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Letters and Correspondence

Paul Turner Sargent

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6-20-1944

## Paul to Dario June 20, 1944

Paul Sargent

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### Recommended Citation

Sargent, Paul, "Paul to Dario June 20, 1944" (1944). *Letters and Correspondence*. 59.  
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**P to Dario June 20, 1944**

**Dear Dario,**

**I was beginning to think that I would hear from you from a foreign port.**

**You must be in the camp as Danny Moore. He is studying the teletype also. You remember Danny, at the college.**

**I guess I can't tell you much about the weather now that you are in the Midwest again. We had some blistering days up to this morning and tonight I looked up a thick shirt. How would you like to live in Verkboyansk, Siberia, where it gets 90 degrees below zero F. and rises to 90 degrees in summer?**

**The spring painting time was very short, so I did not get much done. Hot weather came suddenly and has been with us with two breaks. Since about May 10<sup>th</sup> the temperature jumped to 80 degrees. I never saw the leaves grow so rapidly as they did then. We jumped to summer. I got a few redbud sketches here in the field east of the barn that helped to balance what I did not get. The centre of interest is a large elm tree just getting into rich spring green ahead of the surrounding trees. I have started a 32X40 from it and it is coming along. The tree is about 75 yards away. To one side and somewhat inconspicuous I am placing a man plowing to go along with the spring feeling. I have strong hopes from this picture. Indians I have been thinking on since other spring ideas from sketches of other years. They are hard to do. Green is a color hard to handle, and colors of spring mostly subtle grays, purple and green and the prevailing colors, green, purple, strong greens.**

**No sales lately. The last was a check from the Swope gallery of Terre Haute which I mentioned. I have a few pending when I get the pictures ready.**

**I haven't read very far in your book. Am rather busy with gardening and one thing and another, so my reading has slumped with the hot weather also. I am too tired to read late at night as I do in cooler weather. But I'll read it in time.**

**Am glad to hear of your portrait work with brush and ink. Perhaps I have told you of the way we were taught in charcoal drawing at the Art Instit. It was in short, study the edge of the shadows. When in people lighting, there is a large mass of light**

on the figure or cast with a larger mass of shadow. Where the two meet are hard or soft edges in considerable variety. Imagine a standing figure (nude) facing light. The line of shadow will be soft and focused on the chest with movement. At the pelvic line (upper) it will harden a bit, and get narrower. At the hip it becomes more so, the hip have near the surface. Below hip in the breadth of the leg the edge is soft and broad, nearly lost, coming up sharply at the knee where the bones come to surface. Again on the calf the edge loses itself more or less until the bones of ankles come sharply. Well that is just to get you to see how much character can be shown by a hard and warm edge and a soft and broad edge. We blocked in figures with straight lines to get the outline which was kept somewhat soft, then studied the edges of the shadow on body legs and arms. We worked half days for two weeks on one charcoal drawing and when finished there would be very little charcoal, one broad shading, only the outline and the narrow broad line indicating the character of the surface. You will find this study of edges will help you in your brush and ink work.

The invasion is well along now and too well established for the Germans to put us out. At the present Oberburg will be ours before many days, and then when supplies on a big scale are a sure thing the Germans will get the kind of medicine they understand. We may be in Paris before expected. The Germans will put up one or more stiff battles, but I still claim that when they are pushed back to their own borders and can see we will invade in spite of them, they will surrender. I don't think Hitler and his main henchmen will surrender; they will be wasted by the more conservative ones in the army. The men not directly responsible for the outrages against decency. The Germans are intelligent enough to see that nothing will be gained by resisting inside their borders, just as they did the other time. We will see what we see.

You asked me to elucidate more about big business. Well, it is a big subject. Just to catalog the evils of big business during the last 50 years. I don't claim they are entirely evil, but mostly so. There are few widespread evils in the world that don't have some small angles of good, direct or indirect.

**The man or woman who was the germ of big business lived some thousands of years ago. He or she was the first person to loan money at interest. That was the beginning of the pernicious system that has the world by the throat at the present time. Loaning money and getting interest is the wrong use of money, using money to make more money, instead of performing some work or use. Such value, argument that gold (in money) is useful when melted into other things. That is a fictitious value that gold has acquired by being used as money so long. The real reason money is based on gold is because the moneyed men who control the governments of the world can control the gold and therefore the money based on it. Edison said that gold wasn't as useful as iron, couldn't do as many things with it, which is more proof of the fanciful value now placed on it. All the gold that had been mined up to 1896 would make a cube 36 feet square. That mined since would be a little larger now—and that the government (synonymous with the rich) can store in vaults and control, as we are doing at Ft. Knox, KY. Nowadays when we want something we must work to get the equivalent of some of this hoarded gold, which was their exchange for the goods we want, which are produced by the same class who manage the gold. You of course know about the company stores belonging to mining companies, etc. You work at a regulated price for them and buy from their store at their well placed prices. In the south the negroes are always kept in debt to the plantation managers in a similar way. Well, the manipulations of the system are ruthless. It can be said and not successfully disputed that 90% of the wealth in the U,S, is owned by 2 % of the people. That is the money system gone to seed.**

