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Gary Ross

from Box 7 - pp. 17

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In the very earliest days of the Museum Gary Ross was very much part of the small group of excited young people that clustered around Alfred and ate in the Chinese restaurant on ^{W 56} St right under 730 Fifth Ave, then called the Heetsoken building. He was nice and young, perhaps younger than any of us - Neeny blond, blue eyes rather far apart - a slightly startled air, very intense in the way that he meant every word he said. But he had a sense of humor & was in no way a bore.

He remained involved in the Museum for at least a year. He was v. excited about Fauntleroy ^{FAYTRIER} (see Pt 9 in Paris, 1930?) ^{Paris} ^{of Disaster}

In the spring of 1930 I went to Cambridge - I can't remember now whether I combined this trip with going to Smith College where I was supposed to teach in 1930-31 and eventually inherit the directorship of the Smith Coll. Museum from a Mr. Church or Churchill? great friend of ^{Stephan Bourgeois} the ~~deals~~ who had "formed" the Sam Lewisohn Collection, have hunted for his name, he was married to a disciple of Isidore ^{DUNCAN}.

In Cambridge I saw ^{Isidore Duncan} Philip Johnson, then 24, in a state of nerves. He simply had to get his A.B. yet there were many hazy and extreme lack of concentration so that he could only study standing at a high lecture (too tense to sit down) and he called his analyst at will as often as he liked. Well! It is hard, yet laughable for me to recall that at this ^{very} moment I was initiated into the homosexual world.

Philip at this time seemed at ^{very} excited, had quite a

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For years and years I used to call him Zaphel-Philiz because he always needed something to fiddle with, to finger. He could not keep still.

At this moment - it was, I repeat, springtime, he revealed in a high voice that he was madly in love with Cary Ross who "belonged" to Jere Abbott. Fury, jealousy, frustration. What to do? He could not be bothered to fructuate.

When I got back to N.Y. I was anxious. I thought that Alfred knew nothing, understood nothing of these homosexual situations. I thought he was surrounded by perverse, false friends.

How Alfred must have laughed! How annoying it is that in later years he never recalled my unsophisticated anxieties. No one can imagine how up in arms I was, ready to reveal all, to warn him, to defend him.

With the sweetest smile Alfred said that he'd known everything all along. In that 54th St apartment that he shared with Jere Abbott ^{where to pop went} the dresser ^{was} picked up some hills from the Bietmore that Jere left around as evidence of his "nights out" [More in the late twenties I hear that Russell Hitchcock says that I married the last of the Lelesosexuals.]

In no way duped, defied,

He was tolerant, indifferent as we see in the Russian Diary where the two of them owed so much to Piote with whom Jere had an affair.

In retrospect I can hardly believe my mistake in 1928-1930. Russell Hitchcock was teaching at

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Vassar and we became fr. friends mostly out of
 boredom but also because we both adored
 Proust. We'd go to the movies together (lost
 moments after silents-) and Russell then
 being deaf (he only regained his hearing long
 after his retirement thanks to his latest
 friend Robert Schmidt who forced him to
 have a new operation) as I was saying then
 being deaf he'd speak good and loud and
 smart with laughter so that our Vassar
 students would move away to avoid the noise
 we made. Later we'd go to some lowly joint
 for coffee, ham + eggs and slowly through
 the cold and snow walk back to our prison - often
 at 2 a.m. the night watchman opened the
 door of Strong only to see Russell kissing
 my hand.

Let's finish with Russell now. as an Italian
 I was constantly in trouble with my passport (under
 fascism) and my re-entry permit. I never knew where
 I was at. These were the years after 1924 when the
 U.S. decided to limit immigration from Italy and
 especially from Southern Italy (Rome counted as South).
 The things that happened to me! Set off to Ellis Island
 with more baggage than I could handle, kicking
 ahead of me me Auntie Katie's wonder ful, round wooden
 hat box. Stripped - then released another time landing
 with a penny, nothing to eat & money only
 for a Babe Ruth. Getting to Maine at Vassar,
 starved, making to pass a black ^{button} for a servant, and noticing

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instead that the rights had given. There were no servants!

How extraordinary this seemed in Sept. 1925!

The nearby students produced snacks for me
located on their stoves. It was well after ~~6 or 6.30~~ ~~was~~

I first assumed so dinner was over.

Returning to Russell Hitchcock
in 1928. He said "I'll marry you but I shall
insist on all my rights" It was very nice
of him to make this offer to help me
out of my immigration difficulties I felt
great affection for him. When - to the astonishment
of all, he came engaged to Alfred we had
to send Russell a cable (he was in Paris)
apologizing for my defection.

There had been 2 noticeable European marriages
before ours. One was Carleton Smith's to Elisabeth White
and one was Chist Austin's to Helen Goodwin.

Russell became immensely involved with ours.

Alfred had ~~been~~ alarmed his poor mother
by telling her that he was going to marry
a descendant of Pippino Spaw - p. 145. fig. 95

in Frankie Mather's History of the Italian
~~Renaissance~~ ^{Painting} She, poor woman, took for

granted that he wished to marry a Catholic
and came posturing down to us to look me over.

