

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW, COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

March 13th 1936.

My dear Philip

I was delighted to get your letter this morning and I am answering it at once because, if I do not, I doubt whether my letter would have any chance of reaching you before you leave Buchanan for your trip further east. I am very glad to hear that you are having such agreeable experiences and that the portraits are all going well; you seem to be doing quite a large series of them but I know that you like to be busy and I expect you find it very interesting to have such a variety of sitters and such different types of personalities to study. I hope you are having better weather than we are here; you speak of spring as if it had really arrived but with us it is still hanging back.

We have had a few warm days
but now we are getting cold east
winds again and dull skies
which look as if there was snow
coming. Still, I have a few
primroses out and the daffodil
buds are showing, and the
birds are beginning to build their
nests, so spring is evidently on
the way. I shall be glad when
it really arrives, for the winter
has been a long one and in
many ways a trying one.

I have, of course, no news to
send you as I have simply gone
on in my usual & quiet way;
I have stayed at home all the
while — the safest place for
me in the cold weather — and
I have done a little work when
the light was not too bad. I
have gone on with parcels of still
life subjects and have now
finished about half a dozen;
they are amusing to do and

they give me practice in studying and recording textures and tone and colour variations. I do not hear much of what is going on in the art world but I fancy things are pretty much as usual — a few men are fairly prosperous but the great majority of artists have a rather poor time. Of course, there are far too many people who think they are important though really they are of very small account as artists and only spoil the market for the few who ought to be supported. Llewellyn said something to this effect at the Artists Benevolent meeting the other day — I wish more men in authority would take the same line and discourage the hopeless type of art student who can never be anything but a failure.

I hope you intend to have the whole set of your Roumanian portraits photographed as I look forward

to seeing photographs of them —
I cannot see the originals unless
you propose to show them here
later on. By the way, did the
red cross over your postscript to
your letter mean that you had
already answered your question
yourself? My answer would be
"No, don't" as I think it is very
doubtful whether you would be
properly treated. Even if the picture
were hung the hangers have ways
of making themselves disagreeable
and it would not be pleasant if
it were put in a dark corner or
too high up to be seen.

I had news of Kendrick only
this morning; he has, as I told you,
been very seriously ill with congestion
of the lungs, but he is getting better
now and has gone to Cornwall for
a change of air. I hear the change
is doing him good and he hopes to
come back in about a week's time.

Our love and all the best of good
wishes — don't forget that I hope to
hear from you when you are on your
travels.

always yours,
A.L.B.