

WOLMER WOOD,

MARLOW COMMON,

MARLOW, BUCKS.

May 31<sup>st</sup> 1936

my dear Philip

many thanks for your letter and  
the cuttings — these certainly seem to  
be sympathetic. I shall look forward  
to reading the others you have so as to  
see what is really the attitude of  
the newspaper men on the subject.  
I hoped for some attacks on you, because  
one can judge best from the resent-  
ment which the modernists show  
when they are criticised what view  
they really take of their performances.  
They cannot be very serious if they do  
not take the trouble to defend them-  
selves. Leveallyn's comment —  
if it is correctly reported — is feeble  
as he seems to miss the difference  
between the spirit and the expression  
of art. Art in its expression should  
certainly be in keeping with the

life of the time in which it is produced and certainly "the art of past centuries is not suitable as an illustration of the life of today"; when a modern artist tries to express himself by means of the mannerisms and conventions which suited the people who lived many centuries ago. But the spirit in which the real artists work has not — as you pointed out — changed since the days of the cave man and it is only by working in this spirit that the modern artist can find some expression which fits in with modern life". The only way in which he can hope to find this expression is by seeking for it with exactly the same sincere spirit which guided the artists whose centuries ago produced art "which itself fitted in with the life of their time". Another point — of the art of past centuries is not

suitable as an illustration of the life of today can the modernists be forgiven for imitating in these days of highly evolved civilization the childlike methods of sincere but undeveloped savages who many centuries ago were struggling to acquire the first rudiments of technical expression? Today these rudiments can be learned at any art school, so the affectation of savage simplicity is either a ridiculous pose or a confession of slovenly waste of educational opportunities.

I was very sorry to hear that your tooth had still been worrying you but I hope it is really well by now — it is a great nuisance when teeth go wrong as they do upset one's general health. I hope your trip to Chichester was helped you to pick up but I am afraid you must have found the weather cold. It has been decidedly chilly here all this past week, though we have had some sunny days, and I have kept indoors. I developed a cold after my trip to town and a bit of a cough, so it was safer to stay in and avoid the east wind; but I hope to be getting

about again as usual in a day or  
two — I always seem to catch  
cold in London; I suppose there are  
too many germs about.

Many thanks for the little  
"Art and Reason" paper; it has  
come and is certainly interesting.  
I wish there were more papers of  
the same type, for the modernists  
are noisy and pushing and  
counter attacks on them are very  
much wanted. The sane people  
want waking up.

So, our love to you both and  
an revoir — I hope to see you  
soon now.

Always yours

A.L.B.