

Bedales,
Lindfield,
Hayward's Heath,
Sussex.

7th September, 1937.

I have to thank you for your two last letters, one in which you tell me of your happy return to Hungary, and the other the Express letter which arrived late last night. You must have been very tired after your long journey across Europe. Nothing is more tiring, at least to me, than a long car journey. I find I have to get out every half-hour or so to stretch my legs and have a little walk.

I hasten to thank you for your letter with the photographs for which I am most grateful. They will be included in my own collection and will make a very charming little addition to my Memoirs, which now occupy all my time. I have also to thank you for the copy of my book on Portrait Painting which you were good enough to send to me. Will you kindly convey my gratitude to Dr. Legaszy? I am so interested to read how you have changed the Preface to the book.

I am sending you a perfect photograph which has just come of one of my latest portraits. It is of the Duchess of Northumberland and was painted in her own beautiful place just outside London, Syon House. It is on the Thames and in the days of Charles the First the Royal children used to come in the Court Barge from Hampton Court to play there with the little

Percy's. You will remember I had just finished the portrait before your arrival at Bedales. She is wearing the Coronation Robes in which she appeared in Westminster Abbey, but I took the coronet, which all the Peers and Peereses wore immediately the King and Queen were crowned, from her head and placed it on a chair. I thought it would be too heavy and would interfere with the beauty of her head. As Mistress of the Robes she is the holder of the highest office to the Queen. The velvet of the robes is beautiful, a deep fiery red, and the embroidery, in which are mingled the emblems of the coats of arms, is of rich bullion thread in varying shades of gold. You will notice the famous lion of the Percy family. The room in which I painted her is pure and genuine Adams (1728-1792). This is the third portrait I have painted of her - the first one was about 1913. She is the daughter of the late Duke of Richmond and Gordon, and she is one of those rare ladies who keep all their feminine charm, beauty and dignity, in spite of the splendour and wealth, she is unassuming and modest. She is a most beautiful type of Englishwoman and having known her for so long, and having painted the whole family including her husband, the late Duke, I always feel when I am in her company that I am with an old friend. I am telling you this as it may be helpful to you. I am very glad to know that it will be reproduced in the Hungarian Quarterly, and when that issue comes out I should be very grateful if you would send a copy direct to her at the

Dr. Siklössy.

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following address:-

Her Grace

the Duchess of Northumberland,

17, Princes Gate, London, S.W. 7.

She certainly will appreciate it and may be further interested in it. If you have seen the film of the Coronation you must have seen her, very tall, walking directly after the Queen in Westminster Abbey.

I wrote lately to our friend, Dr. Legrady, and made the following suggestion to him. The doctors will not allow me to spend the winter in London and we will leave early in January for the Riviera. As I told you it would give me the greatest satisfaction if the portrait of Dr. Legrady, which is outstanding for so long, could be painted then. Nothing would be more delightful for me than if Dr. Legrady could come down for a week to the Riviera at any time after the middle of January, until the end of March. We would be so pleased if he would be our guest. We will stay in a delightful hotel right by the side of the sea at Cap Martin, where we will take a suite and I will make all the necessary arrangements for painting the portrait in that quiet and peaceful atmosphere. We will be so pleased to have him and will do everything we can to make him comfortable. I do hope that he will do this as it would not be wise to postpone this portrait, and I would love to have an opportunity of showing my appreciation for all his kindness.

Dr. Siklossy.

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Would you please talk to him about it. May I also ask you to enquire at the Prime Minister's Palace the date of the portrait which I painted for the Government of Julius Szappary?

Please convey our greetings to Dr. Kornis and with our kindest regards to you and your wife, and looking forward to hearing from you,

Ever yours

Dr. Siklossy,
PESTI HIRLAP,
Budapest V., Vilmos es.-Ut 78,1.
Hungary.