

Saturday, July 17

Dear Rob,

Jimmy told us a story you would appreciate - some time ago, Alice had a fishbone stuck in her throat and went to the emergency room of the Hospital, leaving Jimmy to take care of Aunt Margaret. Aunt Margaret wanted a cup of tea, so Jimmy went to make it for her - but he didn't serve it to her. He was very glad when Alice called a bit later - and he could ask how to make tea. The first time he had boiled the tea bag in a pan of water - and the bag broke.

I've spend a busyish oddso-and-ender week. I went to school Tuesday to go over the World Lit curriculum with Sandy and did it. I'm glad Bonnie will be on sabbatical next year - she teaches like a machine gun and seems to get through twice as much material as anyone else, so it is difficult to cut things down or out when she is around. Sandy and I are both much slower - but not Tuesday - it took us about 45 minutes!

Then I went to the school library to borrow some filmstrip and record sets they have to preview them and take notes. I think I told you about the ones I did use last year - from a series on various ages and their arts. They are gorgeous - coordinated filmstrips and records on Ancient Greece, the Middle Ages, the Renaissance, the Baroque, the Enlightenment, and the Romantic Age. I used the M. A., Ren, and Baroque last year. They have contemporary music behind the narration, which stresses styles, attitudes, ideas, etc. rather than names, dates, and so forth. The teacher also has a copy of the script - and I think I'll show them twice (I did that last year with Lord of the Baroque one) - once with the record and then alone so that I can point

and things I want to stress and correct a few errors or false impressions from the recording (e.g. the second filmstrip on the M.A. is called the Dark Ages but traces the full development of feudalism and uses such things as the Vies Riches Deuues as illustrations!)

There are other sets I'll use with my 11 NR's. They belong more in American History classes, but — many teachers don't bother to use them, our textbook is organized chronologically according to American history (though all — or virtually all — are modern pieces), and we are always ahead of the history classes in it — and most important of all, these are the kids who most need and want variety in teaching — and often feel left out because it really is much easier to find TV materials for the better classes. One set from the same company — as the ones above is on folk songs in American history — well sung in familiar but unidentified voices (I'm sure at least one is done by Jan and Sylvia — that lovely ballad "Two Brothers" — which, unfortunately, the editors don't seem to know is modern, not authentically Civil War). The narrator, unfortunately, has one of those icky, carefully-enunciating, I-am-speaking-to-children voices. The other sets — I've seen just the Colonial Period and the Revolution so far — are by American Heritage and are lovely — records and filmstrips again — contemporary music again (including Mozart's composition for Franklin's glass armonica — prints, paintings, maps, etc. — and a narrator with a good voice plus numerous contemporary quotations read by a variety of voices evidently carefully chosen to suit the character of the writer and his words.

Last night I went over to Janet + Craig to show them some slides of Inverloch and to see their slides of the baby and their two Easter trips down South. Charleston and Kingston-Salmon looked especially beautiful. I hope when you are home we can do some traveling around. This part of the country - the whole Eastern seaboard - has so many things to see.

About sending books to you - I'm going to make out another questionnaire for you to fill out. I don't know whether I'm sending too many books or just enough or which selections are awful. I do know, of course, some that are right - because you mention them in letters. But do you have a huge backlog of books you haven't read but want to? or only of books you really don't care about? or what? Craig gave me some duplicates he has - I'll send some to you. But it still would help if I could have some idea of whether I should send books more often, less often, or at the present rate - what I should or shouldn't send - and so forth. Please answer promptly!

I have been bothered for about a week because the whole area of my left eye, especially the socket, has been very tender, as if bruised. That eye also tends to be dry, and the skin gets flaky - so I was wondering what kind of strange ailment I had - until I remembered Lois's favorite activity - climbing. If you have her on your lap facing you, she'll pull herself up if you hold her hands or put your hands around her under her arms, and then she climbs up your chest and as far as she can go - sometimes to the top - and I have several times had her foot in my mouth or my eye. End of mystery. (When she gets to the top, she bends

over to look down at you, shrieking with delighted giggles.

Explanation of some of the cassettes sent to you:

I know you like Baroque music, but we thought some variety might be nice. Hence the Beethoven, Brahms, mixture, and Pearl Fishers. The opera and the Magnificat were in a special group of cassettes 2 for \$4.99! which is less than half what most caught - I knew the Magnificat would be right - and I like the Bizer - parts remind me of Don Carlo, so I hoped you would like it, too.

I should have kept a record of what cassettes you do ~~own~~ have - I remember now, that I've seen a couple of DGB Baroque collections that sound good, and I don't know exactly what you have. On the questionnaire, would you complete the list, please - Be exact with titles, please. Anything - specific or type - you would especially like?

Hmm! Making out the list and counting those I only half remember, I come up with quite a few cassettes. Do you want any more - or will the collection be too big to store? I think I'll hold off unless you request some.

Joel and Craig said to buy a camera and the extra lenses. They recommended Yashica. The Instamatic we have is good - but there are things you can't do with it, and this is a one-time chance.

Time to wash my long tresses (couleur de Senille morte? That like Irene's, - but the description fits if you think of the oak leaves in our yard.)

I love you very much. Lois

To be returned.

The organization of this will probably be a bit odd - Do what you can with it - I think I'll just use my list of books sent except for those you have already commented on.

Whatever you want
you to send that's
send more
some author info
some type.

Other
Comments

Jane Austen
Poems? <sup>have sent Keats, Browning,
Chaucer, Great Poems, Dickinson</sup>
Zays?

Bradbury - or any
other science fiction?

Fogel - other Russians?

Black House - Dickens

Churker - would you like
more humorous essays?
also C.B. White - One Man's Tree

Read Narrative Essays
Analog - can you get it? <sup>Should we
continue?</sup>
German grammar cards <sup>Do you want
vocab. cards?</sup>

Prager and books

Howard Pyle's books

Gerald Durrell's books

My Antonia - Cather

Scaramouche - Sabatini

Silent World - Cousteau

Rachel Carson - Under Sea and

Thomas Hardy - Mayor of Casterbridge

Joyce Cary

Short story collections

Sierra Club books

Neredith - Shaving of Shagpat

Joke - Sorcerer's Ship

Woodhouse

Should I send
other fantasies?
When I see them?

What about any history books?

Any books we already own?

(I intend to send some more
anyway - but any in
particular?)

Other questions:

In what condition did the brownies arrive? -
Be honest.

In what condition did Thana's strawberry
jam arrive?

Would you like food packages occasionally
(always?) to contain something more substantial
for dinners chez vous - like ravioli or
small canned ham - or what?

Any further comments, requests, etc.
about food packages?

~~Is~~

Should we send Wash-n-Dry again?

Do you need tea? sugar?

Please complete this list so I don't
buy any duplicates— or not buy something
Cassette list. That would be good.

Mendel's Greatest Hits

Bach's Greatest Hits

Wieg - Song of Norway

The Pearl Fishers

Beethoven - Symphony #7

Vivaldi - The Seasons

Virtuoso Trumpet

Bach - Wached Auf

Ein Feste Burg

Magnificat

Orff - Carmina Burana

Mozart - Magic Flute

Mendelssohn - Midsummer Night's Dream

Charkovsky - Capriccio Italian

Hollywood Bowl - light classics

Vivaldi - Mandolin concerti

Humor in Music

? C.P.E. Bach - Concerto