

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.

29 March, 1933

Visit from Philippe Smit, Dien, Leo, Loty, back from the Midi.
 Philippe is enthusiastic about the Auvergne which he crossed.

2 April, 1933

Gare de Lyon to Montereau (8:41-10:24)
 Philippe comes to meet me at the train station.
 Sunny weather, spring like, the trees with pink blossoms
 stand out against a forest background, ploughed fields.
 Arrival at the chateau.
 Coffee Dutch-style with cream, cakes and chocolates.
 The studio (the tubes of colours)
 The new works done in the Var:
 a) Provençal house to the right – to the left a cascading creek –
 background with mountains, classic effect of the landscape,
 dark and intense shades – The red tiles with a shimmering effect.

- b) The Mediterranean – evening atmosphere – to the right, the yellow symphony of mimosas – the rocky inlet (calanque) – the pine trees – the distant mountain – profusion – classical landscape.
- c) Watercolour, a very big holly tree, above a distorted tree – a creek ([Philippe] must do a new work with this subject).
- d) "Old Abbey" (pastel) in the foreground, massive column, base and capital, to the left the cloister, to the right the door and staircase, golden shades, beautiful harmony
- e) "Spring", daring, originality – the forest – to the left a bright yellow symphony - to the right a softly green tree – rainbow to the left – dramatic sky – the dark chaos of the forest, one of the best works by Philippe, what a sense of art – (beautiful surface texture).
- f) "Pegasus", white winged horse at the edge of a pond in a forest (to the right), the ferns brownish red to the left and the ones in the back – the mirror of the pond – the tree to the left and its green spots, admirable.
- g) "Autumn" ferns which I am happy to see again.

Some decorative items worthy of admiration, the Tanagra with the blue shawl – the satyr with a beautiful expression, which he has just got for his name day - the Greek art head in the Dutch part of his studio.

Lunch to my left Philippe, to my right Loty.

Philippe shows me in his room a very large bouquet – the view of the park, it is wonderful through this large bay window.

Car ride, Philippe, Loty and me (François drives) to the chateau "Les Pleignes" via small roads.

Visite of the chateau, inside all the furniture is covered - I see again with pleasure, the large pastel (portrait of Marijke in a pink dress), the drawing of the face and hands.

The pastel portrait of Marijke's daughter, pink dress – she is leaning against the backrest of a chair, on this chair a small Negro.

We leave again by car: Grez-sur-Loing - Recloses
 which one sees on the rocks - Marlotte - Montigny -
 La Mare aux fées - Episy - Villecerf.

Flagy, stop at Anton Zelling's, surprise for Anton!
 I go up to the room of the twins, where I meet
 Madame Zelling.

Visit of the house very well kept - the beautiful bed room -
 dining room - study - paintings and photographic
 reproductions of works of art on all walls -
 the staircase and the reproductions.

In the entrance, the portrait of Emma Smit by Philippe.

The garden and the colonial hut in reeds for the children -
 all decorated with red lanterns, yellow, green, etc ... here
 it is always a party.

The eldest is a boy and the second a girl with a very mischievous face,
 Anton calls them "the bolsheviks."

The newborn I saw in the room of the twins is
 cute, handsome little hands, his complexion is a little pale.

Large house, well-built which belonged to an architect
 (five children). He makes me promise to return with Mathilde
 and Eliane.

Back to Thoury for tea, long walk in the
 park with Philippe, discussion:

Dunoyer de Segonzac is for him the best painter at the moment

Has seen the Picasso exhibition, had much enthusiasm for
 him when he was young and is disappointed, the blue period didn't surprise him.

Van Gogh is an expressive artist whom he greatly admires.

Puvis de Chavannes so great, like Millet who is never mentioned
 in magazine articles.

Van Dongen to whom he spoke, told him he could get away with
 any eccentricities, one would always find it
 great, has good qualities as a painter.

Philippe would like to go to Italy and especially Palermo - is not
 attracted to the Orient. I talk to him about Morocco and of
 the noble appearance of its inhabitants, does not seem to be attracted.

Has fond memories of Charles Thiénot, Eugène Gaillard, Géry-Bichard our old professor of the evening classes, finds Chardon very likeable.

Doesn't like Henri Matisse, acknowledges that Marquet has done good things in his earlier work.

His admiration for Toulouse-Lautrec, would like to hear Yvette Guilbert.

Dinner - to my right Loty, to my left Philippe.

