

11th November, 1935.

My dear László,

All your letters and delightful cuttings and illustrated papers are in front of me. I have wished every day to write to you, but really I would love it if the Almighty would double the number of hours in the day. I cannot get through my work, and it is generally the thing I would most like to do which has to wait, such as your letter, since you are a friend, and have patience.

I wish to thank you for all your kind attention and good-will and interest, and I was particularly pleased to receive the very fine big reproduction which you were good enough to send of my portrait of the Regent, and also the smaller ones. I know that you have to produce these colour prints in a very simple way, but even so the result is quite satisfactory, and I expect the Regent himself is very pleased with it. By now I presume that the picture has been moved, and that the wall has been finished. I do look forward to seeing the picture there.

I have also received your letter dated November 4th, with the illustrated paper in which the portrait of King George of Greece appeared. Meanwhile you will have received the Illustrated London News in which you will have found a first-class reproduction in colour, really very well done. I have sent one to Légrady, and one to Harczeg Ferenc. I look forward to hearing from them, and especially from Dr. Légrady. I do hope now you have received the plates for my book, as arranged with Captain Holme. As regards your desire that I should ask him if he has received your communication, I will do so when I have an opportunity.

Before I go further I wish to reply to your last letter regarding young Ebener. I have been bullied about this affair for nearly three years, and I must say I am very reluctant to do anything about it, because it would create a precedent which I would like to avoid to have this young man come here to London to be painted by me under the circumstances suggested by his grandmother. It is not actually the honorarium, but the principle, and would no doubt broadcast it everywhere and I would have no peace in the future from similar people with the same desire! Much as I would like to please the old lady, from whom I have already had a whole collection of letters, I am very unwilling to do it. I would not mind doing it on the conditions she suggests when he is on his way to America if I were sure she would keep silent about it, but would she keep silent?

Now I must come back to the Kertész letter, to which I wish to reply. It is true that at the time when I offered the picture, just before the lottery took place, I did receive the letter you mention, signed by him and by the Committee, and I also received a copy of the poster after my picture. On the last occasion when I painted the Regent I mentioned it to him, and he himself said he would take an interest in the matter. However it is, if he has any communication with my brother, that is not the way to treat the matter. I was very surprised to hear, quite by accident, that the picture is now hanging in the little room where young Blassics is working. At the time when I offered the picture I did not know of the existence of the Lady Chilston Benevolent Society. I simply gave the picture at Lady Chilston's request to help the poor artists. It is very strange that just the number of this picture was not drawn. I am willing to wait, as suggested, until the next lottery takes place, in 1936, but if it does not go through then I will not be willing to leave it with any committee, but will offer it to the State Museum in Budapest. I do hope, however, that they will succeed in obtaining through it a good sum for the struggling artists. I wish to thank you most heartily for having done in this matter. It was very necessary to wake up Mr. Kertész. I am returning herewith his letter /

letter to you, as I think it ~~should~~ be in your possession. Would you kindly let me have a copy of it. I am very glad to possess the copy of your letter to him. I would have expected him to address a few lines to me when you wrote to him.

I am sending you herewith a cheque on Paris for Francs 1,000. which I would be very grateful if you would hand over to Gróf Nyáry József for the "Árpád" Bajtársi Egyesület. They are having a concert on the occasion of the three hundredth anniversary of the University, in aid of the poor students, and I am glad to have the opportunity to contribute something to this good cause. I am writing him by the same post to say that you will be handing over the cheque. The reason I am asking you to do so is that last year, as you may remember, I sent a cheque, and had to write to you because I could not get any acknowledgment or receipt from them. Thank you for doing this.

Since I wrote to you so many things have happened in the world, and we here are very delighted that my old friend the King of Greece is returning to his country. It is a great rehabilitation and recompense to him after all he and his family have suffered.

I am very busy, and am glad to say that I have made a start on my big picture, about which I will write you later.

Enclosed I am sending you a cutting from the Daily Telegraph of my last picture of Lord Carson, who was one of the greatest patriots of this country, and has just died.

I would be so glad to hear from you soon, and my wife joins me in our best wishes and kindest regards to you and your wife.

Ever yours,

Dr. Siklössy

11.11.35.