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Dear Martin:

This letter has been postponed long enough... Before the moment (and the year) passes, I must write to tell you how impressed I was upon first encountering your horse sculpture. I had seen the write-up about it in the *Independent* before I went away on a trip this fall. When I returned, I made it a point to drive up Lily Pond Road to see for myself the most recent creation of the talented McGowan family. I was totally unprepared for what I found at Riverside. What you fashioned from scrap metal is not just good, not just excellent, not just extraordinary (although that it is), not just a masterpiece (although it qualifies)...it is truly a great work of art! I studied it from every conceivable angle - as you must have done - and found not a single aesthetic (or anatomical) flaw. At the risk of offending your dad, your creativity matches the best of his best...and that's saying a lot in itself!

Martin, this sculpture deserves to be in the courtyard of the Metropolitan Museum of Art rather than in a field off a back road in Lyndon. Have you taken the initiative to have photos made to send to some of the major museums in the country? If not, please do so; it is worthy of being viewed (and acclaimed) by a metropolitan audience and the recognition will help to spur you to even greater heights...if that is possible.

Have you ever seen the Fraser equestrian sculpture outside the main entrance to the Museum of Natural History¹ in NYC? Your noble *equus* reminds me of the stately animal upon which Theodore Roosevelt is astride in that grouping. When Teddy passed through Lyndon Center in 1912, he stopped to admire the boar statue which L.B. Harris installed at the corner; "T.R." would have thought your creation was absolutely "bully" had he had the privilege of seeing it.

I hope that you and your family enjoy the holidays and that the new year will bless you all with health, happiness and continued creativity - the McGowan hallmark!

Very sincerely yours,



P.S. - When did your dad become interested in ukiyo-e? (Not surprising, since he's interested in *everything!*) Tell him I have many books on the subject of the 'floating world' (Hokusai, Hiroshige, Utamaro, Sharaku, Kuniyoshi, 'et omnes') - which I'd be glad to share with him. James Michener got me interested...

¹ I'm sure I've told your father the story of my being present on the day the statue was dedicated in 1940 on T.R.'s birthday. Because it was also my birthday, I was giving the privilege (among the five eagle scouts representing the boroughs of NYC) of escorting his wife, former First Lady Edith Roosevelt, during the ceremonies.