Mary Cassatt Letters to Robert and Minnie Cassatt, 1907-1908

Extracted on Apr-23-2020 08:32:17

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Via Char[[paper torn]]

[[postmark]]
PARIS 45
DES CHAMPS ELYSEES
1645
[?]-2
07

[[sticker stamp]]
[[paper torn]] FRANCAISE
25c POSTES

Mr. Robert Kelso Cassatt
3812 Walnut Street
Philadelphia
Penn'a

Etats Unis de l'Amérique
D26

Mary Cassatt Letters to Robert and Minnie Cassatt, 1907-1908
Transcribed and Reviewed by Digital Volunteers
Extracted Apr-23-2020 08:32:17
Feb 26th
1907
10, Rue de Marignan
Paris

Dearest Minnie
I hope Anthony is now a Christian, I wish I could have been there to see him made one, and am inclined to envy Mip[?] Lovell[?] the charge of the two children while you and Rob are on your travels. Dear little Alexander, I am, sure will be a constant delight to Mip[?] Lovell. I know he would be to me, and it is a real pleasure to hear that he knows my name. I am glad you have my sister Lydia’s portrait, and I have a picture I think Rob may like to have, a portrait of his father done at Marly and very like what he was in those days, the picture was never finished but the head and shoulders

D2a
are, which is the important part. Elsie when she was a child thought it was her father sitting on the floor, so you see it was a likeness if Rob when he sees it thinks it is, I will give it to him; last summer a dealer ([?]) came out and rummaged in the garret of Beaufresne carrying off a lot of canvases, and I burned the rest, but kept this portrait, too good to destroy and which I would not like anyone but Rob to have - I had a letter from Elsie she says it was such a merciful end to her Father's "splendid happy life". That is of course true that it was a merciful end, and it is of course selfish to want to keep one's own here if it is to suffer, yet one cannot help missing them ([?] fully) I feel as if a force had gone out of my life and left me so much weaker - I think you are so right in keeping up, if possible, friendly relations with Elsie - The will was a such shock to me, but Elsie had nothing to do with it. I am astonished that little Lois gets nothing during her father's life unless he marries again. I know his mother [?] want Ed to marry again, she told me so when she was here last spring. It would not be my way of seeing things, if he can find a sensible woman to take him it would be best for him to marry, in my opinion.

The whole of Paris is down with the grippe, and I am now having a little attack, the weather has been so cold and so changeable – we all long for spring - I expected to join the Havemeyers in Spain in March, but Mr. Havemeyer is too busy repulsing the attacks on the Sugar Trust to leave home, and
if they do come it will be later and for a very short visit, the daughter, Adaline, sails today with her husband. I see much of Mrs. Sears and Helen, the latter is constantly talking of Frances, and has found no young friend to fill Frances' place this winter; in fact she refused to know the young girl I wanted to introduce her to, she took a dislike to her on sight, she is an odd child that has good points, it is not everyone who has Frances' sweet disposition - I hope your Mother will enjoy her Southern trip and that Frances may rest from the uncles quarters. Electra Havemeyer was so disappointed at not having Frances at his ball.

Give heaps of kisses to Alexander and Anthony from me and lots of love to you and Rob, and do let me know when you will be here so that I may arrange to be here when you are, and believe me always dearest Minnie

Your affectionate Aunt

Mary Cassatt
Jan. 9th 1908

Mesnil-Beaufresne
Fresneaux-Montchevreuil
Mesnil-Theribus (Oise)

