



Pilote de la Meuse

PAUL SIGNAC

1863–1935 | FRENCH

Oil on canvas | 1924

Signed and dated "P. Signac 1924" (lower right)

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MEDIUM

Oil on canvas

DIMENSIONS

Canvas: 19" high x 25 1/8" wide Frame: 27 3/4" high x 33 3/4" wide

DATED

1924

SIGNED

Signed and dated "P. Signac 1924" (lower right)

*“Signac’s paintings were graced with
the most lavish harmonies to enchant
the eye.”*

— EDMOND COUSTURIER, ART CRITIC

Pilote de la Meuse

AN EXCEPTIONAL SIGNAC MASTERPIECE

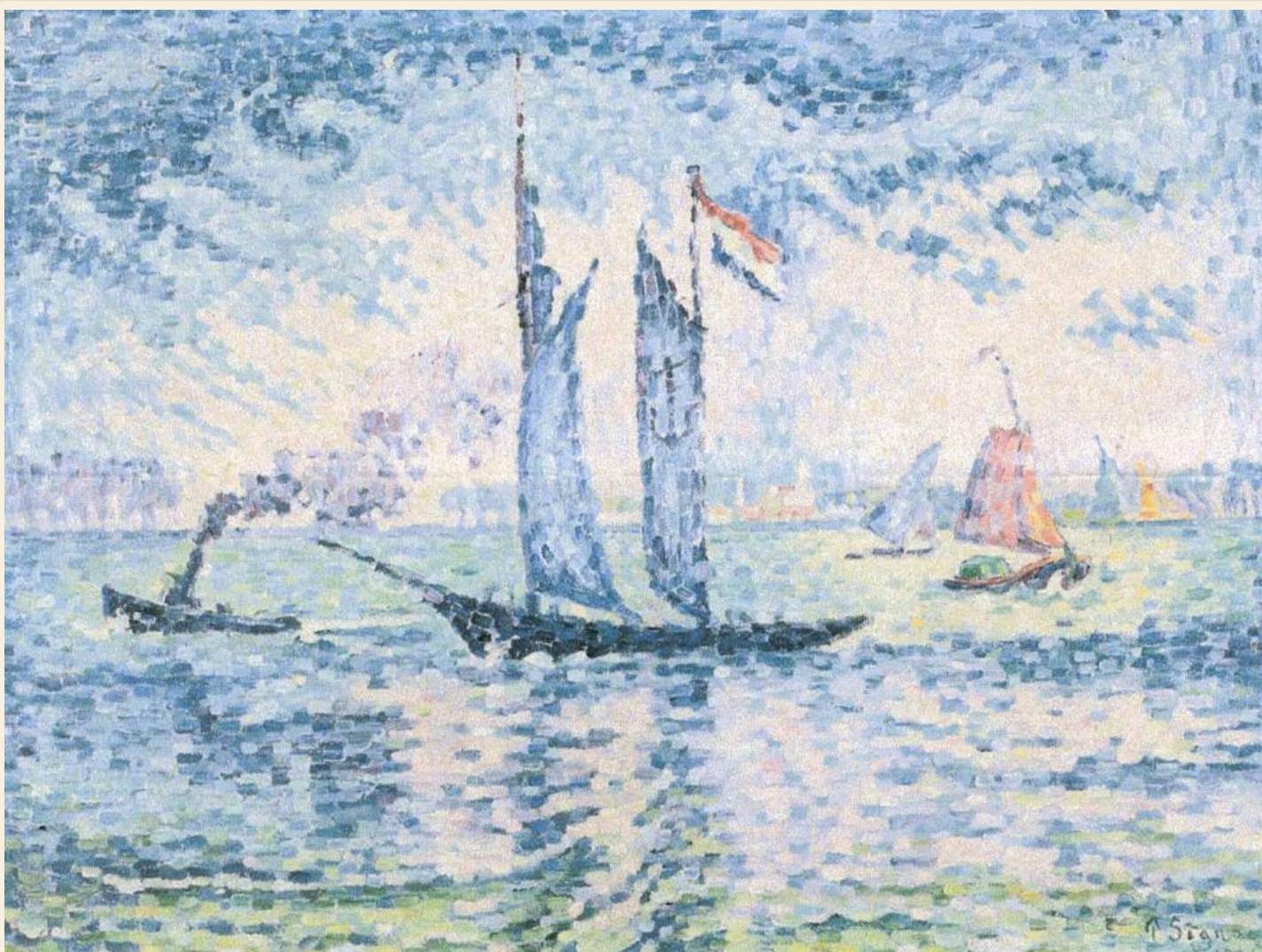
Paul Signac stands among the greatest visionaries of modern art. He was a pioneer of Neo-Impressionism, a revolutionary approach that replaced the spontaneity of Impressionism with a more deliberate and radiant science of color. Yet Signac was far more than a theorist—his paintings are some of the rarest masterworks in all of art history. *Pilote de la Meuse*, painted in 1924, is an exceptionally stunning example from his mature period.

This painting's beauty lies in its extraordinary balance of structure and sensation. By the 1920s, Signac's handling of color had become more vibrant and expressive than ever before, and this painting unites his signature meticulous brushwork with radiant hues. The result is jewel-like and atmospheric: the river seems to flicker, the sails catch air and the entire scene feels alive before the eye.

The subject of this work also captures one of the artist's greatest passions. A devoted sailor, Signac owned 32 boats over the course of his life, and the rivers, harbors and wind-filled sails were deeply influential to his modern vision. In our painting, he transforms a quiet river scene into a dazzling symphony of light and motion.

Further distinguished by exceptional provenance, *Pilote de la Meuse* remarkably still retains rare archival materials relating to its earliest sale, including the work's original 1924 invoice from Galerie Léon Marseille as well as correspondence between its first owner, Edmond Sussfeld, and Signac himself. The painting is also accompanied by its certificate of authenticity from Marina Ferretti-Bocquillon.

Masterwork oils by Signac rarely come to market, and when they do, they command incredible results, with his auction record standing at an astonishing \$39.3 million, set in 2022. Similar works to *Pilote de la Meuse* have sold for over \$6 million at auction and belong to the world's most prestigious museums, including the Musée d'Orsay, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Minneapolis Institute of Art.



DATED
1924

SIGNED
"P. Signac 1924" (lower right)

Provenance, Literature & Exhibitions

PROVENANCE

Galerie Léon Marseille, Paris

Collection of Edmond Sussfeld

Private Collection, by descent

Private Collection, Europe

M.S. Rau, New Orleans

LITERATURE

Françoise Cachin, *Signac: Catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre peint*, Paris, 2000, no. 565, reproduced p. 323

EXHIBITED

Paris, 1930, Bernheim-Jeune, *Paul Signac*, no. 40, reproduced

Paris, 1934, Petit-Palais, *Paul Signac*, no. 35

Viroflay, 1965, Salon du Souvenir de Corot, 13th exhibition

AUTHENTICATION

The work is accompanied by a certificate of authenticity from Marina Ferretti-Bocquillon, co-author of the artist's catalogue raisonné, dated October 17, 2022 (ref. 2022.17.10/62).

Certificate of Authenticity

Issued by Marina Ferretti-Bocquillon, Paris, October 17, 2022 (ref. 2022.17.10/62).

Marina Ferretti
20 rue de Tournon
75006 Paris
marina_paris@yahoo.fr

Ref : 2022.17.10/62

Spécialiste de l'œuvre de Paul Signac
Co-auteur du catalogue raisonné de l'artiste

En l'état actuel de mes connaissances, je considère que l'œuvre reproduite ci-dessous, qui a été soumise à mon appréciation, est bien celle qui figure au catalogue raisonné de l'artiste sous le n°565 et qu'elle est bien de la main de Paul Signac.



