

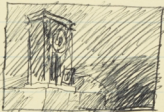
This letter was written
the day they buried Spink MacLachlan

Wednesday

1965

Dear Stu,

Well I can see that your resolution to keep up
a good correspondence has petered out. So if
you won't write I'll still write you. Only I
would like to know if you got that picture framed
and also I would like to know what people thought
of my dachsh.

Accidentally I did a watercolor last Sunday
which I think is without equal in the whole
of my oeuvre. It's a still life of an old clock
set upon a card board box. It looks like this
sitting in the clock is an
old Daguerrotype. The  almost all in browns
painting is a free water
color and not too detailed yet with a feeling of it.
Ronald told me that it was an "enviable picture"
I think it's good enough for a frame which is
exactly what I'm going to do with it. It's strange
but for an artist who hates still lifes as much
as I, I sure do a lot of them.

Right now I'm working on the studies for Mrs.
McCordell's portrait. It's going to be an ambitious
work and I don't expect to finish it until this
summer. Tomorrow I'm starting the dry brush of
her head and hands. Already I've drawn the
background with its lighting and have planned
a somewhat free water color of the background to
get my color. The finished work which will be
in dry brush will be about 22 x 40 - a big work.

Today she posed for the drawing for the dry brush
study. It was foggy outside and she was sad - they
were burying Mr. Arthur on TV and she thinks
(a lot) about death a lot. Also today was her
birthday and that got her. That is what I want
in this painting which I hope to name (Nellie's Birthday
or something like that. I want mortality and the immortal

way she faces it with that stern noble look of hers.
The mood was extremely intense yesterday when
I began.

I've done a lot of drawing since you left, and I
feel now that important habits are being formed.

I'm anxious to get home and begin on my summer
work. Up here you'd still think it was winter. It has
been cold and raining for the past 3 days and when it
rains up here it's usually an all ~~in~~ day affair.

And that is about all the news I can muster up except
that I'm going to try my hand at etching once or twice
before I leave. I still have all those plates to print
up and it doesn't look like I'm going to be able to
finish them. This portrait of Mrs. McCordell is my
prime concern at the moment. So if you haven't anything
else to do why don't you just write me a letter or two.

Scott

P.S. I got a letter from Owen - he's been drafted
or rather he quit school and joined up with the navy.
Poor Owen will sorely miss him.