

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: Johnson, Chester H., 1924-1933

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J CT ES January 13, 1926

Mr. Chester H. Johnson, 410 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, III.

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Dear Johnson,

Mr. Seligmann is writing you by this mail regarding your suggestion about the stained glass. As a matter of fact, this very idea came to me when I was in the Gothic Hall of the museum last Tuesday.

Now, the chief reason for my writing you this letter is to ask you whether you think you would still be interested in that very charming painting by Gainsborough which I showed you about eighteen months ago and which I sold to one of my clients almost immediately after you had seen it. My client now would like to have a portrait in its place, and I am, therefore, offering it to you before I show it again to anyone else.

You will remember it is a figure of a woman in a large hat walking in a garden; the figure being the same one as the main figure in the famous Gainsborough "The Mall" that was purchased from the Neeld Collection a few years ago by the late Mr. Frick. This picture as you probably know, was considered to be one of Gainsborough's masterpieces.

The painting I am now offering to you, came from the celebrated Pfunst Collection of London, and it previously belonged to the renowned Wynne Ellis Collection; Mr. Ellis having given it to Mrs. Howell, a cousin of his wife, who left it in turn to her nicec, and it was subsequently sold after her death in 1902. It is mentioned in Lord Roland Sutherland Gowers' "Thomas Gainsborough", and it is also reproduced on a full page in this book.

As you have seen the painting yourself, it is needless for me to tell you any more about it. I will be very pleased to send you a photograph of it. I would very much appreciate it if you would let me hear from you as soon as possible whether or not this painting would interest you, as I would like to show it to someone else.

Hoping this letter finds you in best of health, and with my kindest regards, believe me to be

Yours sincerely, JACQUES SELIGMANN & CO., Inc. By J CT 25 January 13, 1926

Hr. Chester H. Johnson, 416 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, 111.

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