

17th June, 1935.

My dear Fred,

Your letter of the 11th gave me much pleasure. I envy you being able to enjoy your holidays peacefully at Bournemouth. It looks as though the weather might soon improve, and you get some of the warm sunshine you deserve, since you went to Bournemouth for that purpose.

Yesterday we went down to Lympsham. It was a long drive - two and a half hours - which I do not like, but on the way we got out twice and walked. The weather was lovely. We lunched with Mr. and Mrs. Haldin, who live in a most beautiful Elizabethan house, and there I saw three of my pictures, beautifully placed. One of them pleased me particularly, of Mrs. Haldin, painted in her bridal dress. It was one of the canvases which I gave in the year 1916 to the Red Cross, and it fetched £1000. I have not seen it since, and I was very much struck with it, I think it is one of my best works. I have never shown it, and must do so in my next exhibition. I must show you a photograph of it when you come here.

I have done some sketches and studies since you were here, and now I am trying to finish up my work, to get some time for myself. There will be some interruption, as I have to go to Paris on the 28th to paint a portrait I promised to do long ago, and I want also to see the "Salon", and my friends. I will not be there longer than a week or ten days. Do try to come here for a few days when I get back and spend a few days quietly with me.

I wish you could see the Russian Exhibition, there are some wonderful pictures, especially two, of the late Tsar and his father, which are great works of art. It will be open until July 13th.

Patrick has just come back, looking splendid. He has been away a month, it was his first tour of Italy. He is very fit, and prepared for a heavy season at "Hivac".

I posted to you today the "Illustrated London News" in which is a reproduction of my picture of that very fine man, Lord Byng of Vimy.

Holme was here lately, and as he heard I was painting the portrait of Miss Madeleine Carrel, he was very interested in it, and asked me to let him have it for colour reproduction in the "Studio". I have consented, and I am going to finish the portrait now before I leave for Paris. I would like you to see it then, because it would be nice if a little writing could accompany the reproduction.

When Holme was here I asked him if he would help me to find a very good nude, which I am longing to paint. He said it was very difficult for him to do this, but that he introduced you to Bertram Park, who is producing a book on nudes, and that you could help me in this way. Will you please think about it, and perhaps you could ask him to give me the addresses of a few really good nudes. He must know of many, judging from his book of photographs. Holme also mentioned to me that Bertram Park intends to make a book of children's portraits, with which you will occupy yourself. I would like to talk over all this with you.

Lucy joins me in warmest greetings to you both,

A.L. Baldry, Esq.

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