

Letter from Gilbert Grosvenor to Jason S. Joy, April 6, 1939

(Twentieth Century-Fox Corporation) April 6, 1939 Colonel Jason S. Joy, Mayflower Hotel, Washington, D.C. Dear Colonel Joy:

Mrs. Grosvenor is delighted with the handsomely bound volume of photographs, made in the course of the filming of the story of Alexander Graham Bell, which you brought to me for her yesterday with the compliments of Twentieth Century-Fox. She wishes me to thank you most heartily for this beautiful souvenir of her visit to Hollywood, and through you she wishes to thank also the officers of Twentieth Century-Fox.

It has been a great pleasure to meet you and the many gifted men and women who have worked so hard to make the picture story of Mrs. Grosvenor's father, Alexander Graham Bell. From the beginning of our talks with you, we were all of us much impressed by the sympathetic understanding of Dr. Bell which the producer, Mr. Zanuck, the director, Mr. Irving Cummings, the associate producer, Mr. Kenneth MacGowan, Mr. Lamar Trotti, and above all yourself, have for him. We at once recognized Twentieth Century-Fox's ambition to make a picture worthy of Mr. Bell, and, having complete confidence in the intelligence and ability of the experts of Twentieth Century-Fox, we are not at all surprised at the chorus of praise the picture is universally receiving.

We especially appreciate the friendly manner in which you received the various suggestions that Mrs. Grosvenor, Melville and I ventured to make at your request. We are pleased, too, that the photographs and letters, etc., that we made available to you were of assistance.

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Previous to this picture, the love story of Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Hubbard had been told often in print, but never in so touching and beautiful a rendering as in Twentieth Century-Fox's magnificent portrayal.

Will you kindly extend to Mr. Zanuck also our thanks for permitting a preview of the picture to be held in Washington, under the auspices of the National Geographic Society and the Bell-Hubbard family. This arrangement gave great happiness to the many members of this family and to the hundreds of old friends of Dr. and Mrs. Bell, who found much enjoyment in listening to the preview together.

That National Geographic Society gathering made many friends for the picture and for Twentieth Century-Fox. For instance, I enclose copy of a syndicated letter in today's Washington Herald-Times by one of our guests at the preview, Mrs. Helen Essary, who is the wife of the dean of the Washington newspapermen: namely, Frederick Essary.

I think your uneasiness about the quotation in The Washington Star of March 28th from the book about Alexander Graham Bell can be dismissed, for the reasons that I mentioned yesterday.

With kindest personal regards, in which Mrs. Grosvenor and Melville join,

Yours very truly, Gilbert Grosvenor. enclosure