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Archives of American Art

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: Cook Collection, 1939-1943, 1950-1952

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December 5, 1950

Dear Mr. Kaines-Smith:

It was so very good of you to have gone into such detail in your kind letter of November 28th., for which I thank you.

Though you intend writing me shortly further about the painting by Lemaire I thought it would be but courteous to acknowledge receipt of your letter without delay and also to answer you as regards my increasing the offer on the the marble "Crucifixion" relief.

Let me thus say that I will gladly make it £150 (One hundred and fifty pounds) as you suggest.

I am the more so glad to do this as it gives me an opportunity to disclose to you some of my true ambitions and this particularly when referring to the Cook Collection, for as interesting as the painting by Lemaire may be or even the Pitoni, the type of paintings or sculpture I am really asking for are of much greater aesthetic merit.

You were so good when I had the privilege of meeting you in London to remind me of some of the paintings I had lent to the great French Retrospective show of 1932 at Burlington House, and which all carefully chosen by the officials of the Louvre Museum gave you an insight into the quality of paintings my firm is known for.

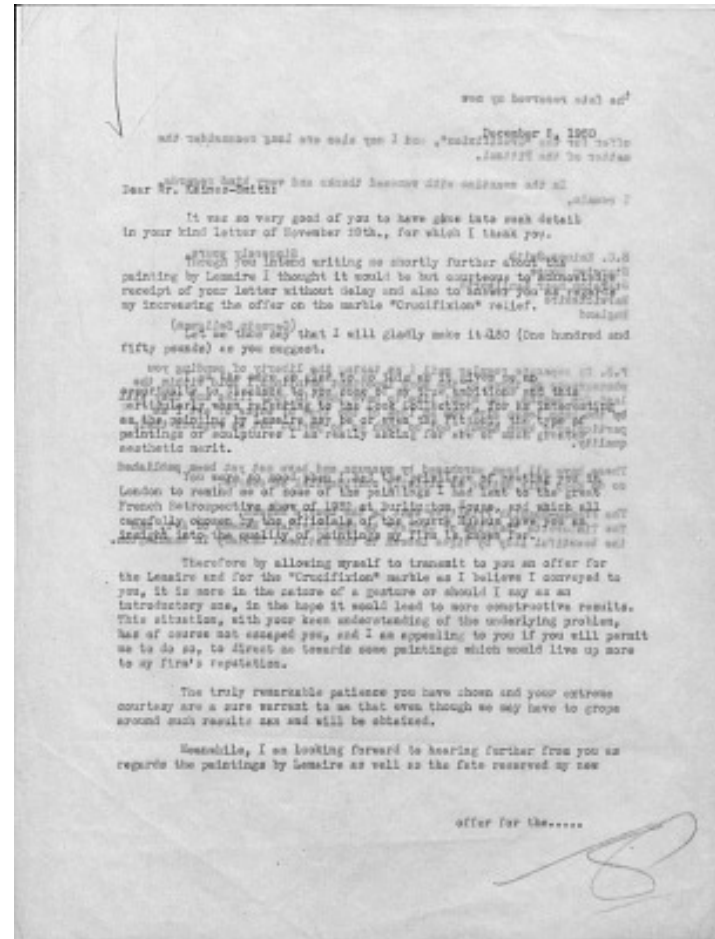
Therefore by allowing myself to transmit to you an offer for the Lemaire and for the "Crucifixion" marble as I believe I conveyed to you, it is more in the nature of a gesture or should I say as an introductory one, in the hope it would lead to more constructive results. This situation, with your keen understanding of the underlying problem, has of course not escaped you, and I am appealing to you if you will permit me to do so, to direct me towards some paintings which would live up more to my firm's reputation.

The truly remarkable patience you have shown and your extreme courtesy are a sure warrant to me that even though we may have to grope around such results can and will be obtained.

Meanwhile, I am looking forward to hearing further from you as regards the paintings by Lemaire as well as the fate reserved my new

offer for the.....

^[[TP]]



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