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22, RUE DES CAPUCINES

PARIS. 2^e

July 24th, 1945.

CRN/148
Sept. 5, 1945

Mr. C.R. Henschel,
M. Knoedler & Co. Inc.
New York.

Dear Mr. Henschel,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 8th with enclosure and I also received two weeks before a big envelope containing copies of all your correspondence with London during the war. I thank you very much for all these; I was indeed very interested in reading them. Miss Walsh started also to send me their copies so this will help to fill the blank caused by this unforeseen separation.

I confirm you my letter to you of May 23rd. Since then I received two more remittances from the bank, the last being on the 20th inst. which I did not expect at all. I got for each the same amount as the first one, i.e. Frs: 24.641.- All these, after deduction of the few items I paid for the firm and the reimbursement of the money I had advanced personally, leaves me a balance in cash of frs: 32.000.- The money you sent me enabled me also to pay to Mrs. Ratcliffe frs: 7.500.- for Allen's simple funeral at Enval (P. de D.) where our poor friend is compelled to stay, it being now impossible in France to transport corpses at long distances. This payment was made following Mr. Davey's instructions

I saw Mr. Roland some time at the beginning of this month and I stressed again on your and Mr. Davey's desire to have a detailed statement of his transactions with the stock left in Paris. He is unwilling to do it through the post for fiscal reasons and is waiting for Mr. Davey's arrival for that. In fact, -ns he wrote you that day, also to Mr. Davey. He asked me to let you know that in future, he will pay what is necessary for the Paris office. So, what with the money I now have and Mr. Roland's assurance for the future, it will be unnecessary to send me anymore. I quite understand your wanting to send as little as possible to Paris at the present time on account of the rate of exchange - and for a place which is unproducible and is only a drain on you. . You can rely on me for bringing the outlays to a minimum.

Fire at 15 East, New York. I was sorry to read about this in your letter to London, July 24th, 1942 but glad to see that none of your pictures had been damaged. Did I write you about the fire which broke in here 22, rue des Capucines on the first of January 1941? I may have mentioned it in my first letter written to you immediately after the liberation but I do not know if you had its entire contents as Mr. Davey could not at the time send it complete. This fire started just above the annexe where all the library is - in a business place called Pro-Publicité on the second floor and like yours from an unknown cause (probably a short-circuit). The poor concierges had a hard time and were wonderful for the firm. I was surprised when I came two days after in seeing all the wrecks in the yard and so little damage in our place the firemen had been particularly very neat, avoiding to spread water unnecessarily on the carpets - as they had to go in our toilet and the little lobby where Allen put all the photograph plates, so as to water the inside walls of a little yard where the fire was raging like in a stove-pipe. We only have the windows of those lobbies broken and scorched and the electricity out of order, the electric wire under the ceiling having been of course entirely burnt; the room above was completely destroyed. So you will realize what a narrow escape our library had. I was so thankful when I saw that as all these years when I was left alone in charge of this office, I was so eager that you should find everything intact.

As concerns the Library itself, apart from a few volumes Mr. Roland took home for safety at some critical moments and which he will bring back by and by, all the books are here. Not being here when he took them away, I have an incomplete list of these books. I have noted :

Van Marle, complete serie of 26 volumes I think
Friedlander, Maîtres Hollandais, 10 volumes
Manet by Jamot
L'Atelier de Renoir (Bernheim Jeune)
Daumier by Fuchs.
Corot by Robaut, 5 volumes,

I am sorry he could not tell me exactly after as he may forget. Anyhow, I shall ask him to bring them back by and by when I see him. There cannot be anything missing outside of those he took as the concierges have always kept a dog's watch over the stairs and any new visitor coming in the building. Besides, the shelves have but very few empty places, so Mr. Roland has not taken many more away.

Trotti. I wrote him the information you gave me. I have been told he is in a poor health and never goes out now.

Albert Meyer. I saw in a letter Mr. Davey told you he had been deported. Mme Lippmann told me the poor man died in one of those awful death camps.

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(to Mr. C.R. Henschel, July 23th, 1945)

3.

Guys WCA.756. I saw in one of the copies that you wanted to know if this had been paid for. It was bought by Mme Lippman Meyer and paid cash on Dec. 29th, 1939. This sale is mentioned in the Paris Provisional Balance Sheet & Accounts as at Dec. 31, 1939 and is not mentioned in the Accounts receivable, therefore paid for

Allen Ratcliffe. There has been another tragedy in his family. One of his brothers, Harold Ratcliffe who had been in captivity all during the war in Germany, came back on the day Allen died and added to this grief, learned that his son Allen Ratcliffe, Jr. aged 23, had been deported the year before in Germany. He was then at Dachau in an awful state. A Clergyman who had been in that camp and had the luck to be rescued in a sufficiently good state of health to be able to come back to France, came to see the parents and told them in what state he was in but that having a wonderful high spirit, he might come through alright being so young. He was weighing 41 kilos and measuring 62 feet so you can imagine his terrific meagerness. The poor parents anxiously waited news hoping he might be taken to Switzerland for his convalescence, unfortunately, the Allied troops had arrived too late, one month sooner perhaps, might have saved him. They were told he died on June 4th by one of the Sisters who attended those miserable wrecks after their liberation, three weeks after his uncle's death, (our Allen), and all the time asking his little mother. He was a fine young fellow and so affectionate. My heart ached again when I learned it and I saw the miserable parents in their despair. Is there such a thing equalling in horror as those German concentration camps and can it ever be forgotten? The poor boy had done nothing except that he was staying with a family of which one member was working in the Resistance. He was taken away with them without judgement at the time of the French campaign in Normandy and sent to Buchenwald and then to Dachau. He saw the friend he was taken with die of hunger.

I am sorry to fatigue you with all those stories which are alas all too real. For you who have lived so far from these dramas, they may appear over exaggerated. I wish to God they were ...

One thing more, I must thank you for your kind thought in sending me some food parcels, they have not reached me yet. They will be greatly appreciated you may be sure, especially as I have been thinking of them since such a long time, having been told by London that you sent them some, still I am upset Mr. Davey insisted so much on your sending me any, if it is a trouble to you and an extra expense. Of course, such rarities such as coffee and chocolate which are what I am most longing for, are far more appreciated here than money, and it will be considered by me as some compensation to my devotion to the firm and all your property during those dangerous times.

I wish you and Mrs. Henschel a good vacation and always looking forward to your good news, believe me,

My best thoughts to Mme de Chelivinski & Sincerely yours,
Kind remembrance to Miss Fausen & Wittler. Y. Bonnet