Delightful intimacy - discussion: Anton, when he had his latest child, played the nurse, put a white towel around his head and went to the village. The peasants took him for crazy, this is known in the surrounding villages.

The photographs taken in the Var, the picnics, Dien's pancakes - Jan Zondag has been in the Var.

Lunch at the home of a fisherman of the Var, in the kitchen "great delicacy"; many painters have stopped there, ambassadors come here to lunch from Paris. Never accepts more than 8 to 9 people (24 francs for a meal).

They lived in a Provençal house.

Philippe will work in Auvergne.

They leave for America on 8 April 1933 via Cherbourg on the Bremen 4 ½ days - are afraid of French ships since the fires.

If it were not for the family, they do not like America, although Theo has a very nice wooded property.

Théo had a large studio built where there are 32 works by Philippe Smit, as well as Rembrandts, Sisley, Monet, Van Gogh, El Greco.

Visit to Philippe's father in his room in Thoury, always working on the perpetual motion - enthusiastic about his trip in the Var - the wine and the fisherman of the Var, during the infamous lunch (Idiots !!!)

He is happy to see me, is going to Holland to stay with his daughter.

Last week was Loty's saint's day and the birthday of Philippe's father, they usually organise a masked ball, last year his sister was dressed as a Spaniard.

We talk about Philippe's sisters again, but it was Emma who best understood Philippe from an artistic point of view. Philippe's father would have mostly done drawings.

A few records "the Rumba" loves some very rhythmic jazz - La Argentina, Castagnettes.

Pastoral Symphony.

Sometimes goes to Fontainebleau to the cinema, likes cheerful movies.

Dien makes me pick spring flowers including violets. Dien, Philippe and I walk around the vegetable garden, a glimpse of the little church, the land is ploughed, the old fruit trees.

The people of the village and their greed.

Philippe takes me back to Montereau train station, lit by the car lights, the weather was deliciously warm.

5 November 1933

Gare de Lyon to Montereau (8:45 - 10:20)

Philippe comes to meet me in a car.

Fog.

Visit to the studio:

- the bouquet he has just offered Dien for her saint's day
- a delicious little bouquet in pastel
- the landscape which he made in Brittany, the old castle, the trees and the river, the intensity of the greens, the sky, the nature which has not been spoiled.
- In Dien's sleeping room, the regatta in Brittany, what he saw from his room, white and red sails, the flags, the small figures.
- The old armchairs that he uses for his portraits
- The Tanagra and the light.

In the afternoon we go to the chateau "Les Pleignes".

Saw Marijke's portrait, the pastel which is being damaged by the humidity will give it to Havard to spray it with formol.

Philippe makes his pastels on a cardboard specially prepared by Roché.

- The pastel portrait of Maryke's daughter, the doll on the chair.

- A portrait by El Greco, admirable.

- Visit of the chateau (interior) in the park, the pine in russet tones

- Walk in the forest via Recloses, la Mare aux fees, Montigny, Grez and the Old bridge. the remarkable shades of the forest.

Discussion: the stories of the antiquarian Vidal with Pitcairn – the architect - the American manager of Pitcairn's property, the proposal of the Spaniards for the painting by El Greco. Philippe's exhibition in Amsterdam.

Philippe's father stays in Holland with his daughter.

The Pitcairns went back to America, the trip from New York to Philadelphia by car, landscape of factories.

the journey on the Bremen 4 ½ days, comfort, the captain explains the boat's operation. There is always something happening on the Paris.

The story told by Marcelle Tinayre "the monkey and the parrot"

the monkey had plucked the parrot – upon the return of the mistress of the house, the parrot was shouting "charming evening! charming evening!"

Noël Tinayre and Gabriel Mourey - the stories of Bourdelle – the gallant Desprian

Van Dongen and the crisis, sold his hotel and lives in Garches.

Madame Claude Debussy is supposed to come to Thoury as well as Marcelle Tinayre.

Marcelle Tinayre is very good, what she did for Jan Zondag and his wife in Grosrouvre.

She lends her flat in Rue de Lille to
Zondag so that he won't have to pay for a hotel.
The good character of Noël Tinayre, he does not exhibit.
Anton Zelling and his character, the current flaw of his
piano playing. His best time was the one in Laren in 1919.
The wood of "de Sparren" is now cut.
The stories of Millet's grandson in Barbizon, the
fake Millets!!
The Marchioness of the Chateau Saint-Ange is dead, the
son has a situation of 1500 francs a month, he
should sell the property for 5 million, everything
falls into ruin!
Departure.