

LETTERS BY GIORGIO DE CHIRICO
TO LÉONCE ROSENBERG, 1925-1939¹, PERTAINING TO THE TEXT:

ART IN TIME OF CRISIS

Agostino Inguscio - Giovanna Rasario

1. Postcard (12 January 1925)²

M. Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris

Postmark: Roma centro 12.1.1925

Rome

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am about to have the exhibition catalogue printed; I think it will be sufficient to print only 1000; in that way I will avoid unnecessary expenses; I would like to hear your view on the subject all the same. I would also like to know if you would be willing to publish some photos of my paintings in your journal before the exhibition opening. I am working a great deal and I hope to have good success in Paris.

I send my best wishes to you and to Mlle Rosenberg as well.

Yours sincerely

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

All the best from my brother.

¹The correspondence is conserved in Fonds Léonce Rosenberg, Bibliothèque Kandinsky, Centre du Documentation et de Recherche du Musée National d'Art Moderne, Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris.

²The letters of 1925 (except letter n. 4) were published in "Metafisica" n. 7/8, *Le Lettere*, Florence, Pictor O, Rome 2008, pp. 637-644, with an essay by Michele Tavola, *Rosenberg and de Chirico*, pp. 364-370; letter n. 58 (New York, 7 November 1936) was published, *ibid.*, p. 678, in relation to K. Robinson's essay *Giorgio de Chirico - Julien Levy. Artist and Art Dealer - Shared Experience*, *ibid.*, pp. 326-356. For completeness' sake, these previously published letters have been included here.

2. Postcard (26 January 1925)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris

Postmark: Roma centro 29.1.1925

Rome 26 January

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I sent you 4 photos for your journal today: the titles are written on the back; I hope that I am not too late; the paintings in the photos I send you are amongst my most recent. I am working a great deal. Please be kind enough to let me know if receiving the catalogue-invitation by 15th April is sufficient. All the best from my brother as well.

I remain yours sincerely

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

3. Handwritten letter (without date but datable to the first months of 1925)

Dear M. Rosenberg,

Here is the text for the catalogue³. If possible, please reply to me by return of post. I have received the journal and I thank you.

Yours

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

4. Handwritten letter (without date but datable to 2 May 1925 in relation to Rosenberg's answer of the following day)

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

It is impossible for me to do the opening on Tuesday 5 May; I would do it on the 6th at 4 p.m. I had a lot of trouble getting my paintings out of customs; I am very annoyed and I ask you kindly not to create any more difficulties. I will bring the 23 paintings on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m.; if you are not there please make the necessary arrangements for someone to help me hang them. It will only take about fifteen minutes. I am unable to bring them any earlier as I still need to varnish them and arrange the frames. I left some envelopes with your daughter; please be kind enough to have some

³ The text, signed "Giorgio Castelfranco" but written by de Chirico, was published in the original French with English translation in "Metafisica" n. 5/6, Le Lettere Florence, Pictor O, Rome 2006, pp. 501 and 503. The manuscript is reproduced *ibid.*, pp. 241-243.

more bought so that after tomorrow, Monday, you will be able to send about fifty to the press and to the people you believe to be most important in Paris. It will suffice to change the date of the opening by hand to the 6th instead of the 5th of May and to add: Opening 4 p.m. on the 6th. Wednesday morning when I bring the paintings I will reimburse the cost of the envelopes and the stamps and the 500 francs we agreed upon.

Thank you in advance, and I remain yours sincerely.

Giorgio de Chirico

Hotel Central Rue La Bruyère 58

Saturday evening

5. Handwritten letter (without date but datable to the second half of May 1925, before the 26th, date of Rosenberg's answer)

Rome Saturday

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Here is the photo and the customs papers. With regard to the paintings which you will have to keep on deposit, let me tell you to keep what you like that belongs to me and that is to say: *The Tragedians of Aeschylus*, the painting which Doucet wanted to buy and if you like, even the others that are on the left upon entering. But the large landscape with the houses and the painting I brought to you on the day of my departure, along with the others, I would kindly ask you to pack them up. Mr. Castelfranco will write to you shortly to tell you if the courier should send them directly to Florence or elsewhere. It would be very kind of you to send the two letters enclosed here to their recipients given that I have forgotten their addresses.

You will soon receive the photos of my latest paintings. I have gone back to work with determination. I am very happy to have met you. The interest you have shown me, your intelligence and your gentlemanliness, have been greatly encouraging. It would be very kind of you to send your boy to collect 3 small sketches that are at M. Pierre Roy's house - 16 rue des Sts. Perès and to pack them up with the other paintings, otherwise they will make me pay at customs.

All my best to your daughters. My brother has asked me to pass on his best wishes, sincerely yours,

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

6. Handwritten letter (1 June [1925])

Rome, 1 June

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your kind letter.

Here are 2 signed receipts. It would be very kind of you to send me the 3,000 fr. (less the expenses and debts) and if you could also settle the 2 paintings you bought, you would be doing me a great favour because at the moment I am not swimming in gold. Next week you will have the photos of my new things. I am very inspired at the moment and I hope to have a summer of fruitful work.

Thank you. Yours very sincerely,

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

I hope that Mr. Castelfranco has written to you about sending the paintings.

