Dear Madam,

If I have understood Ellen Key correctly, it is intended to send here the picture by Gauguin which for some time has enjoyed your hospitality; naturally, I shall be pleased to take care of it and do everything I can to arrange for its sale. However, according to the inquiries I have made, I cannot promise that I shall succeed. You know that the painting does not belong to that period of the Master which is valued most highly by collectors and dealers. Mr. Meier-Graefe, who knows the sitation and is an authority on the sucject, valued, I believe, the picture at the current price of 1000 Mark; I would try to dispose of it here in accordance with this estimate.

Since it is not certain whether I shall succeed, a week ago I also wrote to the publisher Mr. S. Fischer whom I know to be interested in modern paintings; in order to seize all opportunities that seem worth considering, as long as the picture is still under your protection.

Still, should we really fail to obtain any result in Berlin, I will make an attempt here and I would ask you, dear Madam, to have a big forwarding agent in Berlin send the picture under my name to a local agent, not to me directly, because, being very busy at present, I should be unable to look after the clearance of the shipment through customs, etc. The agent M.Potier, 14 rue Gaillon, is considered to be especially reliable as regards works of art. The painting should be sent to him (perhaps through Basch & Co.) with directions to have it delivered to my apartment after all formalities have been completed.

You see, dear Madam, that, in great haste, I have unfortunately to confine myself to these facts which I want to let you have as soon as possible. Please let me know your decisions, and pray be assured of my sincere devotion.

Rainer Maria Rilke.

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Rainer Sharia Rilke

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Paris II = / 29, rue Cassette. / am 9. July 1907

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