

1913-02-03

SENDER

Martin Birnbaum

RECIPIENT

Edith Willumsen

FACTS

Document type:

Letter

Sender's location:

New York (USA)

Recipient's location:

Hellerup (Danmark)

Mentioned people:

El Greco

Jens Ferdinand Willumsen

Archive:

J.F. Willumsens Museum

Arkivkasse: C/III/6 - GrecoBogen

OMTALTE VÆRKER

El Greco: *Hyrdernes tilbedelse* (ca. 1568-1569) tempera på træ, 63 x 76 cm. F. Willumsen Museum, G.S. 345 vt.: Goya: *Hoved af en mand* (udat.) oliefarve på træ, 14.3 x 12.4 cm. F. Willumsens Museum, G.S. 48 (k/cFuf)



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Feb. 3, 1913

305 MADISON AVENUE
Bet. 41st and 42nd Sts.

Mme. J. F. Willumsen,
Strandogervej 28,
Hellerup (nr. Copenhagen)
Denmark.

Dear Madame Willumsen:-

It is interesting to hear that Mr. Willumsen is now in Madrid and I am sure he will produce some very fine work, for his feeling for Spanish things seemed to me very real.

I am afraid that I cannot hope to sell the Greco for such a price as Mr. Willumsen asks. It would put me into a very bad light to be changing the price. Besides, if we sell a picture for such a large amount we should make a few thousand dollars and the price which Mr. Willumsen now asks for the picture makes it impossible. On the other hand if he decided to sell it for \$25,000. or \$30,000. I should make another effort to dispose of it.

I know several people who are interested in Greco, but I frankly do not believe that this picture is one of his greatest works. It is interesting and very beautiful, but it is of an early period and, therefore, not a characteristic example. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time in regard to this.

Feb. 3, 1913

-2- Mme. J. F. Willumsen.

Then, too, it would be necessary to permit the purchaser to see the picture and I would ask that the picture be shown in America before I could possibly sell it. I am not in a position to say in advance that I shall be able to sell it, but I can give you any number of references of people who have sent me pictures quite as valuable, without any fear whatever. At this very moment I am showing a collection of pictures worth much more than the Greco and the owners have in no instance had any doubt as to my integrity.

As to the miniature. I do not remember having seen it and I am afraid I shall not go any further north this summer than Hamburg or London, as I have some work to do in the southeastern part of Europe.

Thanking you for your good wishes and hoping that we may still be able to dispose of the picture, I remain,

Very truly yours,

Martin Bimbaum
Manager.