

# RICHARD GREEN

PHILIP ALEXIUS DE LÁSZLÓ

Budapest 1869 - 1937 London

Ref: CE 111

*Henrietta Lowe Bush*



Signed, dated and inscribed lower right: *de László / NY 1934*

Oil on canvas: 42 x 30 in / 106.7 x 76.2 cm

Frame size: 48 ½ x 36 ¼ in / 123.2 x 92.1 cm

In an English acorn carved and gilded frame



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## *Provenance:*

Commissioned by the sitter's mother, Caroline Lowe Patterson Bush (later Shaw, 1907-1986) and her first husband, James Smith Bush; then by descent to their daughter, Flora Sheldon 'Shelley', then by descent, Estate of Flora Bush Jansing, first cousin of President George HW Bush

## *Literature:*

Philip de László, Diary 1933-1934, 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> February 1934

Letter from de László to Henrietta Patterson, 15<sup>th</sup> April 1932 [postmarked, DLA121-0219]

Juley PPJ-0058549 / 0058559: *Miss Bush Mrs Patterson's Granddaughter* [sic]; *Miss Bush*

*Sitters' Book II*, f. 77: *Henrietta Bush Feb. 10-1934*

The present work is included in the Catalogue Raisonné of Works by Philip de László (1869-1937), no.110664, at [www.delaszlocatalogueraisonne.com](http://www.delaszlocatalogueraisonne.com)

De László painted the sitter's mother Caroline Lowe Bush in 1932 [111977, cat.5] just after her marriage. On his next visit in 1934, he was asked to paint her young daughter while he was staying in New York. This work was photographed by Peter A Juley & Son, the fine art photographers the artist used when in America. The artist recorded in his diary that he thought the four-year-old 'very intelligent' and 'pretty' at the time of her first sitting on 8<sup>th</sup> February, at which she was accompanied by her mother and grandmother. A preparatory drawing remains untraced, after which the artist began to paint and: 'was lucky – inspired – found a very good movement – & began straight the canvas [sic].'<sup>1</sup>

Subsequent sittings took place during the morning and afternoon of 9-10<sup>th</sup> February, and the morning of the 11<sup>th</sup>.<sup>2</sup> De László recorded in his diary 12<sup>th</sup> February: 'finished one of my finest child's portrait.'<sup>3</sup> The sitter's mother was so pleased with the finished portrait that, to the artist's surprise, she gave him a kiss.

Henrietta Lowe Bush (1929-1945) was the eldest of the three daughters of James Smith Bush (1901-1978) and his wife Caroline Lowe Patterson (1907-1986). She was named after her maternal grandmother. On 17<sup>th</sup> September 1945, aged only fifteen, she was killed in a car accident in which her parents and her sister Flora were injured, on Long Island, New York.<sup>4</sup>

Katherine Field,

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<sup>1</sup> László, Philip de, 1933-1934 diary, 8<sup>th</sup> February 1934 entry, *op. cit.*

<sup>2</sup> László, Philip de, 1933-1934 diary, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> February 1934 entries, *op. cit.*

<sup>3</sup> László, Philip de, 1933-1934 diary, 12<sup>th</sup> February 1934 entry, *op. cit.*

<sup>4</sup> 'Officer's Child Killed,' *The New York Times*, 18<sup>th</sup> September 1945.

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