

Barczy

LONDON,

4th August, 1930.

I wish to thank you for your last letter, and must apologise for my belated reply. During the last two months I have been exceptionally occupied, for in addition to my many duties in the Studio numerous social engagements have taken up my time. You will know also of the great anxiety and worry we experienced through the terrible motor accident in which Patrick was involved; I am thankful to let you know, however, that he has now fully recovered. Then again we suffered another blow a fortnight ago by the death of my sister-in-law, Miss Eva Guinness, whom I am sure you must have met; she had been our dearest friend for the last thirty years, and we shall feel her loss greatly.

^{As} as you know, I saw Count and Countess Bethlen during ~~their~~ stay in London, and gave ^a luncheon party in their honour. I was very pleased ^{the Countess} ~~they were~~ able to attend, while here, an exceptionally interesting ceremony at which the Duke of Connaught unveiled a portrait of mine of the Earl of Scarborough who is the Sub-Prior of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem. I think ~~they~~ enjoyed it very much. I am enclosing a reproduction of the picture. I think the visit to London of Bethlen and the Countess was a very successful one from every point of view and has resulted in creating over here a desire to further the interests of Hungary.

Last week I finished the portrait of Lord Rothermere. I think he likes the idea very much of it being destined for the Budapest Museum. I shall be sending the picture to Hungary early in the Autumn. Lord Rothermere told me that he will not be going to Budapest, as he had intended, to unveil the statue of Rakoscy; I fully understand his various reasons, however, for not going. He wishes to escape undue political manifestation.

./.

I was present at a banquet which he gave in honour of the Hungarian Parliamentarians, and I was particularly pleased to meet there Berseviczy whose intellect is as sound as ever; he made a very good speech. He too belongs to that section of my friends who know me from the outset of my career.

You will have received no doubt two illustrated papers which I have sent to you. One is the "Figaro" from Paris containing a coloured production of my portrait of the Marchesa del Merito, and the other is also a copy of the "Figaro" in which my portrait of the Marechal Lyautey is reproduced. The latter picture you will have seen in Budapest, and for which a signal honour has been conferred on me by the Ministere des Beaux Arts; it has been purchased by the French Government and will be hung in the Versailles Museum where no other foreign artist has had the honour to have a picture placed. I posted to you also a copy of the "Illustrated London News" in which a reproduction of my portrait of the young Queen of Roumania appeared.

At present I am alone, my family having gone over to Ireland for a fortnight. Patrick has passed his Oxford examination and obtained second in honours. We are expecting Paul home from America where he has been studying for six months, and I am much looking forward to his return on the 13th; at the end of September he will begin his work at the Bar. I have to remain in London to get through various portraits as I shall not be much at home until the end of the year. I feel rather exhausted, and on the 20th of this month we both go to Bagnoles de l'Orne for three weeks, after which I will meet some of my boys at Antwerp where we shall see the Exhibition. We then go through the Tyrol down to Venice where I hope to do some studies for my big picture which I want to start on.

I notice that your telegram, in which you advised me that Madame de Verteessy will call on me, came from

./.

Venice, so I assume you were staying there, and I do hope that you had an opportunity of seeing my portrait of the Prince of Piemonte in the Salle Internationale de la Reception of the Exhibition, and also that of a Spanish lady in red. The lady you mentioned in your telegram has not yet called here, but if she comes I shall be pleased to receive her.

Please let me know how you are, what your plans are, and also where Edith and Charlie are. It will interest you to know that Count Klebersberg wrote to me congratulating me on having received the Grand Prix at Barcelona.

Before I close I would ask you to be good enough to let me have at your earliest convenience a reply to the following question: Who is Kaldy Gyula, the Secretary of the Almanac of the Arts of Hungary's latest Epoch, Jozsef-utza 35, Budapest? He is a man who is in the name of his Society creating a "Cup" which will bear my name and which will be handed over for custody for one year as a prize to the person who has done good work in Hungary in the interest of Art. I should like to know if you have heard of this gentleman and your opinion of him. After receiving your reply I will write to you again in detail regarding this matter.