PARIS.

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20th May, 1930.

What will you think of me for not having written to you for the last two months? I assure you it is not negligence on my part; you know me well enough for that, but since my election as President of the Royal Society of British Artists I have had to deal with an enormous amount of extra work. I brought a pile of letters with me here and even have my Secretary with me in order to get through all my correspondence.

All you tell me of your doings interests me very much. The photographs of the sketches, which I am returning to you, pleased me very much, and I am sure that, since you have been studying after nature in Rome, you must have made great progress. Be patient, and stick to the flag! I am sure you will get on.

It was a very great disappointment to us both not to have been able to carry out our plans to meet you in Rome, but you will understand by now what happened. I had to go to Barcelona where I was awarded the Grand Prix of the International Exhibition there, and while there I had news of my election as President of the Royal Society of British Artists and was obliged to rush back to London.

I wish to thank you for your portrait drawing which I shall keep as a nice souvenir, and also for sending me the enclosed photographs after the pictures by your friend, Dante Ricci. He is certainly a very talented man, and I like his spirit of romance so much. When I get back

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to London I shall not fail to show the photographs either to the Fine Art Society or to Knoedler and will do my best to fulfil his and your desire.

You are wise to go to Florence; you will be enchanted with it. The Galleries there are in many ways more perfect than in Rome, more centralised from every point of view, smaller so that you can enjoy them more easily, and no doubt you will find there a still better school than in Rome. You will see in the Uffizi my own portrait when I was younger with dark hair. Now I am beginning to be a decrepit old man, but with a young heart and with the same love for my work.

Before I left London I had the Budai Choir at my home when they entertained over 150 of my guests at an "At Home". They had a very successful visit to London.

I shall be staying here until the end of this month except for a break on the 22nd when I have to return home to receive the guests at a Soiree which is being given by the Royal Society of British Artists, of which I am president. The following day I return here. Lucy will follow me on the 28th, and also Stephen for a few days. We then return home at the beginning of June.

I have some interesting sitters here, and in the Salon I have exceptionally great success with my portraits of Marshal Lyautey and the Marchesa del Merito. It may also interest you to know that I have in the Venice International Art Exhibition a portrait of the Prince of Piemonte and one of a Spanish lady, Madame Ortis Linaris. No doubt you will endeavour to go to Venice and will see the Exhibition.

I dictated this letter in Paris and

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am signing it here. I do hope it will reach you  
as you omitted to give me your address in Florence.

Much luck, old fellow, and let me see  
some of your drawings, and write soon.

We all send you our love.

Ever yours,