

# *Comment on Cezanne Sale*

SIR: Robert P. Griffing Jr., taking offense at the art column of Edward Stasack, "The Academy and How it Grew," ridicules the artist because he still mourns the selling of a Paul Cezanne painting. Says Mr. Griffing, "I request an opportunity to set the record straight. . . . The fact of the matter is that the Academy did not then, nor has ever, owned a 'still life in oil' by Paul Cezanne."

To what point the wording is misleading is underlined by the newspaper title that heads the published letter, NEVER OWNED CEZANNE'S OIL.

Even rarer than a still life, the picture in oils that the Academy owned was a Cezanne figure painting, "Girl With a Doll." Regardless of what practical reasons Mr. Griffing may have had for selling the picture together with an Edouard Manet and some Renoirs, the deal impoverished drastically the cultural assets of our community.

I too felt keenly the loss and, at the time, wrote, "As Omar Khayyam said, 'What is it that the wine merchant may buy that could be more precious than what he sells!'"

*Jean Charlot*