

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

Feb. 8th 1934.

My dear Philip

I hope you will not consider it very
great cheek on my part but I have
asked Miss Abernethy to let me have
a look at the reviews of the book
before she sends them on to you — I
am very curious to see how your
friends on the papers will take such
a plain statement of your convictions
as you have given in the book. This
one review, which I enclose, is the
~~only~~ only one she has had so far and
it is not a particularly enlightened
one. The book, I think, looks very
well and is quite well produced
except that the illustrations in some
cases are, perhaps, a bit too heavy in
tone — it ought to be popular.

How are you now? I hope you
have been keeping well and have
not been overworking unwisely.

Wth? Your letter in Jan'y. said that
you were moving on to Philadelphia
on Jan'y. 23rd but Minabernethy says
you are not going there till the 15th of
this month so I suppose I cannot
expect to see you back at home till the
beginning of March — shall you
come to London then or shall you go
straight from America to Madeira?
Anyhow, I am looking forward to
seeing you as soon as you can tear
yourself away from your American
admirers and I hope that when
I do see you everything will be well
with you and you will be able to give
the best possible account of your
experiences in America.

So, au revoir — do send me
a line when you can.

always yours

A. L. B.

By the way, in the Pastel Society show
I sold that pastel I did of the garden
— the one with the flower walk and
the terrace steps — so evidently the
Kennels garden has an appeal.

Miss Abernethy in her letter to me today says that when she left you in New York you were looking tired — knowing your incurable habit of doing much more than you ought to do I am not surprised, but I hope you have not got more tired still since she left. Have you found the weather very trying? According to the newspaper reports there have been some very bad spells of cold in New York during the last few weeks and I have been wondering whether you had found things unpleasant. Here, we have been having rather better weather lately and just at present we are having a few days which are really like spring — too good, I am afraid to last.

I have no particular news to send you — I hear that the Academy exhibition is not doing as well as those in previous years but I do not know whether this is due to a lack of quality in the work shown or merely to popular indifference.

I have not seen it yet but I hope to have a day in town soon and then I shall try to have a look at it. David Murray and Honody's wills have been published in the papers recently. Murray left nearly £59,000 and Honody over £26,000. I find Honody made his by picture dealing; he was always said to do a good deal of speculating in old pictures, ~~but~~ I do not know whether he really did but I should hardly think that he made £26,000 out of ordinary journalism. Murray made the bulk of his money out of painting — he sold his pictures very well indeed some years ago — but he was always supposed to have friends in the City who advised him well about his investments and no doubt they helped him to add to his savings. The bulk of his money is to go the Academy to run a school of landscape painting somewhere in the country — if such a school is properly managed it may be of some use but I think there are too many art schools already and too many people of small ability who call themselves artists.

Have you had interesting sittings this time and are you satisfied with what you have done? You have stayed on in New York a bit longer than you originally intended, have you