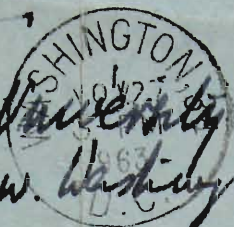


~~Shanna~~  
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Ms  
Mme J. H. RAZA,  
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AÉROGRAMME • PAR AVION

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My dear Raza, This will be waiting for you on your arrival from Corbio on the 4th December. I wish I knew your address there as this would have gone there. Since this does not contain anything of an urgent nature, I suppose it is just as well that it should be waiting in. Welcome for you + Janine.

Both of you have been much in my thoughts though the lack of written words would certainly be a contradiction. I have been meaning to write, but I have been swamped in my work. I have been painting & drawing a great deal. Fortune has still been gracious & I have sold two large oils which I painted here & I could have sold more but my prices have intimidated people who would not think twice about losing this kind of money at the races. However two biggish oils and two ink paintings (to Morris Graves) & one drawing so far are not disconcerting for two months efforts, especially as I made not the slightest effort at selling. It's not bad to have ones dinner assured!

I went to borrow some slides from a charming young woman (I can see you smiling already) whom I had met at a dinner party and guess what I saw. A RAZA of 1951. She was thrilled that I recognised it & when I told her that I well I knew you, she became a good friend! So old man I am capitalising on my ARTOLOGY (RIEND)! She told me what a complete bitch Mme. Kara Vincy had been & they had to almost plead with her to buy it. The painting, not amongst my most favourites, is about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x the size of this sheet & the name of the purchasers is Mr. & Mrs. HANDLER. I'll find out what they paid for it, by & by.

The events of the last few days have been distressing in the extreme and people are being forced to recognise that the veil of civilisation is thin over what is essentially a violent & barbaric society. There is not much point in mourning - "let the dead of past bury their dead" Christ had said - we have to push on & continue to do our work.

Thank heavens that I do not have to teach regularly. I have given one lecture so far & have taken one class! As a result I have been able to paint about seven paintings and do a number of drawings. I still have stretchers & ready canvases & plenty of paint. Many of the tubes you left behind for me are still in use! It is a bit odd thought to think of the number of occasions on which I have used your paint, your canvas, & your studio but not your inspiration! My dear fellow, sometimes I wish I could, but whatever I do, the mess which results is peculiarly mine.



I'm trying to get Akbar to come over while I'm still here - This will save on expenses & I think that I will be able to introduce him to some interesting people. I'm going to the vernissage of his gallery's exhibition in Washington on the 29th.

The affairs of the Council at home appear to be in a mess. Everyone seems to be gunning for Husain & all saving Gai & Bal seem to be in the rat race for the next mural which is to be done in New York. I'm frankly sick of this though

SECOND FOLD

since it is a part of our life at home at the moment I  
have written at some length about it to Akbar - Get it from him  
if you are interested. I am perfectly content to be away  
from it and painting quietly. I love this life though I  
wish Leela & the children were here. One thing is certain  
that I will have to have periods of absolute quiet - just for  
myself with no intrusions at all. The ironic thing is that  
though I believe that our place is at home, the atmosphere of quiet  
& utter freedom to work is completely missing there. Maybe if you  
& Akbar were back, there would be enough to make me want  
nothing more. How was your holiday? I hope you are both well.  
Kisses & a hug for me on both cheeks & a warm embrace  
for you. Write soon to me. Fond love to you both,  
Krishna