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Archives of American Art

Jacques Seligmann & Co. records, General Correspondence: Venturi, Lionello, 1936-1960

Extracted on Apr-19-2024 04:36:15

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.....which has no specific bibliographical background

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~~I~~ I know you are a very busy man, but nevertheless, there is no one better posted than you on RENOIR'S oeuvre, and with your natural fluency as professor and lecturer, I feel certain it would take you very little time to write such an article.

The second topic is of a very different nature.

I would consider it as a great favor and I cannot think of anyone else in Rome, who as a friend could take care of it!

It is in connection with a painting I would like to buy, but on account of past most disagreeable experiences, I do not wish to pay for in Italy, but in Dollars upon delivery to New York. Be fully reassured that by writing in this vein, I am not trying to avoid any of the regulations concerning the export of works of art from Italy, nor of course paying the necessary export tax.

Nevertheless, just on account of these past experiences, I only know too well, that it becomes known that an international art dealer (an therefore, my name should not be mentioned) is interested, the price for the painting would considerably increased and accordingly poses, and accordingly the export tax.

Thus, I am asking you whether you would be in a position to see such a matter through, and I feel certain that were you to do so, the painting being exported by you, both the owner (who does not know that I am the would-be-purchaser) and the export authorities would feel satisfied that payment in Dollars would be made upon receipt of the painting in New York.

Were you in a position in principle to take care of such a matter, I would of course give you all the necessary information.

To appease you further, I want you to know that I have been assured that the painting is not on any list prohibiting its exportation - and why would it be, as it is a Primitive - about which opinions differ as to its nationality - some call it French, others Swiss, and it may even be Spanish - but definitely not Italian.

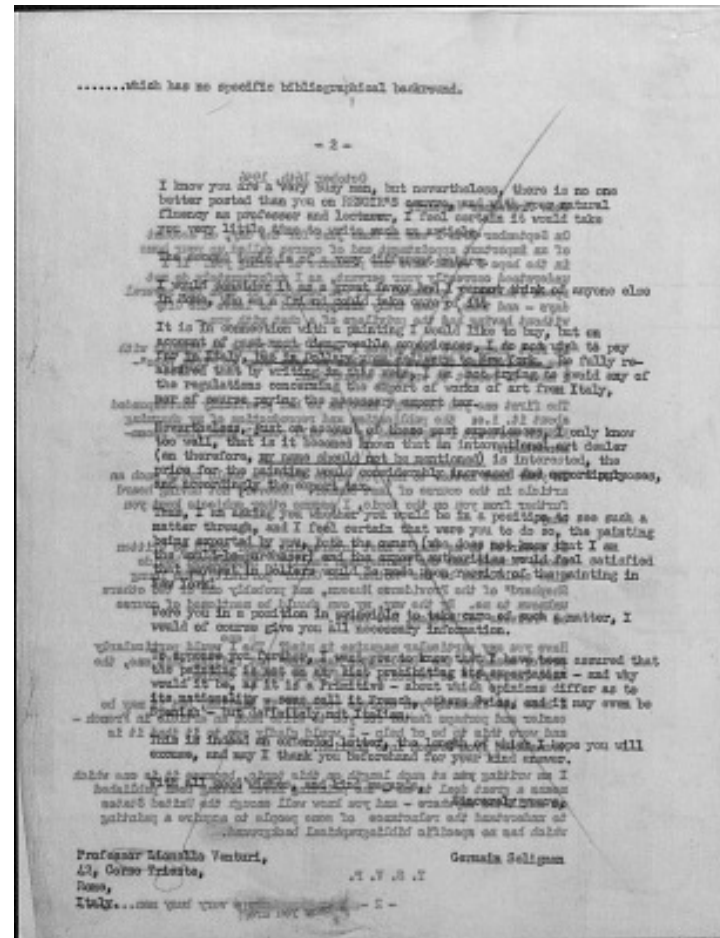
This is indeed an extended letter, the length of which I hop you will excuse, and may I thank you beforehand for your kind answer.

With all good wishes, and kind regards,

Sincerely yours,
~~I~~

Germain Seligman

Professor Lionello Venturi,



42, Corso Trieste,
Rome,
Italy

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