

Dear Sir

Please excuse the liberty I take in writing you, but after reading the article in the Daily Mail on the 3rd inst. by Lady Patricia Ward in which you said that the American peoples knowledge and appreciation of Art is something to marvel at, I thought you might be interested in a picture in my possession and perhaps put me in touch with an Art lover and possible purchaser. It is a picture of many and varied subjects all miniature on a wooden panel size 2 1/2" x 16" and is by Burgess who was living in Dover about 80 years ago, and who I believe painted many good pictures, some of a Military character.

I am enclosing a photo of same, but owing to the dirty condition of the panel it cannot show any detail, although the picture is ⁱⁿ excellent condition and undamaged but I do not think it wise for me to have it cleaned. In the centre on a gilt oval is the name "Burgess" Heraldic Sign and Ornamental Painter, and something indistinguishable, probably Canterbury or Dover. Some of the numerous subjects include Canterbury Coat of Arms. Chained Leopards, Mastiffs, a painter on a ladder painting a Public House Sign, the shadow of the rungs of the ladder showing on the house and his horse standing outside the door, also buildings on opposite side of road, all within a space of 3", Fauna, Cornucopia's with Fish, another. Fruits, a festoon of flowers from which a petal appears to have fallen, but under a glass the petal is a butterfly with markings. The late Mr. East, Master of School of Art, Dover, said, after having it in his care for examination a few years ago that it was a marvellous picture such as he had not seen before and which portrayed the painters whole Art.

I would have written to Mr. Meloon, the American Ambassador but was afraid I might give offence but after seeing the article in the "Daily Mail" I thought I might safely write to you without offending.

I shall be pleased to show the picture at any time at my home at the above address if you should know of anyone who might be interested, and would make an appointment.

Apologizing for such a long letter in attempting to describe the panel, and hoping not to have given offence

I am Sir

Yours sincerely
Allan Baker