12-7-1936

Paul to Sam December 7, 1936

Paul Sargent

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/paul_sargent_letters

Recommended Citation
Sargent, Paul, "Paul to Sam December 7, 1936" (1936). Letters and Correspondence. 10.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/paul_sargent_letters/10

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Paul Turner Sargent at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Letters and Correspondence by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
P to S  December 7, 1936

Dear Sam,

Best to give weather report before the main body of letter. Since Oct. we have had fair cool weather until last day or so when we had a good rain and much colder last night. Was our coldest so far, 8 degrees above zero each night when I went to bed. No snow. Have had a thin skiff or two. Ground is frozen hard ready for a real one. Temp. 18 degrees tonight.

Orla and Lester helped me today with the old house. Have it nearly torn down, will haul it over tomorrow if weather is favorable. Evidently was room on south first, then north and east over added, according to construction. Found some scraps of old wall paper with old newspapers pasted on back. Found dates of June, July 1886. Evidently put on when Dotys moved in. Roof and rafters off, sides and floor to do yet. Walls lined with two layers of boards ½ inch thick. Queer construction. I probably won't get it completed in time to make as a garage this winter, unless weather is better than I expect it to be.

Miss White’s idea of renting pictures is O.K. with me. I have read that a similar plan is used by artists in London. The pictures you have of mine out there are mostly not my best work. The one at Flax’s place I consider is up to what I have here. will try to get some finished and send out there before winter is over. I can make larger ones from many of these mountain sketches and water pictures—not so easy with the water ones that I have been away from it for a year.

Sold a 20X24 (Corona del Mar) water picture in Chicago a while back but have only received $20 of the price so far. My exhibit up there is over with—it lasted a month last Spring but the sales people kept a half dozen or more of the pictures to try to sell.

The man in Casey (banker) who bought the two California pictures of mine last winter is now traveling in Japan, China, India this winter. He is one banker that believes is spending some while he lives.

Lauritz is a good painter. You should spend a lot of time studying his and other good painters’ work to see how they get the power and then adapt it to your own. This water picture he
had at club last year had a dark cool background of sky that brought out the white foam and green churning water up front. One can have the light warm color up front painted just that with a light warm sky and it will be a dead picture because there is no contrast to force things. That is the principal difference between a strong painter's work and an amateur's, the good painter marshals the essential element of the picture so that they play on each other by contrast, yet not killing each other by being equally forced—that is cancellation. The eye skims around darks and rests in the lights so Lavritz had his light warm colors up front and dark grays back. Most landscapes and water pictures are composed on that principle. The others find warm colors in distances are sunsets. But in those the warm colors can be intensified only so far, or the distance between will be destroyed. Learn to force the effect in your pictures, sacrifice everything else for that one thing, a contrast of warm and cool, dark and light, and you will see a great difference in your pictures. This forcing has to be done though in a subtle way, as nature would do it, but does not happen to be doing first when you are painting that picture, maybe. The best illustration in nature I know about showing how the effect can be concentrated so as to give force to the picture are cloud shadows on a sunny day. Study them, the sun spots on landscape are the centers of interest, one light spot more than the others. The cloud shadows are in contrasts—to force the lights. Do put the detail and interest in the lights—and let the cloud shadows be hazy and mysterious, not the lights. If it is a picture where the landscape is nearly all shadow you will have to paint it a little differently, more detail in the shadow.

I would like to know Lauritz's street address as I may send him a Christmas card that I am now making. (Linoleum block print if it turns out well.)

What is that marine painter's name we met at that art exhibit at Gardena? I have been trying to think of it for six months. I mean the man who painted the sailing ships with the very green water that was bought by the school. I have in mind the name Wilson as some part of his name but maybe that is wrong.
Haven't yet sold any pictures that belong in the Christmas rush. A woman wrote from Oakland wanting a small one.

I will try to get some pictures ready and send out there—my latest work which I think is miles further on the road than those old ones you have out there. Might be a good plan to write down sizes or frames on all those pictures and I can send pictures to fit at less expense. I would like Lauritz to see my best water pictures and get his comment. I know there is plenty wrong with them—must be to a specialist like L.

I am in favor of Miss White's plan to rent pictures. Whatever she does will be o.k.

While you figure on a car have a look at the Studebaker. It is priced about like a Dodge. How would you like to buy a car here and have me drive it out there? Next Spring or some other time. Might save enough to pay. Find out present price of Plymouth Coupe. It is $625 here. It is such a nerve wracking business to drive that far alone. I may back out on my proposition.

Maybe you have learned that Hutton Twp. has a state park—it is Fox Ridge State Park. It is about west of Otis Anderson's round barn now owned by Tom Moore. I haven't seen it. I understand that CCC workers are making roads there and an 8 acre lake is planned. Charleston is to have a sewage disposal plant. Also a project is on foot to increase the water supply by building the dam higher and flood several hundred acres north and northeast of the dam, but that is just talk so far.

When I get done I will send a picture for Mr. Irwin or Irvin, the father of your former girl. I told him I would send him one. I could send direct to him if you will give me his full name.

Am not getting much done with this outdoor work on hand. Oiler and I plastered up the old wood house, except a roof which it needs badly.

Guess this is all.

I am going to start before long on a new paint box, my old one is about done til repaired. The new one will be patterned after one in Weber's catalogue with box more or less open to save weight, a lid to hold pictures, and sliding legs. Something like Weber's but lighter I think. It will be my Christmas present.
What size panels (boards) do you want it to hold? Mine will be for 14X17 panels. I can't do much on them until after Christmas. Sincerely, Paul