Dearest Minnie
Rob's cable is here. What a relief! for that wretched Herald in yesterday's paper which gets here in the afternoons late, announced that "Mrs. Robert Kelso Cassatt, was ill with a severe attack of grip" I slept on it as much as I could but found this morning I couldn't stand it any longer and sent my message. Why do they cable such things when they are not true - I suppose I ought not to mind what
the Herald says, but I have had a lot of shocks lately and am easily impressed. When the Herald announced Mr. Havemeyer's serious illness he was dying, already dead when I got the paper; that has made me nervous - Well thank heaven you are well, and I pray may keep so. you will be going out I suppose this month, and if I am to believe the reports never has there been such falls, it is much more agreeable to think of you dancing as the $150,000 [[Raudviple?]] tale than in bed with the grip; I make of these is any truth of its being prevalent and fatal, for that is what we are told - Here we seem to feel the hard times at home more than you do the factory here only works five days of the week and there are five hundred workers out of unemployment in Miese alone - As for automobiles, they seem to go a begging, no long lists of buyers names - and no telegrams from those who are touring - When we have the money to spend France
feels it, besides it is a cold January
thus January thus far and that makes
it worse - I hope the [[#ah###]] are
well. I know you are in town
for Aunt J. wrote me that
you had taken a house, she
is enjoying herself taking [[n#ts]]
[[Gan###es]], if he has to [[#eil]] is
[[h#####s]] in the morning after
[[thea]] [[Cals]] falls he [[###ls]] he as
exhausted as the [[?]] when March comes, it is hard on the boys too.
You know I really [[?]] to [[?]] and it was late in the [[?]]. I must see L[[?]]
did he get his bird? Give them both kisses galore from me, and [[?] you
all keep well heaps of love to Rob and you always from your affectionate
aunt
Mary Cassatt
Elsie wrote me an abominable letter and [[?]]

((?)) faith the ((?)) I check to letter Paris. i am ((?)) to honors that Elsie is
((?)) again all the same

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Mi l' Angleterre.

Ms Robert Keler Cassatt
1823 Walnut Street
Philadelphia
Penn a

Etats Unis de l'Amerique
D6b

[[stamp with image]]
Republique Francaise
Postes
25c
[[/stamp with image]]
10 Rue de Marignan
Paris
March 5th
1908

Dearest Minnie

I finally got here on Friday, and was just going to write to Rob and send him the enclosed list, when I got his cable saying the prospect of spending the summer over here had been given up - I send the best all the same, as it may amuse you to see the prices. 6/case I am dreadfully disappointed. It would have been so pleasant to have had D6a

kisses to the "boys" and take good care of yourself for that little daughter always your affectionate

Aunt Mary -
My best love to your Mother and Frances
you near me next summer and seen the children often, the others too were to come in June, I thought that absolutely settled but I had a letter on Monday saying that it was about very thoughtful if they would be able to leave home! Then I was going over to poor Mrs. Havemeyer but she is coming here! It is only the unexpected that happens; I am looking forward to meeting Mrs. N and Electra and Mrs. Mann on Tuesday they are on the Kassen W. It will be dreadfully sad, last April I went to meet them, and Mr N was there too and no happier woman than Mrs. Havemeyer had I ever known, now she is so sad and broken, it is for her health they are coming - Mrs. Sears and Helen both wrote so enthusiastically about Frances visit, I have a letter from Mrs. S. this morning they are going to Cuba an a visit to the American Ministries and from there to California and Seattle!

Was it your Mother who objected to you having the new baby over here? Just think what a state she would be in! I was looking forward to a new niece or nephew born on French soil. I am horribly disappointed over the change of plans,
though Rob gives hopes of your coming in the autumn - I have no news
of Alexander's photos they know nothing of them at the bank, how were
they sent? Gardner has written lately and says, he was in great luck to
get to know you so well last summer in Paris, if he hadn't met Rob and
Minnie over here, he would not have had such a good time this winter! I
should think Lent would come as a rest to you all, boys of Gardner's age
out every night and at their work all day is too much. I left my auto in the
country [[industry?]] to put Pierre at the manufacturing to learn, but have
on the advice of friends engaged another man to teach him the few
things he must yet know, the road about [[Paris?]] are worse than ever
almost impassable - Lots of love to Rob and you and

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PROPRIETES MEUBLEES A LOUER
RUE GAMBITTA, N° 92: Rez de chaussée élevé sur cave, d'une entrée, vestibule, salon, grande salle à manger, office, cuisine ; Premier étage, 3 belles chambres, salle de bains, w.c.; Deuxième étage, 2 Chambres de maîtres, 2 Chambres de domestiques; Eau & Gaz. Remise pour auto.
Jardin en terrasse sur la Route. Vue splendide sur la Loyer demandé: 2.200 Fr.

