

WOLMER WOOD.

MARLOW COMMON.

MARLOW, BUCKS.

July 1st 1936

my dear Philip

I am very glad to hear that you propose to look us up on Saturday or Sunday next. Either day will be all right for me and I shall be exceedingly glad to see you; of the two days I hope you will choose the one that will give you the most free time to spend here. I want to hear what you have been doing and what important work you are planning to do in addition to the things you have already told me about. I am delighted to hear that you are going to paint the group of the children out of doors, as I am sure you will find it very interesting to do that way.

Those cuttings you sent me are instructive; the one about the Amsterdam Exhibition shows that either the selection of the "contemporary works" has been made with extraordinary narrowness of mind or that the writer of the "Times" notice takes a very one-sided view of the collection as a representation of

the British art of today. Of the present day artists he mentions, hardly any are more than third rate and he does not seem to realise that there are others, outside the modernist gang, who ought to be included "among the artists represented". The list of sculptors consists entirely of cranks who do what seems to me most unpleasant work.

I am very glad indeed to hear that the Royal Society of Arts medal has been awarded to you; it is an official recognition that is definitely encouraging because it shows appreciation of your point of view and endorses your attack on modernist extravagance.

Congratulations too on the coming commission from the Archbishop; it is a real score for you but it is not likely to make you very popular with the particular "colleague" whom you are cutting out. But that cannot be helped; I am delighted that the Archbishop has the good sense to turn to you and I am sure that you will give him what he wants. I can quite understand his wish

to have at Lambeth a portrait that will give people in years to come the right impression of him.

Did you see that William Nicholson was given a Knighthood in the birthday honours? I was surprised, but very pleased because he is one of the few really accomplished artists that we have with us today and because he has been very consistent in keeping his work always at a very high level. I have not seen much of what he has done in recent years but he used to be a painter of real distinction.

I hope Lucy's garden party yesterday was not upset by the weather. we had rain here during the afternoon.

An revoir — our love to you both

always yours A.L.B.