

London July 8<sup>th</sup> 51

My dear Raza + Padamsee,

Thank you for your letter.

My Exhibition ~~was~~ <sup>is</sup> a tremendous success, and the total effect of it will run a long way through in the future.

The whole thing was worked out with such quickness, like magic. Over fifty people were at work on it: Carpenters, electricians, printers, and staff officials of the India House, from the Secretariate and the Public Relations Departments.

There were three different types of invitation cards sent. One sent to the press men and journalists for a preview of the Exhibition <sup>held</sup> on the morning of July 5<sup>th</sup>. To them a sherry party was given. In the evening at 4 p.m., the H.C. declared open the exhibition, officially. And among the crowds were high diplomatic officials, all of whom were sent a very large card with gilded border and crest, like the one sent for the <sup>Kings</sup> Garden Party or something of that magnitude. There was a Tea Party. The third set of cards were sent to the general public.

I really wished you and Akbar were in London.

The exhibition is huge and rambling, arranged on two floors, and the show windows. The main Exhibition



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hall is fitted with special screens and fluorescent lights.

And my pictures were more than enough (though I could do very well with the two Akbar has.)

Although I had written to you that I have deteriorated both as a man and as a painter, I myself was surprised at the amount of work I did during these <sup>last</sup> six months despite the tremendous melancholy and pessimism I was thrown in. And for this, my paintings I mean, I have both of you to thank, with all my heart. The money you fellows sent with so much goodwill and love, you have no idea how much it means to Maria and myself. It relieved me of a heaviness on the mind, and particularly, during the last <sup>two or three</sup> ~~few~~ months I was able to paint with gusto. How can I thank both of you? How can I show you my gratitude?

I want to send you some photographs of the exhibition. But I am a bit reluctant because I have not done anything new, but am still working on my old themes, while you Raza, and you Padamsee have changed amazingly. ~~My way~~, I am enclosing the catalogue, and the reproduction is an oil, which I consider to be among the best I ever painted, and I will send some photos later.

Thank you for the note you sent a few days back, Raza. I'm glad your wife has received the money.



Raza, your ~~and~~ description of the flats you are on the look out, sounds to me from here, like the notices the Estate Agents used to send me when I was in search for rooms, when I <sup>first</sup> arrived in London.

It really doesn't matter to me where I stay and how ~~small~~ small the room is. I can work under appalling conditions you know. However, I would prefer to stay in the city rather than a fifteen minute journey out of Paris. First because of the contacts, for I must earnestly try to find some buyers, and second, ..... well, never mind.

I think the room at Trocadero will suit me nicely.

Corroborating your news of "Schlesinger somewhere in Europe" I have some for you too.

It seems Keku Gaudhy is coming with his wife, and the paintings of the "better known Indian artists" (I'm not ~~at~~ included, I think). He is already on the boat, and he sent messages to India House to help him with this exhibition, I am told. It's quite good of Keku to take all this trouble, and I'll definitely help him if he asks for it.



Dont worry about your wife Raza. The first child of a young woman takes even more than 9 months to be born, even three weeks later it comes.

You must arrange to bring your wife and baby to Europe. From Pakistan it will be easy, the passport etc. besides, your friend the Deputy Custodian can ~~help~~ help her over the red-tape.

With love to you an Akbar,

Your friend  
Newton

I am really dying to see your new landscapes Raza, and Padamsee's enormous oils.

What's happening about the Musee d'Art Moderne Ex? Will it come about you think?

I met Gupta, but I couldn't talk to him much, and I was sorry I didn't meet his wife, she must be in Paris. He gave me the 10,000 francs, and when I exchanged it at Cook's I got £10-0-6d. Thanks, many thanks.

Latest by Mid August I'll be in Paris.

The pictures marked in the catalogue are much less than I have on show.