Rue MONTIGNY. VILLA BUONA VISTA: Rez de chaussée: salon, salle à manger, fumoir, hall, cuisine, arrière-cuisine, escalier de service, lavabo pour domestiques; Premier étage 3 Chambres dont 2 [[or 22?]] avec cabinet de toilette, [[crossed-out]] couloir de service avec débarras et 2 chambres de domestiques [[crossed-out]] lavabo, salle de bains; Deuxième étage, lingerie, 2 Chambres de maîtres avec cabinet de toilette, couloir de service avec débarras et 2 Chambres de domestiques; Sous-sol, cave et garde-manger; Communs, laverie, chambre de domestique au dessus, 2 remises, écurie pour un cheval, serre, jardin potager et grand entrée pour autos Loyer demandé: 4.000 Fr.

RUE ALEXANDRE DUMAS. "LA TURQUOISE" Cuisine, office, salon, salle à manger, bureau, salle de bains, cinq chambres de maîtres [[crossed-out]] t[[crossed-out]] tres, cinq chambres de domestiques, remise pour auto, Petit jardin; Eau, Gaz, Electricité

MÊME RUE [??] "LES FALAISES" Cuisine, office, salon, salle à manger, salle de bains, six chambres de maîtres, six chambres de domestiques; Ecurie et Remise; Petit Jardin Eau et Gaz Loyer demandé 6.000 Fr.

RUE AGUADO "VILLA HENRI IV" Cuisine, office, deux salons, salle à manger, salle de bains, 7 chambres de maîtres, 7 chambres de domestiques, Jardin, Eau, Gaz & Electricité Loyer demandé: 4.500 Fr;

Rue AGUADO Cuisine, salle à manger, 2 Salons, Huit chambres de maîtres, 6 chambres de domestiques, Remise, Eau, Gaz & Electricité Loyer demandé: 4.500 Fr.
July 13, 1908
Mesnil-Beaufresne
Mesnil-Theribus (Oise)

Dear Rob,
Several of my friends have sent me cuttings from the New York papers showing your Father's statue, the New York Herald (Paris) also had a reproduction. It seems to me like him, it must be for someone told me he hadn't[?] to read the name he recognized it as being my brother from the family likeness to me! I suppose it is too much
to hope it is a work of art, not a good likeness to something. I see that on the inscriptions his middle name is spelled without a T.-Johnson. Is that a mistake of the reporter or have they so spelled it? If so don’t you think it should be altered?

It is very comforting to think they recognize your Father's ability & do justice to his character. I don't know if Roosevelt will have his statue. I doubt it if he lives long enough for by that time he will be found out - His progress over here was grotesque, at the Embassy he waited until every one had arrived & then went the rounds like royalty with a word for every one. His speech at the Sorbonne amused these clever Frenchmen when they read the translations -

I hardly dare to hope to see you all over here this summer. up to the present we haven't had any, & of course you see in
the papers about the floods. Mathilde has just got back from Germany & found everything cold & wet there - In the North of France, a river dry for fifty years is running. as for here I have never seen so much water, the ___ are enjoying themselves. I find one can pay too dear for ones's food. I so wanted _am I have a surfeit - Lots of love to you & Minnie & kisses to the boys. how I would love to see them here -
Your affectionate Aunt,
Mary Cassatt
Thursday
One East Sixty-Sixth Street
(December 1908)

Dearest Minnie,
Mrs. Havemeyer wants you and Rob to come over here to take breakfast. I mean luncheon with us on Wednesday next -16th-. I do hope you can come, and see the pictures. Mrs. Frelinghuysen will come from Morristown to meet you. Mrs. Havermeyer says she would write to you.
herself, but thinks you will allow me to be her substitute - I got here yesterday, and expect to stay until the last of next week. We have any number of engagements of course, but I am well enough now to enjoy it. I wish Alexander could come with you. I haven't seen little Lois yet nor Emily but I mean to before I leave New York. Heaps of love to you all and on Wednesday I hope.

Your Affectionate Aunt,
Mary Cassatt
Mrs. Havemeyer sends her love -
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