

4. IX 1925.  
Royal Palace  
Belgrade

My dear Sir Joseph,

I very much fear that you will no longer be in Venice or Florence when we arrive in these places. I hope to be in Venice on the 11<sup>th</sup> and in Florence on the 14<sup>th</sup> and am going on the 19<sup>th</sup> to Racconigi for the Italian wedding. I expect to spend October at Vichy as I need a cure badly and it is quite possible that we will pay a visit to the USA during the winter, as the King wants to send me there on a mission. It's all very exciting and I am looking forward to it tremendously. What fun it will be seeing you again and going round the galleries together!

Now I feel I must tell you about a thing I have very near at heart and which is keeping me very busy just now. I have decided to organize a museum of modern art in Belgrade as that town, I am sorry to say, completely lacks such an institution. I came to the conclusion that it was too ambitious a scheme to try and get old masters as we are still too poor a country to afford such prices as good examples of their art fetch, but my idea is to try to gather a collection of the type of the "Petit Palais", mostly living and XIX century artists.

I've secured a delicious XVIII century Turkish palace, which is to be the home of our collection. My great desire is to be able to present the Government with the kernel of a collection without their having to give a penny for it. So far, I've been very successful, as many of my friends have given us pictures. I've got a nice series of pictures by our artists, Romanians, Russians and Italians. Lady Cunard has been a perfect angel and has given us a Lavery, a Hammond, a drawing by John, and Edmund Grant and a bust by Riccardi. I'm giving a portrait by Blanche, a Corot, and a Rousseau. We've also got a wonderful Degas pastel of the best quality and paintings by Jouve, Forain, Fromentin, Ziem etc. I must not forget to mention about 20 statues by Mestrovic.

Will you think me very rude if I ask you, in case you ever happen to have a picture or even a sketch that you don't quite know what to do with, to remember my little museum? The smallest little thing will be welcome and it would mean so much to me for the future development of our artistic movement to have a few fine paintings to inspire with our young artists in this country.

The government is going, after the New Year, to give us a subsidy, which will enable us to buy one or two good things this year. Must stop now, as I well know what a busy man you are. My wife sends you many messages,

Yours very sincerely,  
Paul