Now in 1979 I will see the difference between
Church of England & Presbyterians and sympathize
with her disappointment even though Church of England

was somewhat better than Catholic.

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Damn damn. In 1998 with Joan Cleveland we
 stopped by DUNGARVEN (County Waterford) at the ex-church of England
 Mrs Church of Ireland) who took to the lady organist (5
 named Edward, related to Noel Coward. She gave
 me the name of the clergyman but said that
 most records had been destroyed in 1916.
 I wrote this clergyman but he never
 answered.

It must be immensely hard for a mother who
 intensely loved her son to have him
 marry another woman. I say this as an art historian
 because as you look for instance at many Giovanni
 Bellini Madonnas, or Michelangelo's Madonna
 Doni or Titian's Pesaro Madonna, you see
 that the child Jesus is also the betrothed of
 the Virgin Mary.

In the light of those words I can see
 now how grievous it was for Mrs Bazz,
 my mother-in-law, to have me take from
 her most beloved son.

At that time, 1930 and on, I did not
 know or understand Jesus's role as I
 do now. It is passionate as art historians
 should be, I should not have not allowed this
 atmosphere of rivalry to exist in my personal and
 professional life.

In many works of art - Titian's Pesaro Madonna -
 Michelangelo's Madonna Doni, it is implicit that the Virgin is not only the
 mother but the lover of the Christ child. If I had understood this
 I would have known more either of them died. When Mrs Bazz died it was a
 liberation for myself & he never spoke of her again.

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Sept. 1979

to finish -
 Cary Ross, after "the first glorious year 1929-1930 or at
 the latest 1931 Cary Ross disappeared.

His early enthusiasm & contributions had been such that
 the Museum kept him on the mailing list & sent him notices
 & catalogues; after several years he wrote that he was
 no longer interested and wished to sever all communication
 Russell Hitchcock.

Intermittently Russell, then teaching first at
 Wesleyan & then at Smith College would call us suddenly
 and expect some form of hospitality, when he arrived
 he roamed; his conversation was a relentless monologue, he
 had no interest of any kind in either of us or in the Museum. Because
 Alfred expected to be defended of interruptions and of guests who
 stayed too late Russell ceased to descend upon us. I would
 have liked to see Russell alone but since our marriage
 Alfred was the important person in his eyes we counted as a
 unit of two.

It was so tragic that Russell had not obtained his
 Ph.D. at Harvard around 1928. He failed his "generals"
 because he had forgotten who ANDREA BREGNO
 was. Unlike later graduate students he never
 faced up to this ordeal again. This ridiculous requirement of
 a Ph.D. caused Russell to teach first at Wesleyan,
 then at Smith thus depriving truly serious students
 of the most brilliant architectural scholar of our generation.
 When there was a vacancy at the Institute of Fine Arts at
 NYU because of the departure of LOTZ I said: "There is
 none but Russell Hitchcock." But the answer was that
 because he had no doctorate by University ruling
 he was ineligible.

Now that he's retired he teaches at the IFA as
 Adjunct Professor and he is very popular.

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CONY ROSS
 Lake George, N.Y.
 August 22, 1932

Dear Alfred:— I have felt the weight of an
 apology owing you these many months, and am
 truly sorry for this long silence between us;
 now perhaps it is too late and you have
 gone away, but we are sending a copy of
 this to you at the Museum as well as to
 Greensborough, in the hope that there will
 be no rancour between us when we meet
 again. As you & I have become associated
 with the American Peace, what
 even that means. Mostly that it stood
 for what I valued in art in America,

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Y. U. 22nd St
 SEPT 25 1944

I guess, and that Stieglitz's personal protection

from the world came for the time to be

all important to me. These things seem

impossible to express without distortion;

So I will only ask you to excuse me for

the inconvenience and distress I may

have occasioned you, and to believe how

sincerely I value and appreciate your

friendship and kindness

Since coming nearly two weeks

ago I have had an opportunity to read

some old Dials at last, and found also

analysis of the artist's Secret by Roger

Fry, from which I copy the enclosed

paragraph, because it spoke to me

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So forcibly of you when I read it, and summed
up so much that was fine and true to
me about ~~my feelings for you~~ when we

were first together in Paris and Cologne and
Holland. Believe me I shall always remember

our association with pleasure and nostalgia,
and regret that life has carried us on

different streams.

In the same Dial I found an in-
teresting study of Gerard Hopkins by L.A.

Richard's bearing close to me also, with
respect to my own work. Because I read

that ~~when~~ before he joined the Jesuit Order in 1868
he burst what verses he had already written
and resolved to write no more, as not belonging

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spirit, and improved in body.

In closing, I should reiterate that

I am sincerely sorry for the inconvenience &

worry I may have caused you, and

appreciative of the kindness you showed me.

Ever sincerely yours,

Cary Ross.

P.S. We have the "Symphony of Psalms" (Stravinsky)

and a five album of Gregorian Chant here,

besides Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, etc. I am

learning, expanding, enjoying all of them. Also

am seeing some light in Joyce's "Work in Progress".

What light I can't say. But it is through a glass

darkly, and always in at least 3 colors. Mrs

there is O'Keefe's painting, Marin's the photographs.

C.R.