***Le Pilote de la Meuse*, 1924, huile sur toile, 50 X 65 cm, signé et daté « P. Signac / 1924 » en bas à droite.**

Je rappelle que je n'ai pas été en mesure de faire appel aux analyses scientifiques. Cette attestation est établie en un seul exemplaire. Elle ne peut être dupliquée et doit suivre l'objet.

Paris, le 17 octobre 2022

D. Ferretti

Marina Ferretti

Translation: "To the best of my current knowledge, I consider that the work reproduced below, which was submitted for my assessment, is indeed the one recorded in the artist's catalogue raisonné under no. 565 and that it is by the hand of Paul Signac. *Le Pilote de la Meuse*, 1924, oil on canvas, 50 x 65 cm, signed and dated 'P. Signac / 1924' lower right."

Catalogue Raisonné

Françoise Cachin, *Signac: Catalogue raisonné de l'oeuvre peint*, Paris, Gallimard, 2000.

46403

\$1125.00

1.4.01

MFAH BOOKSTORE

PURCHASE

Françoise Cachin

SIGNAC

Catalogue raisonné de l'œuvre peint

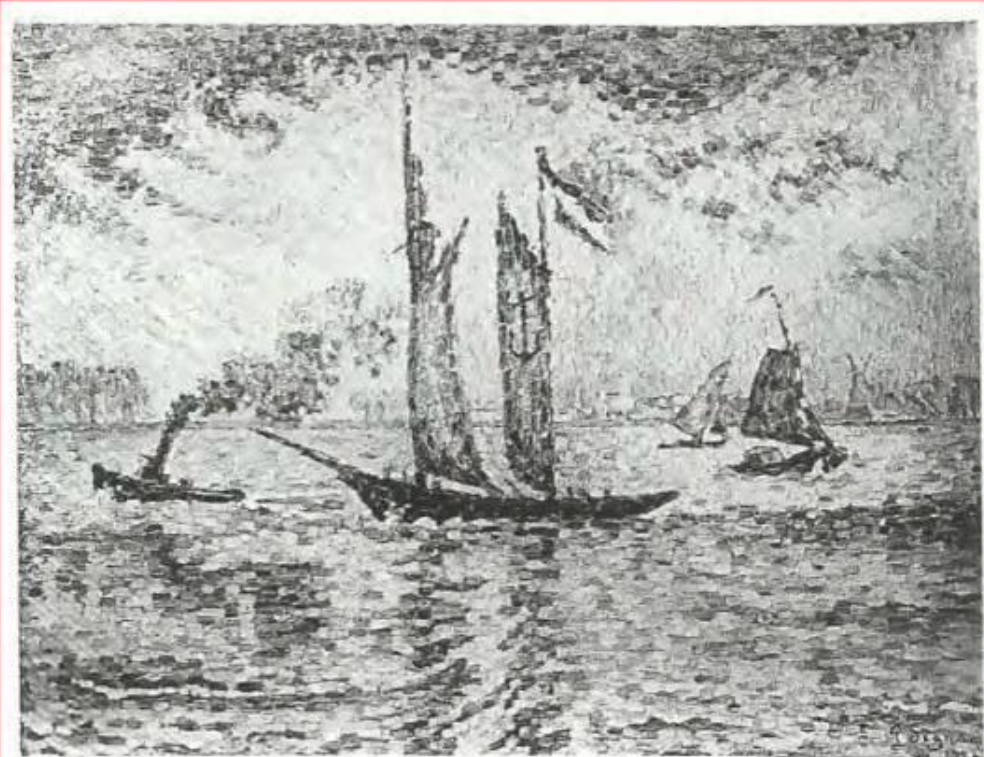
Avec la collaboration de Marina Ferretti-Bocquillon

GALLIMARD
LIBRARY
Museum of Fine Arts
Houston

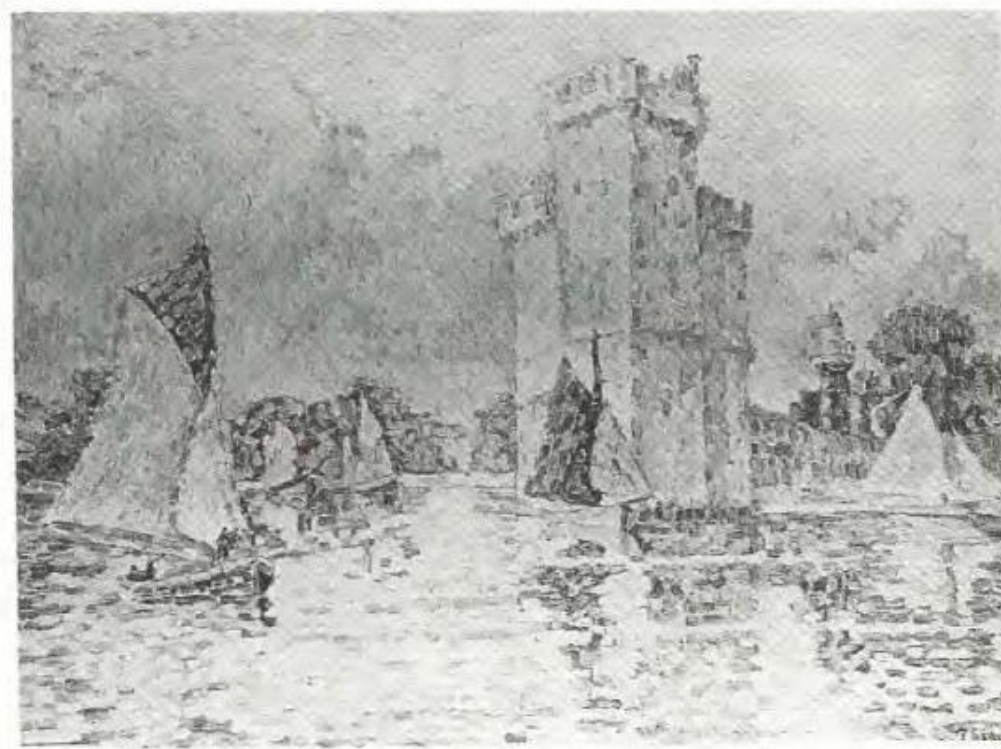
Catalogue Raisonné: No. 565

Le Pilote de la Meuse, reproduced p. 323. The entry records the painting's sale by Galerie Marseille to M. Sussfeld in 1924.

CATALOGUE RAISONNÉ DE L'ŒUVRE PEINT



565



566



567

BIBLIOGRAPHIE : « Springfield Complete Survey of the French », *Art Digest*, vol. X, n° 7, 1^{er} janvier 1936, p. 9, repr.

ŒUVRES EN RELATION : aquarelle, pl. 46 du livre d'aquarelles n° 2 ; lithographie, Kornfeld n° 23

565

Le Pilote de la Meuse

1924

Huile sur toile, 50 × 65 cm

Signé et daté en bas à droite : *P. Signac 1924*

Localisation actuelle inconnue

Pré-catalogue : « Le Pilote de la Meuse », repr. p. 486

HISTORIQUE : galerie Marseille, Paris, 1924 ; M. Sussfeld, Paris, 1924 (indications du pré-catalogue)

EXPOSITIONS : Paris, 1930, Bernheim-Jeune, n° 40, *Le Pilote de la Meuse*, repr. ; Paris, 1934, Petit-Palais, n° 35, *Pilote de la Meuse, 1924 (à M. S.)*

ŒUVRES EN RELATION : dessin, lavis d'encre de Chine, 1924, 50 × 63 cm, collection particulière ; aquarelle, pl. 47 du livre d'aquarelles n° 2

566

La Rochelle.