7. Telegram (2 June 1925)

Rosenberg 19 rue la Baume Paris

Postmark: 2.6.25 (difficult to read)

Rome 2801-12-2-11:45

Please give painting 17 Eluard =, Chirico =,

8. Postcard (3 June 1925)

Paul⁴ Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (France) Paris

Postmark: Roma centro 3.VI.1925

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

For painting 17 (Metaphysical Interior) I forgot to tell you that it belongs to M. Paul Eluard who loaned it to me for the exhibition. I hope my telegram arrived in time and that you have been able to remove it from the crate. Please excuse this misunderstanding. It is regrettable that Mr. Barnes had considered this painting. Would you like to tell him that I have 3 others from the same period and same genre and would you like to take care of the business? I am very pleased about the sale of Tragedians.

⁴ Probable error by de Chirico in writing "Paul" instead of "Léonce".

Thank you and I remain yours sincerely
 G. de Chirico
 I have telegraphed M. Castelfranco

9. Postcard (14 June 1925)
 Postmark: 15.VI.1925

Rome 14 June

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have received the cheque for 1,000 francs and I thank you.

If you could settle the rest and the amount for "The Tragedians of Aeschylus" you would be doing me a very great favour.

I have been a little busy recently with things other than painting; but I will send you some photos from here in a few days. Has Raynal not written? Whether he liked or disliked my painting would not be that important to me but I would be very sorry if he were offended by the fact that I was not there that Friday.

At the Modernissima bookshop they told me that they cannot accept the sale conditions that you proposed to them. But do as follows: send 3 or four copies of each number; at the end of the month, I promise I will take care and send the unsold copies back to you. Should I send photos of the paintings for M. Barnes?

Yours

G. de Chirico

10. Postcard (22 June 1925)
 Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris
 Postmark: Roma centro 22 giugno 1925

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have received the second cheque for 1,000 francs and I thank you. You will have the photos of the paintings in 10 days, without fail. To do so any earlier is impossible for me. I will also send the ones for M. Barnes. – I would now like to ask a favour of you: please be kind enough to send me the issue of your journal in which there is an article about me to this address: Madame Lork
 c/o Madame Obolensky Kurfürstendam 157-158

Berlin

Many thanks and I remain yours sincerely

G. de Chirico

11. Handwritten letter (4 July [1925])

Rome 4 July

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Here are 6 photos of my latest paintings; I have forgotten the measurements so I will write them for you this afternoon. As I have to leave ~~Florence~~ Rome for a fortnight, I would be very grateful if you would send a cheque for 1,000 francs made out to my mother Mme Gemma de Chirico. Via Appennini 25B. I kindly ask you, dear Mr. Rosenberg, even if the buyer of Tragedians has still not paid, to advance the 1,000 fr. on credit to my mother.

Yours very sincerely. Thank you

G. de Chirico

12. Postcard (8 July 1925)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (8^{ème}) (Francia) Paris

Postmark: 8.VIII.1925

Florence

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Here are the measurements of the paintings:

Achilles: 1[00] x 75

Source: 91 x 55

The Poet's Fruits: 60 x 76

Group of Athletes: 78 x 60

~~Summer Afternoon~~ Roman Woman: 68 x 86

Summer Afternoon: 55 x 71

I will be in Rome on the 19th of this month. I would ask you to kindly send the 1,000 fr. to my mother.

I hope you will like the paintings.

I remain yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

Will I have the pleasure of seeing you in August?

13. Postcard (25 July [1925])

Postmark: 25.VII

Rome 25 July

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have received the 3 cheques of:

1° 1.000 fr.

2° 1.000 fr

3° 750 fr.

total 2.750 fr.

and I thank you. I hope to see you in Rome in August. I will be sending you the 3 paintings chosen.

Yours

G. de Chirico

14. Handwritten letter (1 August [1925])

Rome, 1 August

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your kind letters; I have now received 3 cheques, two for one thousand francs and one for 750.

I have sent the 3 paintings that you chose at the M^m Chenne [shipping firm, *ed.*]. I hope to see you in Rome in any case we will see each other in Paris as I have decided to come in the autumn to establish myself there.

I am pleased that business is going well. I am working a great deal at the moment and am very inspired. But I cannot wait to leave Italy.

Yours sincerely

G. de Chirico

All the best from my brother.

Via Appennini 25B

15. Postcard (8 September [1925])

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris

Rome, 8 September

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am sorry that you are not coming to Rome. But we will see each soon as towards the end of October. I will be in Paris were I intend to settle.

I hope you have received the 3 canvases, and I would be very grateful if, in addition to the prices of the canvases, you would also send the rest you said you owed me in a cheque for 1,000 fr. I have not sent you any more photos because, given that I will soon be in Paris, I will bring my paintings with me.

I remain yours sincerely

G. de Chirico

All the best from my brother.

16. Postcard (11 September [1925])

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (8^{ème}) (Francia) Paris

Postmark: Roma centro II.IX

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

It is agreed that for the 3 paintings that I sent you, you will send me 800 fr.

I have already written to you about this asking you to add the rest of this to my credit making a round figure of 1,000 fr.

I have received the 1,000 fr. You did not tell me how you found my paintings. – I await your news and I send you my best wishes.

Yours

G. de Chirico

Rome, 11 September

Via Appennini 25B

17. Postcard (23 September 1925)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris 8°

Postmark: Roma centro 23.9.1925

Rome 23 September

Dear Monsieur Rosenberg,

I have received the 1,000 fr and I thank you.

