

perfect lot, so good & friendly. We like Rama she is so genuine, & simple & affectionate, & seemed  
 at home with us all at once. Some of the friends are coming up to London on the 28th to take walks  
 & Rama is rained the sight. Anne, R. & the little Veronica will stay at Synton. I expect we shall  
 have Walter. Rama down here for a week end while they are near. It is very nice to see on seeing the College  
 & our land, etc. We got a fine day occasionally now, & the woods are lovely with spring flowers - today in the coffee we found

6 birds  
 nets  
 Thrushes,  
 blackbirds,  
 a hedge  
 sparrow,  
 chaffinch,  
 Goldfinch  
 for  
 tonight  
 drank  
 with lots  
 of love  
 from  
 your  
 friend  
 Healtie  
 P.S.  
 Downie  
 soon.  
 & tell me  
 what you  
 are doing.

Woodside. Reddick Rd. Reading

May 9<sup>th</sup> 1908.

Dearest Mary

Just a line to tell you I went up to  
 Varmishing Day, & enjoyed it so much. my bronze medal  
 of Mr Percival is very well placed in rate a conspicuous  
 place, but there is not a good light for relief in that  
 wretched lecture room, so it does not look its best. still  
 the colour of the bronze is just right, & the panel of walnut  
 wood its feet on goes awfully well with it. There isn't  
 another bronze portrait in the show anything like it. I look  
 so much more pleased than the other things - is bigger, so  
 on the whole I am pleased. I had great fun met everyone.  
 Lillie Reed's big group is in the centre hall, it is a fine  
 thing but is placed against the wall, where the best  
 bits of models are hidden, you can't walk round it  
 so we are rather grieved about it. we talked to Brock  
 & tried to persuade him to have it turned a little bit  
 so as to show the woman's back, but tho' he promised to  
 consider it, he would not change his mind, as he said  
 the committee of ten had considered that the best view  
 of it, so we had to submit. Saubert has two  
 groups on, well kept, but they are not happy, when  
 that his health hasn't been good. They are full of effort  
 & are not pulled together tho' there is some splendid paint

in them. It is a very interesting RA this year, much above average, fewer portraits, less rubbish, some very nice landscape work. The Newlyn school come out well. Arnesby Brown especially. Clausen has some splendid work. Some pictures are all lovely. 2 of them water-colours. The Fountain by him is really beautiful. original, imaginative, lovely colour & comp. & figure drawing. Don't it marvellous that the Chantry actually had the sense to buy it?! I'm so glad. Hakomer's "Regent's Piece" of the Hanging Committee is an awful caricature of the poor men, so exaggerated & vulgar & most amusing altogether. Australia has done well this year, as the two sculptures whose work has been bought by the Chantry are both Australians. How I wish you were here to go to the RA with me, we would enjoy ourselves this year. I have "Put" into the Beaux Arts this year, & we are wondering if we shall get a few days in dear Paris to look ~~at~~ how things are: but we find being laid across is very tiring, & took one to the spot rather - we've been as our little house is getting up to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor now, & 2 fences being put up, & the hay grass is coming along splendidly. Then I have a very busy term in the Lab: this term, so many experiments to be carried out, and a lot of these soil bacteria, rotting, & yeasts to be cultured, as well as my cheese bacteria work. I went home for a fortnight at Easter & the NZ family arrived with such darling babies, so engaging, I thoroughly enjoyed nursing them. The youngest (7 months old) little Barbie, is a