

Prime Minister

22nd October, 1980

A happy outcome  
over the Wernher  
collection.  
(13) 10  
MP 23/x.

THE GABLES  
LUTON HOO, LUTON  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
LUTON 34839

Dear Prime Minister,

Now that we have successfully completed a Private Treaty sale to the National Gallery of our painting by the German master Altdorfer, I would like to express to you my gratitude and thanks not only for the sympathy and understanding of the problem which you demonstrated in your reply to my letter, but also for your administration's help in facilitating a speedy conclusion to the negotiations for the sale and the contribution made by the National Heritage Memorial Fund towards the purchase.

It is gratifying to know that this splendid work of art is to remain in the country and that it was possible to agree a price comparable with the open market value which was acceptable to both parties.

We are proceeding now to set up a paragraph 13. Charitable Foundation for the future preservation and development of Luton Hoo and its collection which will be endowed with a substantial proportion of the funds received from the sale. It is very reassuring for me, particularly, to know that we can now prepare for the future with a greatly enhanced degree of confidence and security.

I very much hope that if your busy political itinerary brings you close to Luton in the future that I can have the pleasure of showing you around Luton Hoo.

Yours sincerely,

Nicholas Phillips

N.H. Phillips