Around the 1st of October I will send a crate containing about 20 paintings to Paris; would you mind if I addressed the crate to you or to your courier. The crate will of course travel at my expense. I myself intend to come to Paris towards the end of October.

All the best from my brother and I remain yours sincerely.

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

18. Postcard (13 October 1925)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume (Francia) Paris

Postmark: Roma ferrovia 13.X.1925

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Many thanks for your good letters which are a great encouragement to me. I assure you that you are the man who has encouraged me the most so far. Please excuse the tone of declaration. I will also show my gratitude when I am in Paris by doing a good life-size portrait of you, or of a member of your family if you prefer, and I would like you to accept it as a gift.

I intend to be in Paris around 15 November. My mother and my brother send their best wishes.

Mr. Rosenberg, please accept my devotion, esteem and gratitude.

Yours

G. de Chirico

Via Appennini 25B

19. Postcard (7 August 1926)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris

Contrexéville (Vosges) – Picturesque view Pont du Chemin de fer

All the best to you, dear Mr. Rosenberg, and to the young ladies.

Yours,

G. de Chirico

Contrexéville – 7 August 1926

20. Postcard (September 1926)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris. Express

Postmark: Vosges Plombières les Bains – [?].09.1926

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I just arrived in Plombières, here is my address:

Villa Bernier Av^m Lorraine

Plombières

It would be very kind of you not to forget me. I want to take proper care of myself in order to be able to return to the work of art with renewed strength. –

Goodbye dear Mr. Rosenberg and I remain yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

21. Handwritten letter (without date but datable to 13 September 1926)

Plombières

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I received the 3rd payment for 1678 fr. and I thank you very much. I have therefore received from you a total of three thousand six hundred and 75 francs for the 3 paintings whose titles are as follows:

“The Trophy” (with horse’s head)

“The Marathoners” (the largest one)

“Theban interior”

My health is better and I hope to be back in Paris next Thursday to resume work.

See you soon dear Mr. Rosenberg and I remain yours sincerely

G. de Chirico. –

22. Postcard (13 [September] 1926)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris VIII^o

Postmark: 15.[?].1926

Plombières les Bains – General view taken from the West

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I received the one thousand francs and I thank you for your kind promptness.

I feel better and the countryside is beautiful. –

I will return to Paris the 1st [month illegible]. I cannot wait to start work again.

Yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

Villa Bernier

Av^m Lorraine

23. Handwritten letter (20 September 1926)
Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris

Plombières 20 Sept. 1926 -

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I apologize for writing to you again on the disagreeable subject of money, but I haven't received the transfer, which you told me went through ~~last Thursday~~ last Wednesday. I do not doubt your promptness, but I know that the banks are not often in a rush.

If you could solicit the transfer with a telephone call, it would be of great service to me.

Thank you and I remain yours sincerely.

G. de Chirico

Villa Bernier

Avenue Lorraine

Plombières

24. Handwritten letter (21 September 1926)
Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris. Express

Plombières 21 Sept. 26

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Yesterday evening I received the second transfer for 1000 fr. and I thank you very much.

However, as I also have to send some money to Paris, I would be very grateful if you would pay the rest later this week.

Thank you in advance, dear Mr. Rosenberg and I remain yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

Villa Bernier

Avenue Lorraine

Plombières

25. Handwritten letter (25 October 1926)

Paris 25 October 26

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Allow me to introduce to you my friend, the Italian painter Grazioli, who would like to show you his drawings and paintings. He is a talented artist, who, if encouraged, could, I believe, develop

many qualities. – Thank you and see you soon, I hope.
Sincerely yours
G. de Chirico

26. Handwritten letter (19 May 1927)

Paris 19 May 1927

Dear Mr Rosenberg,

I just received your letter concerning the payment for the paintings. I think there might be a small mistake because 135 multiplied by 55 (the price which you currently pay me) = 7425 fr.

I also took it upon myself to correct the titles; you know that titles are quite a delicate and important matter concerning my paintings; it is, however, my fault as I should have written the title on the frame of each painting. Don't worry about answering me. I will stop by your gallery on Saturday morning between 11 and 12 o'clock. All the best from my wife and I remain yours sincerely.

G. de Chirico

2 rue Henri Boquillon (15^{ème})

27. Handwritten letter (14 June 1927)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris (8^e)

2 rue Henri Boquillon

Paris 14 June 1927

Please take note that the titles of the four paintings, which I delivered to you at the end of May for a total price of 10,175. – (ten thousand one hundred and seventy-five), have the following titles:

1. Gladiator with lion
2. Horses by the seaside
3. Lions by the seaside
4. Gladiator (end of combat)

All the best

28. Postcard (19 July 1927)

19 July 1927

Dear Sir,

You are perhaps right regarding the article in “Guerschmitt” but as Cocteau is now preparing a text for a brochure on me that is going to be published soon, I cannot ask from him another essay, all the more because he is doing all this free of charge.

Please accept, dear Sir, my best regards.

G. de Chirico.

29. Postcard (25 September 1927)

Postmark: 25.9.1927

Dear Sir,

Would you be so kind to settle by 30 of this month the 14 paintings commissioned. Please send me a transferable cheque, by registered letter.

You will pay for the painting of the furniture in October, as agreed.

Please accept, dear Sir, my best regards.