Les Pêcheurs du Pertuis

1924

Huile sur toile, 54 × 65 cm

Signé en bas à droite : *P. Signac*

Localisation actuelle inconnue

Pré-catalogue : « La Rochelle. Les pêcheurs du Pertuis », repr. p. 487

HISTORIQUE : Bernheim-Jeune, Paris (acq. 1 500 francs) ; collection Rollin, Paris, 4 mars 1925 (acq. 6 000 francs)

BIBLIOGRAPHIE : M. Sandoz, 1955, éd. 1956, p. 163 et 166 ; M. Sandoz, 1957, p. 11 et 13

ŒUVRE EN RELATION : aquarelle, pl. 48 du livre d'aquarelles n° 2

567*

Le Pont de Lézardrieux

1925

Huile sur toile, 73 × 92 cm

Signé et daté en bas à gauche : *P. Signac 1925*

Collection particulière

Pré-catalogue : « Le Pont de Lézardrieux », repr. p. 488

HISTORIQUE : Charles Vildrac, Paris ; Gaston Lévy, Paris, novembre 1927 (indications du pré-catalogue) ; collection particulière ; vente Christie's, Londres, 6 décembre 1974, n° 289 ; collection particulière, France ; galerie Nomad, Londres, 1976 ; vente Sotheby's, Londres, 5 avril 1978, n° 7A, repr. ; H. Ansary, New York ; vente Sotheby's, New York, 5 novembre 1981, n° 253, repr. ; vente Sotheby's, Londres, 6 décembre 1983, n° 22, repr. ; collection particulière, Düsseldorf ; vente Sotheby's, New York, 15 mai 1984, n° 69, repr.

EXPOSITIONS : exposé à Prague (indication du pré-catalogue, sans date ni titre de l'exposition) ; Berlin et Francfort, 1927, galerie Goldschmidt, n° 9, *Le Port[sic] à Lézardrieux (Privatbesitz)* ; Pittsburgh, 1929, Carnegie, n° 177

ŒUVRE EN RELATION : dessin, lavis d'encre de Chine, 1925, 73,4 × 92 cm, Little Rock, The Arkansas Arts Center, James Dyke Collection

Original Invoice, 1924

Invoice from Galerie Léon Marseille, 16 rue de Seine, Paris, to Monsieur Sussfeld, 32 avenue Kléber, June 1924.

R. O. SEINE N° 111,290

Léon Marseille
16, Rue de Seine
(Gobelins: 40-65)
PARIS

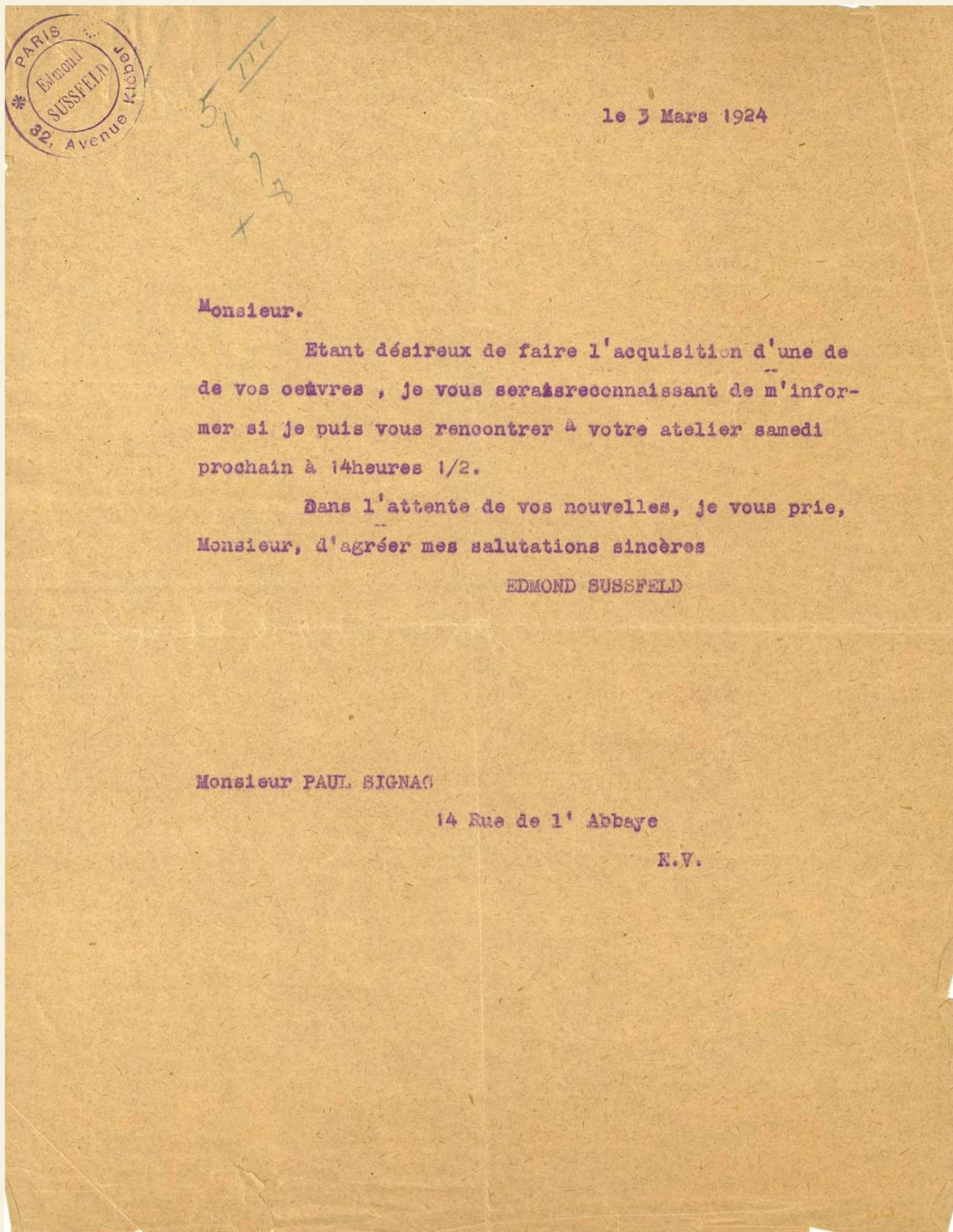
Monsieur Sussfeld 32 Avenue Kléber *Doit*

<i>15 juin 1924</i>	<i>P. Signac Peinture "Le Pilote de la Meuse"</i>	<i>4.500 f.</i>
<u><i>quatre mille cinq cents francs</i></u>		<i>Paid 2/11</i>

Translation: "June 1924. P. Signac, painting, 'Le Pilote de la Meuse': 4,500 francs. Four thousand five hundred francs."

