

Letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale

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Citation Information

Hale, Emily, 1891-1969
Eliot, T.S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965
Letters from T.S. Eliot to Emily Hale
1 folder

Contact Information

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Date Rendered: 2019-12-18 09:57:06 PM UTC

Available Online at: <http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/6d570306c>

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

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24 Russell Square London W.C.1.

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Museum 9543

My Dear

2 January 1948.

I had a quiet enough Christmas, only having to go to tea on Sunday with Janet Roberts and her children, and to give dinner to Jack Clement (the son of Jim Clement, who was on his way to take up a job in Paris) on Sunday evening; but I was not free to follow my own devices and write letters, because I had to toil over an obituary article on Michael Roberts for the New English Weekly. Michael died at the beginning of the week before Christmas, suddenly but not unexpectedly. He had contracted an illness in Switzerland in the autumn, and although Janet believed then that it was some continental virus infection, the symptoms sounded to me too closely approaching those that Henry showed, and I suspected the same malady in a very rapid form. He was overworked and baffled of the work he wanted to do, and which he should have done. It has all been very distressing, as he is really a great loss to the world, and Janet is left with four small children and very little money. She is quite competent to earn her living at journalism; but she can't do that and make a home for the children too, and I fear that the elder ones will have to be farmed out on relatives. I expect to see her soon (as soon as she is ready) to discuss her financial problems: I think I probably ought to make myself responsible for the education of my god-son, at least up to the point to which he appears to justify educating - I hope that he will prove able enough to get a university scholarship.

Then a very old chicken came home to roost, when I found in November that I had promised a year ago to go down and read a paper at Pusey House, Oxford. So that has taken this weekend: I am only giving them some rather rough notes on the section of the Lambeth Report dealing with education. That is to be the 29th: but I wanted to get it off my mind at once, so as to return to the play, which I shall be able to do tomorrow: there are more letters to be written, but most of them can wait for odd moments.

I wish I had kept a copy of that letter about Stockholm, because I may not have put as much in it about the performance of "The Family Reunion" as I should have written to you. At the risk of repeating, I will say that I was interested by the highly melodramatic style of Swedish acting - the tendency to rant, scream, and clutch their heads in their hands. My hero was so excited from the moment he came in, that he left no room for any crescendo. The effect was extremely sombre, and of something extremely morbid - which is what they like. I am sending you one of the three pho-

tographs which may amuse you, but it makes me appear so like a superior comic actor that I add another, taken at Princeton, which is more dignified. The lady who appears to be avoiding the camera (Agatha) was much the best and was really rather fine: she disappeared immediately after the curtain - her husband had died two days before, and I thought it was gallant of her to continue to act, and I felt grateful, so that I wrote her a letter of thanks and appreciation afterwards.

While I have been grateful for the comparative obscurity into which one can retire in London, I have not yet been relieved of all the consequences of publicity. I have succeeded in avoiding the giving of a dinner in my honour by the P.E.N. Club, but not a dinner of the Alliance Française, as the Ambassador is to be in the chair (but I shall insist on speaking in English); and I am wondering whether I can avoid a ~~lunch~~ lunch with the Rotary Club of Chelsea. Then there is a Stockholm paper which has been badgering me for a tribute to Strindberg, none of whose plays I have read since I was eighteen or nineteen. Now I have set the end of June as the date for finishing the play, and shall decline to pay my visit to Germany until I see the end in sight.

I don't think that the Institute of Advanced Study, even if it should want me to repeat my visit, is a very satisfactory solution of the problem of American visits. Whenever I came to Boston I had the feeling that I was playing truant; and as I felt that I should only draw on the funds they provided, for my normal expenses while there, I still had the problem of financing my visits to Boston (as well as for purchases of clothing) by lectures: fortunately my two lectures each paid five hundred dollars, and I got two hundred and fifty very easily by spending a night at Bryn Mawr, so that I was able to leave a little money for my sisters (for heavens' sake keep this to yourself!) I think that a few lectures, in the right places, would leave me freer and give me a higher proportion of my time in Cambridge. But I think the ideal time would be the latest possible moment in the spring when lectures at colleges can be given. For seeing yourself, term time is very unsatisfactory, and the period just before Christmas, when you are over worked, is perhaps the worst of all. Of course, on this occasion, I was especially tired, and harrassed by being a public figure. But I should like to know from you what moment in the year is least unsatisfactory from your point of view.

I hope I may get a letter soon, now that your brief holiday will be over: I hope you had a restful visit to Sylvia Knowles'. When does Dorothy Elsmith return from New Zealand? I lit a candle for you on Christmas Eve and before the New Year's Day Communion.

lovingly

Tom

my pen has just
run out.

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
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16 January 1948.

My Dear

It is a very long time since I have heard from you; and I had hoped for a note at least after the school reassembled. I should hope that I might be informed if you were ill; and that you would let me know yourself if any other difficulty or distress that was taking your time and energy; so I hope that nothing I have said, or failed to say, lately, has offended you.

I have nothing to report of myself except that I have been very busy, with the usual sort of activity which it would be tedious to chronicle; and am still very much in arrears with the accumulation of letters, and the foreign correspondence now heavier than ever. I have at least re-cast and re-written the first two scenes of my play, and I hope given them more animation, but it is more by effort of will than by anything that could be called inspiration. I have very little news out of America, but I hope that the winter has been as mild hitherto as it has here. I had to spend last weekend with the Fabers in Sussex, and did not shiver so much as I usually do in country houses at this time of year. Week after next I go to Oxford to speak, but only for one night.

Please let me hear from you.

Always with much love

Pow

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8 February 1948
recd. Feb. 29th

My Dear

I was going to write anyway over this weekend, so I was all the more glad to have your good letter of February 4 (a very quick delivery for this time of year) yesterday. It is just about a month since I have written: a month in which no events, external or interior, call for special remark. The weather has been mild this year, and I have had no colds or bronchitis; I spent a night in Oxford (I went, to oblige Richard Faber, whom I am fond of, to talk to the "Chatham Club" at Christ Church; and in spite of a cold dismal bedroom in the college I was none the worse for it); there are a ham from my niece and a flich of bacon from the Lambs in the larder; and while I tire easily, I am I believe very well. There has been the drudgery of answering complimentary letters, some of which I have had to write myself, instead of dictating; and I have had to go to a dinner in my honour given by Henzie Browne in their flat - which was very sweet of them, but a dinner party of more than six people is a strain - with the Bishop of Chichester (as the man originally responsible for "Murder in the Cathedral" being written) and the Newtons (as the designers of the scene and costumes) and on Tuesday I have to attend another dinner in my honour given by Ashley Dukes at the Garrick Club (I need a new ribbon). This coming week has its other arduous: dinner at the French Embassy tomorrow, and I shall be disappointed if the Ambassador does not kiss me on both cheeks) and attendance on the King at Buckingham Palace on Thursday to receive my insignia (which makes me more nervous than the Vatican, because the latter is so formal that you know exactly how to behave). Future engagements: the presentation of Aunt Edith's slides on March 2, followed by a weekend in Cambridge - talk to young men at Jesus on Friday, lunch and tea with my godson on Saturday, dinner with the Master, and a talk (instead of the usual sermon) at evensong in the College Chapel on Sunday); then the final meeting of "Books Across the Sea" (it is being taken over by the English Speaking Union, which is the best thing that could happen); and, after Easter, the postponed visit to Aix and Marseilles.

What is more important is that I have at last completed revising my small prose book and it has gone to the printer; so that I have been able to devote my mornings this week to thinking about a play, and even writing two or three pages of rough draft of dialogue for the opening scene. I am not sure that the subject is what I want; but the important thing, I feel, is to get started on something and not be dismayed if after some weeks, or even at a later stage, I have to scrap it. In fact, not to take it too seriously, but to regard the work as warming up the engine which has been laid up (so far as theatre is concerned) for nine years. I shan't tell anybody what it is about, for that would fortify my own doubts of it. It is, at present, an exercise: I want to give my mind to its

being good theatre, something that will move towards a definite climax, and in short avoid all the weaknesses of "The Family Reunion". . . If I have chosen a suitable theme for myself, the ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ poetry and the depth will come easily. . . The plot requires very few characters -- indeed, only three throughout -- but I am at present rather worried, from the point of view of practical utility, by the fact that my first scene requires half a dozen actors (with light dialogue for a party) who are not required on the stage again. I feel that having several characters who make only one appearance, and who can remove their make-up and go home after the first twenty minutes or half an hour, is a drawback: for one thing, they have to be paid, and such small jobs are not very attractive? Am I right? Should I either try to get rid of them or give them another scene at the end?

To get down to work of this kind again, is I think the one thing I ought to do; and it will help me to overcome the feeling of having come to the end, and being put in a coffin with golden nails. . . It doesn't matter, I say to myself, whether this is good or not: it will start something. Of course it isn't only, or even primarily, the "honours" that are the obstacle to be overcome; it's far more everything that has happened during last year, and the necessity of a new start after bankruptcy, or losing all one's goods and chattels in a shipwreck, re-adapting oneself to oneself, ceasing to live on capital but living only on what one can dig out of the earth and pluck from the branches with one's own fingers. . . But as for the "honours", you have written sympathetically and understandingly of that, and I thank you for it. . . And at a time like this, there are always two alternatives possible - a vegetative end, or a new beginning. . .

I thought I had acquainted you fully with the Princeton fixture. The Institute of Advanced Studies (or whatever it is called) at Princeton invited me to spend some time simply living there as its guest. I accepted for two months only, and am to be in Princeton, I trust, during October and November. . . No doubt I shall be called upon to give readings, and perhaps prepare a lecture or two, while there; as well as having to see many people and meet many undergraduates; but there is the inestimable advantage of not having to prepare lectures in advance - and it is the time spent in preparation, rather than the time spent ~~xxxxx~~ in America, that presents difficulties to my visits. . . I shall hope to come up to Cambridge for several long weekends; and by giving one well-paid lecture somewhere I ought to make enough money to spend a whole week or two about Boston towards the end. . . So I shall look forward to seeing you first in October. . . Apparently one lives in a sort of community, with most eminent scholars and scientists -- chiefly, it would seem, some of the great atom-bomb physicists like Dirac, Einstein and Oppenheimer. . . Rather sinister, and no doubt charming and gentle souls. . .

Your sketch of your daily life was what I wanted. I can well imagine that merely the care of your rooms takes a good deal of your time. . . I am glad that you have interests that take you to Boston (though you say nothing of the class I thought you were to take, as before) because I imagine that Concord society is not such as you would

take to, even if it sought you out.. I should expect that poetry-reading would be an activity that could only be slowly built up, after not having been free to do much in that way for so long; and that you would find the demand for your services growing gradually as you got known through individuals who had heard you.. I am sure that there are many people who can get profit and enjoyment from listening to poetry (if they only knew it) who do not know how to read poetry to themselves, and that such readings could do a great deal of good.. One should gradually acquire, I should suppose, a pretty wide repertoire, and learn by experience what kinds of poetry to read to what kinds of audience. Very simple people, I think, can enjoy somewhat difficult poetry properly read, better than the half-educated - which is the majority - who are bothered by notions of what they ought to like and how they ought to like it.. The person who listens to poetry, or to music, or who looks at pictures, with the idea fixed in their mind that they must say something intelligent about it afterwards - and what they say afterwards matters more to them than the experience itself - makes the most difficult audience to deal with..

