

13 July 2004

Dear Gossetts,

I was in New York City on the night of July 1st. during a stopover with friends on our way to Maine, but decided not to call anybody. The purpose of the trip, besides just having fun, was to meet Jamie and Phyllis Wyeth and perhaps visit Andy and Betsy Wyeth on their island off the coast of Maine. Jamie had a Fourth of July lunch laid out for us on his super neat boat. After lunch he took us out to see Betsy and Andy. I took a kind of portfolio with me containing giclee prints of our paintings as well as documents signed by George III, Marie Antoinette, Louis XVI, Robespierre, Danton and Cornwallis - all revolutionary documents in keeping with the Fourth of July. Also I brought from our costume collection vests once belonging to King George III, and Jean Paul Marat and the betrothal gloves of King Charles I who was overthrown by Oliver Cromwell in 1648.

For Besty and Andy and Jamie etc. I believe I caused almost a sensory overload. Rather, they all were so excited going through all the material, it was like bargain day at Macy's. I had a chance to spend some important time alone with Andy. He showed me a tricorn hat he had in his collection, given him by the actor Robert Montgomery in the 1950's. He said that he thought the hat was original and old but wanted my opinion. When I saw it, I couldn't believe my eyes!

Not only was the hat original, it was almost certainly military and of the period of the American revolution. He took the hat out of its box and put it on my head. Then he asked me if I wanted him to put it on? Of course I said "yes." Then he asked me if I would like to take his picture? I had my camera with me but had not taken any pictures so far. Wyeth arranged himself against what he thought was an appropriate background. I snapped only four fotos but I was sure I had gotten something really wonderful. (I would have taken more but was frankly worried that Betsy might at appear at any time and perhaps not approve.) I asked him if Scott or I might paint his portrait if the photos were any good, and he said that he would be delighted.

Well, I can't believe my good luck. The photos really caught him wonderfully. And the tricorn hat he's wearing looks perfectly right and natural. Scott is really going to do an important American portrait. Since to the best of my knowledge Wyeth does not pose for painted portraits for anybody but family members, I still can't believe that he let me take those pictures! I really think it was his way of paying Scott and me back for our gift to him many years ago of several 18th century suits which both he and Jamie have painted over the years.

I wanted to let you know that I have finished the large landscape with the cactus and the bobwhite quail which I have titled "Nopal". It's quite handsome and has received much praise. Both this painting and "House Quail" are ready for delivery.

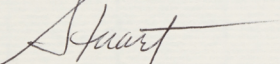
The price of "Nopal" is \$14,500.00. The price of "House Quail" is \$12,500. Since we have begun the final phase of finishing out our studio, payment for these landscapes would be greeted as a gift of the gods. In fact, if you could pay me within two weeks of the date of this letter, I will reduce your total bill of \$27,000.00 for the two paintings by \$5,000.00!

As far as the third painting "Three Fences" which you have also commissioned, it is better for both of us to put it on the back-burner for the time being. I simply cannot afford to take the four or five weeks needed to paint that picture if I can't count on being paid when it is finished. I still very much want to do that painting and would like to have it in our forthcoming new book if possible.

Anyway, I hope my price break of \$5,000.00 will make it easier to send me a check. "Nopal" and "House Quail" are really beautiful, and their verdant look of summer is a wonderful contrast to the landscapes hanging at your ranch. I really do not like to bug clients about payment, and I will never make you uncomfortable. However, it would be most helpful in the midst of Scott's and my endless and costly re-modelling project to know when we might expect payment if you feel you cannot send me a check at this time. Since I received no answer from my last letter, I would really appreciate it if you could let me know one way or another.

I hope all are well and not too hot in the Big Apple. Hoping to hear from you soon, I remain . . .

Your humble and most obedient servant,



Tel: 817 738 - 4427
Fax: 817 732 - 5448

FAX: 212 879 4147