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

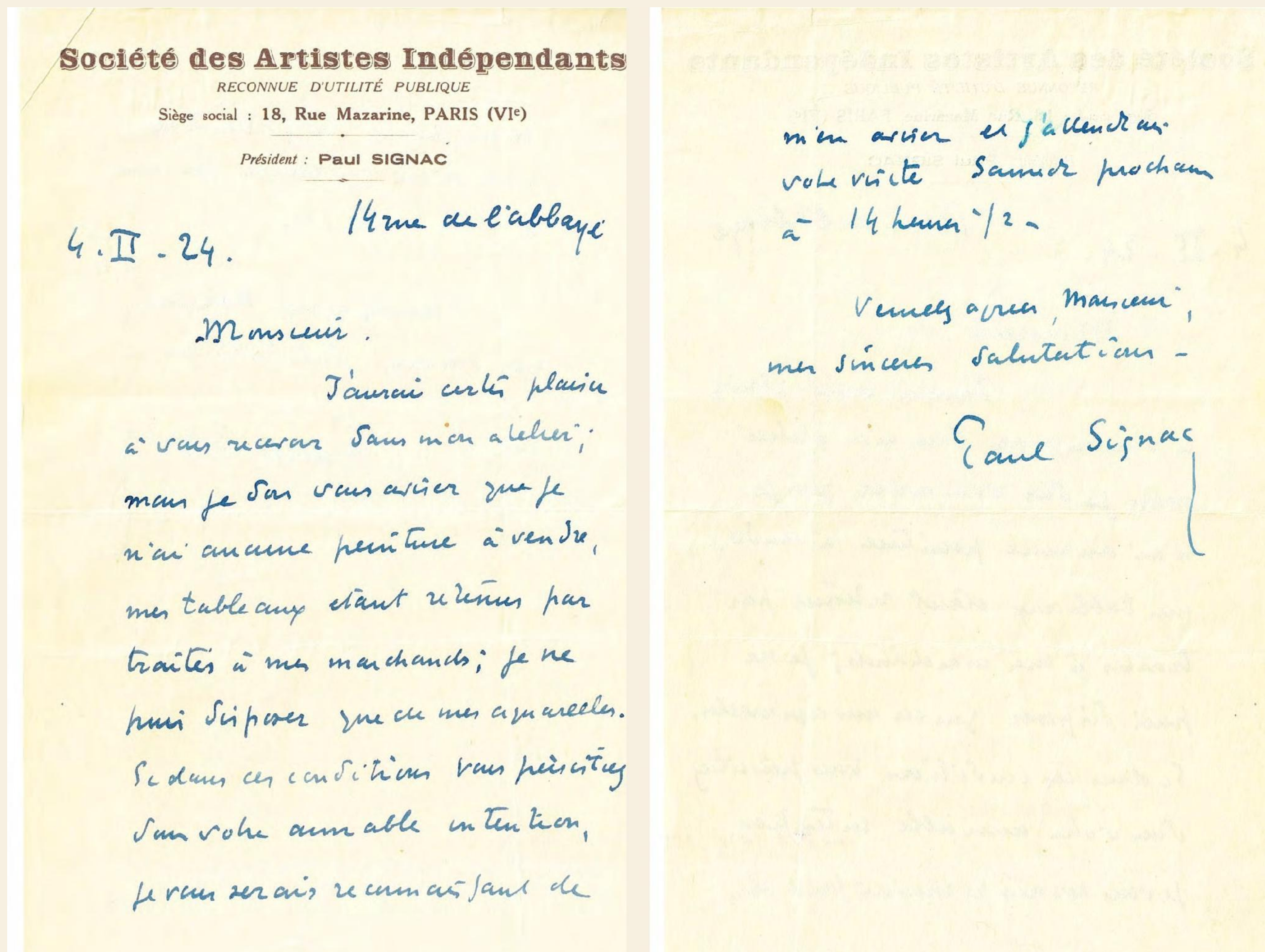
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, March 3, 1924.



Translation: "Sir, Wishing to acquire one of your works, I would be grateful if you would let me know whether I may meet you at your studio next Saturday at 2:30. Awaiting your reply, please accept, Sir, my sincere regards. Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Paul Signac

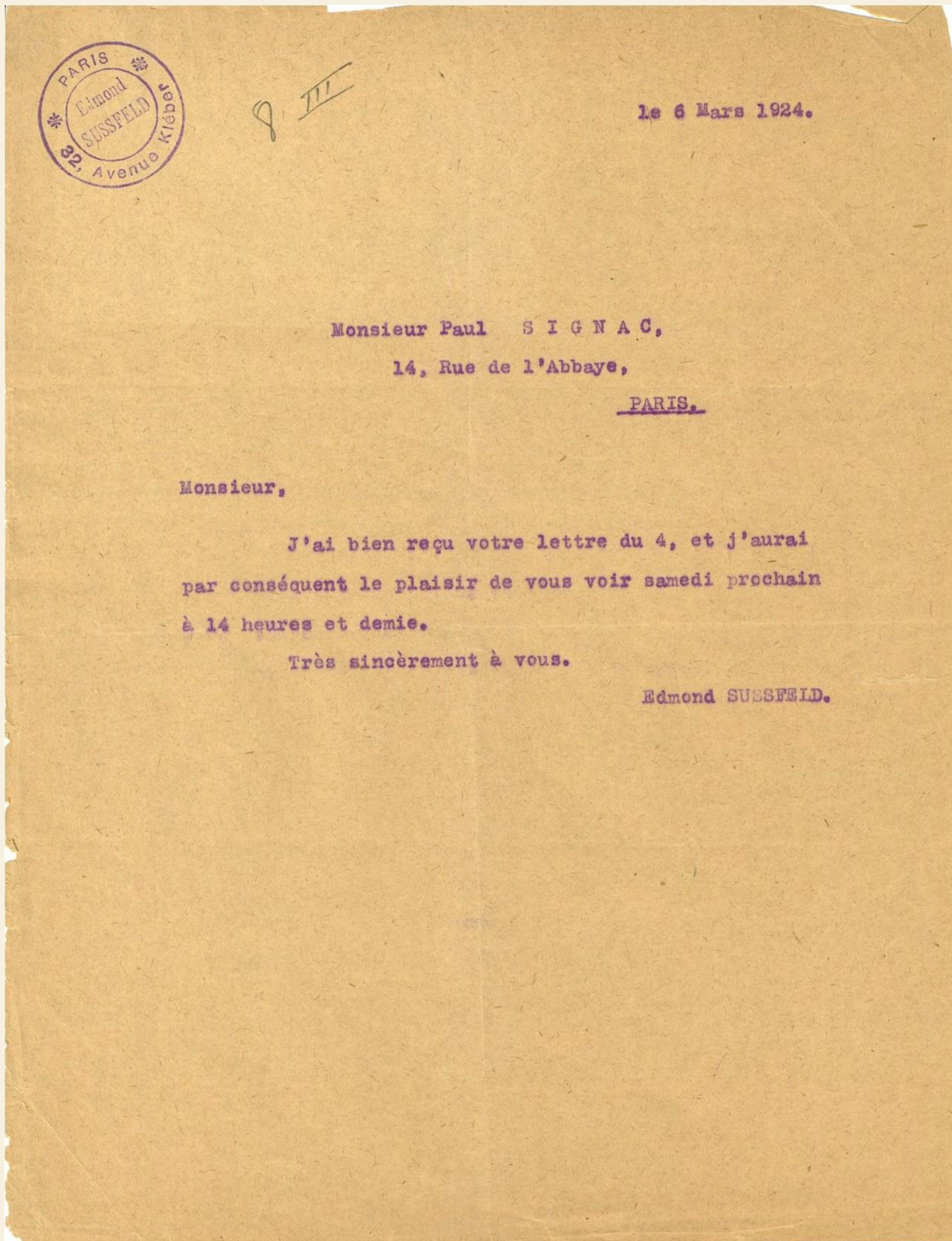
Paul Signac, writing from 14 rue de l'Abbaye, Paris, to Edmond Sussfeld, dated "4.II.24."



