

Tuesday, February 23

Dear Bob,

Two letters arrived yesterday - one for Dad, and we all read^d and reread - it, of course. I'm starting this in study hall, so please don't expect much of it.

The other day as I was reading (that is, looking at) the Times, a name caught my eye because of its strange combination of vowels. Then I read it more closely and realized that it is French and very lovely in its meaning - Dieuaidé.

In addition to the Luther + St. Francis biographies, which must be read somewhat slowly for different reasons - there is much of a sameness in the St. Francis book, though it is well-written - there is too much to digest quickly in the Luther and, as a Mentor book, it is a bit hard on the eyes + won't stay open by itself, therefore cannot be read while I am sitting or unsettling my hair, or even while I'm having breakfast or tea - I am reading The Wind in the Willows - also slowly, to savor it. I like Lewis's Love - Kitchen Comforts - the boat, picnic basket, fireplace, cosy gypsy caravan, etc.

Some answers to letters for library information have come already. The salary for Library Trainee (a training position) tenable for up to $3\frac{1}{2}$ years while one is working on the M.L.S. degree) has gone up almost \$1,000 since last year and is due to go up again on April 1. It jumps over \$8,000 a year now, quite a livable salary even though it is certainly not what I am earning now. I really am considering it seriously. I really think I would enjoy either public library work (not huge small to medium) or high school library work. I might even be able to use some of my M.A. credits toward the degree - Good grief! From Teacher

to librarians - all the typically old-maidy professions. For a graduation present you'll have to give me a cat.

Your breakfast sounds abnormal. Do you want me to send food syrup? Fish omelette? I'm afraid I can't think of anything to do about the eggs.

Would you like posters, and reproductions, or anything like that for your room?

What are your cooking facilities had you were able to bake the pizza? Would you like anything like that (snacks, etc.) I send to you? Jessica said the Girl Scouts have freeze-dried foods - spaghetti + sauce, soups, stews, etc. - for camping trips that are very good and would not weigh much to send. They would also, I assume, take up relatively little space for you.

I noticed on the Don Carlo cassette that, unfortunately, Jon + Craig ^{evidently} did not notice that extends part way through the wonderful prison scene. Oh well, at \$9.4 each we can afford to send more to you than at the discount price for pre-recorded cassettes. We will send some of those too, however.

later

When I arrived home this afternoon, Dad had put 3 envelopes from you up in the front kitchen window for me to see - your letter to Mom and the letter and returned clipping for me (What a disappointment! To open an envelope and find nothing but a clipping - and one I had already seen at that!) Dad is already reading The Economy of the Renaissance in Europe. Chillard and Heloise is opening in New York soon, too. I'll be curious to read the reviews. When I read part of one of your sentences "Barrell was delightful, but I would point out ..." Although you were going to say that we have a pretty wacky family too - and I was about to protest

strongly - but then you went on about your
midlife. Do you have any sources to read about,
identify, etc. the more interesting creatures?

I wish I could see both Lucia's letter
to you and yours to her. I know Alice has been
much upset about her involvement with
the Catherine Marshall Hookes - a group
organized about them. Fortunately I've been
able to avoid anything - the day she came
with Ed to return some things while he
visited Lefty, John called - so Mama talked
to her a bit - but we haven't really seen
them. I think she's calming down about
it, and I'm sure a letter from you
would be an excellent kind of influence -
more likely to be heeded than her mother.

As you can probably gather by the lodge lodge,
I'm skimming through your letters and
replying to portions thereof -

All of Cecilia Holland's books that I have
seen have been printed in that odd size
and shape. The margins are also quite
generous and the type spaced quite openly.
There should be two more packages of
books (no-3) arriving soon. I'll send
another in a day or two and will keep
them coming.

I've read only Rakóssy - a really bloody book,
at the end anyway, and also, as I remember,
in other places. It was always a temptation
to imagine it occurring about 6 centuries
or more earlier. The fraud at the court
in Vienna makes everything else seem
incredibly out of whack chronologically.

Most of your letters have taken about 10 days
to arrive. The last few, however - yesterday's
+ today's deliveries - took only 6.

We were talking about biographies today in
10th grade - especially about sources for the
biographer, particularly of one long dead.
I was appalled by their ignorance - and

their faith in encyclopedias as an ultimate and reliable source of information.

(In answer to question - suppose 2 books differ on person's birthdate - where would you search for truth or at least reliable record - "On his gravestone.") Historians of the world arise!

Ditto for comment in World Lit today - going over a quiz in which I asked at the end + beginning of which centuries did Donne + Shakespeare lived. I said they must develop a sense of historical time + know when people lived + events happened. "Why?" I'm not sure that I convinced them even when I said that knowing that Kathy Harte (one of them - and very pretty as well as bright - but a bit lazy) was a new plaid outfit with thousands to high school where she is a senior preparing to go to college and that she lives in a community 40 miles east of N.Y. in mid-Song Island would mean quite different things if she were doing this in 1871 rather than 1971, and a future person reading about her, in order to understand her must know which it is. They did not look convinced. Are we headed for a new reign of accepted anachronism - à la the Middle Ages and their treatment of anything in the past?

I think I must close this and get to work. Be good; rest; be kind. When you don't have much to say in a letter to someone you really should write to, use small paper, leave wide margins, and use a piece of wide lined paper underneath as a guide.

Love,
Lain