

a 50 Pounds a month  
which I should prefer, or  
if you so preferred, I would  
sell out & pay you the amount  
at once - I only exclude  
the Stothards which are beyond  
me " & c

(The fact is Stothard is not a  
fashionable name now.)

"Perhaps you will take it over in  
your mind, whether you would prefer  
to sell to me, or to a stranger -  
if that stranger is likely to be a  
patron to you in your profession,  
then I should not wish to stand in  
the way "

I shall not come to my decision  
tomorrow, even as regards Gainsborough -  
not till some time after Xmas -  
I am not a good hand at bargaining  
with Dealers. And if you could give  
me a word of advice - I should  
value it much.

With many thanks

Believe me  
Yours truly  
W Frost

H. J. Britton Esq -  
London

189.4812.3

W. Frost 38 Fitzroy St  
Dec. 15. 1873.

My dear Britton

A thousand  
thanks for your very welcome  
check for 50£, and  
am pleased to find some  
of my poor sketches are  
at last appreciated  
sufficiently to tempt some  
purchasers - they are  
(some of them) the work  
of past years, and <sup>have been</sup> long  
in my files, neglected  
and spidred when  
submitted for inspection  
"too slight" too slight."

and after Dealers have  
tossed and tumbled them  
about... have not laid  
out one halfpenny!  
and the only result has  
been waste of time -  
and trouble in repacking them -

with your note came one  
from the printer, who  
is anxious to buy my Cosways -  
they are however safely  
put away at my new Studio.

(No 46) He is to call  
tomorrow morning on his way  
to business - to see a Jolie  
I have him, chiefly to  
buy Gainsboroughs. I hinted  
to him that I had heard

of a gentleman, a man  
of property, who possibly  
might take a fancy to  
the collection as a whole &  
he writes to say "the night  
or he might not...  
nevertheless you would have to  
name a price... and then  
you could do to me, and  
if the sum were beyond  
my means I would decline.  
And there would be no harm  
done, as to the fact of  
any one who purchased it  
keeping it as your collection,  
the idea would be ridiculous  
as it would immediately be  
termed that of the possessor -  
If you were to sell to me  
I would either pay you 40 -