I thank you, my dear, for explaining more explicitly your reason for asking me to write only once a month: which I think I understand perfectly, and I think at present it is best. And I shall gradually, I think, write more naturally, from myself as I am, with the pressure behind it of having refrained from writing for so long as that. But I do not promise to keep exactly to that time-table if the pressure becomes too strong! I thank you humbly and gratefully for this letter, which makes up for the weeks that have passed without news..

It is Sunday evening, so I shall now go and get the cold supper that Mrs. Thomson will have left (on her half day out).. And then I must answer one or two more letters of congratulation and write a letter to Lord Pakenham about the desirability of inviting distinguished German men of letters to visit this country.

*Lovingly
Tom .*

DIENSTSOND

1904

MADE AT FOROXLEY

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8 March 1948.

My dear,

My month is now up, and I am just writing this line tonight to explain that I am in the middle of a very heavy week, beginning with the Royal Horticultural Society, speaking twice in Cambridge, back to-day and must spend the evening preparing my speech for the final meeting of Books Across the Sea, and then have to take the chair for a lecture at the Institut Francais on Thursday: so shall write on Friday.

*You started
Tom.*

FABER AND FABER LIMITED

PUBLISHERS

25 Abchurch Lane London E.C. 4

Telephone: 4777

Printed in Great Britain

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My Dear,

16 March 1948.

When I wrote very briefly a week ago I was still in the middle of a fortuitous cluster of engagements. I found five public occasions in nine days rather much! as any public speaking is a great strain. So, when I was able to relax, at the weekend, I found myself in a state of torpor; and, fatigue coinciding with a sudden spell of warm - almost hot - weather (and one dare not leave off clothes in such a spell at this time of year), I spent all my time dozing in an arm chair, instead of sitting at the typewriter - except for church on Sunday and having to go on Sunday afternoon to a new play at the Arts Theatre - or Theatre Arts - Club to please Martin Browne, as the play was by a protégé of his, one Christopher Fry - able but very over-written, I thought, in a kind of pseudo-Elizabethan luxuriance of language which was tiring to the ear and mind. I had arranged, some time ago, to spend a weekend in Cambridge, and acceded to a reiterated request from Ernest Tillyard that I should talk to a group of his young men at Jesus: this only involved reading them a paper I had written for Aix on Edgar Poe, and did not seem much to do. But then the chaplain of Magdalene asked me to preach the even-song sermon on the Sunday, and I did not like to refuse, out of loyalty to the college, though I detest sermons by laymen. And the rest of the weekend was pretty busy, as I had not been in Cambridge for so long. Saturday morning advising Martin Browne's son who wanted to drop medicine and take up the History Tripos; took Tom Faber, my godson at Trinity, out to lunch and a couple of friends of his; then had to attend a meeting of the Friends of Little Gidding, and an exhibition of manuscripts, in the college library; then go to tea with Tom in his rooms; then back to Magdalene where a group of undergraduates had been invited to sherry to meet me (including a sweet little black prince from Uganda) and then to dine with the new Master. And on Sunday, the usual services in the college chapel, lunch with the Pickthorns - a long walk, but the backs were full of crocus - then to tea with old Mrs. Innes, Christina Morley's mother, who is very infirm, and then back to robe for evensong - after that dine in hall, spend the evening with a few of the fellows whom I know best, and at eleven o'clock go over to talk to the Master about an idea of mine for inviting German scholars over from time to time. And up early every morning. Then on the Tuesday take the last meeting of Books Across the Sea - of which I thankfully cease to be president because no president is now needed, the organisation having been taken over by the English Speaking Union - and make a speech at that; and on Thursday take the chair at the Institut Français for Henri Fluchère giving a lecture on Guillaume Apollinaire. So that's five speeches, if you count them. The worst, because the one with no precedent in my experience, was the sermon. To remember not to begin "Ladies and Gentlemen" but with the invocation. And the disconcertingness of getting no applause or any sort of

reaction from that blank sea of undergraduate surplines and decorously expressionless faces; and wondering what was the fate of one's lighter touches: whether they were amused and concealed it, whether they thought them in poor taste, or whether the witticisms merely fell on stony ground. I hope I never have to do that again; and indeed, I cannot imagine agreeing to do so except for a college of which I was a fellow.

You will have seen the letter I wrote Aunt Edith - I have since sent her the notes for what I said. Although I did pile it on a bit, I really thought that it went off well, and the audience were really appreciative; and Lord Aberconway did say that they intended to exhibit them all from time to time in sections, and send selections of them to be shown about the country. The ones shown - about 60 - included a surprising proportion of those shown in the last lecture at Petersham, of which I have very poignant memories. None of the yew tree garden or Stamford House. The one slightly comic touch was Mrs. Bennett Clarke's combination of pride in the fact that her own garden was in the collection (of which she informed Lord Aberconway) and her discomfiture that the slide of it was not shown. The man who showed them seemed very competent. I should like to have seen more than one of Hidcot House, which was a garden I particularly fancied; but the choice was very good. I hope I may see them all eventually.

I am very much distressed by your report of the Perkins's. You do not hazard a guess as to which is the feeblers; but speak as if one would not long survive the other. Thank you for telling me about Abbott Academy. I only hope that you will not find the shuttling to and fro, the endless packing and unpacking, and all the details of living in two places, very exhausting. It sounds interesting and agreeable for a term of so (I am glad that you did not do it in the very severe weather when travelling must have been very difficult) but impossible to keep up for very long. It would have been very surprising to have had you appear suddenly in London - you would have notified me in advance I hope! - and if and when you do, remember that it is essential to fix some definite accomodation for the first few days at least, as hotel accomodation is not always easy to come by now. Marion and Theodora are thinking of coming by air if no sea passage can be had; but I am rather worried about the strain for Marion - it is indeed very fatiguing, and one should be prepared to do nothing, and is possible stop in bed for a day or so, on arrival. I am infact rather worried about Marion coming at all, in case it is cold, or the coarse food does not agree with her; yet I do not want to dissuade her at this stage. Perhaps at the back of my mind is the anxiety I felt about them, and about you and the Perkins's, all through that unforgettable summer of 1939, when I was wondering just how many weeks it would be before war broke out. I don't think that will happen this summer; but one is never sure now when some sort of trouble may not arise, to make things particularly difficult for visitors. I believe that a passage has been taken for me for the 24 September on the "America", through the offices of Dr. Robert J. Openheimer.

Meanwhile I shall probably go to Aix about the 15th April for five or six days. I am no more anxious to go than I was before, though the time of year is more favourable. I have drafted scene 1 of a play; must now try to work out a second scene, which means developing two characters so far not thought out, in a kind of reverse situation to that of the first scene. Afterwards, each scene will have to have the dialogue developed, with attention to proportion between the different moods and characters, and timed; and then the musical scheme of the versification will have to be elaborated. It rather looks like three acts of two scenes each; and I think I can use all the characters who appear at the beginning, except possibly one who seems so far to have no serious possibilities whatever. But I don't like to waste characters, or introduce any for one scene only.

There was a broadcast version of "The Family Reunion" which I did not have the opportunity to hear. The B.B.C. are rather arbitrary, and cut up a play for broadcasting without consulting the author: I was told that they omitted the role of the chauffeur altogether - to me rather an important part.

But I shan't show anybody any of what I am trying to write now, until I can show enough to give them a fair idea of what I am trying to do - and I am not sure of that myself yet.

I am glad you were not at the Horticultural Hall - unless I could have seen you several times beforehand. It was painful as it was, though I did not have any idea who was in the audience. I was glad however to see Effie Cresswell afterwards, though, owing to the crowd, and the officials, and Mrs. Bennett Clark who could not be evaded, and a few strangers who wanted to speak to me, and her own retiring nature, I could do not more than greet her.

Your loving

Tom,

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John G. ...

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24 Russell Square London WC1

11 April 1948.

My Dear,

code - April 21

I was somewhat disappointed to find that your letter post-marked March 20 consisted only of enclosures, though the fact that it was sent by ordinary mail should have warned me. I should like to know more about the W.P.A., initials of which I do not know the meaning; I was pleased by your letter to the press on the death of the ~~xxxxxx~~ booking clerk, and interested by the letter from "Maggie" from Princeton. Who is Maggie, unless it is Margaret Thorp, to whose austere intellectual height such a name seems very disrespectful? But I do not know anyone else who would refer to the Tates -- One might speculate why they should be "quite themselves again" because of Caroline's conversion to Rome - I think they have been quite themselves again more than once, but not, so far as I know, for this reason; or who would be quite so unconsciously amusing about Stephen Spender - I am glad they ~~xxxxxx~~ liked him, but as for his sense of humour - they do not realise that he is a German under the skin; his views on politics should, I think, have been congenial to the Thorp intellectual liberal atmosphere. And the pious shrinking from the consequences of a Communist Italy sound rather like Margaret F. Thorp. This is, however, really a serious matter. I shall be in Marseilles at the time of the Italian elections; and if there is a communist move to anticipate them (as seems possible, since opinion is that the elections will be anti-communist) it will be interesting to see what happens in Marseilles, rather a centre of communism anyway. I leave by air on Wednesday next; am to be met (I hope) by Fluchère and taken for a couple of days to a village in the mountains, called Sainte-Tulle, before two arduous days in Marseilles and Aix. Then by train to Paris with Fluchère, where I shall have to see my publisher, Flamand, and a few other people, and back to London, if all goes well, on Friday week. I shall be thankful to get this over with; for I dislike more and more having to go to foreign parts; and the shadow of this tiring visit has paralysed (so far as a shadow can paralyse) all my writing for a couple of weeks past. Apart from the chill I caught at the Roberts's on Easter day, which has not yet quite left me; and the fact that my new teeth do not yet quite fit. And going to a reception at Downing Street for Mrs. Roosevelt, who is unveiling the statue of her husband tomorrow, but I shan't be there - I have to lunch with a Frenchman to discuss the future of the Alliance Française and then a meeting of a committee on Western European Unity. I had to go to Hindhead for the day on Friday, to say good-bye to Mrs. Mirrlees, who is slowly dying - she only just recognised me - she is 87 - her son arrived the same evening from Alexandria.

I must try to write to Uncle John before I leave - as well as a cable, I had ~~xxxxxx~~ a letter from him thanking me for the

slide presentation. In your last letter you spoke of your life having been "fuller and richer" than ever during the past winter; and I should like to know more of that, for I know nothing of the inside of your life during these past months, though I rejoiced to hear you use these words. I cannot say the same, for these last months have been months of interruption, and of the struggle of the real person (such as it is) to resist being converted into the public symbol. I hope it will be the former, freed from this Aix-en-Provence nightmare of nearly a year past, who will write the next letter.

