

Salford Museum and Art Gallery

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CITY OF SALFORD

CULTURAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Archives catalogue



U52

Letters from L.S. Lowry, 1929-44.

Deposited: Mrs. E. Timperley, 20 Ebrington, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire, June, 1977 (purchase).

Catalogued: A.N. Cross, July, 1977.

Location: Art Gallery and Museum, Peel Park, Salford 5.

L.S. Lowry contributed twelve drawings as illustrations for H.W. Timperley's book, A Cotswold Book, which was published by Jonathan Cape in 1931. Harold William Timperley, a schoolmaster, was an author on English landscape and his wife, under the name Edith Brill, has also written on the same theme. Lowry's letters, some of which are addressed to H.W. Timperley and some to husband and wife, were at first much concerned with this book and subsequently he used to ask in general terms after his friend's literary work. The letters, which are brief, are largely taken up with arranging visits. The letter containing most information on Lowry's painting career is U52/C12.

Lowry's address, unless otherwise indicated, was throughout given as 117 Station Road, Pendlebury. Envelopes are missing in the case of U52/C5, /C12. Some envelopes have been annotated.

Each item catalogued below consist of a single letter plus an envelope, unless otherwise indicated.

CORRESPONDENCE

U52/C1 To H.W. Timperley, 7 Wellington Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, 14 June: thanks for sending the book just published; congratulations on it;... "you have unsettled me for a trip into a large town I was contemplating for a short holiday". 1929

/C2 To H.W.T., as above, 8 Oct.; what H.W.T. said in his note "very gratifying" as L.S.L. had wondered about "those 2 things" when sending them; asks if any more books are on the way; "sometime, I shall sell a picture, if I keep on showing with the Modern Painters long enough". 1929

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE (contd.)

U52/C3

To H.W.T., 4 Mayfield Road, Whalley Range, Manchester, 1929
15 December: thanks for cheque for four guineas received from N[eville] C[ardus]; asks if he went to Miss Nicholls' show; has not yet heard of two guinea pictures affair at the Salon Club but has received a circular from the M.P.'s secretary, P. Chadwick, on the "Pictures in Cafes affair" and may take a couple of drawings to his place in Oxford Road.

The show mentioned was apparently one containing works by Miss Margaret S. Nicholls, Miss Hannah Ritchie and L.S. Lowry at the Salon Club, Manchester.

/C4

To H.W.T., as above, 9 March: hopes H.W.T. and the author will let him off for his delay in acknowledging receipt of the book; congratulates "Edith Brill" for it most heartily; the "Raynor" family well drawn; "I never write a letter when I can possibly help it"; his father and mother have read the book and "our views coincide for once".

The book was The Mink Coat written by Mrs. H.W. Timperley under her maiden name, Edith Brill.

/C5

To H.W.T., a French postcard, no addresses shown and presumably posted in an envelope, 1 August: on one side reproduction in black and white of L.S.L.'s painting, "Election Time", 1929, with printed text "Salon des Artistes Francais 1930; L. Lowry [sic]: Election Time"; on other side remarks on H.W.T.'s health and the weather.

/C6

To H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, nr. Stockport, 24 Oct.: H.W.T.'s change of address, proposes a visit; "Stockport is a very interesting place"; occasion when he got lost there.

/C7

To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, Cheshire, a French postcard, 30 Nov.: on one side reproduction in black and white of L.S.L.'s painting "Going to the match", 1928, with printed text "Salon des Artistes Francais 1930: L.S. Lowry: Going to the match"; asks to be excused for not previously giving thanks for dispatch of the book; hopes "your work (I suppose it is now nearly ready!!!) has thousands of sales and makes us all rich".

/C8

To H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, nr. Stockport, 12 Nov.: thanks for the letter and the three photographs; will prepare a drawing from one of them; "The photo of me is a very good action study - to my way of thinking it is a lot better than most photographic effects of me have come out"; if H.W.T. finds a church which he thinks will "add to the variety do send it [presumably meaning a photograph] and lets have a shot at it"; has H.W.T. finished the work yet?; effects of a removal in general.

