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14-15, OLD BOND STREET,

LONDON, W. 1.

21st December 1944.

M. KNOEDLER & CO, INC.  
**RECEIVED**

JAN 9

ANS'D. 2/2/45

Messrs. M. Knoedler & Co., Inc.  
14 East 57th Street,  
NEWYORK.

Dear Sirs,

We confirm our last letter of the 21st November.

Paris office. I enclose herewith copy of a postal card of the 11th November from Miss Raymundis. You will see what she says about missing pictures. I was afraid some might have gone astray. Just before receiving this card I had asked a friend who was going over to Paris last week for a few days, to call at the office to see what he could report to me about the stock. No-one was there at the time of his visit, but as he left his card with a telephone number Allen Ratcliffe called him up (it appears Allen is only in Paris for a very short time, as he must go back to the Sanatorium and stay there until well into the Spring) and told him that all the stock was there and that I should not worry. Some pictures had been taken by Roland, a number of which he has sold. Through Miss Raymundis' and Allen's news not agreeing, I sent the following telegram to Paris :-

"Allen better verify Clark's pictures Maple's (stop) Branch says our stock all right - Raymundis says some missing telegraph confirmation"

and this time it was Roland who answered, as follows :-

"Allen back sanatorium everything order Capucines Hoche Teheran all well best wishes"

so I presume all is in order now, though I would have preferred more precise news, with the following words, "All paintings here in Paris", then there would not have been any doubt. Yet I presume we can put our minds at ease. I have cabled you -

"From Roland's telegram from Paris conclude all stock there accounted for (stop) five painting numbers one Devis one Hilder one Cooper two Scotts Happy Christmas".

You will see by all this that it was impossible for me to reassure you as I was not reassured myself. On the other hand, I quite see you never got my cables, and as a matter of fact Betty Carstairs did not receive those I sent her. Of course, the invasion was then still on, and the Censors not quite understanding what it was all about, just retained them, to be sure. To relieve your mind to the extent that mine is, I sent you the following cable :-



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"Understand everything all right Paris office  
Raymundis well Allen recovering" (20 Sept.).

I understand, to a point, their uncertainty, unless they look up the stock book or lists, because I had cases made for some of these paintings, and some I was able to ship away, others stayed there all packed, and I presume they were not able to unpack them. At least poor Miss Raymundis could not. As to Allen, from what I can see, the poor boy must be in a bad shape. I did think that having gone to Paris he would pass Christmas there with his family, but the fact of his going back so soon to the Sanatorium looks bad to me. On the other hand, poor Miss Raymundis seems also to have a bad time with her sick mother. I really feel very very sorry for them.

Stubbs A.2981 "Pt. of Trentham, with jockey up, on Newmarket Heath". You will see by the list of purchases we have bought a very fine and expensive Stubbs. As this is possibly our last chance to get such a well-known one, and having several customers in view, I could not let it pass. I shall have to finance it somehow, but I will take care of that, and hope to sell it quickly and put our finances right. In the last few years, three other Stubbs as important have changed hands, but I could not get them, and when I could they were too expensive.

I have been unable to try and dispose of some of our recent purchases, through lack of frames. One frame I have had on order for more than a year. We are in an awful situation in this respect. On the top of this, since ten days, the Government will not let any wood out to make stretchers. So many pictures have been damaged in the blitzes that there has been an unusual run on everything pertaining to this branch of the business. Well, we have gone through worse, and still are going through an awkward time, but one day we shall see daylight. There is only one thing to do, have patience.

Chardin: Grete Ring came in one day excited, asking me if I had received a cable from New York, which I had not. Then she told me that Heinemann Fleischmann had written or telegraphed her that she should get my opinion on a Chardin she had offered him, as he thought of buying the picture with Knoedler. I told her I was quite willing to see the painting, but that I would only report my opinion direct to you - I could not give it to her or to Heinemann as I was working for Knoedler's and not for them. To this she agreed, and hence my cable to you -

"Confidential Grete Ring showed me Rudolf Heinemann instructions regarding supposed Chardin Wildenstein book number fivehundred eightyeight (stop) think this Cypierre picture but though about Chardin period to my mind not by this great artist being entirely different technique cannot give definite name but nice French picture (stop) fourthousand



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pounds asked prohibitive (stop) refused give her personally my opinion as enquiry did not come direct from you (stop) one painting number Cornelius Kick" which explains itself. From marks on the frame, it must be the Cypierre picture, but to my mind it is not by the artist. The fact that it was attributed to this artist in the catalogue does not mean anything, especially in those days, though she remarked to me that the Fragonard "La liseuse" was in the same sale. It is a nice picture, on the whole, and in perfect state, with 'toute sa fleur', but the technique is not there. I am still thinking of this picture and trying to find a real attribution, but cannot. But you feel the influence of Greuze-Lepicié-Chardin, so it must be by some artist of that period, though none I have come across.

*photo*  
Juan Gris A.2589/90. If Valentine's are willing to give an advance price to the buyer of these two pictures perhaps I can get them. *1450*

22nd December.

We acknowledge your letter of the 17th November, received to-day, which we will answer later.

Miss Raymundis. Note the copy of your letter of the 10th November to her, and thought it as well to cable you that the Paris library was quite safe, which I have done to-day, as follows :- "Paris library absolutely safe".

We are, Yours faithfully,  
pp. M.Knoedler & Co., Ltd.

*Geo H Davey*  
Geo. H. Davey.

P.S.

Topolski. We have added to the above cable a message for Miss Wittler regarding this exhibition - "tell Wittler Topolski says pictures should be Newyork by now and gives her carteblanche exhibition arrangements", which answers her letter of the 4th December.