You devoted

Tom

I hope you will tell me something about the reading of "Outward Bound".

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My Dear,

Easter Monday 1948.

Your letter of March 19 arrived in good time for Easter, and I should have answered it at once but for the fatigues of the period. Holy Week gives me a great deal, of course, but is a physical tax - if there were more younger men one would not have to get up at 4 on Good Friday to take the last hour of the watch - the Tenebrae service comes at such a time that only a picnic supper is possible; and on Sunday I had to be at the 8 a.m. Mass, which means a half hour's walk as the buses do not start in time (ordinarily I go twice during the week and on Sunday only to the 11 o'clock). And the "holidays" tend to be spent in dealing with arrears of correspondence - and I had to respond to a sudden call from Henri Massis to write a short paper in honour of Charles Maurras' birthday, which I felt bound to do as he will spend the rest of his life in prison - and there are duty visits to be paid. Yesterday to tea with the Roberts's in the large old bleak house which serves as the Principal's Lodgings for their Training College: out of doors was sunny and warm, watching the children hunt for their Easter Eggs (not real eggs, of course, nowadays, but real chocolate eggs - the hunt so arranged that each child finds one egg) and the interior was chilly and I caught a slight cold - very slight, and I have so far escaped very lightly this winter. And this afternoon to Wandsworth to pay a visit, the first since January, on the paralysed Tereshchenko.

As for the immediate future: I have to go to Southern France on the 14th, for the postponed ceremony at Aix, returning on the 21st. I shall be glad to get that over with, finally, for indeed it has been nothing but a nuisance. The Italian elections on the 18th are much in my mind: so much depends on the result - more perhaps than on any election anywhere before. If, that is, the Communists do not attempt a coup de force before that date. I mean to fly to Marseilles and back, by British Airways, in case there should again be any disturbance of the French railways.

When one writes only once a month, I find that curious blanks occur in my memory at the time of writing: such that it must seem as if I were deliberately omitting mention of some event or other. I was not even sure whether I had written of the investiture or not. It was a very informal affair: I was given an appointment and arrived at the Palace about ten minutes beforehand, and was taken in to Alan Lascelles, the King's Private Secretary, whom I know slightly anyway, which made it easier. Then a young equerry in naval uniform turned up who led me up a small staircase to a small drawing room, where he left me alone with the King (in the uniform of an Admiral of the Fleet) who handed me the medal (or cross, a handsome gold and enamel construction with a red and blue ribbon to hang round the neck - such decorations are only worn on very formal state

occasions, so it now rests in safe custody at Lloyds Bank) and made me sit down by the fire and chat for ten or fifteen minutes - about the Order (in which he takes an interest, as this is one of the few decorations which are directly his own gift and not made by recommendation of the Prime Minister), a few polite questions about my work, and some remarks about persons of our (very limited!) mutual acquaintance. I thought him very charming and easy, and he does not stammer in the least, in private conversation. What pleased me particularly was that he and the Queen and Princess Margaret came to a performance of *Murder in the Cathedral* (the same old production with Speaight at the Mercury) the next week. It was not surprising that the Queen should have come, because she is interested in art and literature, but a great compliment for him to come too. In the interval, the cast was presented to them. I regret to say that I was not pleased with the performance. Speaight is in some ways better than before - he is so much older, and quieter, than he was, and looks the part better, but he still puts too much pathos into his sermon - but the tempter-knights were indulging in far too much buffoonery: I spoke to Martin about it afterwards. Martin, as I may or may not have told you, is now Chairman of the Drama League - a paid position of some importance; this is on the whole I think a good thing, but he will not longer be able to produce much, and Ashley Dukes is going to try to run the Mercury himself, producing verse plays etc. (at the moment the *Playboy of the Western World*) and according to his own ideas, for he has never seen eye to eye with Martin. I do not know how this will turn out. But Martin is to produce my new play, if I get it finished in time, in Edinburgh in the summer of 1949. (A good idea, I think, for if it should have a success in Edinburgh, there should be a chance of taking it to some larger theatre in London and getting out of the limited Mercury area). He is also producing "*Coriolanus*" for the Old Vic in May, which should be interesting.

All this is what I should have written some time ago if I had not taken you so literally. But your instructions were certainly categorical, though I am sorry that I interpreted them so literally: but I thought it better to err that way than the other! It should be needless to say that I have been constantly aware, and sometimes uneasy, of the absence of news from yourself: your letter of the 19th does much to dispel the more practical anxieties. I am so glad that Abbott has proved a happy and appreciative place, and that you can see that your work there is producing results. On the other hand, I know that the Perkins's must become an increasing cause of anxiety and responsibility to you, without the compensating happiness which such a relationship ought to give.

The shadow on the world is certainly darker than in 1938. What gives the character of nightmare is the impression of something much more like a plague, the Black Death, than like a war. Two groups of nations set against each other is bad enough, in all conscience; but what is so appalling is the infection of communism in all the countries of the West, the dread of collapse without a war or with only a token war, because of the lack of strength for resistance. It is an upheaval of the undermost, most sinister elements of society everywhere. Some form of Federal Union is no doubt desirable, if there is still enough to unite, and if the organisms to be united can establish enough health in themselves.

You mention enclosures in your letter, but there was no enclo-

sure except the very pretty Easter Card. Perhaps you will be sending them separately. I had a cable from the Perkins's, presumably after receiving my letter and hearing other reports of the presentation, thanking me again as an Easter greeting. I also had a letter from Meg, regretting very much that you could not visit them in Broadway after all.

I fear that your Easter holidays were too short to give you very much rest; and the coming term, with the Molnar play, must be tiring. But I am glad that spring has come for you at last. Our mild winter has so far been succeeded by a beautiful spring, and, for London, very dry weather.

*You always loving
Tom.*

...the very first ...
...I had a ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

...that your ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...
...the ...

You always bring
100

MR. T. S. ELIOT HONOURED

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, APRIL 26

The degree of Doctor *honoris causa* has been conferred on Mr. T. S. Eliot by the University of Aix-en-Provence.

The ceremony at Aix coincided with the presence there of 30 men and women undergraduates from Oxford, who have been invited to follow courses at Aix as part of a regular exchange of students between the two universities.

Happy anniversaries.

MESSAGE FROM INDIA

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

DELHI, APRIL 26

The Governor-General, Lord Mountbatten, sent the following message to the King on the occasion of the silver wedding: "With humble duty the Governor-General, at the request of the Government of India, begs to offer to your Majesty on behalf of the people of India and the Princes the most loyal and heartfelt greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the silver wedding of your Majesties, and to convey their warmest good wishes for the long life and prosperity of your Majesties."

FESTIVAL OF BRITAIN

COUNCIL APPOINTED

The Lord President of the Council announces that the council to supervise the Festival of Britain, 1951, has been constituted as follows:—

GENERAL LORD ISMAY (chairman); SIR PATRICK ABERCROMBIE; Mr. WILL ARTHUR, secretary, National Union of Mineworkers, South Wales area; SIR FREDERICK BAIN, president of the F. of B.I.; SIR ALAN BARLOW; Mr. R. A. BUTLER, M.P.; SIR KENNETH CLARK, Slade Professor of Fine Art, Oxford; Mr. NOEL COWARD; LORD CRAWFORD AND BALCARRES, chairman of the Royal Fine Art Commission; DR. R. S. EDWARDS, chairman of the Council of Industrial Design; Mr. T. S. ELIOT, O.M.; Mr. WALTER ELLIOT, F.R.S.; Mr. L. K. ELMHIRST, chairman of Dartington Hall Trust; SIR HENRY FRENCH; LADY MEGAN LLOYD-GEORGE, M.P.; Mr. JOHN GIELGUD; SIR WILLIAM HALEY, Director-General, B.B.C.; MISS FLORENCE HANCOCK, chairman of the T.U.C.; SIR ALAN HERBERT, M.P.; Miss MARGARET HERBISON, M.P.; SIR DAVID LINDSAY KEIR, president and vice-chancellor, Queen's University, Belfast; SIR HARRY LINDSAY, president, Royal Society of Arts; Mr. KENNETH LINDSAY, M.P.; Mr. H. V. LOBB, chairman of the R.I.B.A. exhibitions committee; SIR ERNEST POOLEY, chairman of the Arts Council; SIR ROBERT ROBINSON, president of the Royal Society; SIR MALCOLM SARGENT; COLONEL SIR FREDERICK STEWART, member of the Council of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music; Mr. J. WESTWOOD, M.P.; SIR WYNN WHELDON, chairman of the Council of the Honorable Society of Cymmrodorion; and Mr. JOHN WILMOT, M.P.

- (i) 1,140,000 Shares in The Diamond Trading Company,
- (j) 240,000 Shares in Industrial Distributors (1946) Limited
- (k) Other Diamond Interests, at cost, less amounts written

II.—DIAMONDS ON HAND

III.—INVESTMENTS :

- Quoted Securities at or under market value
 - (i) 2,800,000 Ordinary Shares in De Beers Industrial Company
 - (ii) 55,956 Shares in Griqualand West Diamond Mining Ltd. (Subsidiary Company)
 - (iii) 91,500 Preference Shares in The Consolidated Diamond Ltd. (Subsidiary Company)
 - (iv) 271,516 Shares in Consolidated Company, Bultfontein
 - (v) 200,000 Shares in The New Jagersfontein Mining and
- (Market Value of Quoted Securities, £6,304,94

IV.—LOAN TO THE PREMIER (TRANSVAAL) DIAMOND LIMITED (Subsidiary Company)

V.—CURRENT ASSETS

- Union and Local Authority Securities and Debentures
- Amounts due by Subsidiary Companies (including Dividends)
- Sundry Debtors
- Fixed Deposits with Interest Accrued
- Loan at Call
- Cash at Bankers and in Hand

C. H. BECK, Secretary. E. OPPENHEIM
H. P. RUDD

STATEMENT IN PURSUANCE OF SECTION 100

The Company's interest in the aggregate amount of the assets and the interest in the aggregate losses was £1,041.

These figures refer to the Profit and Loss Accounts of 31st December, 1947, except in the case of The Diamond Corporation, Limited, which has, however, paid up to 31st December, 1946. That Corporation, has, however, paid up to 31st December, 1947.

C. H. BECK, Secretary.

To the Shareholders, AUDITORS
DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES, LIMITED

We have examined the books and accounts and vouchers and explanations we have required. We have satisfied ourselves that the accounts have been kept, and in our opinion the above Balance Sheet gives a correct view of the state of the Company's affairs according to the Companies Act, 1947, and as shown by the books of the Company as at 31st December, 1947.

Kimberley, 19th March, 1948.

