

Alas! We have to go, the train in Montereau is at 10:23. Theo and Philippe take us there by car.

22 June 1930

Philippe comes with the car to pick us up at "La Brise" in Bois-le-Roi. Dressed in a light-coloured suit; two tones, same for his gloves, large straw hat, with his beautiful beard makes you think of the painter Claude Monet. We head toward Thoury-Ferrottes, via the Cross of Toulouse, of Angas, Fontainebleau, we go past the "la Cour des Adieux", take the road of Episy which crosses the forest. We cross the Loing and the Canal. Episy, a village of farmers - an uphill road here we are at Villecerf, hilly landscape - Saint-Ange, delightful road of Old France, calling at the chateau to get strawberries and a beautiful bouquet of roses - Dormelles - Flagy where Anton Zelling is now We are on the heights and can see in the valley the charming church of Thoury-Ferrottes. Ms. Urban hospitable. We go to Philippe's studio, to see his new pastel "The Annunciation", to the left of the painting, an angel, old pink dress, the contrast of the wing on the dress - to the right, the Virgin, beautiful green shade dress, fine features, shawl in black lace, a vase with lilies near her, in the center of the painting a chimney fire, the shades of the flame, the chimney of his studio was the model, with the two columns surmounted with Romanesque capitals - small window on the right and left, evening. Blue sky studded with stars - the intensity and depth of the blue, the pose of the Virgin. Remarkable painting, the character of each figure and the arabesque of the hands. They have returned from from Spain - Toledo, talk about the admirable painter El Greco. Greco was discovered by Millet in a sale. Extraordinary portraits by El Greco, the colour! Complete painter, colourist and intellectual. Toledo has retained its character, but many tourists.

He finds El Greco greater than Delacroix, but he greatly admires his sketchbooks which are currently exhibited in the Louvre Museum "Exhibition of the Centennial of Romanticism" has visited the Prado Museum in Madrid, his admiration for the painter Velasquez and especially for the portrait of the "Infanta". Likes Titian. There are 26 works by El Greco here. Considers that El Greco is the greatest painter of Spain and places him well above Goya. Does not like Ingres, has always admiration for Sisley and Claude Monet. Finds Pissarro uneven, especially his exhibition at the Orangerie, the tones are sometimes quite dull. Van Gogh is a very great painter and places him very high as well as Toulouse-Lautrec. Very enthusiastic about Spain and its type of landscape, beautiful skies that Greco captured so well. I had had this impression during my stay in Madrid. Loves very much Segovia. The painter Zuloaga had given them information about their stay in Spain. Very well received in the hotels and very clean. The width of the roads - More costumes! Theo and Maryke had taken the boat in Gibraltar. Returning to France, admires Notre-Dame-la-Grande at Poitiers, the famous stained glass. Bourges and its cathedral, especially inside. Does not like Biarritz or Montauban. The trip to the home of Maurice Rollinat in Fresseline, a garage today! The Creuse is deteriorating. The bell rings for lunch. Philip's father is in Holland. Philippe misses Anton, no more music! No longer are there days of music in Laren. They have never heard a pianist give as much soul, they have listened to Corto, more technical for sure, but less an artist than Anton.

Philippe and his sugar pills, is aware now
 "nervous effect". Was convinced that he had
 appendicitis!!
 We are having coffee in the living room and going back to the studio.
 Recorded music, a violent storm during
 Berlioz's "Marche héroïque".
 We get closer together. Dien is frightened since her stay in
 America, despite this, it is very beautiful, there is
 a tragedy going very well with the work of Philippe.
 It will be a beautiful memory.
 A part of "Iberia" "l'enfant prodigue"
 "Concerto" by Beethoven.
 After the storm, the vegetable garden, a view of
 the charming church of Thoury, beautiful rich land,
 vine espalier trained.
 The large trees of the park.
 Roché's pastels (moss green)
 Philippe has the small brochures of Paul Verlaine.
 At 9:30 pm, departure in Delage for Bois-le-Roi
 (the chauffeur Henri, ace driver) via Moret and
 Fontainebleau.

13 December 1931

Gare de Lyon departure 8:38 to Montereau. Fog.
 Philippe comes to fetch me in a car and we leave for
 Thoury.
 In Philippe's studio, his new works:
 "The Afternoon of a Faun", on the left the faun, beautifully
 drawn and of golden colour, on the right, a woman bathing seen from behind.
 In the center a centaur, the forest is in deep tones,
 style less distorted than his early works.
 Painting of quality, harmony, strength.
 Big pastel, a young woman seated in an
 old red chair, working.
 A lace on her head, she is seated near a large
 bay window with a ledge with pots of
 deep red geraniums. From this bay window, view on the Valley
 (Recloses) in autumn, red shades (very intense in shades)

Philippe's full length self-portrait against a green background, the quality of the background, the harmony of the garments, brown jacket and a lighter shade for the trousers.

