

11 Cleveland Road.

Barnes. S. W.

8th March 1895

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours of
yesterday's date The Princess
inherited everything under the
Prince's will.

Her Highness informs me that
the library was kept locked unless
when she herself entered it from the
day the Prince was last in it till
I entered it.

Want of money was the sole
reason why the Catalogue was not
compiled on the very excellent
lines you suggest.

The difference in the two copies
of Echave was not noticed at

the time I compiled the Catalogue, as there was no time for the careful inspection of works. Subsequently I noticed the difference when compiling the Catalogue of the duplicates, and, though proving my own carelessness in the first instance, I thought it only honest to call attention to the variation, as it was not probable two similar copies should come together again as the two in the Bonaparte Library, & consequently the variation might otherwise never be noticed.

I regret to say the prices realized at the duplicate sale were very low.

Believe me,
faithfully yours,
Victor Collins

To
Messieurs Julien Vaucon

Paris.

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11 Cleveland Road
Barnes. S.W.

11th " October 1895.

Dear Sir,

In reply to yours I would point out that it is by no means certain that any of the books you refer to are missing after all.

The house is a very large one, & many books may be locked up in cupboards or elsewhere.

It was only the other day I came across some of the Prince's own publications wrapped up just as they had come from the printers 20 years ago.

Some of these do not appear in my catalogue. My orders were,

"Catalogue the books in the library,"
& I did so, or rather made my
poor little effort, which, as you are
aware turned out so unsatisfactory.
The Princess told me to-day her
husband would rather have gone
without bread than a book he
wanted.

Your article has already done
damage to the sale of the library.
A gentleman who is trying to sell
it for me in America writes on
28th February 1895,
"I have just been at lunch with
Mr. Adams, one of the leading trustees
of the Newberry Library. He repeated
the story about the best books in
the collection having been sold."

Have you heard anything about
this yarn? I was told it
started in Paris."

In a previous letter not at
hand my friend wrote me to
this effect, "some Frenchman
has been writing that the best
books in the library have
been made away with."

At the Sotheby sale a Boscophile
might have bought a little library
for a £ 5 note.

Yours truly
Victoria Collins.