H
S

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

FABER AND FABER LIMITED

PUBLISHERS

24 Russell Square London W.C.1.

Fabbaf Westcent London

Museum 9543

Dearst Emily,

May 1, 1948.

ack. May 23
US

I found your kind letter of the 21st April on my return last Saturday. I was very tired after my ten days' labours, and developed a cold immediately on returning, so that for several days I was idle and stupified. I think that the expedition went off very well, though I am thankful I have no other until I sail for America in late September. I flew to Marseilles, arriving an hour late, in the middle of the afternoon, to be taken direct to a reception which was being given, at the Chamber of Commerce, to a party of 30 Oxford undergraduates who had been spending three weeks at Aix: a deafening din, and an odd mixture of people talking French and English, with a radio blaring dance music in a vain attempt to get the young people to dance. Then to Fluchère's flat in Marseilles, and thence to dine at the house of an elderly lady who had been a colleague of his in the resistance - they forged passports etc. in a shed in the garden. On a hill overlooking the city and harbour - a wonderful view through olive trees - and the frogs croaking away like mad - I felt that I was really in the South. The pleasantest part of the tour was the next three days, which we spent at the little house of Fluchère's mother - an old lady of 87 who lives quite alone on the outskirts of Ste. Tulle, a tiny village in the foothills of the Alps, two hours from Marseilles. The old lady cooked a most excellent leg of lamb (which she had taken some trouble to get) seasoned with garlic, and was very proud of the wine, the raisins, and the almonds all produced from her own acre or so of garden. Two days we spent visiting rather out-of-the-way, but lovely villages in the Basses-Alpes, with two friends of his, M. and Madame Delorme, whom he had pressed into service because of their having a car: everywhere being introduced to the mayor (who is undistinguishable from any other peasant hanging about the local Grande Place) and usually having a drink with him at a café. We dined one evening with the préfet des Basses-Alpes, who dwells in some grandeur in a shiny bright palazzo in the town of Digne, which is a long way up the valley of the Durance. Then returned to Marseilles in the evening of Sunday, after the visit of De Gaulle to Marseilles was over: the city then very quiet, as well it might be, crammed with Gardes Mobiles with armoured cars and every sort of fire-arms. Monday, a reception by the magazine Les Cahiers du Sud - two small rooms ~~examined~~ with twice as many people as could have comfortably got in; in the afternoon gave my lecture in French to the Alliance Française (a reporter accompanied us there on the tram, in order to continue

his interview) - after the lecture I had to go to a bookshop to sign copies of the French translations of my books for those customers who came to buy them - a most fatiguing duty, as you have to write the name of the purchaser in the book as well as your autograph: this went on for about an hour and a half - then to a most amazingly delicious dinner at the Club des Amis du Vieux-Port - got to bed about one - I forgot to mention that I had also done a "radio interview" at a local broadcasting station in the morning. On Tuesday, a car was sent from the University to take us to Aix - a large and elaborate lunch at a big hotel, and I have not the slightest recollection of more than three or four of the people present, given by the Rector of the University: after that I was put in the office of the Dean of the English Faculty to "repose myself" before my lecture; then my same lecture, but this time in English, in a small but very crowded hall; and immediately afterwards, the degree conferred upon myself and upon a Swiss Professor who could not speak, because he had had his vocal chords removed some years before - but his daughter read his speech for him; and I read my "discours" of thanks, in French. A little tiptop of red and yellow silk, adorned with rabbit's fur, is laid on your shoulder, and there you are. Then we moved off to another reception (always, in France, sticky sweet drinks and little cakes) at the local Allies' Club, with a babel of people. Invariably, on such occasions in such places, one meets a few English and American exiles who have been living there for 30 years -- the only other person I remember was a funny little gentleman - conspicuous simply because he was so obviously a gentleman and because he was so exceptionally insignificant in appearance otherwise -- who asked me whether my family came from Toulouse? I said my name was undoubtedly French, but that I had never heard our origins attributed to Toulouse. It then appeared that his great-grandmother had been named Eliot and her family came from Toulouse, but they were now extinct. May I ask whom I am speaking to? I said politely. Le Marquis de Castillane, he replied with some dignity. After that we were driven back to Marseilles, fetched our bags, supped at the railway station, and took the night train to Paris. No taxis - or rather, not enough taxis, at the Gare de Lyon, so Fluchère engaged a porter who for the sum of 500 francs and his métro ticket, carried our bags for us, and a low price I think it was. I found myself in a small hotel in Passy, as Fluchère was staying ~~with~~ at his sister-in-law's flat near by. The food is good in Paris restaurants (though, after Provence, I complain that there is not enough garlic in it) and at a price slightly more than you would pay in London you get a very much more appetising meal. That is to say, the food is more expensive, but the wine is very much cheaper, and the beer is palatable. It is much ~~xxxxx~~ easier than two years ago - when all the decent restaurants were semi-speakeasy, and you could hardly get into one unless you had a personal introduction to the proprietor. I naturally saw as many of the people it was my duty to see, as was possible in the time: another reception, this by my Paris publishers - again, hundreds of people crowded into two small rooms; no "radio interview" - but on Friday morning, four reporters in succession, mostly wanting to know my views on the most delicate political topics, and all anxious to impute to me views which I wished to disown - this situation made

more difficult (1) by the fact that Robert Speaight had been in Paris a few days before, and had given a lecture about me (in French at that) in which he had attributed to me various opinions which I had tactfully to water down - thank goodness he is now off to Canada, where I suppose however he will continue to present garbled versions of my views in both languages; (2) by the fact that there was a young man with a red beard drawing my portrait the whole time. Went to the theatre once -- Monsieur Badel, the proprietor of the vieux Colombier, where "Meurtre dans la Cathédrale" was produced two years ago, gave us tickets to a curious - and I thought, very poor - play called "Lucienne et le Boucher". Then on Saturday back to London by the Golden Arrow.

Well, I hope that it has served its purpose of adding one spot of cement to Anglo-French relations. Certainly, French Universities do not give honorary degrees to foreigners lavishly. It is a centimetre more in "Who's Who" - "D. ès L. (Aix-Marseille)". And it was suggested to me that my turning up in Paris in this way, privately (financed partly by the Treasury, who, under pressure from my bank manager, allowed me to spend £20 of my own money) would do more good than my going there as an agent of the British Council. It will have cost me about £40, a great loss of working time, a heavy cold and considerable fatigue and wear and tear; and the only motive and justification is its wee contribution to the unity of Western Europe.

This has taken me two pages and a half; it is of no importance in our correspondence but is simply something I could not well omit mention of. Apart from dealing with the accumulation of arrears at my office - but not so bad as it might have been - I have spent three mornings at my play, and have drafted the second scene: that is to say, I have completed one draft of the first act. But every development so far seems to create new problems for the rest of the play. And I find myself working on this one - for better or worse - in a different way from "The Family Reunion": it is much more a matter of laying out the plot, with dialogue at the right length, first - of starting from the theatre end, instead of from the poetry end; the things I know I can do, will be the last to be done; so that I have no conviction that anything is right. The versification I can handle easily now, but the poetry - well, if I do get anywhere by this method, I shall reach a point at which I can say like Racine, "il n'y a que les vers à faire"...

I shall stop here; but I shall write again rather sooner; certainly before I go to Cambridge for Whitsun - the occasion being the induction of the retired Master (who was always kind to me) as an Honorary Fellow.

Yours lovingly Tom

Mrs. M. is still living, by last reports - it is a miracle she has hung on so long, for she had the operation for gall-stone while I was away. It is a relief to know that her son is with her.

The first part of the report is devoted to a general
 description of the project and its objectives. It
 is followed by a detailed account of the work done
 during the period covered by the report. The results
 of the work are then discussed, and the conclusions
 reached are stated. Finally, a list of references
 is given, and the report is signed by the author.

The second part of the report is devoted to a
 detailed description of the work done during the
 period covered by the report. It is followed by a
 discussion of the results of the work, and the
 conclusions reached. Finally, a list of references
 is given, and the report is signed by the author.

John Smith

The third part of the report is devoted to a
 detailed description of the work done during the
 period covered by the report. It is followed by a
 discussion of the results of the work, and the
 conclusions reached. Finally, a list of references
 is given, and the report is signed by the author.

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

FABER AND FABER LIMITED

PUBLISHERS

24 Russell Square London W.C.1.

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Museum 9543

22 May 1948.

ack.
May 23

My Dear

It seems a very long time since I last wrote; but it is a still longer time since I heard from you, and I had hoped that I might receive a letter in the interval. I should prefer to write rather oftener, as such a break of continuity, during which your life has been hidden from me, tends to make it difficult to pick up any threads. And even to give any account of one's own life and thoughts, one has to record them rather more often. In the course of a week, certain things seem worthy of mention; in the course of a fortnight, a simplification takes place; but after that, it is difficult, reviewing the past weeks, to see anything as important - it all sinks into a general blur of routine variations of a routine life.

I have to-day to do what I always try to avoid, which is to go away for a second week-end in succession. Last week-end, that of Whitsun, gave me a certain satisfaction. I had to go - that it to say, I felt it my duty to go - to Cambridge, as the retired Master of Magdalene, for whom I have a genuine affection: an admirable Master who was always kind to me, and who had identified his life with the college for many years - was to be installed as an Honorary Fellow - an event of some importance, and a good deal of pleasure, for him. The weather was quite perfect; I cannot remember a more perfect Whitsun in this country; and Cambridge was looking quite its best. The ceremony in the college chapel is a simple one (after which we all Praise Famous Men, and sing the *Veni Sancte Spiritus* in Latin) followed by a Feast (members of the college only) - it being a Feast because of meaning scarlet gowns, a moderate amount of champagne, and a loving cup at the end) and it was pleasant to see the old Master so happy. I had during my visit to pay calls, of course, and take my godson at Trinity out to lunch. This week-end may not give me so much satisfaction. It is shorter at least: I must go, for the first time, to spend two nights with the Morleys at Jordans. During the past year I have only had fugitive glimpses of either of them; and from my point of view, they might almost as well have been in America: having like most people no steady domestic help, they could never (because of the little girl) both be away at once; I once spent a day there (it rained) but that was the whole family party, and there was no chance for personal talk between adults. So now it is renewing a relationship which has for a long time lapsed; and I am wondering whether it will be the same as ten years ago, or whether a new one is possible. The fact that Frank is at present unoccupied seems to make a further difference

between his life and mine.. At present I feel sorry for them, and am so conscious of it that that makes me rather self-conscious with them. It is not only myself that they are out of touch with, but with the whole life that they left behind them ten years ago. Nine years ago.

In spite of interruptions, I have got on slowly with the play, and have now written the first draft of about a third of it: the first act (two scenes) and the first scene of the second act. I may at this stage show what I have done to Martin Browne, to see whether he makes head or tail of it. The scenes I have written are intended to exhibit the different behaviour of the hero (who is anything but heroic) in three different situations with three different people): the question is whether an outside reader will get any impression of unity (which is a very different thing from a definition of the character - I don't want it to be any more definable than real people are). I hope to finish this draft during the summer; but I don't feel settled for any stretch ahead, because of the uncertainty of Marion and Theodora - if they do get passages (which seems unlikely, as there is said to be such a press of people wanting to come over, goodness knows why) and if I do then at short notice find accomodation for them in London, and in a few places for short visits, I shall have to adapt my routine to their movements.

