

28th October, 1937.

My dear Friend,

I have just received your letter and wish to thank you most heartily for all the information you have been good enough to give me.

Before I go further I must express my very great regret that I will not be able to do as I had intended and show your picture this time, nor those of Montesquiou and Madame des Isnards. It is four years since I have had an Exhibition and so much material has accumulated that I will hardly be able to satisfy the owners of portraits here, I have to refuse so many. So I must postpone showing your portraits and that of Madame des Isnards until next summer. I am having to arrange the Exhibition in two groups of a fortnight each during the months. In the first will be those portraits connected with the Coronation, and amongst the others that of the Duke of Connaught in the Garter Mantle which I have just finished. There will also be in the first series a large collection of children's portraits and I will show for the first time some of my flower studies and landscapes. There will be no children in the second group, and their portraits will be replaced by others of grown-ups.

I will be able to send you, about the 20th of November

Monsieur le Duc de Gramont.

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a copy of the catalogue in which you will find five reproductions of portraits, which ought to be interesting. You can imagine how busy I am arranging this - it is an enormous work. The Exhibition will be in aid of the Artists' General Benevolent Institution and our London Hospital.

I have just written to Mr. Tuck who has been looking forward so much to our visit to Paris and to my promised call on him at Malmaison with you. Alas, we too are very disappointed that we cannot come; I have been kept too busy and it really would be too exciting for me as I still have to be very careful. But we shall certainly be in Paris at the beginning of January, when we shall spend a few days. We must hope that the Exhibition will still be open, if not in its entirety at least the Art Collection of which I hear so much.

I was so interested in what you tell me about your dinner with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor. I hope to hear more details when we meet. I have great sympathy for that unfortunate man - he has made a great mess of his life. I am so sorry that you did not see all of our children who were in Paris. But Patrick has told me of a very interesting interview with you and that there may be some collaboration between you both.

Monsieur le Duc de Gramont. -33-

23.10.37.

With our love to you and please do not let me
wait so long before you write again,

Yours affectionately,

Monsieur le Duc de Gramont,
42 bis Avenue Henri Martin,
Paris.