

French gallery

29th June, 1931.

Dear Sirs,

I have received your letter of June 24th regarding the question of commission on Mrs. Wadia's portrait and do not wish, any more than you, that the cordial relations which have always existed between us should be marred by this incident. However, I would point out that, from your letter, it would appear that the actual facts of the case are not clear on your side. Firstly, you ask me to refer to your letters to me with reference to this commission. As a matter of fact, the first reference to Mrs. Wadia is contained in a letter from you, dated May 30th, 1929, informing me that she had called at your Gallery and that you understood she had been in communication with my Secretary previously. The only other reference to Mrs. Wadia is contained in the list of enquiries enclosed in your letter of September 18th, 1929.

Secondly, in quoting an extract from the third paragraph of your letter under reply, "We quite concede that Mrs. Graham may have used her influence, but surely "this is but customary", this cannot be very well used as an argument against the fact that the two letters from Mrs. Wadia's friend, Mrs. Graham, definitely state that Mrs. Wadia was influenced by the portrait I did of Mrs. Graham some years ago, and these letters moreover ask for an introduction to me. In regard to my letter to you of September 18th, 1929, it was simply an inadvertence that Mrs. Wadia's name was included in the list of portraits which I had arranged to paint.

In the circumstances, therefore, I feel you can but agree that Mrs. Wadia's portrait was not the outcome of work which I exhibited at the French Gallery, and I hope the matter is now sufficiently clear to you.

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In conclusion I should like to add that it is not the material side of this question that concerns me most, but it is a matter of principle, and I feel justified in stating that, when correspondence has taken place between a sitter and myself prior to an Exhibition, I am under no obligation to a third party.

Yours faithfully,

Messrs. Wallis & Son,
The French Gallery,
158, New Bond Street, W. 1.