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Title: Letter from Horace Carpenter to Edward W. Biddle

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INDEPENDENCE HALL
NATIONAL MUSEUM
PHILADELPHIA

7. May. 1929.

To
Hon. Edward W. Biddle
Carlisle Pa.

My dear Judge Biddle,

The little Nibbs portrait only arrived yesterday and I immediately arranged with Mr. Spahr and Prof. Pasquale Farnia to come down to-day to look it over together.

This morn they were both here and Mr. Spahr said he would write you to-day.

While the portrait is certainly in very bad condition, innumerable pieces of pigment gone, Prof. Farnia felt sure it was an original painting, that is, taken direct from life, and will undertake to restore it, though it is likely to be a somewhat slow undertaking. He told Mr. Spahr that he would like to have a photograph of the Dr. Nibbs the college has, the one I used in making my painting.

While I think he thought it rather little the Prof. said he would try to not exceed in price 150. though the difficulties he would likely encounter made him a little uncertain, but I think he will hold to that amount particularly as I told him I would under no circumstances accept a commission - a matter which is usually expected when

a second party is brought into the transaction -
that anything I had done or could do in the
furthering of having the portrait handed out to the
College in the shape it should be, would be
simply because I was personally interested in
in having accomplished what you wished.

In a letter from Mrs. Arnold she
mentioned the fact that she was willing
to loan the portrait to Dickinson College
for eight years and at the expiration of that
time it would probably be presented there.

As the restoration goes on I will
make a point of stopping in at the Prof's
& report progress.

With kind regards to both Mrs. Biddle
and yourself, believe me,

Sincerely yours

Horace T. Carpenter

May 7 / 29
Horace T. Carpenter