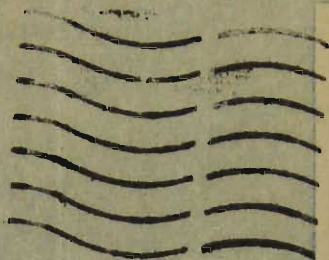
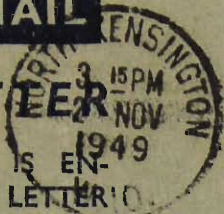


BY AIR MAIL

AIR LETTER

IF ANYTHING IS EN-
CLOSED THIS LETTER
WILL BE SENT BY
ORDINARY MAIL.



Secretary,
The Progs,
H. A. Gade, Esqr,

D-139 Gaothan,
Chembur,

Bombay,

India.

→ To open cut here

Sender's name and address :-

38, Handsworth

Brescent

London W. 11.

I have no news of Bakre. He must work at his sculpture. Has he finished Hartwell's head? I have no idea how sculptors get on here, but I can assume that the condition is pretty awful as even Henry Moore, world famous as he is, is working part time teaching. It is great that Bra makes his living at only painting. What has Hussian done about his job? has he painted a great deal more? I myself intend taking a printers course and qualification at the London School of Printing.

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London 2-10-47.

My dear Prop.,

It's long since I have written. I had written a page for each of you on the 19th Sept but could not post as parts remained unfinished. I am very glad that Raza got the Goll scholarship, which is an event for the Prop to celebrate.

Ara is doing good work too. I can't see anything wrong in Ara "of all people" taking part in Chatterji's "Sacred" enterprise: the aid fund and what not. I can't see anything coming from such schemes because Feyden and Muller tried them. But the effort is good all the same, and if the motive is healthy, I am glad Ara is in it working. The Annual to which Hartwell is contributing to is the "Onlooker".

I have sent two bad prints of my etchings to my mother, which all of you must have seen. I only sent them because it ~~was~~ was my very first effort, and I felt proud however hopeless the result may be after working on it for 10 hours. Since then I have done several and quite good ones too & pull them off much faster now. I am also doing lithographs graphs now. Since I have come I have been quite disappointed with the state of affairs here, but not with myself. I am all the more conscious of my merit as a painter, and now I know exactly how good I am. The contemporary stuff produced here is quite banal and of not much value. What disappointed me and made my hopes shatter was 1st) the peculiar passport circumstances and 2nd) that the art galleries are not interested in paintings but have turned to

selling furniture. There is not even a big annual event as the Bombay Art Society's annual Exhibition. So how can I show my paintings except at the Embankment in the open air next summer? I can exhibit through India House tomorrow if I wanted, and get the exhibition reported in the Bombay papers! But what is the use? London papers will not review it as in Hebbars case and nobody sees the exhibition. I have written these circumstances to my mother. Ask her.

I was interested in Krishnan's description of Devi Das' Exhibition. I like the boy Devi Das. Nieve. And I am glad he is encouraged by the sale of his work and by his guru Ara. I have seen his work and I was skeptical about it and I was not interested in showing it at all, as Ara himself will tell you. I have confirmed my skepticism about the boy's paintings now all the more after seeing the current exhibition of Childrens Art 1949 organised by the "Sunday Pictorial" and of course the standard of most is far higher than most "professionals" in Bombay. What struck me ~~much~~ was that Blay critics "hailed him a genius, a prodigy, and what not". Hence if this Childrens Art exhibition of 47,000 entries by ~~over~~ 10,000 children was taken to B'bay from London, our Bombay "art critics" would claim 10,000 "geniuses" and "prodigies" and "what nots". I begin to look at my own news-paper cuttings suspiciously!!!

Krishnan writes that I have disillusioned the group. That I must now admit is not fair to you. I did feel desperate when I came, but now I am very happy. There is so much to see, learn, and do here. I am a little lonely of course that is because I am missing my wife. But I don't wish to return ~~means~~ that my wife is coming.

The British Museum has been to me a Solomon into whose very brains I enter and get wisdom.... the rarest of books... ~~the~~ books handled by Marx, Butler, Shaw, and a thousand scholars.

The Folie Berger from Paris is here. Plenty of naked dancing girls in it. I was quite shocked by it, in spite of myself. There are grand Continental films too. The best I like are the Italian + French.

Krishnan has not written any thing about himself. Selflessness? Are you ^{all} seeking out the earliest to get here? Krishnan, have you a university degree? if so let me know, as then it is immediately possible to get a job at India House. But you must get here, and only in these years of your life is it worth while. Ara, have you forgotten me so soon, or is it in your silence that you remember? Gade please write me the activities of the Progs. I am extremely sorry for not replying. But as months pass by I feel differently. Life is a million times more pleasant and fuller than in B'bay. I had written a letter to Hussian two months back. No reply. I wonder if he has received it. Has Simon Perin written in the Sunday Standard? When he does send me the cuttings by air-mail. Are all of you working hard? Thank you Gade for sending my paintings to the Madras Exhibition. Please send my works to all the exhibition to which the Group contributes, I shall need the money if I happen to be lucky + sell. But please select only the best, as I have also left a lot of rubbish behind.

My loves to you all: Ara, Bakre, Gade, Hussian, Raza, and of course my dear Krishnan.

yours
Newton.

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