G. de Chirico

30. Handwritten letter (27 September 1927)Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris (8^{ème})

27 September 1927

Sir,

Please send me in a registered envelope a transferable cheque in my name, which can only be paid to me personally, in order to settle the sum:

8,760.- fr. (eight thousand seven hundred and sixty francs)

that you owe me for the paintings listed below that I gave you today:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--|
| 1. Canvas of | 10 ⁵ | (“painter at his easel”) (the painter of horses) |
| 2. “ “ | 10 | “Horse and zebra” |
| 3. “ “ | 10 | (“Horse in front of temple”) (Horses by the seaside) |

⁵ See p. 115 for a conversion chart.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|----|--|
| 4. | “ | “ | 10 | “Gladiators, end of the combat” |
| 5. | “ | “ | 10 | “Gladiators” |
| 6. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiators” (man in the doorway) |
| 7. | “ | “ | 8 | “Grapes” ? |
| 8. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiators” 4 people (lengthwise) school of gladiators |
| 9. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiators standing up ⁶ end of the combat |
| 10. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiator brandishing his sword at rest |
| 11. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiators fighting” |
| 12. | “ | “ | 8 | “Gladiators, man leaning on window practicing |
| 13. | “ | “ | 15 | “ Two horses galloping by the sea” (grey shades) |
| 14. | “ | “ | 25 | “ Two horses galloping playing by the sea” (the more colourful one) |

Please accept, Sir, my best regards

Giorgio de Chirico

31. Handwritten letter (28 September 1927)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris 8^e

2, rue Henri Bocquillon

Paris 28 September 1927

Sir,

I authorise you to publish in your journal and in all other French or foreign journals photographs of my paintings and also to give these photographs to third parties for the purpose of promotion, without having to take into account any copyright in my regard.

This authorization is only valid for paintings of mine that you own.

Please accept my best regards,

Giorgio de Chirico

P.S. Please be kind enough to keep for “Guerschmitt” 3 photographs (which I will purchase): one of the painting “Trophy” (the most successful of the four, the one in which the antique head is seen in the middle of the painting in profile and in yellowish tone); the “Marathon Runner” and a third of the “Horses” purchased by the Count of Noailles. I will pass by to pick them up at the beginning of next week.

⁶ The cancelling and corrections of the titles are done in pencil.

32. Handwritten letter (5 October 1927)

Paris, 5 Oct. 27

Dear Sir,

This confirms our agreement for the 6 paintings. I will send them to you at the beginning of next month. There is a friend of mine, Mr. Raoul de Certant, who is a modern music critic. He would be very happy to collaborate with your journal (free of charge, naturally). May I send him to you?

Please accept, dear Sir, my best regards.

G. de Chirico

33. Handwritten letter (1 December 1927)

Paris, 1 Dec. 27

Dear Sir,

I passed by yesterday to speak to Guillaume about the Hôtel Drouot story; he told me that the painting had not been placed by him, but by someone to whom he had sold it about 1 and a half years ago; he also added that it was not very important if by chance one of my paintings is sold at a very low price; this has happened, he said, to the most highly valued painters; he also intends to sustain, during the next winter, some works of mine in order to bring their prices up to between 7, 8 and 10,000 fr. I did not get the impression that this was a plot mounted against you.

Upon leaving Guillaume, I passed in front of Hessel's and saw another announcement for a sale on the 12 December, in which my name appears; it would be very annoying if the event were to be repeated; this is why I ask you to be kind enough to find out which of my paintings will appear; if it is a painting from before the War, there is nothing to worry about, but if it is a more recent painting, I am ready to make some sacrifices so that the event of the 900 fr. does not happen again; and I ask you to inform and advise me on what we should do in this case. I am still in agreement with you about sharing the cost of the painting that you want to raise to 4,000 fr.

Please accept, dear Mr. Rosenberg, my best regards.

G. de Chirico

2, rue Henri Bocquillon, 15

34. Handwritten letter (6 December 1927). Written on back is the address of the restorer: Eugène St. Clair 7, Impasse du Rouet Paris XIV

Paris 6 Dec. 1927

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I would like to introduce to you Mr. de Saint Clair, who is a good friend of mine and my wife. He is extremely skillful and very able with all that regards restoration, relining, cleaning etc. of old and modern paintings; he fixed an old self-portrait of mine by restoring and relining it and I was truly amazed by the high quality of his work. I will also add, that being Russian and not well known in Paris, he has a great need to work and offers very competitive prices. Could you possibly help him by giving him work or by recommending him to any acquaintance you may have amongst antiquarians.

Thank you in advance and I remain sincerely yours.

G. de Chirico

35. Handwritten letter (12 January 1928)

Paris 12 Jan. 1928

Dear Mr Rosenberg,

I received your letter this morning and I must confess that I did not understand its content; what I understood, for example, is that you do not want me to have my paintings executed by assistants and you are right; in any case I had no intention of doing so, nor do I feel the need to do so; I do not see anything wrong with a painter who needs to supply a large number of French and foreign galleries being helped by assistants; Rubens, Raphael, Titian and others have done it, but to execute the 1½ or 2 paintings that I sell on average by month to you or to Paul Guillaume, I have no need for help. As for the rest of the letter, I find it as abstruse and mysterious as an aphorism of Heraclitus from Ephesus.