Translation: "Sir, I would certainly be pleased to receive you in my studio; but I must inform you that I have no paintings for sale, my pictures being reserved by agreements with my dealers; I can only offer my watercolors. If under these conditions you persist in your kind intention, I would be grateful if you would let me know, and I will expect your visit next Saturday at 2:30. Please accept, Sir, my sincere regards. Paul Signac"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

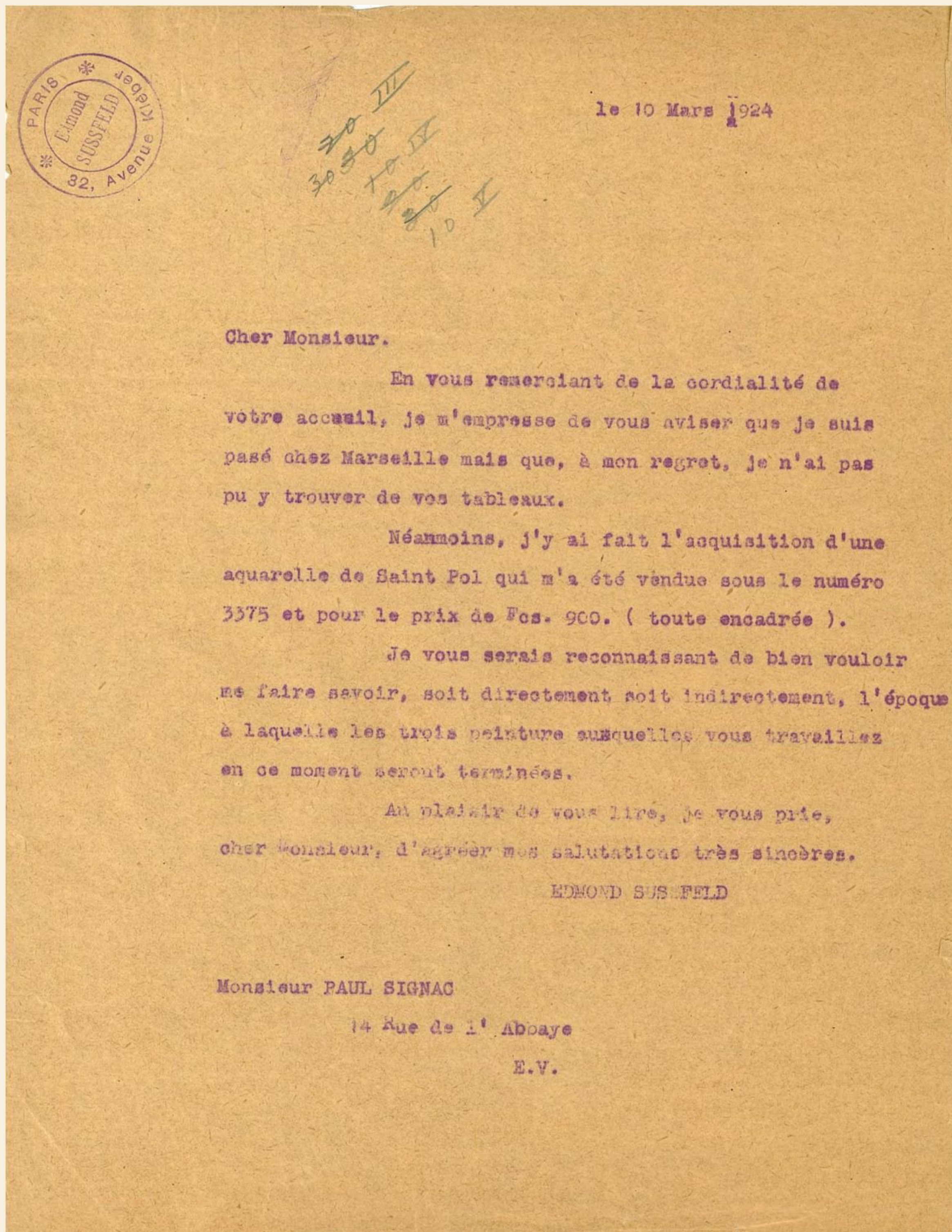
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, March 6, 1924.



Translation: "Sir, I have received your letter of the 4th, and I will therefore have the pleasure of seeing you next Saturday at 2:30. Very sincerely yours, Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

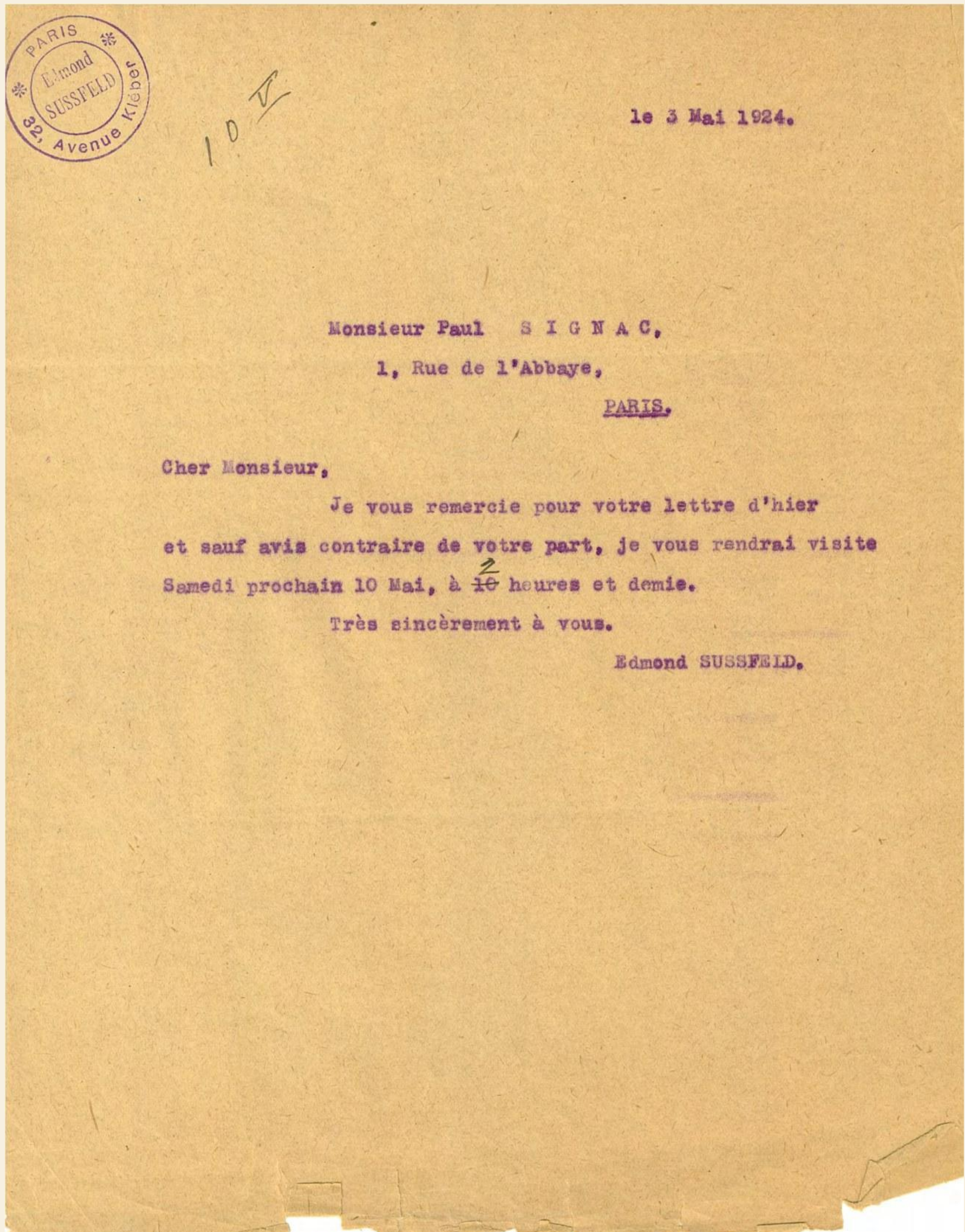
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, March 10, 1924.