It is, I presume, about time that you had settled your own arrangements for the summer, and I am anxious to know what they are. Grand Manan always seemed to do you more good than any place you found for any length of stay. I shall write again as soon as I have heard from you.

always devotedly
Tom

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

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Seaver Enig

3 June 1948. *ackd - [unclear]*

Your very welcome letter of May 25 came several days ago, and I do not want to wait for the weekend to answer it. All the more because I have a somewhat heavy day ahead of me tomorrow. - You will not approve of this, but I cannot help it! I have to get up early to take a train to Oxford, to attend the opening of the new "Maison Française" -- a sort of local centre of French cultural propaganda. Why should I do this, you ask. Well, in the first place, the head of it is my friend and translator Henri Fluchère, to whom I owe the production of "Murder in the Cathedral" in France (we both made a little money out of it - in France the royalties are divided half and half between author and translator, and this he certainly deserved, as both publication and production were due to his initiative) and the consequent interest there in my work; he also got me the degree from Aix (not that I coveted such an honour, for indeed I should have preferred to have had for other uses the time I had to give to preparing the discourses connected with it) and I believe recommended me for the Legion of Honour - and that is the other compulsive reason for going, as the medals to new recipients of the ribbon are to be bestowed by the Ambassador as part of the opening ceremony. However, I have resolutely declined to stop for the formal dinner in the evening, which would mean staying the night: it seemed to me that morning ceremonies, the official luncheon, and the afternoon garden party were quite enough! After that, I have two weeks without engagements; then a weekend with the Richmonds at Salisbury, followed by two nights at Oxford for Encaenia, where I have to receive the Oxford Degree. I am now really rather hoping (but please do not hint at such a thing to anybody) that Marion and Theodora will not get passages; for I should have to bend all my energies to finding a hotel for them, and places to go in the country; and the visit would break into my work to an extent the poor souls cannot imagine, and I would not for worlds have them know it. If their passages could have been fixed early, it would have been much easier, and I was keenly looking forward to their coming. I don't believe they will; but it would be only the shortness of the notice that would make it inconvenient for me. However, their visit has made it easier to refuse the requests with which I have been bombarded, to go abroad - especially to Germany, but also to Holland, Denmark and Italy again, and Austria. Germany is really on my conscience, and as soon as I can, I regard it as a duty to go; but not before the winter. The pressure has come both

from Germans direct, and from the Foreign Office. But when I do go, I ought to make something of a tour of the chief towns in the British and American zones. But this is too depressing a subject to dwell upon for long. I shall of course send you a copy of the play when I have completed one draft. I have sent the first three scenes to Martin Browne, in the hope that he will be able to encourage me to believe that there is something there worth going on with, for I have no confidence whatever in my abilities as a playwright - I have no gift for construction and do not believe that I have much understanding of character. So at this stage I have been chiefly concerned with suspense and surprise: if I can get some sort of a skeleton, then I can re-write it to give the characters more consistency and depth, and finally attend to the poetry, if any - for there seem to be no points of obvious lyricism in this plot, and I am dispensing with the chorus.

I was amused by the "interview" in the New York Times. I don't think that I was quite so lively as Miss Lejeune makes me out to have been: there is a substratum of actual record, but I think the publicity talent of Mr. Hoellering and the journalistic talent of Miss Lejeune have developed it a good deal. Anyway, I am glad she put in what I did say - that I do not intend to print the additional bits of writing, except perhaps some day as a kind of appendix; for what is necessary for the film would ruin the play, and I do not want people performing it on the stage with the extra scenes. Besides, the words added for the film could not do their work except with the screen picture.

Now, the most interesting news is that you are to be at Andover next year - I mean, from this autumn. My first question is, just where is Andover? I have some recollection of once having passed through Exeter, in a car, though I do not remember when or where I was going; but I am sure that I have never been to Andover. Indeed, I might well have asked this question before; but it becomes more urgent if, as I suppose, I shall have to come to Andover to see you. And the problem will be how one can make a private visit, in a place like that: with a girls' school and a Boys' school; and I don't want to have to give a public reading, and spend my time being lunched or dined by the Faculties. And you are going there within a week, and I don't know the address! Well, I hope this letter will go quickly, or else be forwarded. It is certainly gratifying that they should be so keen to have you, and that they should reward your work relatively well, for you have always been underpaid. And I am glad to think that your last post (for I am sure they will want you to stop until you yourself wish to retire altogether) should be a congenial and appreciative one: for Smith ended so lamentably, and Concord I know, and Miss Tucker, never made a happy environment for you. I am so glad to know of your sensible fixtures for the summer, with Grand Manan. And I think, with this winter's work ahead of you, it is sensible to go to Dorset for one play only. I suppose that Paul Stevenson has not yet settled on the play or the part for you. I do hope his independent venture this summer will be a success.

I suppose that Penelope is perhaps like some rich or well-to-do people. They sometimes expect people to come to them, and, especially when they are very kind in other ways, it does not occur to them to do the kind things which anybody else could do, such as going out of their way to visit them. Even when, as I suppose Penelope still has, they have a car and chauffeur at their disposal. You were very discreet in not giving her my address, but I shall ask her (and I suppose some travelling companion, or poor cousin?) to tea if possible. There will, no doubt, be other American visitors to be seen this summer: the Richards's, for instance, may turn up at any moment, on their way to climb Alps, I suppose.

Now I must write to Aunt Edith, from whom I just have a letter. No, I am very anxious to avoid any occasion for preaching again. Why doesn't Penelope ever ask you to travel with her? I suppose she has too many cousins whom she fosters.

With much love

Tom

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John

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Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

*ack,
July 2-12*

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My Dear,

17 June 1948.

I am writing only rather briefly, to thank you for your sweet letter of June 8 - because you know I am very fidgetty about addresses, as about other details of life like catching trains, packing etc. So this will go simply to

Miss Emily Hale,
Abbott Academy,
Andover, Asss.

Is that right? it seems
such a little address.

and my next will go to

Miss Emily Hale,
Apartment 177
90 Commonwealth Avenue
Boston, Mass.

and towards the end of July to

Miss Emily Hale,
"The Anchorage",
Grand Manan,
New Brunswick.

I set all this out, so that you may instantly correct me on any detail, especially about the last one. It seems a pity that you should be leaving such nice rooms, which I shall never see, and just as you seem to have acquired some very nice note paper for it. But I am delighted to hear that the School has amenities, as well as sympathetic and appreciative personalities. I don't know how sorry or glad to be over the cancellation of Dorset - I am sorry for Paul Anderson, in any case: because if you had a good part in a good play, it would be a tonic stimulant, but in any case it would be fatiguing, and you need a good holiday with sea breezes. I am distressed, but not at all surprised, by the increasing problem of 90 Commonwealth Avenue. I hope you will not be there throughout the whole of July - and in the hot weather; and that you will at least make excursions of a few days at a time to New Bedford and elsewhere. I had a letter from Willard, giving their Francis Avenue Address (I wonder whether they would find Abigail Eliot congenial - perhaps they will have a common

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enthusiasm in Henry Wallace - though how any intelligent people can support that dangerous clown passes my comprehension). I don't know, because I so carefully avoid politics when in America; and I shall certainly refuse to discuss Palestine while in Princeton - the extent to which Britain has been traduced and lied about over that affair is amazing.

I am afraid my cable did not arrive in time for Uncle John's birthday, but I hope he got it all the same. I shall write to him after I come back from Oxford - I shall really be a week away, as I go to Salisbury tomorrow, to Oxford on Tuesday, and stay over Thursday night at the Maison Française for a dinner to Léon Blum. I seem to see a good deal of the Frogs, but that is one of my functions. I dined with the Martin Browne's last night, and received encouragement about the scenes of my play, and a few useful hints to keep in mind when I start on the second version. I am now about a third through the third act - which sounds very advanced; but the scenes are in this version too short as well as having too much talk. Some of the talk must be resolved into action.

I do wish that you could be at Oxford, though no ladies attend the Luncheon at All Souls' or the dinner at Christ Church, except possibly a few lady dons and heads of women's colleges. But there is a garden party in the afternoon, with a band playing of course - and probably a cold damp windy day.

With very much love

Pow

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
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My dear,

4 July 1948.

*ccdr
Faber*

I was very tired last week after three nights in Oxford, with a dinner party each night - first the Warden of All Souls', then the Christchurch "Gaudy", at which I had, at fortyeight hours' notice, to respond to the toast of "the guests" (and a little difficult to have to speak after M. Léon Blum, with all the resources of the French language and a lifetime of speech-making) and finally a dinner at the Maison Française in honour of M. and Mme. Blum - I spent the last night there, and perhaps the final fatigue was having to talk French all the time for a day at the end. So that last weekend I spent doing as near to nothing as possible, and sleeping a good deal. At the end of a second weekend, I feel more rested. I have not, this year, been going to my office on a Friday; I try to keep Saturday entirely free and see nobody; and this week I have had three days without conversation - a great restorative, especially as most of the people one sees in this life (and I think as one becomes older it is a higher proportion) are exhausting rather than contributing. I say "contributing" because I do not mean stimulating: one needs a certain amount of social stimulation, no doubt; but stimulation means exciting one to give out rather than to receive.

Now I hope for a fairly quiet life for the rest of this month; then I may go to the Fabers' for ten days or so, and possibly pay a visit in Cornwall to a farm in August; and in September prepare for Princeton. I shall have to refurbish my Poe lecture for the Library of Congress; and I have to compose the War Memorial Lecture for Milton (both of these, I expect will take place in November); otherwise I shall give no lectures, and I hope no readings in public. And I hope to finish my first draft this month. I have two more scenes

to write. That sounds as if I had nearly finished! but indeed I count this first draft only as preparing the framework. It will be too short, but at the same time I am sure that a good many lines will have to come out. It is not only the whole scheme, and proportions, that present difficult problems for me; it is especially those scenes in which a change or development of emotion must be operated. I know the state of feeling in which I want my characters to open the scene; and I have a pretty definite idea of the state of feeling (the feelings of each and also the combination they are to make) at which I want to arrive at the end. The difficult is to select the right moments of change, and plot a curve which will give the effect of a continuous development and not of a series of leaps from one static condition to another. There too one needs to find out how what one writes affects other people: by oneself, it is so easy to skip a stage in development without noticing it.

You are now, I suppose, at Commonwealth Avenue, where I shall address you until August (I have got rather confused with "The Flying Job" and "The Anchorage"); but I hope you will, as you suggest the possibility, pay a few visits; for I should want you to be out of the heat as much as possible. I am very sorry that the Perkins's cannot go away to the country or seaside; though I can see, that even if they were the guests of good friends, Aunt Edith would be tried by the difficulty of finding her way about in another house: but it often seems that old people do not suffer from heat as much as younger ones.

