

Bennett W. Beaumont

Dr. Anne Koval

ARTH 3141

October 2, 2025

Option 2: Letter to my Family

To my dearest family, I have arrived at the port in Halifax, Canada. I have used part of my trust to purchase a horse, which I named Bartholomew. I traveled North to the Province of New Brunswick, where I have located a small University town by the name of Sackville, where the ducks outnumber the people. The journey was long, but the ship's captain handled the Atlantic with little to no trouble. And Bartholomew is the finest steed a man could ask for. While the town of Sackville may be small, it is full of hustle and bustle. I found myself visiting The Owens, a wee gallery that draws inspiration from the Greeks and Romans, with some beautiful stone carvings lining the outside of the building. The Owens have even taken part in the Salon hangings, like back home! I wish you all were here to experience this with me. The walls are a deep, rich red, covered floor to ceiling with gilded frames, with Grecian sculptures gazing upon you. While small, I was encapsulated upon my entrance, overcome with the desire to return home with many of these foreign works for you, my dear family, to observe. The charisma and charm this gallery holds is nothing less than spectacular.

With that, I have written to you on this day to inquire if you would be so kind as to supply me with funds to purchase two of these infatuating works. Just think about how empty our new foyer is at Beaumont Estate, all the questions, and appreciations for your new works from Canada! Oh, mother, you will be the next big thing; everyone will be jealous of your finery, and father, your friends at the club will be jealous of how much wealth you have displayed in foreign paintings. You two will be the shining jewels of London. And I, your well-traveled son, will no doubt share in that glory.



The first of which is entitled *Romeo and Juliet*, a historical literary painting based on the writings of William Shakespeare himself, painted by a talented Italian artist by the name N. Riccardi, an oil on canvas, standing at eight and a quarter feet tall, and a staggering five and a quarter feet in width. It was brought to Canada by a man named John Hammond the standing director of the gallery

in 1885 from Italy. It's a glorious painting, it will add so much depth to the entry way, the deep, illustrious green Riccardi used, mixed with the intensity of the golden frame, provides nothing short of excellence. The fabrics Riccardi is able to paint will shock anyone who decides to look upon her, The white of Juliet's dress is painted with such thought and care it evokes tantalizing emotions. With its late 19th century date and the techniques he used, the loose, flowing brush strokes, and the distinction of Juliet's



emotions embodies the romantics with great talent. And for your mother, the saddened look on the woman's face will be exactly that of the town's women when they lay eyes on this romantic masterpiece. It was positioned at eye level in the Salon, meaning it is one of the greats in the collection. Mr Hammond has allowed me to place the piece on hold with the promise of a generous donation towards the gallery. Seeing as this piece is the most desired in the Salon, I believe it is a wise decision to spend much over asking for this creation.

The second work I am inquiring about is a cityscape of Venice, painted by a very talented Italian artist in the 19th century by

the name of Marco Cassabianci. This painting has highly realistic features of architecture, gondoliers, and reflections on the water. While realistic, it still keeps the romantic influence, with its clean, picturesque qualities. Cassabianci is a true master of technique with fine, precise brush strokes. We mustn't forget the beauty of the magnificent golden frame that accompanies it. Now, my sweet mother and dearest father, wouldn't such a painting look sensational above the mantel in the ballroom? All the guests will be talking about it as they dance through the night, and they will be saying, "How did the Beaumonts come across such a painting?" Who else among our acquaintances could boast about owning a Venetian landscape created by such a master as Cassabianci? I might also mention that this work, as well as *Romeo and Juliet* by Riccardi, is also hung at eye level in the Salon. In purchasing both, we would be the proud owners of two prominent Salon paintings that not a single person from home would have had the opportunity to purchase. I was able to talk their director into keeping this painting for us, again with the promise of the large donation. Cassabianci's work was highly sought after. The maritime wealthy were placing rather high bids to secure this painting.

While I realize I am asking for a high sum, I would like to point out that it is not a mere indulgence; these are Salon works of high prestige and value. My beautiful family, you will just have to trust me on the quality of these works; they will dazzle our guests and bring great beauty to our home.

So, now is the time I beg, I plead with you, Mother, Father, allow me to make these purchases on your behalf. The works of Riccardi, and Cassabianci will be significant additions to your collection, Traditional Italian realism, and romanticism. That found its way across the Atlantic into a beautiful town full of culture. These well travelled paintings returning with your well travelled son will be a story worth telling. Our wealth and status will never be questioned again. These new paintings, the new estate, and proof of a sizable donation to a Canadian art gallery will make us the talk of the town. With that, this is my final argument. I hope you both see the value that I see in these works and supply me with the funds to make this purchase. John Hammond the head of The Owens is eager for your response so please make haste in doing so once you receive this letter. Once I hear word on your decision I will make arrangements to return home and proper transport for the works. I look forward to your positive response.

Much Love to you all,

Your dearest son, Bennett

Sources:

The Owens Art Gallery. "About the Owens." <https://owensartgallery.com/visit/about/>.

The Owens Art Gallery. *In the Conservation Lab: Romeo and Juliet More Collection*

Highlights. <https://owensartgallery.com/owens/conservation-romeo-and-juliet/>.

Holland, Isabelle. *Floor to Ceiling The Art of the Salon-Style Hang*. Insights,

https://insights.famsf.org/salon-style/#&chapter=chapter_12036749&page=chapter_12036754.

I used grammarly and spell check in this paper