Translation: "Dear Sir, Thanking you for your cordial welcome, I hasten to inform you that I went to Marseille's gallery but, to my regret, could not find any of your paintings there. Nevertheless, I acquired a watercolor of Saint-Pol, sold to me under number 3375 for 900 francs (framed). I would be grateful if you would let me know, directly or indirectly, when the three paintings you are currently working on will be finished. Looking forward to hearing from you, please accept, dear Sir, my very sincere regards. Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

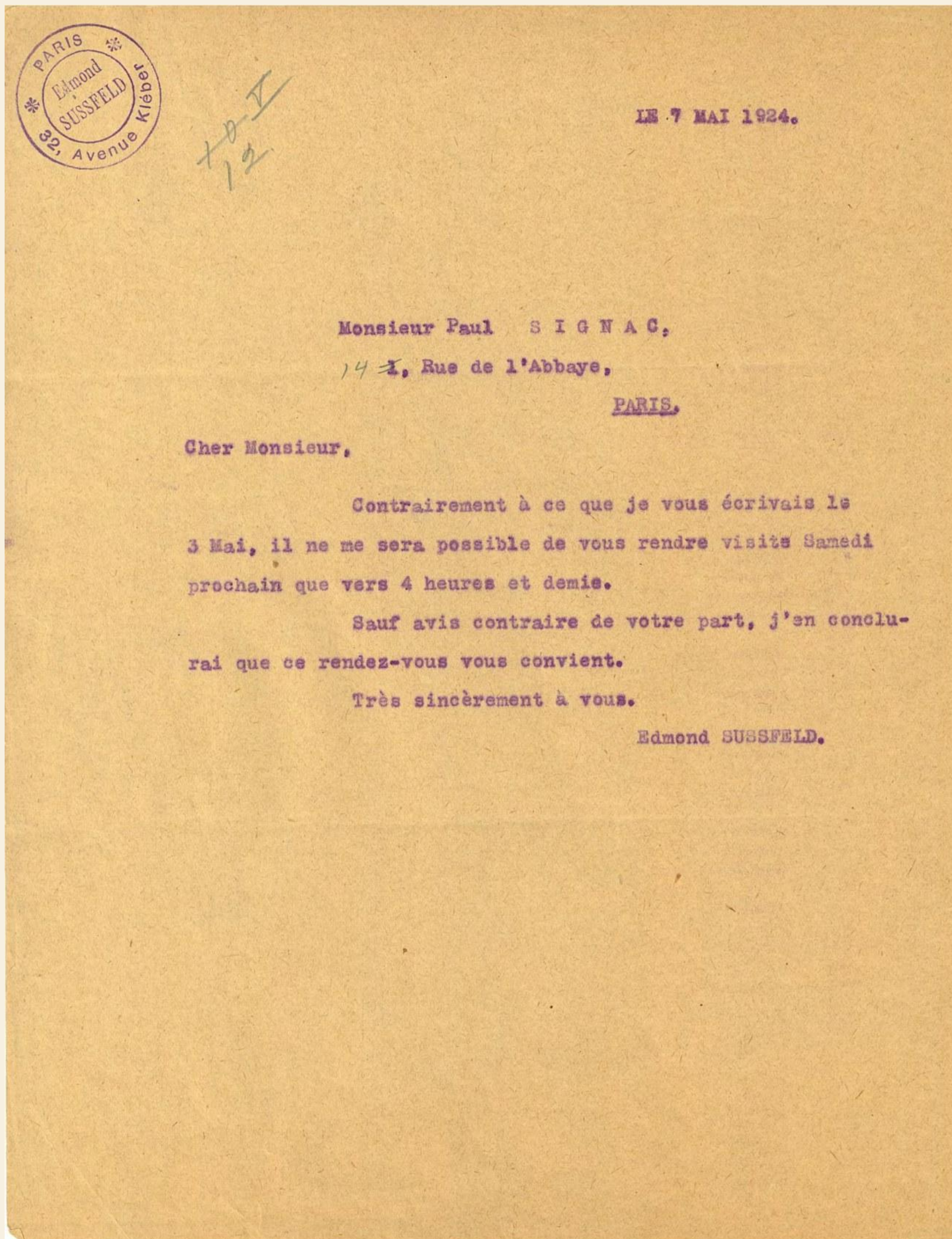
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, May 3, 1924.



Translation: "Dear Sir, Thank you for your letter of yesterday. Unless I hear otherwise from you, I will visit you next Saturday, May 10, at 2:30. Very sincerely yours, Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

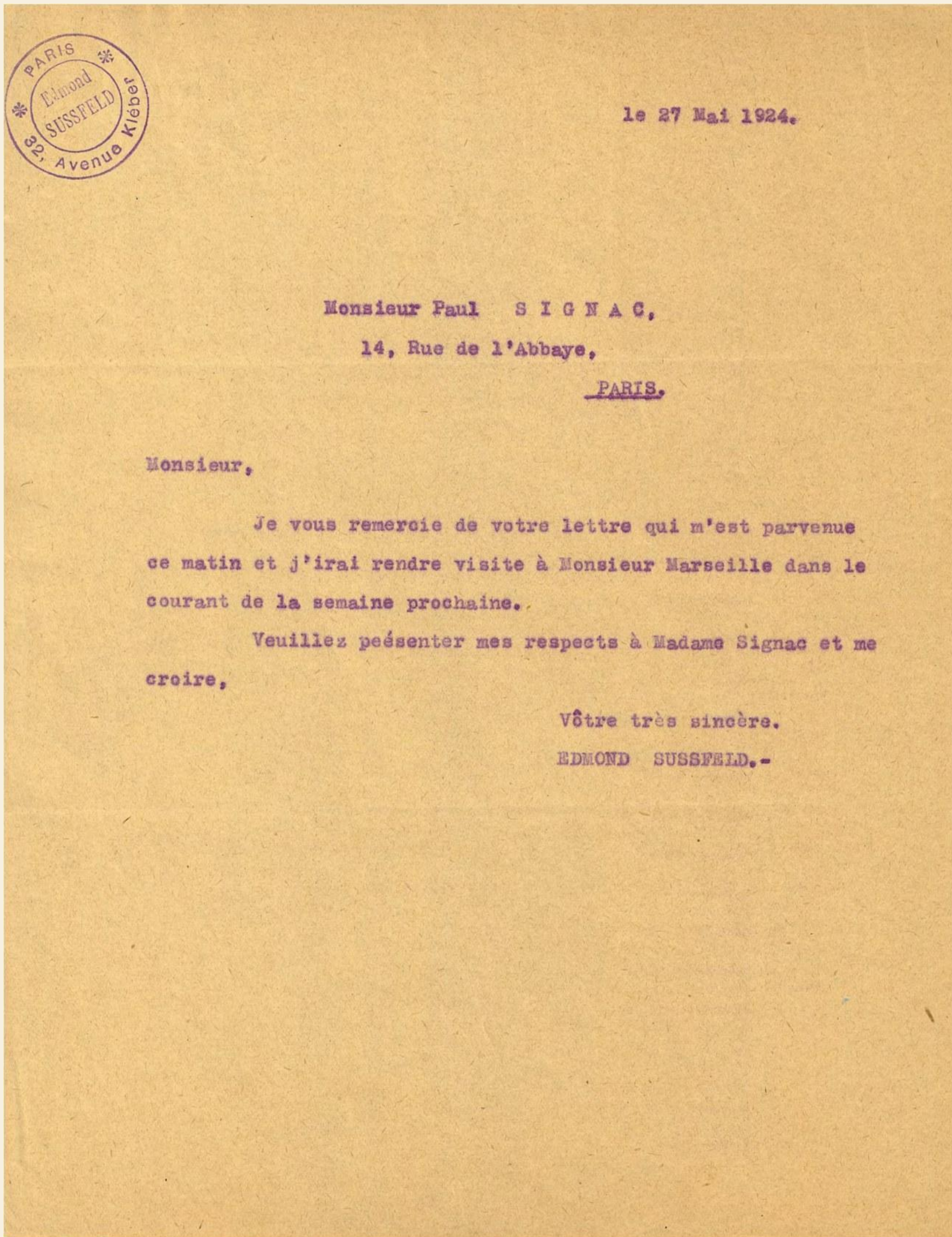
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, May 7, 1924.



