

5th October, 1937.

My dear Friend,

It does not happen often that I am late in replying to your letters but time has recently been passing very quickly with us - relays of friends in the country and since our return here the days have been very full. And so on looking at your last letter I was very surprised to find that it is dated the 16th of September.

I wish to thank you first of all for the frame for the tapestry which arrived safely and in good condition, but I cannot quite make out how the tapestry was fixed to it, there is no sign of how this was done on the back of the moulding. Perhaps you can explain this to me? I am not yet quite sure where we will hang the Gobelin, but in the meantime I think you will be happy to know that before coming to a decision I am using it as the background for a large portrait I just began to-day.

Above all I do wish to thank you for the note which you gave me about Madame André. She certainly was not pretty, but a very able and talented woman, and what you tell me about her will be very helpful to me. Is it right to say that the studio which you had and in which I painted

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Montesquiou and Princess Orloff, was the former studio of Delacroix. I somehow seem to remember you telling me this, but I would like to have your confirmation.

I am very glad to have the address of Comtesse des Isnards, many thanks for it. I have not yet decided whether I will exhibit her portrait or that of the Comtesse de Castellane, née Paternôtre. There was a very delightful head and shoulders portrait of her, with a veil, and as she is here at the Embassy it might be of more interest to the public than that of Madame des Isnards. Do you know the portrait of Madame des Isnards, in red velvet? I would so much appreciate your opinion as to which it would be best to show. With regard to your own portrait and that of Montesquiou, will you please hand them over to Robinnet Frères. They are very experienced people and collect the pictures for the Salon and they know me. I would like them to send them here, to arrive not later than the 10th of next month, and I will see to the varnishing and cleaning of the pictures in the studio.

I am glad that you liked my portrait of Mellon which appeared in the Illustrated London News. We were very sad at leaving our beautiful country place. We had many happy days there and I did some interesting studies which I will include in my exhibition. Our sojourn there had to be

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interrupted as I came up to London for three days to finish the portraits of Prince and Princesse Chichibu on their way back to Japan. They were most gracious and overwhelmed Lucy and myself with most interesting and valuable Japanese presents. The two portraits will make an especial point of interest in the exhibition, and you must do your best to come over. It will be open from the 23rd of November to the 23rd of December.

Generally speaking I can give you quite a good account of myself. I feel stronger every day - I still have to rest a lot, but we are quite happy to be at home again. Before I close, I wish to tell you that I was very surprised to read in a London evening paper yesterday that you were at a party given by Lady Mendl. I begin to be afraid for you! With our warmest greetings to you all and please write to me and tell me about the party - of course you can't tell me everything. And don't forget that I especially want to know about the two portraits, which to exhibit, Madame des Isnards or Madame de Castellane. It would be nice if you could visit Madame des Isnards for a moment and then tell me what you think about her portrait.