It now seems certain that Marion and Theodora will not come.

With much love

Rom

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My Dear,

13 July 1948.

ack - July 187

I have your letter of July 6: and am rather surprised that you had not received my letter written after Oxford. After sending one letter to Andover, I wrote to Commonwealth Avenue. (I have just written to Aunt E. to acknowledge receipt of the dress suit which she has commissioned me to dispose of). I am also puzzled because I was sure that I had told you of the death of Mrs. Mirrlees in May, about a week after I got back from France. She had had an operation, and had surprised the doctors by rallying from it remarkably well for a woman of her age; but she died a few days later. I went to the funeral service at Woking Crematorium, and have not seen Hope or Reay since. Margot (Coker) was in Natal at the time, and come not get back; but I had lunch with her yesterday - she is finishing up the cookery book which her mother had compiled and which we are to publish. I gather from her that Hope has had a temporary collapse, but is expected to recover now that she has sold the house. I miss Mrs. Mirrlees very much: she was one of the most remarkable personalities I have ever known, temperamental to a degree (when she was young her ambition had been to go on the stage) but most loveable, kind and generous, and of the finest type of Scottish patrician.

I am astonished if I did not write of this; but at this distance of time I cannot swear that I did. However, I am sure that I wrote about Oxford, All Souls, Christ Church, and driving back the next day with Léon Blum and his wife - and a slight car accident for which I cannot blame M. Massigli's chauffeur: to drive a very wide American car, with a left-hand drive, on winding narrow English roads is a great deal to ask of anybody, and then to have to get to a certain place at a certain time. What I think of the Massiglis I do not know; but Blum charmed me completely - and I should say, also a woolly-minded man and I suspect a very indifferent political leader.

I hope to have a quiet August, with perhaps a fortnight with the Fabers, on their return from Islay. The time of my departure is not far off. As for the accomodation at Princeton, a certain Walter Stewart, who deputises for Oppenheimer, has been very kind. He has engaged for me a small house, belonging to a Professor Stauffer who will be away. Prof. Stauffer shares it with a friend who is only there at weekends, so during the week I shall have it to myself. A charwoman is provided, and

apparently I get my own breakfast, then lunch and tea at the Institute (I presume chatting with Einstein and other great scientists) and dinner at the Faculty Club, which is said to be near. For the house and service I am to pay \$175 a month, which does not seem a large rent - this comes out of the \$2000 which they give me as living expenses for the two months. I shall probably spend a night in New York, get settled in Princeton, and then come to Cambridge for a long weekend as quickly as I can. In Cambridge, I can stay at the Richards's if I like (it is a noisy position on Kirkland Street, but as Dorothea is to be over here until the end of October it should otherwise be peaceful) (I mean she is always wanting to have dinner parties); I am sure Ted Spencer would gladly put me up, if he and his new wife are then settled on Brattle Street, or I might have the guest room at Eliot House on one occasion. But when I come up for a week or so on end, at the end, I shall want to get a lodging or hotel. I have told you that I am to give the War Memorial Lecture at Milton, which brings \$500, and with \$500 for a lecture at the Library of Congress, I ought to have enough to pay my expenses everywhere and buy a winter overcoat etc.

It is a dismal, cold cloudy summer here: and the nightmare exasperation of Berlin ...

You seem to have been very active, considering that you had just ended a busy term by producing a play: so with these recitations in Concord and Fernside I hope that your report of your being considered to be looking well (you don't say how you feel) is not misleading. And I am sorry that you do not go to Manan until August 9, as that seems to give you a month there at most. Do make the most of it, as I want to see you looking well in October. From your account, your rooms at Andover make a large house!

I have just heard from Mrs. Brocklebank, who has been having a bad time - her mother has just died, after a long illness - at an advanced age of course; what is more dreadful is that her son-in-law has become mentally deranged. But she wants me to come down there and go to one of the plays at Stratford: I should like to go, as she is going to try to get Wavell to come too, and I like the Field Marshal very much (his son is very nice too); but it looks as if she wanted me at some time during the period when I expect to be at the Fabers. (They have a couple of servants at present, so it ought to be comfortable) - the Fabers, I mean). I cannot remember whether this daughter is her only surviving child or not.

Yes, I think I am pretty well, though I ate too many strawberries at Oxford, and they never agree with me. All I want is a little heat and sun, which I failed to get in Provence.

I hope you will give my affectionate good wishes to Dorothy Elsmith. She seems to have married off her children very successfully so far, so I trust the medical missionary will be a success also.

With much love

Tom.

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My Dear,

25 July 1948.

*ack. 40
Aug 10*

I have your note of July 18 and must write briefly to catch you before you depart for Grand Manan (I note that The Anchorage, Grand Manan, New Brunswick, is the address) where I shall write at more length. I shall be relieved when you are no longer at Commonwealth Avenue - please give them the enclosed cutting, which will interest Aunt E. to whom I had already mentioned the project for preserving the garden of Hidcote House - and really, I hope, resting; and I hope that the journey down, with Mary Foss and Peggy Williams (whom I remember very clearly indeed, and very agreeably - I wonder how she remembers me) will be a very happy one. **CONFIDENTIAL:** I have had a letter from Willard to say that he hears that the man who shares with Professor Stauffer the house allotted to me in Princeton, and who was expected to be there at week-ends, has had a break-down; so at his hint I have written to Princeton to ask whether I should stay there or not - but stay somewhere I will! Meanwhile I ask you whether I should come to see you at Andover, as soon as I can get up to do so; and whether I can come to Andover without any fuss - I mean, it is so difficult to come to see anybody at an educational institution without its being a public event. Meanwhile, I am trying to get on with the first draft of Act IV, so as to submit the first draft of the entire play (now called provisionally **THE COCKTAIL PARTY** - for it seems to me that a Family Reunion at which only a part of the family was present, is balanced by a cocktail party consisting only of the guests whom the host couldn't put off because he couldn't get at them) to Martin before I leave. I am going down to the Fabers' in Sussex for ten days on Thursday, and on the 18th have promised to go to Mrs. Brocklebank in Stratford (with the added inducement of being motored down by my pet Wavell, who seems to be a protégé of hers) for a Shakespeare orgy - including the Hamlet of Robert Helpman, whom I have already seen in that role and who I think is most unpleasing. Otherwise, I shall be in London until the 24th September, when I sail - escaping the publication of Tambimuttu's book and the celebration of my 60th birthday by the B.B.C.

I hope to write a better letter than this - to Grand Manan!

Christopher Hollis tells me that Penelope Noyes is about - she has been staying with them, it seems, in Wiltshire - but I have not heard from her. Dorothea Merriman came to tea yesterday; and I am taking Martha Eliot to dinner tomorrow; and there are many American visitors, but not Emily.

*Very lovingly
Tom.*

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My Dear,

August 15, 1948.

Another year - if, as we say now, there is another year - I shall ask you to send me your summer programme on a sheet of paper that I can pin up on my wall. I always think I have mastered it, and then find myself fumbling through letters, and even so wondering whether I am not addressing my letter just to the wrong place at the wrong time. However, off this goes to the Anchorage, Grand Manan. How I wish that I were free to make my visits to America to suit my own convenience, and then I might turn up at Grand Manan, in the right month, myself! But always now I must come at a time when some institution will pay for me; which means that I can never see you in vacation time. I went away for ten days to the Fabers in Sussex. It was really restful, though only the first three days were fine and sunny, and after that there was no temptation to bathe in their swimming pool. It was all very quiet: except for going to see a polo match at Midhurst (the first I have ever witnessed - it is certainly the next best sport to ice-hockey to watch) which was followed by a parade of the drum and bugle corps of girls of the Girls' Brigade of the Golbourne Road W.10 church, complete with a sort of Matron (in uniform and white cotton gloves, goosestepping with the best of them) and a sort of jovial padre in a para-military uniform, wee mites tossing their drumsticks and clashing cymbals like mad bacchantes well disciplined - and a cocktail party (excuse the term) at the house of Lord and Lady Perth (who have no business to be living in Sussex, they ought to be in Perthshire like John's friends the Kinnairds). I spent my time writing an introduction for a novel of Charles Williams to be published by Pellegrini & Cudahy of New York - and this was a nuisance, because it interrupted THE COCKTAIL PARTY, but Mrs. Pellegrini (née Cudahy, meatpackers of Chicago) came to see me and said that it would help a great deal to launch Williams's novels in America, if I wrote an introduction, and I knew that his widow is very poor and needs any royalties she can get so what could I do? That's done, and will be posted to Pellegrini & Cudahy tomorrow. I don't expect the stay with the Brocklebanks will be quite so restful as that: apart from having to see Robert Helpmann as Hamlet, which I have already seen and didn't like, and am sure that ballet dancers should not aspire to the theatre. I shall no doubt have to dress for dinner every night (that means taking two bags with me) and Wavell (who is in fact a pet) will try to make me talk about Kipling, and I shall try to

find out what he thinks about Glubb Pasha whose sister is a friend of mine; and the Colonel will want to talk about the possibility of issuing an album of his Italian primitives, and Căraa Brocklebank will talk about Edith Sitwell. That is how I foresee it: but I shall amend this prediction by an exact report later.. And I remember all the time the shadow under which the Brocklebanks live: their son killed in the war, and their daughter (but this is confidential) married to a man who has gone off his head..

I am glad to know that you have the inside information about the Princeton situation. After hearing from Willard (at your instigation it seems) I wrote guardedly to the Mr. Stewart who seems to replace Dr. Oppenheimer during the holidays (I am rather doubtful now about Oppenheimer, since I hear that he is one of the chief WALLACE supporters, along with Matthiessen). Stewart wrote to say that he hadn't heard anything; but followed the letter up with a cable saying that he had heard that what's-his-name was ill, that he would look into the question of alternative accomodation, and that he would let me know.. So I don't know what I am going to at Princeton. All I know is that I expect to arrive in New York on Sept. 29th, be met by Bob Giroux of Harcourt Brace & Co. with some cash, and spend the night with the Kauffers (40 Central Park South) after dining with the Kauffers and Giroux.. I suppose that the situation will be cleared up in some way.. Have the Thorps suggested inviting you to Princeton? I suppose it would be difficult for you to get away from Andover during the term anyway..

I have just heard from Meg, who is, as always, in trouble.. She writes of course cheerfully, but is in bed with gall bladder trouble, and is looking forward to her holiday in October, to take it by going to Guy's Hospital to have it taken out! I have never known anyone like her - her first question, of course, was when to get me a birthday cake before I left England..