Of the painters that work with you I only know Léger, Valmier and Metzinger; I almost never see them and if by chance we do meet, we only exchange a few insignificant remarks about the rain and sunshine. I would not be surprised if there were some people who took a dim view of the position that I occupy in your gallery, but I assure you that no one has ever advised me or said anything about our business relationship.

I believe, dear Mr. Rosenberg (and this is said without offense), that you are too suspicious and that, in certain cases, you lend too much importance to what people say or to the attitude they assume towards you; intrigue has always existed; against real talent (and as I understand it, the talent is as much on my side as it is on your side), it can do nothing.

If you telephone for the frame for the big painting (recommended) I ask you to arrange it so that the frame takes away the least possible from the painting; next week I will bring you the 8 painting.

All the best from my wife, who is feeling better, and please accept, Mr. Rosenberg, my best regards.
Yours,
G. de Chirico

36. Handwritten letter (5 August 1928)

Paris 5 August 28

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your kind words, and for the trouble you are taking in order to make my exhibition a success.

But even if it is not, always have confidence in me.

I have finished 3 of the 6 paintings of 15. I found a new way to paint that gives a glistening, luminous and precious painterly material.

I am waiting to finish all 6 before getting at the big ones again.

I have decided not to leave for Plombières before the end of the month; that is to say that the 28th, the 29th and maybe even the 30th I will still be here; let me know if you will be in Paris on these dates; I could perhaps bring you the 6 paintings.

It would be very kind of you to remember the photographs of the Pantheon that I asked you to purchase for my wife. In Paris it is very cool, in the evening it is even cold; I find it very pleasant and I don't understand why so many people leave for the countryside.

I remain yours sincerely, dear Mr. Rosenberg,

G. de Chirico

2, rue Henri Bocquillon (15)

37. Postcard (9 September 1928)

Plombières, 9 Sept. 1928

Dear Mr Rosenberg,

I received your letter. Do not worry about the paintings for the apartment; I will begin working anew as soon as I get back and you will see that you will have them for the inauguration. I will be in Paris by the 23rd.

All the best from my wife and I remain yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

Villa Bernier

38. Handwritten letter (15 September 1928)

Plombières, Saturday 15 Sept.

Dear Mr Rosenberg,

Here are 3 recent photos of myself; I hope they will amuse your young ladies.

In 2 days I will send you others. I received your letters and in principal I agree with you.

We will talk about all this at the end of next week.

Yours,

G. de Chirico

39. Handwritten letter (28 September 1928)

Paris, 28 Sept. 1928

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

The price of the painting that represents Ulysses by the seaside is 30,000 (thirty thousand) francs (net price for me).

The price of the still life with fish is 20,000 (twenty thousand francs) (net price for me). –

Thank you for the insurer. –

I send you my best wishes

Yours

G. de Chirico

40. Postcard (24 March 1929)

Juan les Pins, 24 March 29

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am on the Côte d'Azur and I hope to stay here for two more weeks. My wife is feeling better. The weather is beautiful and I also am resting a little. My respects to Madame. All the best to you, to the young ladies and to Léger. I hope that his show had the success that it deserved.

Yours,

G. de Chirico

Villa Chrysanthèmes – Juan-les-Pins (A.M.)

41. Handwritten letter (27 April 1929)

Montecarlo 27 April

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am here and working like a slave on the décor. I hope to be in Paris next week. In any case do not worry about the 3 other paintings; they will all be finished by 1 June. – I would now like to ask you a big favour. I need to send 3500 fr. (three thousand five hundred francs) to my mother. It is too difficult for me to send them from here. Would you be so kind to send them to her by cheque? Here is the address: Madame Gemma de Chirico, 29 Avenue de Tourville. Please send it to her in a transferable cheque in a registered letter. Thank you in advance. I enclose the receipt. I have sent you a box of candied fruit from Nice, a local specialty. My respect to Madame and all the best to the young ladies. My wife sends her best wishes to you and to your charming family.

Yours,

G. de Chirico

Hotel du Louvre

Monte Carlo

42. Postcard (16 August 1929)

Léonce Rosenberg, Grand Hôtel Saint-Gervais-les Bains. Haute Savoie

Les Jolis coins de Paris, Jardin du Luxembourg

Paris, 16 August 29

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Thank you for your kind words.

I have remained alone in Paris where I am working hard at the coronation of our glory.

All the best to you and your family.

Happy holidays and I remain yours sincerely,

G. de Chirico

4, rue Meissonie

43. Postcard from Berlin, Café des Westens, Berlin (30 [August] 1929)

Postmark: 30.[?], 1929

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have hunted deer in the forest of Herzberg and now I spend my time here in luxurious restaurants drinking wine from Moselle and smoking expensive cigars. I will be in Paris on 2 September. –

See you soon, yours

G. de Chirico

44. Telegram (30 September 1929)

Postmark: Paris Central, 30.9.29

Genet Manche 129 13 30 1530

Wednesday impossible await you Thursday noon apologies best wishes

Chirico

45. Typewritten signed note (16 October 1929)

I ask Mr. Léonce Rosenberg to please give to Mr. Sougez of L'“ILLUSTRATION”, the photographic negatives of my paintings, which he needs for various prints.

Paris 16 October 1929

Giorgio de Chirico

46. Handwritten letter (without date and difficult to place, qualified as 1929)

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Here are two other paintings of horses executed in the 1927 style. I hope that this time your client will be happy.

Be careful because the paint is still fresh and if you have two frames of 30 fig. in which to show them it would be good.