Translation: "Dear Sir, Contrary to what I wrote to you on May 3, I will only be able to visit you next Saturday at around 4:30. Unless I hear otherwise from you, I will conclude that this appointment suits you. Very sincerely yours, Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

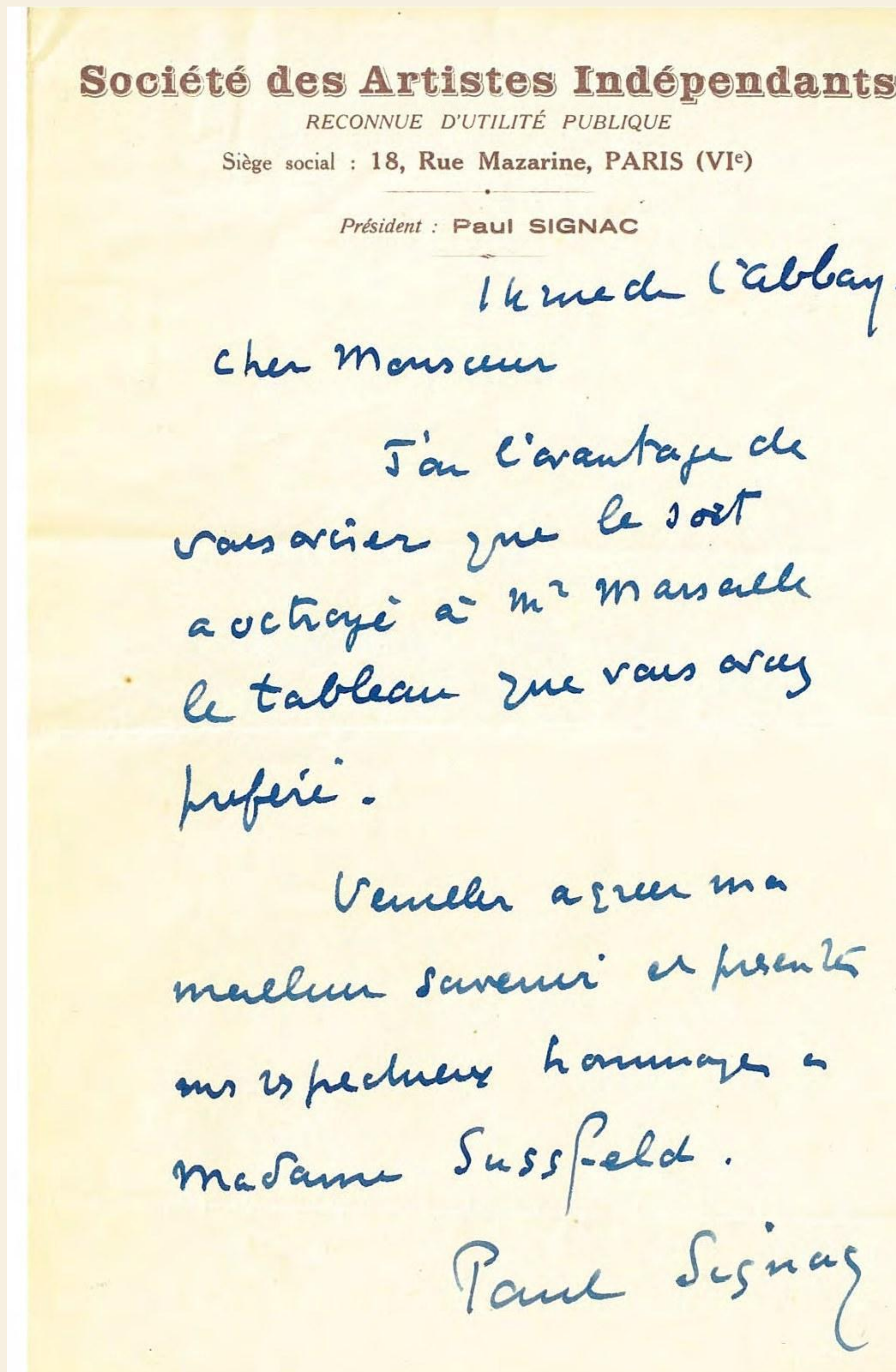
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, May 27, 1924.



Translation: "Sir, Thank you for your letter, which reached me this morning. I will visit Monsieur Marseille in the course of next week. Please present my respects to Madame Signac. Very sincerely yours, Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Paul Signac

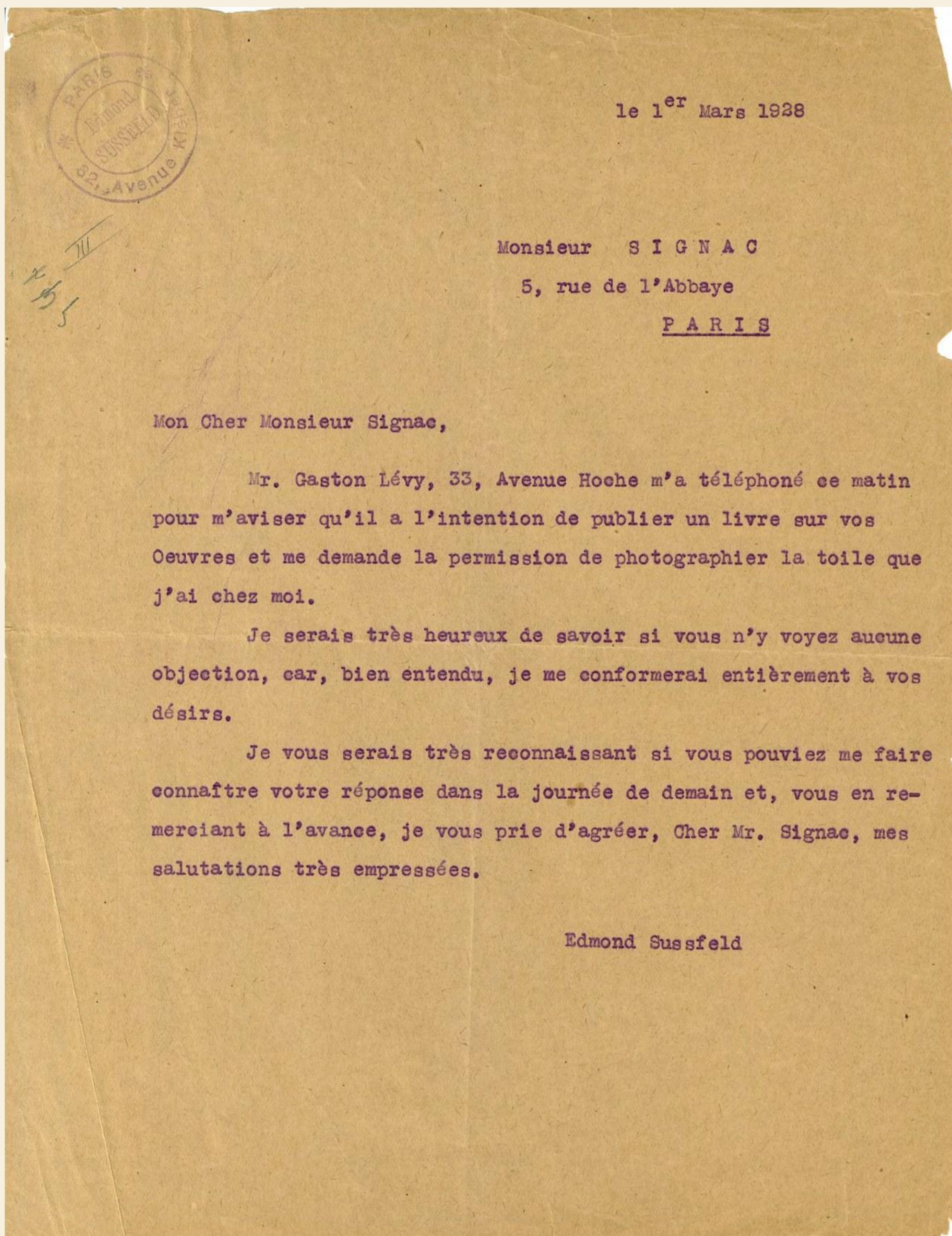
Paul Signac, writing from 14 rue de l'Abbaye, Paris, to Edmond Sussfeld, 1924, informing him that the painting he preferred had been allotted to the dealer Léon Marseille.



