

Little Hickmans
Truscombe
Dr. Thunbridge Wells

29th Nov. 1932

Dear Mr. de Laslo

I am most truly sorry to have given you this trouble for nothing except only the redeeming fact that it will afford me the pleasure of making your personal acquaintance. I do not quite understand Tom whom I liked and for whose financial difficulties I felt very much. The circumstance that he gave me a guarantee that the sketch was by you and that you would sign it if I asked you to do so, (I send you the paper which he wrote) rather puzzles me. I cannot believe that he intentionally deceived me as I had helped him a little and never asked for repayment. In fact I admired his work and ~~infact~~ organized an exhibition at Venice of his paintings. I bought from him a picture of one of my Boy Scouts which is much admired. I was also attracted by him, as myself a soldier, from the fact that

He had served in the Austrian Artillery, and for
 Austro-Hungary, though quondam enemies, I have
 the most profound sympathy. The whole story to my
 mind is disgusting as war indeed with all its effects
 is so - with its brutality and village pump ideals.
 These may seem to you strong opinions coming from me
 who was but a soldier but I have taken part in
 two and a half Wars - the half being the Irish Rebellion
 of 1916 - and so I do not speak without
 experienced conviction. I have one of the last letters
 Barnes & Suttner ever wrote.

However when we meet we shall have much to
 talk about, no doubt at this extraordinary moment of history.

I remain with kind regards.

Yours very truly

Francis Fletcher Vane
 of Hutton.

I have received back the sketch and thank you for it.

O. E. Sarlo de Lombros Esq. C. B. E.