delay in despatching the Picture to Bruxelles if satisfactory arrangements can be made with a dealer to receive same for disposal.

Yours faithfully

Sydney J. Tavender

Captain

Bruxelles, le 4 septembre 1922.

Monsieur,

Je vous retourne la photographie du tableau "Martyre de St Barthélemy" (Sallaert) avec le regret de ne pouvoir en poursuivre l'acquisition, même au prix de 150 L. st. que vous fixez maintenant. La Commission directrice du Musée a écarté naguère ce tableau, comme n'offrant pas un intérêt suffisant pour nos collections; je ne puis revenir sur cette décision, qui vous a été communiquée. Du reste, il faudrait examiner l'oeuvre elle-même avant de se prononcer; mais comme vous exprimez l'intention de vendre en Belgique, peut-être en ferez-vous l'envoi à quelque marchand ou expert de Bruxelles ? En ce cas, j'irais le voir très volontiers.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de mes sentiments distingués.

Le Conservateur en chef,

A Monsieur Sydney Tavender,
late Captain Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders,
Elm Cottages
Upper Dicker,
(near Hellingly)
SUSSEX.

the value of the Picture has
been over-estimated and also
taking into consideration the present
rate of exchange I shall be
prepared to accept a smaller
figure than originally stated.

I regret troubling you in the
matter but as I do not know
any of the art dealers of your
city I am compelled to ask you
advice in the matter and have
to thank you for your kind offer
to go and see the Picture and
bring it before any Collectors who are
likely to be interested in it.

I shall be glad to hear
from you as soon as possible
so that there may be no

5393/252

~~ROSELAWN,~~
~~32, UPPER AVENUE,~~
~~EASTBOURNE.~~

Elm Cottage
Upper Dicker
near Hellingly
Sussex

31st aug 1922

Monsieur Le Conservateur en Chef
Musee Royal
Bruxelles

Dear Sir

Referring to our previous correspondence and particularly to your letter of 23rd December – I should be very much obliged to you if you could now return to me at the earliest possible opportunity the Photograph ~~the photograph~~ which

ROSELAWN,
32, UPPER AVENUE,
EASTBOURNE.

5393/252

Sussex
England
14th Jan 1922

A Monsieur Le Conservateur en Chef
Musée Royal
Bruxelles

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 23rd ~~instant~~ December.

I should be very much obliged if you would be kind enough to let me know the name and address of the principal dealer in Bruxelles in order that I may endeavour to come to some arrangement with him for the disposal of my Pictures.

In view of what you say that

Your ally, I would accept from you the sum of £150 and I trust that I may hear from you with a favourable reply.

I would readily present the picture to you as a gift to the Nation were it not for my Straitened financial circumstances caused by the Great War.

An early reply would much oblige.

Believe me, Sir,

Yours very truly

Sydney J. Tavender
Late Captain
Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders

I sent to You of "The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew".

I regret that through long illness I have been unable to carry the sale of the Picture further and now wish to dispose of it as soon as I possibly can effect a sale.

It is still my desire to dispose of the Picture in Belgium if possible and as I am unable through ill-health to travel and thereby dispose of same to the best advantage I would readily sell it to You at a reduced figure.

As I am in urgent need of the financial benefit that would help me if it were sold, and in view of the adverse rate of exchange between Your Country and that of

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Bruxelles, le 20 janvier 1922.

Monsieur,

Les principaux marchands de tableaux à Bruxelles

sont : MM. Le Roy, 12 rue du Musée.
Fiévez, 6 Montagne de l'oratoire.
Van Rysseghem, 59 rue de la Régence.
Neumans, 102 rue de Louvain,
Manteau, 62 Boulevard de Waterloo.
Mme Langevelt, 161 rue Royale,

tous membres de la Société des Amis des Musées Royaux de l'Etat. Vous pouvez entrer en correspondance avec l'un d'eux, et si votre tableau est visible un jour ici, nous irons volontiers l'examiner.

Agréez, Mansieur, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Conservateur-adjoint,

Captain Sydney Taventer,
Roselawn
32 Upper Avenue,
EASTBOURNE.

5393/252

Bruxelles, le 23 décembre 1921.

Monsieur,

Les crédits du Musée ne permettent pas d'acquisition en ce moment; la photographie que vous m'avez soumise de ce Martyre de St Barthélémy attribué à Sallaert n'a guère retenu au reste l'attention des membres de la Commission, et le prix en a semblé fort exagéré. Je vous retourne donc la photo; quant au tableau lui-même, puisque vous désirez le vendre en Belgique, le mieux serait de vous entendre avec l'un des principaux marchands de la place afin de le lui envoyer; nous irions alors le voir bien volontiers et le ferions connaître à quelques amateurs susceptibles de s'y intéresser.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de notre considération très distinguée.

Le Conservateur en chef.

Captain Sydney Tavender,
Roselawn,
32 Upper avenue
EASTBURNE.

ROSELAWN,
32, UPPER AVENUE,
EASTBOURNE.
England

21st Decr 1931

A Monsieur le Conservateur en Chef
Musee Royal
Bruxelles

Dear Sir
I am obliged by your letter of 13th instant and much regret that the the Directors have formed an unfavourable opinion of my picture "The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew".

