

COPY OF LETTER FROM R. H. IVES GAMMELL

To Harold H. Schultz

30 Ipswich St.
Boston, 15, Mass.

November 12, 1949

Dear Mr. Schultz:

It was a pleasure to get a letter from you and to have you tell me that my pictures are interesting Yakima. I feel that you were instrumental in having the exhibition taken there, and I am very anxious that you should feel your efforts were warranted.

I am particularly happy that Bathsheba continues to give you pleasure. I have always felt that the long-term reaction to a picture was the important one, rather than the first flash impression.

I will tell you in confidence that I have a secret yearning for that picture, as it represents to me so many memories of days spent making studies in the hot sun of the Eastern Mediterranean, among terraced houses, and their pomegranate gardens, during which days I became very much aware of how similar conditions must have been three thousand years ago, when the distinctly ungentlemanly King David peeked over other roof-tops. Frankly, no such lady appeared to my naked eye, but the poetry of that earlier barbaric period grew very real to me as I worked in the shade of the pomegranates. I do hope something of that atmosphere has been transmitted to the canvass.

I am very glad to autograph a book for Mr. Relander. I am mailing it to you, and I trust he will accept the volume as a gift. Perhaps he will write me what he thinks of my ideas. I should be interested to know.

Let me thank you again for organizing the Yakima exhibition. I shall always remain proud to have been so honored, and I hope reports of its reception will continue to be good.

Sincerely yours,

R. H. Ives Gammell

R. H. IVES GAMMELL
30 IPSWICH ST.
BOSTON, MASS.

[Removed from Twilight of Painting, by R.
H. Ives Gammell]



SAVE THE EASY WAY
BUY U.S. BONDS ON
PAYROLL SAVINGS



Cliff Relander,
Route 3,
Box 149
Yakima,
Washington.

Feb 23 [1950]

Dear Mr. Belander

I enjoyed your long and interesting letter and the photographs of your work. I very much regret that I have no special knowledge of sculpture which would enable me to make helpful comments or give you wise encouragement. I have painted enough along certain lines to have discovered that an artist's special perceptions are strictly limited to the fields he has mastered and are conditioned as to quality and range by the degree of that mastery. A portrait painter of high rank, an Ingres for instance, is not qualified to criticize landscape or mural decoration, for instance again, unless

he has learned to paint competent
landscapes or murals — and
vice-versa. I have seen this demon-
strated so many times that I
state it as axiomatic. And the
practice of painting does not qualify
a man to speak discerningly of
sculpture. You must therefore merely
accept my heartfelt congratulations
on the enthusiasm and persistence
which keeps you as it is in cir-
cumstances and surroundings
that must be very discouraging.
More power to you! As you your-
self say, unless you do things
now, regardless of conditions,
you never will.

I am going to show you
photographs of a sculptor
friend (oddly enough a woman.
but an excellent sculptor
nevertheless) but I am sure

she will feel that nothing
which she could write would
be of value to you.

30 IPSWICH STREET
BOSTON 15, MASS.

I think you are also doing
important work for art on the
paper. The really shocking
thing in the present state of
affairs is, it seems to me, the
arrogant totalitarianism of
the directors and curators who
choose the type of art which
should or should not be shown
to the public. The narrowness of the
culture of these gentlemen is
lamentable enough and their
warped point of view, the result
of indoctrination in some
hot-house esthetic school, is
abundant. But the shocking thing,
I repeat, is their presumption in
enforcing their own taste on the

public with high-powered propaganda
and going to every length to keep
the public from seeing the other
side. This is identical with the
cultural methods of Hitler and
Moscow. I feel that this is
where you men on the newspapers
~~can~~ the only ones who can
show up the situation. It is
a less a matter of labeling
for one form of and rather
than another, than whether the
public has a right to see all
sides and make up its own
mind. That right is being denied
them in matters of and.

Again thank you for your
letter and all good wishes

Sincerely yours

RAF vs Lammell