

18th September, 1935.

Dr. László Siklosay.

We have just returned from our most successful holiday, and I was very pleased to find your letter of September 14th among my mail. If I have not replied to your previous letter, which was forwarded to me, I must apologise. Our time was very fully occupied, and I tried, in fact, to keep away from all correspondence.

I was so pleased to hear of your time which you spent here in London in such a very useful way, and we both were so very happy to have had the opportunity to see more of you during your sojourn here. I am so pleased that I had the opportunity to do a sketch of you, and would be glad to hear what kind of reception it had from your family.

You are quite right to suggest that I should address a few lines to our friend Dr. Legrady, and I myself had the feeling to do so. I must ask you now kindly to let me have by return his full name and address, and as soon as I receive these I will write to him.

I am so pleased to know that through your and Dr. Legrady's kindness my book is to be translated into Hungarian. It seems only a pity that it will not be for sale. Your idea to write as a preface a very short account of my life is an excellent one, but I would prefer to have it as short as possible, as at present, as you know, I am occupying myself /

myself/

with the writing of my life, and need all the details for that purpose. I think, however, you will be satisfied with what I will have to say, and I will let you have it next week. I will also let you have a photograph of myself in military uniform. If you wish to have a photograph taken in 1900, you will find plenty of these at Strelisky's, who took various photographs of my wife and me when we returned to Budapest after our marriage. This was in the summer of that year, and some of them are in Hungarian national dress. If you reproduce a Hungarian genre picture, I would like it to be the one which I know is at the Music Academy, called "Ave Maria", and I will let you have a photograph of the Zach Felicien picture which is here in England, that which you mention must, I think, be only a study for the big picture.

I am very grateful indeed to you for sending me the photograph of my portrait of the late Prime Minister Dr. Wekerle, and that of the little girl, which I painted when twenty years old. It was a great surprise to me to see the qualities of Dr. Wekerle's portrait, and the expression in it takes me back to those happy hours which I spent with him and his family in a real Hungarian manor at his country place. I have the happiest memories of his genuine, sympathetic personality. I am very sorry to see from the photograph that the picture is in such bad condition. I do not believe anything has been done to it since I painted it, which must now be forty-two years ago.

May I now ask you a favour? I hear on good authority that my portrait of the Regent Horthy needs a second varnish, as the first was not very successful, and I would like this to be done immediately, before the picture is exhibited at the Nemzeti Salon. I am sure you could approach someone in the museum who would know how to varnish the portrait with Vernis à Retoucher (Vibert) and that of Wekerle would need a thorough cleaning and a Mastic Varnish. It must be done, and naturally I will willingly bear the expense.

Dr. László Siklossy.

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I am very proud of this picture of Wackerle, and would love to know it in good condition. I wish that it too could be added to the portraits which are to be shown this autumn at the Kemzeti Salon Portrait Exhibition, as an example of one of my earliest official works.

Budapest has again had her illustrious guest, the Prince of Wales, which must, as on his first visit, have caused great excitement. I seem that his Hungarian blood gives him an instinctive love for dear old Hungary, and it is certainly of importance that he has stayed at G8d8118, and been shooting there in the Regent's company. No doubt it will increase the interest and sympathy of the British people, and may be useful in days to come in helping to ameliorate the sorrows of Hungary. Bárczi must rejoice that he had the privilege of meeting him in such unusual circumstances, who I am sure must have been most charming to him.

Since we saw you we have had a most delightful time in Salzburg, where we enjoyed the music, and, to keep out of the crowd, lived in a small village half an hour's journey from the town. From there we went to Badgastein, which we simply loved for its wonderful walks in the glorious mountains. From there, after three weeks, we went to Venice, where we stayed at the Villa Malcontente on the Brenta, and came into Venice just to see what we wanted and rejoice in the Titien collection. Now we are back again in our very busy life, and I must try now to spend less time with portrait painting, and really begin my large work, and also concentrate on writing my life.

Now I must not keep you longer, dear friend. I like to write to you because I know you are interested in everything/

Dr. László Siklossy.

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everything/

I have to tell you, and I now look forward to pleasant news from you.

Let me know how the President of the Parliament has taken the news that there is a desire to show the picture at the Jubilee Exhibition of the Nemzeti Salon.

When will the official presentation of the picture take place in the Parliament?

My wife joins me in our very warmest greetings to you and your wife.

Believe me,

Dr. László Siklossy.

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