

Herzeg
~~Fog~~
Scan

Also say if you could obtain the signature of the Regent and reproduce it under the value of the picture, it would greatly enhance the value of the picture.
21st May, 1935.

I preserve the original of the portrait in still life with you and I will keep it for you, and I will send you the original of the portrait in still life with you.

My dear Friend,
I wish first of all to apologise for my delay in replying to your various letters which I have in front of me. I have been so extremely busy lately, I have postponed writing you from day to day, but I cannot wait longer now to thank you for all the trouble you are taking in the matter of the reproductions of the picture of the Regent. I am convinced you will do your best to make a success of it, especially as I know how much Dr. Legrady also is interested in the matter. It is high time that a good reproduction of a picture of the Regent should be made public in the country, and it fills me with satisfaction and pride that I had the opportunity to paint the original picture, and that it is to be permanently placed in the magnificent House of Parliament. Whatever may happen in the future, the personality of the Regent will always stand out in the history of Hungary.

Now let me thank you for the splendid photograph you kindly sent me. I am pleased to be able to tell you that the Illustrated London News are going to publish a good reproduction of it in the course of the next few weeks, and as soon as it appears I will send you a copy.

I now look forward greatly to getting the proofs of the coloured reproduction, and hope very much that they will satisfy the Regent also. May I give you an idea /

idea which is often employed here, namely, if you could obtain the signature of the Regent and reproduce it under the colour print, it would greatly enhance the value of the latter.

I presume the original of the portrait is still with you, and that you will keep it until you are quite satisfied with the quality of the reproductions?

I was so interested to hear from you that the whole wall on which the picture will be placed has now been rearranged in accordance with the architecture and the size of the portrait, and I think there could not have been a more dignified and suitable place for the picture than that which we at the time suggested. I only hope it will not be too long before I can see it there. Do let me know more about this, as I have had no communication in this matter with anybody else. I would also like to know when the picture will be officially placed there.

I was very interested to hear from your description what a splendid man has now been elected as President of the House, and I hope I will have the pleasure of making his acquaintance.

Now, dear Friend, one of the reasons that I have been so long of replying to your letters is that I wished to be able to give you a definite reply regarding the two portraits about which you spoke to me in Budapest. I am afraid my reply will disappoint you, as I do not think I will be able to carry out my plan to visit Budapest, and therefore cannot enjoy the hospitality so graciously offered me by Dr. Legrady. My time is very much engaged here, and I want to concentrate on my big work, so I fear that I must postpone my visit to Hungary till a later date, probably /

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probably next year. I assure you I am greatly looking forward to painting the portrait of Dr. Legrady, who appealed to me as a most sympathetic personality, even if I did not know all the noble work he is doing for Hungary, and I need not say also how much I look forward to painting Herczeg Ferenc, who is such a distinguished and cultured man, and above all the leading writer who represents the pre-war and present spirit in Hungary.

My present intention is to leave here for Paris on June 21st, as I have to go there to carry out some work which I promised a long time ago, and I also wish to see the "Salon" there, where I am represented. I have a splendid Studio there in the house of my friend the Duc de Gramont. Do you think it would be possible for Dr. Legrady and Mr. Ferenc to give me the opportunity of painting their portraits while I am in Paris? If they were able to do so, I could make arrangements to do nothing else during that time, so that they could sit daily, and I would finish each within a week or so. It may just be that they would like to have the little change, and I am very loath to disappoint you and your friends too much.

Now I come to the most delicate part of the matter, which I was waiting to reply to until I could definitely tell you my plans. For the portrait of Dr. Legrady I would accept, as you suggest, the honorarium of 3,000 Pengoes, as it is to be offered to him by the staff of Pesti Hirlap as an expression of respect and gratitude. I will be only too glad to do this.

As regards the portrait of Mr. Ferenc which Dr. Legrady himself wishes to have, I will not in this case either ask for my usual honorarium, knowing the circumstances in Hungary /

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Hungary, but would be satisfied with an honorarium of 5,000 Pengoes. I would in each case paint a portrait to include the hands, in a dignified size worthy of the standing and personalities of the subjects. I do hope this will be acceptable.

In case I have the opportunity of painting the portraits in Paris, may I take this opportunity to mention that I would - as I always do - paint the portraits in their frames, and I would therefore suggest getting the frames there in time. I always prefer, when possible, to paint my portraits in old frames, and for a good antique the price would be between 1,500 and 2,000 Francs.

I am glad to have been able to make this suggestion to you, and very much hope it may be to your and our friends' liking. I much look forward now to hearing from you an answer to all my questions. I am also greatly looking forward to receiving the proofs of the colour print of my portrait.

Is there any chance of your coming to Paris also for a few days?

Once more I must apologise for my delay in writing to you. Will you please convey my warmest greetings to Dr. Legrady and Mr. Ferenc, and say how much I hope my suggestion will appeal to them.

My wife joins me in sending our kindest regards to your wife and yourself.

Believe me,

Ever yours,

Dr. Siklossy.

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