

BRITISH EMBASSY,
BUENOS AIRES.

7th March 1930.

Dear Mr. Laszlo,

I think you will remember painting my wife just before our marriage when she was Miss Mackay, daughter of Lord Inchcape. I am now here as Chargé d'Affaires.

I think that the following will be of some interest to you. As you may have seen in the papers, Princess Marie Louise has just been here on a week's visit, which I am glad to say was considered very successful in every way. Desiring to give her an insight into one or two distinguished Argentine homes my wife and I arranged to take her for a private visit to Senora Mercedes Elortondo de Alvear to her beautiful château a few miles out of Buenos Aires with lovely grounds sloping down to the estuary of the River Plate. I had known her well when I was here during the war and also her daughter Mercedes, of whom you painted a portrait which was much admired by the Princess. May I say how very much I also admired it, having known its subject well. As probably you know she has unfortunately gone out of her mind, and though she lives at the château just mentioned she never appears. Fernando Alvear, the younger son whom I also knew well in those days told us that it was one of your own favourite portraits and that you had particularly asked for its exhibition on one occasion. It is certainly a wonderful and inspiring likeness of a girl of classic countenance and exceptional distinction. It gave me real enjoyment to contemplate it, in spite of the pathetic circumstances.

Also during the season here we dined with Ricardo Green and his wife, née Devoto, in her mother's beautiful mansion here where we very much admired your portraits of the children. I thought it might interest you to have this news of some of your portraits in Buenos Aires.

Incidentally we got the other day a charming postcard from Babsie d'Ursel containing a reproduction of your rapid portrait, just the head, evidently given her as a wedding present. We knew her well in Brussels, and the portrait seems to be a beautiful one.

Philip Laszlo Esq.

My wife leaves for England with the children next month, and I hope to be in London also by the end of June, leaving here shortly after the arrival of the new Ambassador, Sir Ronald Macleay.

Yours very sincerely
E. Millington