If it is only a matter of the price that I ask for the Painting might I suggest that you would be kind enough to make me an offer for same which I would be pleased to consider - as I said in my first letter I should much prefer the Picture to go to Belgium than to any private collector here.

I should be mush indebted to you if you could return to me the photograph when you have finished with it as it is the only one I have.

Believe me

Yours very truly

Sydney J. Tavender
Captain

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Bruxelles, le 13 décembre 1921.

Monsieur,

La Commission directrice et administrative a émis un avis défavorable à l'entrée dans les collections de l'Etat du tableau "Martyre de St Barthélémy" attribué à A. Sallaert, dont vous nous avez soumis la photographie. Votre proposition demeure donc sans suite, et je vous prie d'agréer, Monsieur, avec mes regrets, l'assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Le Conservateur en chef,

Captain Sydney J. Tavern,
Roselawn,
32 Upper avenue,
EASTBURNE
(England)

ROSELAWN,
32, UPPER AVENUE,
EASTBOURNE.

6th Dec 1921

To Le Conservateur en Chef
Musée Royal
Brussels

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 24th November and note with pleasure that you have the Picture by Sallaert under consideration.

I should be indebted if you could let me know as soon as possible what the Directors think in regard to purchasing same.

I am not myself in a fit state of health to travel so far, otherwise I should have been only too pleased to have actually brought the Picture to Brussels.

Might I suggest that one of Your Directors visit London where I can easily arrange for him to View the Painting - and thereby enable You to judge for Yourselves the merit and genuineness of the Work under consideration.

Yours very truly

S. J. Tavender

BIBLIOTHÈQUE ROYALE
DE
BELGIQUE

CABINET
DU
CONSERVATEUR EN CHEF

Bruxelles, le 12 décembre 1921.

Mon Cher Collègue,

J'ai à m'excuser d'un crime bien grave ! L'inattention du facteur qui a déposé une lettre adressée à Monsieur le Conservateur en Chef des Musées Royaux dans notre boîte a entraîné celle du Conservateur en Chef de la Bibliothèque Royale ! Voilà comment a été ouverte par moi l'enveloppe contenant la lettre ci-jointe que je m'empresse de vous faire parvenir.

Bien cordialement vôtre.

L Paris

ROSELAWN,
32, UPPER AVENUE,
EASTBOURNE.
England

19th Novr. 1921

Dear Sir

I have to thank you for your letter of 16th instant. and in reply have pleasure in sending you herewith a photograph. of Sallaerts' picture_ The Martyrdom of Saint Bartholomew.

The measurements of the canvas are about 55 inches by 45 inches.

The photograph is a fairly Good one but fails to reproduce the many details and numerous figures in the background which can be seen in the original picture, or the wonderful colourings which are in a perfect state of preservation.

I sincerely hope that the picture will be of interest to You as I would infinitely prefer it to be in The Musee Royal, than that it should fall into the hands of any private collector in this country, several of whom have expressed a desire to be allowed to purchase:

Believe me

Yours very truly

Sydney J. Tavender
Captain

Bruxelles, le 24 novembre 1921.

Monsieur,

Nous avons bien reçu la photographie ainsi que votre lettre du 19 courant; et vous remercions de songer plutôt à céder le tableau à un Musée belge. Permettez-nous de différer cependant toute réponse avant que la Commission directrice ait pu examiner la reproduction et formuler un avis; nous en parlerons également à la Société des Amis des Musées Royaux.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de mes sentiments très distingués.

Le Conservateur-adjoint,

Captain Sydney J. Tavern,
Roselawn
32 Upper avenue
EASTBURNE.
(England).

carré;

Bruxelles, le 26 novembre 1921.

Monsieur,

En réponse à votre lettre du 12 courant, par laquelle vous offrez en vente un tableau attribué à Sallaert, j'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien nous transmettre une photo de cette oeuvre aux fins d'examiner si celle-ci est de nature à intéresser nos collections.

Agréez, Monsieur, l'assurance de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Conservateur en chef,

A Monsieur Sydney J. Tavender,
Roselawn,
32 Upper Avenue,
EASTBOURNE.

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ROSELAWN,
32, UPPER AVENUE,
EASTBOURNE.

12 November
1921

Dear Sirs

I have in my possession a painting by Antonie Sallaert — "The Martyrdom of St. Bartholomew".

It is my intention to sell the picture but before putting it on the market in this Country I am writing to you to enquire whether You would consider purchasing it for the Gallery.

It is in a perfect state of preservation and has been stated by Connoisseurs to be a very fine example of the painters art.

I am compelled to sell the picture for financial reasons — otherwise I should be only too pleased to present it to you in memory of many days spent with my regiment in Belgium. The Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.

Although I am told that the picture is worth a great deal more I have decided to offer it for sale at the low price of £300 in order that a sale may be quickly carried through.

If this is of interest to you I should be pleased to hear from you at an early date, when arrangements could be at once made for one of your representatives to view the painting and give his opinion.

I am
Yours very truly

Sydney J. Tavender
Captain