**Fifty years ago the railroads were riding high. They practically owned the legislatures of some states by their lavish use of money. The money of big business since then has multiplied many times and in other fields, but the result on senators and representatives is the same. An honest man does not usually go into politics, but if he does, the pressure is put on him in so many different ways that he hasn't the moral strength to resist. So the legislatures in the states and nation are fairly**

**good rubber stamps for the moneyed class that really runs things in the U.S.**

**As a sample of the way big business gets going and operates, the Standard Oil Co. in the early days hired thugs to beat up the workers and destroy the property of rival oil companies. I have this on the work of Glenn Seymour. This was back in the days of young Rockefeller. When the Depression came on in '32, he said "to trust in God." I wonder in whom was his trust back in the youth of Standard Oil.**

**If you listen to Drew Pearson on radio every Sunday at 6:00, you will really get something on the crooked work of the government, or read his column in Hearst papers. He told about an official of the subsidiary Swedish company in Philadelphia, (whose main plant in Sweden sell ball bearings to the Germans.) who is chairman of our War Production board. Doesn't that set your cork to bobbing? That is only what has come to light. Just another sample of the interlocking of big business to control the wealth of the world, regardless of how many lives are sacrificed. If you get a chance read the book "The Days of our Years" by Van Passeur. It is an interesting book and very enlightening on the machinations of big money before the war came on.**

**Drew Pearson said the Pres. Roosevelt had a fancy plane especially built for him. We are told by his outfit to scrimp and save to buy bonds—but he does otherwise as you see.**

**The present condition of our U.S. is similar to that of the Roman Empire when it began to fall—high taxation and luxury in high places.**

**It seems that every evil has its need or place to fulfill, its destiny. All this big industry hasn't been built up over the years without purpose. I think its purpose will now be fulfilled and that it the defeat of the gangster nations now taking place. This is our destiny and I have never doubted the outcome. You have heard the saying, "those who the Gods would destroy they first make mad." So the Japs and Germans became obsessed with the idea of ruling the world. If they had been blessed with just ordinary common sense, they would have known that it couldn't be done, the rest of the world would certainly combine against them. But since their system had to be destroyed, they**

**developed a cockiness as a result of ignorance, which will now lead to their downfall. We have a supply of that commodity ourselves, but we don't invade other countries to put them under bondage. It should strike our enemies with considerable force to realize they have been whipped with military by a very unmilitary nation, or nations. We or England haven't prepared for 20 years or more as have Germany and Japs.**

**As I have stated before, we are living in hell and the inhabitants of hell are devils. We are that in more or less degree, scratch the surface and the barbarian or savage shows up. We are far from being civilized in the best sense of that term. As someone has said, our condition is that of "intellectual barbarism." And barbarism is worse than savagery; there is more intelligence to carry out our hellish instincts in a state of barbarism.**

**We are in hell now because it is a necessary part of our education to learn good and evil by contrast, but we must forever remain in hell. Since we seem to have reached a climax in world affairs, it would seem reasonable that the change must come for the better since we are about as bad as we can get.**

**Did you know that the rich of the different countries work together even though those countries are at war. They did in the other war. In Van Passiu's book you will read how barbed wire made in Germany was shipped around through Switzerland to be used by the French against the Germans. Also other things vice versa. A very rich family in France owned the coal mines in a section of France that was taken over by the Germans in the other war. When Germany got the mines, they were taken over by relatives of the same French family, same name, who lived in Germany and operated for the Germans. All this and more you will get in Van P. book. But I am afraid it won't help your morale.**

**Did you know that the big industry of Japan is owned by four very rich families—they practically own Japan. The Mitsui, and the Mitsubishi are brother and sister. We and England have our big B. It seems to be a fight between different brands of big B. They are fighting among themselves to grab the wealth of the world.**

**One of these days some men representing different nations will gather around a big table to settle on terms of peace. Unless there is a radical change in humans, the peace will be no better than in 1918. Selfish nations will make a selfish peace that will certainly start the build up for another war, we want our colonies, we want the raw materials of industry for our own, to make goods, to sell to the have nots. Well, you see money is the basis of all, gain, greed. As long as we have competition in business we will have war; take out the profit and present businesses fall flat. We will get a new system that will work, but it won't be a system controlled by selfish business. Unless the ??? takes a direct hand, we are lost absolutely, but I am one who believes revolutionary changes are at hand and they are not of our making. We don't have anything to do about the ones rising on the tide coming in, neither will we with this change.**

**Sincerely,  
Paul**