Translation: "Dear Sir, I have the pleasure of informing you that fate has granted Mr. Marseille the painting you preferred. With my best regards, please present my respectful compliments to Madame Sussfeld. Paul Signac"

Letter from Edmond Sussfeld

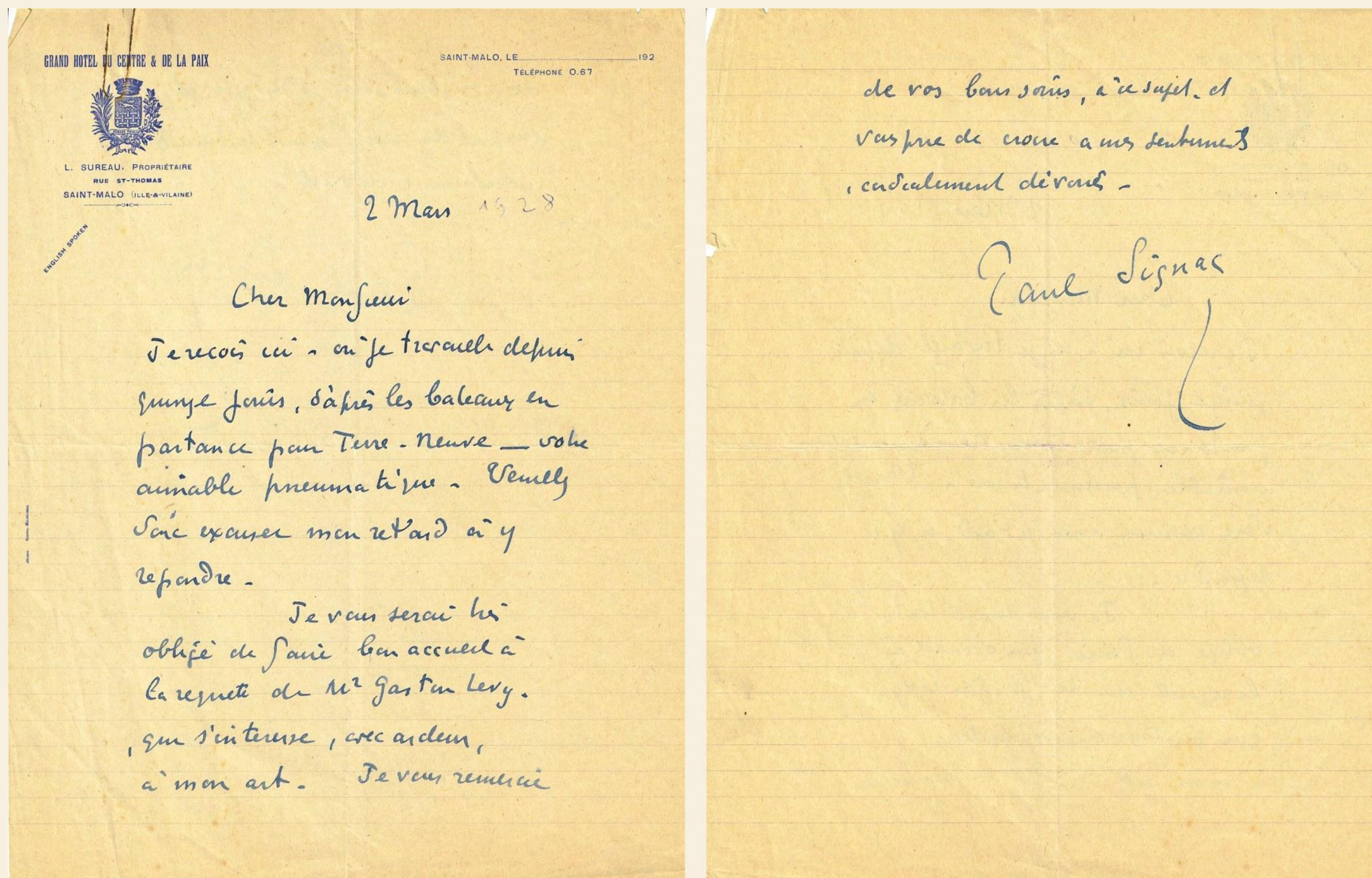
Edmond Sussfeld to Paul Signac, March 1, 1928.



Translation: "My dear Monsieur Signac, Mr. Gaston Lévy, 33 avenue Hoche, telephoned me this morning to tell me that he intends to publish a book on your works, and asked my permission to photograph the canvas I have at home. I would be very glad to know whether you have any objection, as I will of course comply entirely with your wishes. I would be very grateful if you could give me your answer tomorrow. Thanking you in advance, please accept, dear Mr. Signac, my most cordial regards. Edmond Sussfeld"

Letter from Paul Signac

Paul Signac to Edmond Sussfeld, Saint-Malo, March 2, 1928.



Translation: "Dear Sir, I received your kind message here, where I have been working for two weeks on the boats departing for Newfoundland. Please excuse my delay in replying. I would be most obliged if you would give a favorable reception to the request of Mr. Gaston Lévy, who takes an ardent interest in my art. I thank you for your kind attention and send you my cordially devoted regards. Paul Signac"

Museum Comparable



Musée d'Orsay, Paris

Entrée du port de la Rochelle

1921: Oil on canvas: 130.5 x 162 cm

Museum Comparable



The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Lighthouse at Groix

1925: Oil on canvas

Museum Comparable



Minneapolis Institute of Art

Blessing of the Tuna Fleet at Groix

1923: Oil on canvas

Auction Comparables

Oil paintings by Signac sold at auction.



Antibes. La Pointe de Bacon

1917: Oil on canvas: 73.6 x 92.2 cm
Sotheby's New York: Modern Evening Auction, Lot 112: November 18, 2024

\$9,950,000



Antibes (la pinède)

1917: Oil on canvas: 92.3 x 73.5 cm
Christie's New York: The Collection of Peggy and David Rockefeller: 19th and 20th Century Art, Evening Sale, Lot 27: May 8, 2018

\$8,187,500



Quimper (Quai de l'Odette)

1922–1923: Oil on canvas: 71.1 x 89 cm
Christie's New York: 20th Century Evening Sale, Lot 65A: November 17, 2025

\$6,419,000



Pont des Arts (Paris)

1925: Oil on canvas: 89.3 x 116.5 cm
Koller Auktionen, Zurich: Impressionismus & Klassische Moderne, Lot 3261: June 27, 2014

\$5,952,914



Marseille. Le Port

1934: Oil on canvas: 73.3 x 92.2 cm
Sotheby's London: Modern & Contemporary Evening Auction, Lot 37: March 4, 2026

\$5,852,852