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE (contd.)

- U52/C9 To H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, Cheshire, 5 Dec.: glad he likes the sketch of open Cotswold country "and the other too"; arranging a visit. 1930
- /C10 To H.W.T., as above, 31 Dec., 1931 [presumably mistake for 1930 as the envelope is postmarked 31 Dec., 1930]: arranging a visit; illness of his parents over Christmas; during a visit H.W.T. could hand on a photograph of the church if he has found one he would like to include in his work; "you will perhaps note my spelling is bad - It is not whisky!". 1930
- /C11 To H.W.T., as above, 22 June: thanks and signed receipt for £15 for illustrations for the book; is anxious as to how the proofs will come out; his mother very pleased with the flowers. 1931
- /C12 L.S.L., Station Hotel, Stonehaven, [Kincardineshire, Scotland], to H.W.T., 15 July: staying for one or two days before returning to the "awful black city"; provides information for "our friend" as follows; a regular exhibitor at the Paris Spring Salon, Salon d'Automne and New English Art Club under the Duveen scheme, exhibitor by invitation at many Corporation galleries, Royal Scottish Academy and Royal Hibernian Academy, has just had an invitation for a picture for the Canadian National Exhibition, Toronto, for following September, drawings and paintings illustrated in various periodicals, one of his "things" bought by the Duveen Fund and one oil painting bought by Rye Art Gallery - "this completes my life history nearly"; asks how the novel is going on: on loose paper, probably part of same letter, says he does not remember scene of the "House at Naunton" [the frontispiece of A Cotswold Book], wishes to read "the affair" when it comes out and hopes for thousands of sales for it. 1931
- /C13 To H.W.T., Beech Cottage, as above, 20 July: thinks H.W.T.'s paragraph could not be improved upon; has not returned what H.W.T. sent as he is taking it only as a copy but will send it back if this is not so; will be very interested to see the proofs as anxious to see how the drawings come out; a phone message to 1493 City will reach him. 1931
This telephone number was that of the Pall Mall Property Co. Ltd., Bridgewater Chambers, 6 Brown Street, Manchester, which employed him.
- /C14 To H.W.T., as above, letter marked Thursday, envelope postmarked 2.30 p.m., 10 Sept., 1931: encloses a further list of names for "your friend" (presumably as in U52/C12); "J.B." 's address is 6 Kings Bench Walk, E.C.4; his parents like the proofs and do not agree with H.W.T.'s opinion that the proofs were not dark enough; his mother greatly pleased with the flowers. 1931

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE (contd.)