In hope of a favourable response, I send you my best wishes

Yours

G. de Chirico

47. Unsigned handwritten note (without date but datable to the end of 1929)

Giorgio de Chirico kindly asks Mr. Léonce Rosenberg to visit the interesting exhibition of his friend and compatriot Mario Tozzi.⁷

48. Handwritten note (without date but datable to 1929)

Mr. Rosenberg
19 rue de la Baume
(in rue de Courcelles)

Pick up 3 paintings
Please give to Mr. Wladimir Fedorowitch the three paintings of horses brought last Saturday.
G. de Chirico

49. Handwritten note (without date but datable to 1929)

Please give to Mr. Wladimir Fedorowitch the 2 paintings of horses
G. de Chirico
c/o Mr. Léonce Rosenberg
19 rue de la Baume

50. Handwritten letter (3 May [1930], datable to 1930 in relation to Rosenberg's answer)

Paris, 3 May

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I was very surprised this morning that you refused to give me 2,000 fr. especially given that I had told you that my wife was gravely ill in Berlin and that I needed to leave immediately. You probably thought it was a tale I was telling you in order to shave some money off the sum that you owe me; to prove to you that this is not the case, I enclose with this letter a telegram that I received this morning. Strong though the crisis may be and as strongly as you may have applied the brakes, it is not possible that you are not able to find 1,000 fr. for a painter with whom you have done business for

⁷ The note probably refers to the exhibition *M. Tozzi, Exposition d'Art Italien Moderne*, Editions Bonaparte, Paris 30 November-20 December 1929.

six years now and who (I dare hope) enjoys all your esteem; especially given that the said painter tells you that his wife is seriously ill and that he needs to leave.

I should tell you that in general the way you act in these times of crises is not particularly heroic.

I entirely understand why you don't purchase any paintings, and I also understand why you pay in dribs and drabs that which you purchased before, but what I do not understand is that you push sadism until you disseminate terror around you by exaggerating the bad state of affairs; personally I don't dare pass by your gallery or even call you for fear of hearing that nothing else remains but to shoot ourselves.

Luckily I have some other opportunities; but I can imagine the moral and material situation of those poor devils who depend entirely on you. I would be very grateful if you could send telegraphically at least 1,000 francs (I don't dare ask more) to the following address:

Chirico bei Frau Tumarkin – Heilbronnstrasse G. Berlin

You can deduct the cost of the telegraph from the rest of the money that you still owe me,

Please forgive this letter and please believe anyway in my best regards,

G. de Chirico

51. Handwritten letter (beginning of June 1930, related to the answer from Rosenberg of 10 June)

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I apologize for sending you only one painting, you will have the other one for sure on Saturday; if you could send me 500 francs in an envelope through the carrier of the present letter you would do me a great service.

I hope that you will like this mannequin. I painted it with a lot of love.

Yours

G. de Chirico

52. Handwritten note (beginning of June 1930, in relation to the answer from Rosenberg of 10 June)

On the back: Mr. Léonce Rosenberg Be careful the paint is still wet

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Here is the second mannequin.

I hope you like it. I think it has even more style than the first one and that it is more mysterious. The title is "The Beggar of Thermopylae". –

May I ask of you another 500 fr. I'm sorry to pester you like this but times are tough and you shouldn't abandon the foals of your stable. Despite this I work a lot and I am very optimistic.

Yours

G. de Chirico

53. Handwritten letter ([Spring] 1931, datable in relation to the reference to Rosenberg's brother-in-law)

Postmark: [?] 1931

Paris this Thursday

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I am in a fairly critical financial situation; I am looking to lease my apartment and to sell a part of my furniture and carpets; however in the meantime, to pick myself up and also to be able to work a bit, I need some cash; I have 3 beautiful still-lives the ducks (which you already know and which is a painting of 40), and two very beautiful still-lives of 10 with fruit; I will give you the three paintings for 6,000 francs; do you think you could you sell these? All this between us, please. Please call me and I apologize for bothering you.

Yours

G. de Chirico

I have the impression that your brother-in-law is in no rush to take advantage of the occasion.

54. Postcard (2 May 1931)

Postmark: Milano Ferrovia

Milan, 2 May 1931

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

My show was very successful even in terms of sales. I can't wait to come back to Paris and to get back to work. All the best to you and to your family.

G. de Chirico

55. Handwritten letter (8 April 1933)

Léonce Rosenberg 19 rue de la Baume Paris

Milan 8 April 33

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I apologize for not having written for such a long time. I have been working here in Italy for a year and a half. Despite the crisis I am managing to get by all the same; I have separated from my wife, and at present I have three families to maintain; my mother still depends on me because my brother doesn't earn enough; please tell Mr. Borrel that I haven't forgotten my debt and that as soon as I can breathe a bit I will take care of it.

Inasmuch as I know, the museums that have my paintings are: Turin – Milan – Florence and Rome; in Germany: Berlin and Essen; in France: Grenoble (in Russia: Moscow) and all the museums in the United States. Now, here in Milan, I am working on a big mural painting at the Palace of Decorative Arts. Soon I will leave for Genoa where I have an exhibition and then to Florence, where I have to attend the premiere of an opera for which I designed the costumes and the decor. They say that in Paris it is still going pretty badly; I think it's a little bit the fault of the "French"; they are very pessimistic and exaggerate the crisis.

All the best to you and your family.

