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Letters and Correspondence

Paul Turner Sargent

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Paul to Sam August 21, 1937

Paul Sargent

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P to S August 21, 1937

Dear Sam,

Got your letter a few days back.

I made a color sketch from the drawing you sent but it is not yet dry enough to send. You don't want to be so careful to always paint things as they are, as the composition one finds is seldom best as it is. Always feel free to change the composition anyway to make a better picture, doing it of course the way nature could do it, but doesn't in that particular case. I don't know how to help your composition except to put a shadow over the foreground and thus force the eye to travel inward. In the color sketch, which I will send when dry, I put a larger shadow over the foreground and increased the interest up by the bldg. by adding two figures and a dog. Also added extra contrast of color in house, road and road cut. The eye always goes to the lights—a large light or one small but with sharp contrasts. The older I get in painting, the more I feel the need of changing the compositions as I find them in nature. I suspect that Whistler was correct when he said "nature was never right."

I don't know the Smith girls you speak about.

I have pictures all the time at the Hoosier gallery in Chicago, 211 W. Wacker Drive. The place goes by the name of Hoosier Salon Patrons Association.

I will look up those ladies you mention the next time I go to Chicago.

Got back Fri. from a short trip to Nashville, Ind. I was over there to pick the winner of the prize I received last year the Vance prize. The last three to receive it pick the winner for the next year. We gave it to a portrait by Mr. Shulz.

I weigh 215 to 220 most of time. Occasionally get down to 210 when I do more physical work. Am planning on getting busy soon on erecting the old house for a garage and work shop. Seems hard to find time for anything.

A while back the manager of the Hoosier gallery sent home a box of my pictures that were on exhibit a year ago there, but I I suppose she kept a few on hand for people to see.

I am going to make an effort to get some pictures off to you in the next few weeks. So hot this summer I can't stand the heat

in studio in afternoon, so don't get so much done. Very warm until today, cloudy and had a good rain this morning, so maybe the heat wave is busted till next summer. Not as bad as last year by considerable.

I got the new pieces of poplar sawed for the paint boxes. They are much lighter. Am making the boxes 16X20 as I think that a larger palette for pictures of size is necessary. A rack can be made in a 16X20 box for holding smaller boards.

I intend to send you my best western pictures as I think there is small chance of selling them here. Am likely to send two 30X36 ones, a water and one a mountain picture. People look at them and say they are good but when they buy one to park with the rest of their days, they want something closer to their experience.

The foliage begins to have some of the yellowness of fall. Guess this is all this time.

Paul