I infer that the Thorps have conducted a salon in Cambridge as they do in Princeton, and that you have only seen them when they have been receiving.. My only criticism of them is that they do tend to be, largely I think under Margaret's influence, as she is so much the stronger member of the team, rather like the late Sydney and Beatrice Webb - purely Public Characters.. Without any private life at all? *Margaret is so very serious.*

I am somewhat shaken by your severe objection to THE COCKTAIL PARTY. My first title was ONE EYED RILEY: Martin seemed very well pleased by the alternative Cocktail Party.. Perhaps the term has acquired more sordid associations in America than here.. It seemed to me to fit in very well with THE FAMILY REUNION.. That was a reunion distinguished by the absence of two members.. The COCKTAIL PARTY is a party which the host has tried to put off: so that the only persons present, in the opening scene, are the people whom he couldn't get hold of on the telephone to tell them not to come.. That seems to me just the sort of group to get together, to begin what I hope will be a comedy even more hilarious than THE FAMILY REUNION.

My dear, I shall hope to write to you twice before you return to Boston on Sept. 14th.. *Louise Tomes*

Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
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My dear,

August 27 1948.

I hope that you have now been benefiting from the sea breezes and the quiet of Grand Manan, and that the weather has been good - I trust that the heat wave in America, of which I read the other day, will have abated before your return. The time for my departure approaches: next week I shall pay the balance of my ticket and see about my American visa, and begin dealing with various details before my departure. I am still uncertain about my abode in Princeton; if I hear nothing early this week I shall think of cabling. No doubt they will find something for me, and I can stop for a few days on arrival with the Kauffers as before, at 40 Central Park South.

I shall not leave London again (unless I go for one night to the Morleys, of whom I have seen almost nothing during the whole past year). My visit to the Brocklebanks was pleasant. We did not see a great deal of the Field Marshal, as he was out all day playing golf on Thursday, and had to leave on Friday, but he came to two out of the three performances. Hamlet with Robert Helpman I did not very much like: first because it was played in early Victorian costumes, with crinolines, which seemed to me a pointless and irritating innovation; and second because I do not find a Jewish ballet-dancer the ideal Hamlet (for he kept reminding me of Charlie Chaplin) and he did not seem to me well inside the part. One admires him for wanting to play Hamlet, however, and he has much improved over his first production some years ago. Othello was very satisfactory, played in an older convention with no use of the apron stage, by Godfrey Tearle and Diana Wynyard, and the young man who is to produce next year, Anthony Quayle, as an interesting Iago. I thought Diana Wynyard excellent in this part. After the theatre the Quayles, who are in the house of Shakespeare's son-in-law, entertained us most lavishly to supper - it was amusing to see the taciturn Field Marshal sitting on a sofa between Miss Wynyard and Mrs. Quayle (a former actress named Dorothy Hyson) chatting away like anything. On Saturday night we saw Troilus, produced by Quayle, which I also was well pleased with, though the part of Thersites was overdone. That is to say, Col. Brocklebank and I went; Mrs. B., who is still rather run down after nursing her mother, had a slight sore throat and stayed at home. Besides this, there was an excursion to see the very fine collection of pictures at the house of Lord Bearsted (who was away) and a tea party at Ragley, ~~xxxx~~ the great mansion of the ^{du}marquesses of Hertford. That was rather

m̄ancholy - the great house very decayed, with brocade in rags on some of the walls - it has never been fully occupied since it was a hospital during the war; and Lady Helen Seymour (the present Marquess's mother) living alone most of the time with two servants, in about four rooms; and round about great vast salons with the furniture in corners or covered up. The young Marquess, who is just to go for his military service, beginning in the ranks, had made some attempt to mow the lawn, but they can't get enough petrol to use a motor mower. Most of the portraits are not remarkable; one good Reynolds.

The Brocklebanks' are very amiable people, with an aspect of sadness. Their own house is now too big for them; they no longer keep any horses as they cannot feed them, and they are trying to sell the house. Then they will share a house in Hyde Park Square belonging to their son-in-law. Like many people who live in the country, they find housekeeping difficult, and with so little petrol to get about they find it lonely, though Alveston, so near to Stratford, is less isolated than many places. (It is rather expensive to visit them, as it means taking a taxi from Leamington twelve miles away). He is in some ways a very simple fellow. What added to themelancholy was my occupying the son's bedroom, still with many of his things about: the evidences of developing youthful taste in the pictures, ranging from college prints to a Klee and a small Braque; and when I opened the closet and found two straw hats, evidently relics of the barges on the 4th of June at Eton, it was as if a ghost had appeared. Mrs. B. is rather high-brow, and informed about current literature.

I have suffered from a feeling of inertia, provoked no doubt by the prospect of pulling myself up so soon, which prevents settling down to anything; and in consequence the letter of thanks to them cost me much labour. I dine with the Brownes on Tuesday to discuss the draft of my play, on which I have not done, and shall not now be able to do before my departure, any more work. The B.B.C. are to produce "The Family Reunion", with Gielgud in the chief part, I think while I am at sea. I infer from what you say that the Thorps like having crowds of people about. I find that more and more I crave quiet and staying in one place.

I may be writing once more to Grand Manan - I suppose air mail reaches you there just as quickly as in Massachusetts.

With all my love
Tom.

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*cc'd
Sept 16*

My Dear,

5 September 1948.

Southampton

Your letter of the 24th shows me that once again I have thought I explained things which I have omitted. For instance, I am not flying, I am glad to say, but sailing on the S.S. "America" (U.S. Lines) on the 23d, and due to arrive in New York on the 29th. What is more surprising still, you do not seem to know the duration of my stay. I am sailing from New York on December 8th. I intend to do my duty by the Institute of Advanced Study for the two months I agreed upon, but to take the last week or ten days in Cambridge. Otherwise, I shall only play truant for weekends, except for a visit to Washington (to see Ezra Pound, but it will involve a lecture at the Library of Congress to pay expenses, a meeting of the Fellows of the Library of Congress - I do not see why I should be a fellow, but I am - and seeing Martha, Frank (Frank Eliot from St. Louis who lives there), William Castle, the Finleys, Cairns, Léger etc.) and a visit to give the annual War Memorial Lecture at Milton, which I shall have to write in Princeton. I shall come up to Cambridge for a long weekend after about two weeks in Princeton, and will try to arrange with you to come out to Andover, or meet you somehow.

I feel that for my next visit I would do better to wait until I can come for longer. But one is in a cleft stick with the money difficulty: first, the fact that I cannot use my own money but must earn it in the U.S. or be supported there; second, that I don't know what money is worth now, or how much I shall need to live upon. The latter uncertainty makes one undertake more than one otherwise would, in order to be on the safe side. It is exasperating to think that in normal times I should not bother about lectures etc. at all; but could skip over for a month, and in that month see more of the people I come to see than I shall in over two months! And this is the maximum I can take now: there is the play, and there is the visit to Germany which is on my conscience.

I shall try to work steadily at the play (apart from writing the Milton address) but it is impossible to tell how much privacy one can have in Princeton. I was very glad to have you write more about the Thorps. I think Margaret is a much more interesting person than Willard, who seems to me to be rather "mothered" by her and to enjoy a comfortable and rather padded life; but I think her earnest restlessness would become a great strain, and I cannot think of her as a person with whom anybody of either sex, could have a really enriching kind of friendship. There is something of the walking and talking bluebook about her; and she is rather of the type who feel that a full life is to be had by committees and entertaining in an intellectual kind of way. I am of course glad to have them in Princeton, for I like them and I think they are kind; but they may involve one in unsatisfying social activities and conversations with groups of undergraduates. Still, Margaret is less fatiguing than Dorothea Richards, who is the sort of excellent hostess who protects one against everybody but herself - and after protesting that you must be allowed peace and quiet, arranges two or three dinner parties in succession. And the Thorps are the only people I know in Princeton, except the Maritains (whom you remember, I hope); and I have no doubt it was Willard who worked to get me the Princeton degree. (Did I tell you that Munich is to give me a degree of D. Phil. in absentia - the diploma is to be handed to the British Consul in Munich on my birthday - I was much touched by this).

I have a suspicion that Margaret has very definite notions about everybody, is quite sure that she understands them, and can tell you what they ought to do and how they ought to live without the least hesitation. Is this wrong?

I am anxious about Meg. I have written to her to ask her to get word to me if she goes to Guy's Hospital before I leave, and let me know if she would like me to come to see her after the operation. The removal of the gall bladder sounds pretty serious to me.

You don't say anything about the young man that Deborah Elsmith is marrying - whose name is as near to mustard in

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German as makes no difference) but I presume that as all of Dorothy's other children seem to have married suitably and happily Deborah has done so too. I can believe that you arranged the flowers well! as I remember so clearly your flower compositions at Campden. What I did not say about my visit to Alveston was that my memories were more real than the reality, so that what was real to everyone else was ghostly to me - and I was almost glad, though distressed, that Alveston was to be soon only a memory for them - and I was aware too that it was full of ghosts for the poor Brocklebanks themselves. I am rather glad that they are coming to live in London; not merely because I like them, but because I like to have people near, who know, like myself, that their lives are not in the future, in this world.

I was interested to learn of Osbert's article which I have not seen. He and Edith are to do a lecture tour in America this winter, and I am rather anxious about them. I am rather afraid of their making the wrong impression, with the best intentions, and of their being exposed to the New York press. With Stephen Spender, I was only afraid that he would make a fool of himself, but I was sure that he would never know it, and be quite happy about everything: but the Sitwells are much more sensitive and civilised people, and if they make mistakes they will be conscious and will suffer. What sort of impression Maurice Bowra (the Warden of Wadham) will make as Eliot Norton Professor doesn't worry me so much. He is a clever pebbelan.

I'll write to you next at Andover (Abbott Academy).

By sailing on the 23d I am, I hope escaping all attention to my birthday, including a dreadful book of appreciations by various hands, which is due to appear

under the care of Tambimuttu) on my birthday. And I shall miss the production by the B.B.C. of "The Family Reunion" with John Gielgud.

There has been a certain sensation caused by the Congress of Intellectuals for World Peace in Poland (to which I was invited, but which I refused to have anything to do with) at which a Russian writer referred to Eugene O'Neill, John Dos Passos, André Malraux, J.P. Sartre and myself as "Hyaenas or jackals". And a writer (a lady, certainly) in some Russian literary journal referred to me as a "decadent, pornographic pro-Fascist".

I look forward to ringing you up from Princeton.

I can imagine your loneliness in Grand Manan. Nevertheless, I hope that it strengthened you physically for the coming year.

Lois
Tom

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My Dear Emily

19 September 1948.

This is my first line to greet you at Abbott Academy, and my last before I sail on Thursday. How I am to get all my packing done etc., with matters at the office still to be tidied up, visits to the dentist, the doctor, the solicitor etc. I don't know: but every departure is like that. I shall write from Princeton as soon as I can settle to the typewriter, and shall hope to see you within the month. I am not yet sure where I shall be living, but presumably as originally arranged; but I don't know the address or telephone number.

At this moment, I am simply terrified and feel like a hermit crab starting off on a journey without his shell. And the fear of War only makes me more anxious not to be away from where I belong if it does happen. But I still believe that there will not be war this year. And I do want very much to see you, even though I cannot think that you want to see me.