G. de Chirico

Outside the text, in the upper right corner:

"I am more and more inclined towards realistic painting and beautiful craft"

56. Postcard (5 May 1935)

Prague 5 May 1935

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Please do not lend any of my paintings to the exhibition of Italian Art in Paris. You would do me a great displeasure. I strongly appeal to your friendship for me to do what I ask you. It is a manoeuvre that Tozzi and all these nasty Italian artists, who are jealous of me, try to do to harm me.

I am in Prague for an exhibition of my works but in a few days I will be in Paris.

All the best,

Yours,

G. de Chirico

57. Postcard (27 March 1936)

Paris 27 March 1936

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

our letter did not surprise me at all; I even must tell you that I expected it a little. All this comes from the Picasso band, your brother and co. with the aid of all those who are bothered by my talent and who have always tried to hurt me. You were wrong to talk about your project and you were doubly wrong to let yourself be influenced.

What you added at the end of your letter about Matisse and Picasso was completely useless and even a bit sadistic. Even so, it isn't true at all, I don't believe it and no one believes it. Picasso has now

ended it with his wife and is hammering away. But all this simply confirms my worth and makes me stronger and pushes me even more to work and to action.

So be it.

Best regards

Giorgio de Chirico

58. Handwritten letter (7 November 1936)

Giorgio de Chirico c/o Colin
Inter-Continental Productions, Inc.
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York City

New York, 7 Nov^{ber} 1936

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

My exhibition in New York opened a week ago at the Julien Levy Gallery. It is a very big success. Barnes wrote the introduction for the catalogue and bought 4 paintings for his museum. Other paintings and gouaches have been bought by collectors in New York and Philadelphia. At present, 16 paintings have been sold and there are more sales in sight, as well as orders coming in from every direction.

Vogue and Harper's Bazaar want me among their collaborators. I have also been asked to do portraits, stage-sets for the theatre and cinema etc. I am very happy to have come here; when I think of these last three years of pulling the devil by the tail amidst hostile indifference and stupidity. The success of my recent work in America is even more important since the Surrealists and other such jealous scoundrels who gang together with the intention of bringing me down have conducted here, as they did in Paris, a violent campaign against my oeuvre. In addition to the [presidential] election, there were 6 other exhibitions of French painting opening almost at the same time as mine: 2 of Picasso, a Renoir exhibition as well as Derain, Vlaminck and Matisse. -

And despite all of this, the success was of the most complete sort.

Now, I would like to ask you something. I left 2 paintings and 5 gouaches with you, at very low prices. I hope you have not sold them at these prices. - Because, really, 1500 Fr for a big painting like the one with the horses is unthinkable. Therefore, I would like to ask you to allow Jacques Bonjean, who is my manager's partner, to come pick up the two paintings and the gouaches. I will send Bonjean the receipts.

I hope you will send me some of your news. If, by chance, you have sold something of mine, please send my part to the address at the top of this letter. - I may be mistaken, but I have the impression that the same atmosphere is being created here as there was in Paris before the crisis; everyone is coming here, even Vuillard has just arrived. - And you, my dear Mr. Rosenberg, what are your projects? Does America not tempt you? -

While waiting to hear from you, I ask you to believe in my sincere friendship –
Yours,
Giorgio de Chirico

59. Handwritten letter (8 December 1936)
7 West – 62 Street New York City⁸

New York 8 December 1936

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I received your kind letter. What you said about the gouaches that were sold annoyed me very much. Consider that here I would have sold just one of the gouaches, which you have sold for 300 francs, for at least 200 dollars! I thus now receive 900 francs instead of the 12,000 that I could have received in selling them here. You must admit that the difference is a little too large! I still haven't received the 900 francs that you have promised to send me; Please don't sell the big paintings for less than 4,000 (four thousand francs) net for me each, and the gouaches for less than 900 (nine hundred) francs, net for me, each. –

For the moment I don't think I will commit to purchasing back my paintings, I might do it later, in a few months. I can, however, take care of selling for you paintings of mine that you own, but to do this I need some good photographs of the paintings and I would also like to know what you would give me in case of a sale.

In the meantime please try to raise my prices in Paris; we could even envisage an exhibition of my work next year; but we must prepare it well and also you mustn't listen too much to what is said about me around rue la Boétie...

In the end, I know that all this kind of talk is useless. –

In a few days an exhibition of my work is opening in Philadelphia; afterwards there will be other ones in Boston and Chicago. – There is a lot of activity here and one is not idle. – I will also soon write to your brother-in-law Mr. Borel; he is a charming man and very kind, like you by the way. – If you see him please give him my regards and ask him if the things I left at his house aren't bothering him too much. –

I regret not having met Miss Rosenberg in Florence; my wife, who has just arrived, told me she saw her and that she had the pleasure of dining with her.

So, good-bye Mr. Rosenberg, please give me your news and I remain yours sincerely,
Giorgio de Chirico

⁸ Probable error by de Chirico as the correct address is 7 East 62 Street.

60. Handwritten letter (19 December 1936)

New York 19 December 1936

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I urgently need some of the paintings and gouaches (which I own) and which are with you. –

I am now exhibiting in Philadelphia and other exhibitions in other cities will follow. Please give to my friend the painter Alberto Magnelli, whom you know, the works that I have left you in consignment. – I have already sent him a declaration to the effect that, when you have given him the paintings, you will no longer hold any of my works that I own (1). –

I suggest that you keep my prices high and not be too much in a rush to sell the paintings of mine that you own. – My prices will now start to go up. –

But you might send me the photographs of my paintings, as I have already written to you, to see if I can sell them here. –

I wish you a happy new year to you and to your family.

