

1934

Dear Sam, 1934 (Cottingham letter)

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Recommended Citation

Sargent, Paul, "Dear Sam, 1934 (Cottingham letter)" (1934). *Letters and Correspondence*. 40.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/paul_sargent_letters/40

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Dear Sam, 1934 (Cottingham letter)

Got the Alaska literature with your letter.

I am glad to learn you got along so well with your first picture out of doors, and water that is moving is more difficult than most things in landscapes. But paint subjects in which you feel the most interest as you will do the best with them.

Most pleasure yachts are white or light, and so of course everything else must be darker to get those lights-the surround I call it. Water running as is in a sea harbor is complicated. You need to distinguish between reflections that are deep in the water and surface reflections. It is logical to first paint in the deep reflections that seem to go straight perpendicular to the surface then fill the surface reflections across. The surface reflections are apt to be from the sky, the deep ones from objects, boats, ect. It is best to show some sky even in a picture that is mostly all water or land, but a white boat is lighter than the sky-it is like snow in a landscape. Is a white house.

You say it is difficult to get sub colors. That is something that has to be studied years and then some-there is no end. In this list of colors I gave you I think I included a pair of each of the primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. It is necessary to have the pair of each in order to get pure secondaries, purple, green, and orange. When the secondaries are mixed, you get grays or some kind, which I suppose are the subtle colors you have trouble with.