- U52/C15 To H.W.T., as above, 27 Oct.: "Many thanks for yours - and I got the drawings this morning"; has not decided what to do with them and wonders if H.W.T. would like to have the lot; has not heard anything fresh about the book but expects that matters will become more literary after the election; H.W.T. Not to forget about "that theatre business - sooner or later some decent show will be coming along"; has not yet heard from "N/eville/ C/ardus/". 1931
- /C16 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, nr. Stockport, 27 Feb.: thanks from his mother and himself for their sympathy on his father's death; he had died suddenly from pneumonia after being unwell for some time; his mother is very ill. 1932
- /C17 To H.W.T., Beech Cottage, Pinfold Lane, Romiley, Cheshire, 13 Apr.: thanks for the £7 which will be very useful; H.W.T.'s departure from Beech Cottage in May, and comments on the climb needed to reach it; can have a talk if H.W.T. will let him know when he is in town. 1932
- /C18 To H.W.T., Glyn Garth, Bunkers Hill, Romiley, nr. Stockport, 22 May: thanks for his cheque for £7; because of constant rain he had made only two trips during the week, on Tuesday to Manchester and on Friday had treated himself to a bus ride all the way to Bolton. 1932
- /C19 To H.W.T., as above, 7 June: encloses more extracts from the Stockport paper but doubts if H.W.T. will want to be bothered with them; L.S.L.'s fancies concerning their historical interest are now exploded; H.W.T.'s home gives the impression of being "right away" in the country; if L.S.L. hears the Lord Mayor of Stockport wishes to possess that picture he will send word if he lives after the shock. 1932
- /C20 To H.W.T., 15 Lingdale Road, Cheadle Hulme, nr. Stockport, 26 Apr.: on his lack of "common decency" in delaying to write; the phrase is "one a friend of mine (if I have any friends) is rather used to serving upon me"; H.W.T.'s move to Cheadle Hulme; "Art so far [as] I am concerned is devlish [sic] dull, no money in it. Plenty of Bills in it. That's where you writers have the pull"; "I am getting old"; "Matters still about the same here - tho my mother is much weaker"; "I fear that desire to do all the work has left me for ever and ever". 1937
- /C21 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., 15 Lingdale Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire, 30 Nov.: "... I am old and feeble now"; how does their cottage compare with that at Bunkers Hill?; "Are you both keeping free from Rheumatism. I have troubles now and then it is my age I suppose and an increased general disinclination to work of any kind"; "Are you making thousands of pounds. I hope so. You'd hardly believe it but I arent [sic] out of my back streets". 1938

UNOFFICIAL COLLECTIONS

CORRESPONDENCE (contd.)

- U52/C22 L.S.L., The County Hotel, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire, to H.W.T., 1 Crescent Road, Kingston Hill, Kingston upon Thames, Surrey, 10 Sept.; away from Pendlebury because the woman who looks after him is resting - "The Freedom of the Happy Bachelor!!!"; air raids and bombs falling within about half a mile of his house; "This isnt the time to be bothering about pictures" but as soon as possible wishes H.W.T. to have the picture promised by L.S.L. - "Have you yet seen any you liked?"; is relying on H.W.T. to take him to Hampton Court again. 1940
- /C23A-B To H.W.T., as above, 20 July: will be coming to London before the end of July; nearly broke his left ankle while out during a blitz night at the end of last year: another letter, 25 July: expecting to stay at the Waverley, Southampton Row, London, W.C.1, end of July, with reference to H.W.T.'s finding a vacant few hours. 1941
- /C24 To H.W.T., as above, 9 Aug.: "Lets have a look at those drawings"; his pleasure if H.W.T. thinks L.S.L. can be of any use in connection with them; dispatch in advance as he will not be in London before September; H.W.T.'s holiday; L.S.L.'s rheumatism. 1942
- /C25 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., as above, 5 Feb.: proposes visit on his next stay in London at the Waverley (as above); "I am getting worn with old age"; "How are those drawings getting along" 1944
- /C26 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., as above, 10 Apr.: proposes visit; praying by Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T. of folk duets with piano and fiddle; "I am working dreadful hard and my old bones are still creaking". 1944
- /C27 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., as above, 18 Apr.: time of his arrival for next visit. 1944
- /C28 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., as above, 6 May: is glad "you" went to that gallery and didn't dislike L.S.L.'s choice; asks for "it" (presumably a picture) to be collected when the show is over and hung up until L.S.L. replaces it with another "tho perhaps you might jib at that when you get used to Mr. Gordon's picture"; possible visit in June when "We could then perhaps have a sail across that ferry again - I like a sail".
The Mr. Gordon referred to would presumably be Jan Gordon, a contemporary art critic. 1944
- /C29 To H.W.T., as above, 20 May: glad he likes that picture of Jan Gordon's; possible visit in June. 1944
- /C30 To Mr. and Mrs. H.W.T., as above, 24 Nov.: proposes a visit; he longs to hear that violin and piano. 1944

NB. a letter from H.J. Massingham to Neville Cardus, also purchased from Mrs. Timperley, is listed in Salford City Archives misc accns U 53