Cordially yours,

G. de Chirico

7 East – 62 Street

New York City

(1) This declaration cancels the 2 receipts that you had given me and which I have lost.

61. Handwritten letter (23 February 1937)

New York 23 February 1937

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I received the 900 fr. and I thank you. I also received the photographs. There is a young Greek collector, who is gathering paintings of mine to make a donation to a museum in Athens. – He is very interested in the painting of the two gladiators, one sitting down the other standing up (marked 7500 fr.). – As I believe that he will not want to spend more he will buy it directly from you; he should be in Paris in April. –

The exhibition of my paintings you told me about, and to which I have been invited, interests me very much. It's a pity that I am so far away. I am afraid that arrangements will be made so that I will be badly represented. And I would like it if some of my recent and important works were to figure in them. – I could send you some paintings; or should I send them directly to the exhibition? Please advise me on this matter as soon as possible. Given the distance that separates us we mustn't lose time.

What are you doing and how is business in Paris? – I believe that, more or less, the situation is always

the same. – It's a real pity! – Tell Mr. Borel that I send my regards to him and to his family and that I will write to him.

With my kind regards.

Yours,

G. de Chirico

7 East 62 Street. –

62. Handwritten letter (5 April 1937)

New York, 5 April 1937

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I received your letter and bitterly note that the dates 1895-1925 will make it so that the exhibition will only have paintings of mine from the period before the war, which will naturally be another godsend for the surrealists and in general for all those who try to harm me. – Endeavour at least to see that some good works from another period are included. In the museum of Essen, in Germany, there is a beautiful self-portrait I painted in 1923-1924. Also Jacques Bonjean has a beautiful still life with fish and a statue of a sea god with a view of a port in the background from the same period. – In Florence Mr. Giorgio Castelfranco has some beautiful paintings from the period 1920-1925. – Finally, please make it so that there are not only those paintings, which, against my will, have been baptised as surrealist; it would be unjust, both from an artistic point of view, and from a human and historical point of view. It is true that in the period in which we live all these are empty words. – I had the pleasure to note that here, in New York, the most enraged boycotters of my work are the French dealers and especially Pierre Matisse, the son of the great master!! It is again proof of my value... one does not waste such zeal on good-for-nothings. My response to all this is to always work more. The young man who wanted to buy the painting with the gladiators priced 7500 francs decided to purchase it. He will be in Paris next month and will come to see you. Give me your news.

Kind Regards

Yours

G. de Chirico

63. Handwritten letter (21 May 1937)

New York, 21 May 37

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

Allow me to introduce a young friend of mine, Jolas Cotzoudis, a highly talented dancer who debuted in New York with great talent. – He would like to see my paintings and eventually purchase one. –

Please give him a friendly price.

Thank you in advance and I remain yours sincerely.

G. de Chirico

P.S. Mr. Cotzoudis is purchasing my paintings in order to make a donation to the museum of Athens.

64. Postcard (Summer 1937)

Chirico c/o Herta Wagner

11 W. 42 9. New York City

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I have not heard from you in a long time. How are you? I am in the countryside near New York. I am working quite a lot. But next year I would like to come back to Europe. One earns a lot of money here, but it is a tiring and sad country in the long run, and also too far from the civilised world. – I had the great misfortune of losing my mother recently.

How is Mr. Borel? He is not angry with me I hope. –

Please send me your news. –

All the best to you

G. de Chirico

65. Invitation with annotation sent to Léonce Rosenberg for the exhibition at Galerie Les Quatre Chemins (4-7 February 19[39])

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I look forward to seeing you at my exhibition.

All the best,

G. de Chirico⁹

66. Handwritten letter (9 February 1939)

Paris 9 February 1939

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I confirm that I have given you the gouache Minotaur and Icarus for 1000 francs, framed, now exhibited at the gallery “Les Quatre Chemins” and which will be delivered to you the 19 February 1939.

⁹ Handwritten annotation on the invitation.

As soon as you receive it please pay the sum of one thousand francs cited above to Crédit Lyonnais (branch of the rue de Rennes) to the account of Mademoiselle Isabella Pakszwer.

All the best,

Giorgio de Chirico

In Italy: Corso Porta Nuova 8/2 Milan

67. Postcard with prepaid reply by de Chirico (6 March [1939])

Milan, 6 March

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

May I ask you a big favour, to take the two gouaches (costumes of Minotaur and Icarus, and decoration of Minotaur) and to send me their photographs that are going to be reproduced in a magazine, here in Milan. I hope the two gouaches have been given to you, otherwise, don't worry about answering, I will be in Paris at the end of the month and we can talk about it then. –

Thank you in advance, and see you soon.

Yours

G. de Chirico

I will reimburse you for the cost of the photos and the post.

You can send the photos to Milione, via Brera 21.

68. Postcard (21 December [1939])

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

I would like very much to hear from you. I hope you are not mobilized. We are here waiting to see what happens. There is a lot of movement in the painting market here. I started working again and my recent works are much appreciated...

Best wishes to you and to your wife and your children.

Yours

G. de Chirico

Translated by Beatrice Crosti