Pastel of "a Bali dancer" in remembrance of the Colonial Exhibition of Paris 1931, the expression of the hands, the golden fabric.

A huge bouquet with a green velvet background in a deep shade, a symphony of yellows.

The forest, the yellow symphony of gorse.

The moon above the forest.

The two Tanagra on his studio table, how grand, one is tinted old pink.

A box with old fabrics from the Netherlands Indies, including one with old silver reflections, uses it as a background for portraits or costumes.

This studio has always a great charm and it is a pleasure for me to see all his old works again.

His gorgeous black-striped cat, which is one year old.

He visited the Colonial Exhibition, was amazed by the sacred dances of the Balinese dancers, it was after this enchantment that he made from memory the pastel mentioned above.

Has not seen the Cambodian dancers - has found as decorative items many interesting things in the pavilions.

Did not like the illuminations.

Philippe, Loty, the teacher and I leave in the "Packard" for chateau "Les Pleignes", the property of Maryke and Theo Pitcairn.

The ride is very beautiful through a countryside of ploughed fields, many crows, hunters including one with a beautiful fox.

From Thoury, we pass through Episy, take the road along the Canal du Loing, the colour of the reeds, then we turn to the left, take a narrow road, we can see the chateau.

A vaulted door with green foliage, falling on both sides of the door, old buildings (remaining part going back to the Dukes de Nemours).

The property is surrounded by water, one has to cross a small bridge. The inhabited part was modernized by the previous owners.

Interior with large rooms, Renaissance furniture.

In the living room is the pastel portrait of Maryke in a pink dress, already seen in Philippe's studio.

Saw a beautiful portrait of a man by El Greco.

We have lunch, to my right Philippe, to my left the former secretary of Nico, very cheerful lunch.

Then, visit of the property, the park, then a walk in the countryside.

Conversation about art in general.

The revelation of the colour by Velazquez at the Prado Museum and his disappointment in Manet as a colourist.

His admiration for Millet, draws at every moment my attention to a group of trees "look at this Millet"

loves Puvis de Chavanne, does not think

he is a great colourist "in the art magazines one hardly mentions these two artists.

Van Gogh and his colour which stands firm.

Claude Monet and his magnificent water lilies, finds that atmosphere had disappeared from some of his paintings.

He understands very well that Monet closed his door mercilessly.

Finds Sisley admirable, how he has captured the atmosphere of the Loing Valley.

Likes very much Chassériau.

Great enthusiasm for the last exhibition of the Toulouse-Lautrecs at the Musée des Arts Décoratifs.

With regard to modern painters, Van Dongen and Dunoyer de Segonzac.

Finds that [Georges] Dufrénoy always does the same thing – does not like Forain.

Roché pastels, only uses pure tones now,
 eliminates semitones. Just bought pastels for
 6,000 francs.
 Starts his pastel from the top.

An artist should not marry.
 Finds that Anton is becoming too bourgeois.
 My interior is not bourgeois - I have nice things.
 We get back from a walk and have tea with the family,
 beautiful log fire in the large chimney, we
 play with the eldest daughter of Maryke (has 2 girls and 2
 boys) the last born in a pink rolling cradle.
 We talk about Verlaine and his fifteen-day stay
 in Holland.
 Philippe especially likes the "les fêtes galantes", understand very
 well that he did not say anything in front of the Rembrandt paintings.
 Knows a Dutchman who received Verlaine.
 The son of Marcelle Tinayre, sculptor came to visit them
 (Noël Tinayre)
 They just spent 15 days in Holland. Dien is
 more comfortable living in France than in
 Holland, her grandmother was French.
 Introduction of Dien's brother, Leo.
 Anton has 4 children, recently had two twin
 boys.
 Philippe, Loty, the teacher and I are going to have dinner at
 Thoury. During the meal, music.
 Opening of Oberon - La Argentina, Castagnettes -
 music of de Falla, Albenitz, Chopin.

Visiting Philippe's father in his room, before
 and after dinner.
 He has been lying down for two days (82 years)
 nice head of an old man with long hair and a long white beard.
 He works on the "perpetual motion".
 We kiss each other and he is happy to see me, speaks about
 the whole family, would like to take the métro and visit
 us, rue Malte Brun.

Real alchemist's chamber, many utensils.
Philippe tells me he would have been an artist.
The four of us leave at night to the
Chateau "Les Pleignes"; hares in the night!
I see Theo, back from Holland.
Farewell!
Henri takes me to Fontainebleau train station.
Episy, we cross the forest.

Philippe in his room shows me his two
bookshelves, the Millet by Moreau - Nélaton in
3 volumes, read and reread.
Often re-reads the literary works of Eugene Delacroix
and Fromentin, is pleased by the bookbindings by Lavaux.
On a large chest, a fisherman's boat (small scale)
from Zuydersee, made entirely by a friend in
memory of the last boat of Zuydersee, it will be taken out of the water.
We remember our delightful walk.