

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

April 3rd 1936.

My dear Philip

I was very glad to get good news of you and Lucy this morning — when your letter arrived — and I hope that you are continuing your trip under pleasant conditions and with everything going smoothly and comfortably. Certainly, after the strenuous time you had at Bucharest a spell of holiday making will be very good for you; I only hope, though, that you will not be too energetic in your holiday making and that you will not try to crowd too much into your days — you have not yet acquired the art of taking things easily and you are still inclined to be as energetic in your playful moments as you are in your working time. I hope the weather will be all right for sketching when you go to

to Jerusalem; I suppose it is too early in the year to be really hot there, so that you will be able to work in comfort; in the summer time I expect it would be far from pleasant.

I have no news to send you from here; I have been keeping fairly busy as I have gone on doing still life studies in pastel. They are amusing and it is interesting to see how the varieties of texture and surface can be realized with the medium. At any rate these studies give me occupation indoors at a time when work out of doors is, of course, not possible. I know nothing of what other men are doing now — as I cannot get up to town I have no chance to see any of the work that is going to the Academy and I do not hear what there is on hand in the studios. Years ago, when it was important to see beforehand — for my newspaper work — what was being got ready

for exhibitions, I used to spend the whole of March going round studios and looking at as much as I could of the work that was in progress and in that way I was able to get a fair idea of what would be on view later on. I expect that anyone who made a round of studios in these modern days would have more pain than pleasure. By the way, Sickert, now that he has ceased to be an T.A., is having a show of his recent works at the Leicester Gallery; I have no desire whatever to see it. One other piece of news that I read recently in a paper was that Llewellyn is painting a portrait of the Archbishop of Canterbury which is to hang in Lambeth Palace — it may be shown at the T.A.

Miss Abernethy sent me, some days ago, the photographs of the Mrs Baldwin and Lady Brockle Portraits — very many thanks for letting me have them — I like them both greatly but the Mrs Baldwin is

definitely the finer of the two, a very big achievement which shows you at the very top of your form. I should count it as one of the best things you have done in recent years — strong, confident and admirably dignified. I should think that you found her rather a difficult subject, you always seem to back up and do something extra good when you have a rither who presents a bit of a problem. I hope when you come back that you will do as fine a one of Baldwin himself.

We are expecting the Kendricks here for Easter; he is much better. I am glad to say, and after a short stay in Cornwall to pick up after his illness is back in town and at work again.

Well, our love to you and Lucy and all our best wishes for a very pleasant and happy holiday — take care of yourselves.

ever yours

A.L.B.

many congratulations on the addition of yet another order to your long list of decorations.