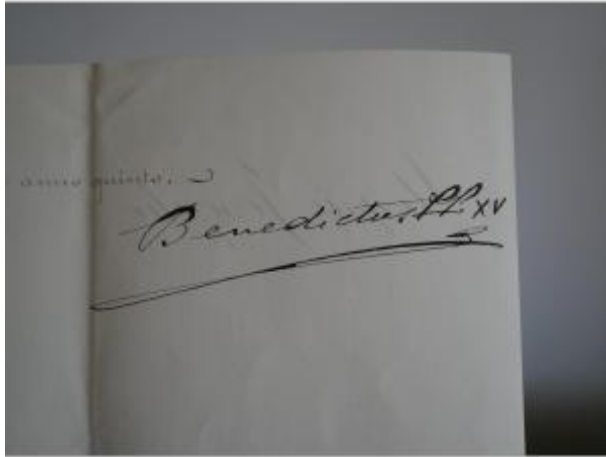




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Letter From Pope Benedict XV To Cardinal Maurin, Archbishop Of Lyon - 1919 - World War I, Vatican

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Period : 20th century

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Material : Paper

Width : 22.5 cm

Height : 35.5 cm

Description

Letter from Pope Benedict XV to Cardinal Maurin, Archbishop of Lyon - 1919 - The Great War, Vatican
An exceptionally rare pontifical letter (Apostolic Brief) issued by Pope Benedict XV (1854-1922), dated 15 January 1919, and addressed to Cardinal Louis-Joseph Maurin (1859-1936), Archbishop of Lyon. Written only a few weeks after the Armistice of the First World War and at the opening of the Paris Peace Conference, this remarkable document provides an important testimony to the diplomatic thought and policy of the Supreme Pontiff. The text is written in the traditional diplomatic Latin of the Papal Chancery. Transcription
Dilecto filio nostro Aloysio Iosepho tit. SS. Trinitatis in Monte Pincio S. R. E. presbytero cardinali Maurin Archiepiscopo Lugdunensi BENEDICTUS

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PP. XV Dilecte Fili Noster, Salutem et
Apostolicam Benedictionem. Te amamus
vehementer et de faustis ominibus et de indicii
testimonio. A vero ceterum non abes: Nos enim
bellum persecuti sumus iustitia duce et caritate
comite. Haec muneris Nostri pars est. Sed non
omnes, ut nosti, capiunt verbum istud. Nonnulli
quae vera sunt non vident; quae falsa
inconsiderate amplectuntur. Nos quidem, liceat
uti verbis Apostoli: maledicimur et benedicimus;
persecutionem patimur et sustinemus;
blasphemamur et obsecramus, curam omnem in
Eum abiicientes, qui Nos posuit suam regere
Ecclesiam. Omina ominibus commutantes ex
animo, Apostolicam Benedictionem, caelestium
auspicem gratiarum, tibi, Dilecte Fili Noster,
universaeque tuae dioecesi peramanter in Domino
impertimus. Datum Romae, apud S. Petrum, die
XV Ianuarii MCMXIX, Pontificatus Nostri anno
quinto. BENEDICTUS PP. XV Translation To our
beloved son Louis-Joseph, Cardinal-Priest of the
title of the Most Holy Trinity on Monte Pincio, of
the Holy Roman Church, Archbishop of
Lyon. Benedict XV, Pope. To our beloved son,
greetings and the Apostolic Blessing. We hold you
in the highest affection and rejoice both at the
happy auguries and at the proof of your devotion.
As for the truth, you have never departed from it.
For our part, we have pursued our course
throughout the war under the guidance of justice
and with charity as our companion. Such is the
proper duty of our office. Yet, as you know, not
all are able to accept this message. Some fail to
perceive what is true; others rashly embrace what
is false. As for us, let us use the words of the
Apostle: "When we are cursed, we bless; when
we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are
slandered, we answer with prayer," casting all our
cares upon Him who has appointed us to govern
His Church. Exchanging your good wishes for
ours with all our heart, we most lovingly impart
in the Lord to you, our beloved son, and to your
entire diocese, the Apostolic Blessing, a pledge of
heavenly graces. Given at Rome, at Saint Peter's,

on the fifteenth day of January 1919, in the fifth year of Our Pontificate. In this official letter, written barely two months after the Armistice of 11 November 1918, Benedict XV thanks Cardinal Maurin for his unwavering loyalty and responds to the expressions of support that the Archbishop had almost certainly conveyed to him at the end of the conflict. The Pope firmly defends the course he pursued throughout the war, affirming that he acted "under the guidance of justice and with charity as our companion." Aware of the criticism directed at the Holy See by all the belligerent nations, he refers to the misunderstanding that surrounded his policy of strict neutrality and quotes the words of Saint Paul: "When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer with prayer," presenting these trials as an inherent part of the Church's mission. This correspondence is highly representative of the pontificate of Benedict XV (1914-1922). From the outbreak of the Great War, the Pope refused to side with either coalition and repeatedly promoted diplomatic initiatives aimed at achieving a negotiated peace. His position, misunderstood by both the Allied Powers and the Central Powers, ultimately led to the diplomatic isolation of the Holy See, which was notably excluded from the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Versailles. The present letter therefore stands as a genuine justification of Benedict XV's international policy, expressed in an official document addressed to one of the most influential French prelates of the period. At once a historical, religious and diplomatic document, this remarkable piece eloquently reflects the legacy Benedict XV wished to leave regarding his actions at the conclusion of the First World War. It is of considerable importance for the history of Church-State relations, Vatican diplomacy, and the religious history of France through its distinguished recipient, Cardinal Louis-Joseph Maurin, Archbishop of Lyon. Dimensions: 22.5 × 35.5 cm (large format, rather uncommon), laid

and watermarked paper, "De La Rue & Co. Extra Superfine." A document of the highest historical importance, exceedingly rare on the market, combining the history of the papacy, the First World War, and the diplomatic relations of the Holy See in the immediate aftermath of the conflict. Price excludes shipping costs. Police Register Reference: A144 Professional Antiquarian - Authenticity Guaranteed As a professional antiquarian, I offer only authentic objects that have been carefully selected and are legally eligible for sale. Every item is chosen for its historical, artistic, or collecting significance and undergoes thorough verification of its provenance. Invoice & Provenance: Each purchase is accompanied by a detailed invoice and a certificate of authenticity, ensuring full traceability and complete transparency regarding the object's provenance. Legal Compliance: All items comply with current French and European legislation. Any archaeological objects are offered in accordance with the French Heritage Code (Articles L.542-1 and following). Objects subject to specific regulations (cultural property, antiquities, particular materials, etc.) are sold within the applicable legal framework. International Buyers: Buyers outside France are encouraged to verify their country's import regulations concerning cultural property and antiques before purchasing. Right of Withdrawal: In accordance with French consumer law (Article L.221-18 of the Consumer Code), you have 14 days from receipt of the item to exercise your right of withdrawal. Return shipping costs remain the responsibility of the buyer. The item must be returned in its original condition. Commitment to Quality: Purchasing from a professional dealer guarantees security, transparency, and reliability. I remain at your disposal should you require any additional information before making your purchase.