Louise Tom.

Merely "Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton, New Jersey" is all the address I can give. The S.S. "America" should dock in New York on the 29th.

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

6 October 1948.

14 Alexander Street,
Princeton N.J.
Telephone: Princeton 2019.

Dearest Emily

ack
Oct 11

This is the first evening that I have felt up to writing. I felt very poorly still on Monday, so on the Kauffers' urging I went to the expense of a car to come down in, which saved the risks of heat, chill, and nervous strain of the train. I found a very pleasant little house in a quiet street near to the centre of things, and a peacefulness which seems incredible so near New York - a more restful atmosphere I think than Cambridge though it would suit my purposes so much better to be there. The Assistant Director of the Institute is very kind and helpful, tries to think of all one's needs, and even recommended a doctor without being asked. The institute is about a half hour's walk away, or less, on the southern outskirts, but it has a private bus which takes one to and fro without charge. I have a sort of office with a telephone, and as much secretarial help as I want, and a blackboard which I must learn to use. (But my first job is to get some sort of an address written for Milton; then to revise my Poe lecture for Washington, and then at last get back to the play.

My present plans are as follows. I aim to come up to Cambridge, and stay at the Sheffields, at the very end of next week, staying over long enough (until Tuesday or Wednesday) to come out to see you. So I want to know what day would suit you best, and of course have all the necessary instructions for finding you. (I suppose one has to go in to the North Station, or can one get a train from Porter Station?) On this visit, I shall have of course to see Marion and Margaret and Theresa (separately), give one evening to Sheff, and try to see Richards and/or Spencer. I shall also try to see the Perkins's, of course, and trust you to let me have the latest bulletin in advance. The other relatives (esp. Lambs, Laura Furness, Hinkleys) must wait until my next visit, which will be a fortnight later, about the 30th. (I have to give my Milton address on November 3). I do not think I can come for a third visit until the end of November, when I intend to stay a week, before sailing. It is all very meagre and unsatisfying. I should have liked to come up for October 27; but I can't be away from Princeton from then until Nov. 3d, and I have promised (my one weakness in making arrangements) to give a reading at Bryn Mawr (which is not far away) on the 26th, as no other date fitted in - I mean, I don't know why I yielded to their reiterated appeal to come to them. But it will pay for an overcoat.

I must be in Washing for three or four days from November 18th. This is because of my duty to Pound; but there is a meeting of the Fellows of the Library as well.

Please let me know now when I can telephone to you. Saturday and Sunday

are not very good, because that man whom I have not yet seen will be here then (as he is well enough to take his classes in New York, he should be no anxiety, but I had rather telephone when he is not here). I suggest Monday evening after 8.30, as there will not be time for you to fix this Friday. Tomorrow night I dine with the Thorps, and on Saturday with E.L. Woodward of Oxford and Reinhold Niebuhr. I have no other engagements yet.

This is all very very strange.

I can't post this till the morning, as I have stupidly forgotten to buy any stamps. I wonder if one still buys stamps from drug-stores.

Lovingly Tom

THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

*ack
Nov. 15*

My Dear

13 October 1948.

I shall try to get you on the telephone, but the situation has become so complicated that I must put it on paper also. The obligatory visit to Stockholm means that I am sailing on the Queen Mary on the night of November 30th. I cannot cancel my engagements in Washington, where I go on the 17th until Sunday the 21st. Then I go to Baltimore for the afternoon and evening, to see Theodora, and take a night train to New York, where I must attend to income tax and other business and shall spend one night with Mark van Doren to meet John Crowe Ransom. I return to Princeton Tuesday the 23d, as I have invited Richards down for a night for a discussion to which the Sub-Director of the Institute attaches much importance. I shall then come up via New York to Boston by night, arriving on the morning of the 26th. I see no way of getting up sooner. That will give me Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday in Cambridge, where I shall expect to stay at the Faculty Club. But the date of my departure has become a little uncertain because of the dockers' strike in New York. If it continues, the Queen Mary will probably sail from Halifax, which might mean leaving a day earlier (I hope that it might also mean a day later) and I am advised to reserve a berth on the train from Boston to Halifax on the night of the 28th.

This means that I shall at best have to crowd a week's seeing people into three or four days. And it means that I see no way of giving the reading: I am much grieved to disappoint others; and I would suggest Monday but that I have an appointment to go with Theresa to see a lawyer in Boston on Monday morning at 10 a.m. I shall write to Miss Hersey and express my regret, but I want you to know first. Things have developed rapidly during this week. What I am chiefly concerned about however is when I shall see you. I could come out on the Saturday or the Sunday, or on the Friday but the latter would be a tight squeeze between arriving at the South Station at 7 a.m., getting to the Faculty Club for breakfast, and getting to the North Station by 10.15. On Saturday night is Marion's family dinner party with Ruth Harding. So Sunday would be best if there are possible trains. I don't want to make any other engagements until this is settled. It is all very trying and very disappointing, and I had much rather not have had that prize this year, and as for the money, it will give me no satisfaction unless the Treasury will let me deal with it as I wish, which I think is very unlikely. And I want you to tell me what to give you for a present - even the time to buy presents for people is so restricted. I feel as if I had lost my personal liberty and private rights, and am rebellious.

I am sorry about your telephone, indeed; the fact is simply that the telephone rang all day and I did not dare answer it - there were so many reporters and papers trying to get hold of me. It is all very dreadful and distressing. Forgive me for not putting anything into this letter.

but these questions of time and place.

With much love

Tom

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THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDY

Founded by Mr. Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld

PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

My Dear,

24 October 1948.

I arrived at Princeton on Wednesday evening at half after midnight, finding that all my terrors were unjustified: I was not in the wrong train, I had not returned to Sheff the wrong latchkey, and the taxi ordered by Miss Horton was there at the Junction, and the man bawling out my name. I gave thanks for these mercies, and hope that they will be repeated next week. This week a certain increase of social engagements: I dined with the Maritains on Weenesday, with the Thorps on Thursday, to attend an exhibition of early Chaplin films (what could be more highbrow) afterwards; on Saturday I had to go to a formal tea (I had forgotten what American teas were like, with one lady sitting at one end of a table "pouring" tea, and another at the other end "pouring" coffee - but you only have time for one cup and spend the rest of the hour being introduced to people whose names you do not catch) and this afternoon I had to go in to the Godolphins (who seem very nice people, and do a good deal to help Mr. William Dighton, who has not yet come back for a weekend, but promises to come on Friday, so I shall have one night of him. I do not yet know where I shall stay in Cambridge from Saturday; but if I do not hear tomorrow I shall ring up Richards. On Wednesday it seemsthat I am to spend the night at Milton with the Lambs.

Meanwhile I have been re-writing my Poe lecture for Washington; I hope to finish it this week (allowing for Bryn Mawr, how I wish I was not going there) and then proceed to work more worthy of the Institute for Advanced Study. I find it difficult to adjust myself to the temperatures: if I dress warmly enough for out of doors I am too warm inside houses; but I have just bought a winter overcoat which should be ready in a few days, and then perhaps I can wear lighter indoor clothes.

I was happy with you on Tuesday: that is, a kind of happiness such as is compatible with being very unhappy too - I felt it had been worth while and a good thing, and that I want to see you and I want to come out on next Tuesday - but I don't know whether you were glad or sorry to have seen me and given me that day - but I feel that I must get to know you, in a way, anew - you were very fine, but I am diffident now about forcing my company upon you if and when you don't want me, so I can only hope you will be frank about this. I have you more in mind than ever this week, and shall especially on Thursday.

Lovingly
Tom

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My Dear

November 7.

Thank you very much for wiring, and that gave me much joy to receive; but the whole affair just comes in the wrong year. The opinion I have taken is that I ought to go to Stockholm if I can possibly get there by the date of the ceremonies, which is December 10th - a most awkward time. The intelligences of the Institute are engaged upon the problem, and the Swedish Legation may be invoked. This would certainly involve leaving earlier than I expected, and advancing the date of my return to Cambridge - furthermore, it might mean that it would be less than a week. But it is premature to alter any engagements, and whatever I do I shall intend to come to Cambridge again, and see you before I leave. Meanwhile I am letting my Washington visit stand, for the 18th to the 21st or 22nd, as it is on my conscience that I ought to see Pound. I will keep you informed of what is happening. I wish I could enjoy this prize, but it would have been more welcome another year, and from my point of view it is not worth the effort and the disappointment of not quite completing my programme. But I fear that the Swedes, who think much of this event, would consider it a grave discourtesy if I did not do everything possible to get there.

And meanwhile the importunities of reporters, the BBC etc. make life a burden!

With much love
Tom

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ced.
Dec. 12

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5 December 1948.

My Dear

This is just to say, first, that I had an easy trip in the aeroplane - a little uncomfortable in mind at Binding myself treated, at La Guardia, on the plane, and even at Heath Row on arrival, as an important person, and being given every advantage over other travellers - and am less tired than I should have expected from previous experience. I shall be busy enough for the next three days preparing for my departure for Stockholm; and shall refrain from either thinking or feeling until after my return on the 13th. I thought of "Dulcie" at bedtime (before it had begun) and on waking (after it ~~was~~ all over); and I pray that it had a good success, and that full credit for its success was given to the person to whom it was due. (I thought that the girl who took the part of the scenario writer showed the nearest approach to theatrical gifts, and was the most inside her part: otherwise I was not much impressed by any innate talent, and I think I see what hard work you must have put in to bringing them up to the point at which I saw them). I was so very tired when I came, and it seemed to me that I did not read very well. I am afraid that I must have struck you as very dead: I was, by all the peculiar circumstances, semi-anaesthetised - yet in spite of the curious numbed pain, I was also at moments happy being with you. I will write on my return, to Commonwealth Avenue.

*with the love I have for
no one else*

Tom

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My Dear

18 December 1948.

I got back safely from Stockholm. As for the events there, it seemed simplest - indeed the only possible way - to write one letter which would do for everybody I wanted to tell: I have addressed it to Marion, and I enclose a copy. I enclose also a newspaper photograph, but the Crown Prince does not look quite so much like Willard Thorp as that. I DID receive your letter c/o Hauffer, and I thought that I indicated as much in my brief note, but perhaps not. I shall write a letter at Christmas time; meanwhile I thank you for both letters, I am happy to know that "Dulcie" had the success I expected, and proud of your personal triumph over difficulties.

Please tell the Perkins's, at some suitable time, that Mrs. Brocklebank has died. I do not know just when: I heard of it only by a reference in a letter from Wavell, and on my enquiring from him he replied:

"Poor Cara Brocklebank had a nervous breakdown and died in a nursing home, I gather from an overdose of a sleeping draught. ... I have not written to Hugh, as I was told that he was in a nervous condition, and Cara's obituary notice in The Times particularly said, no letters."

*Loveingly
Tom.*

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Hyran höjd

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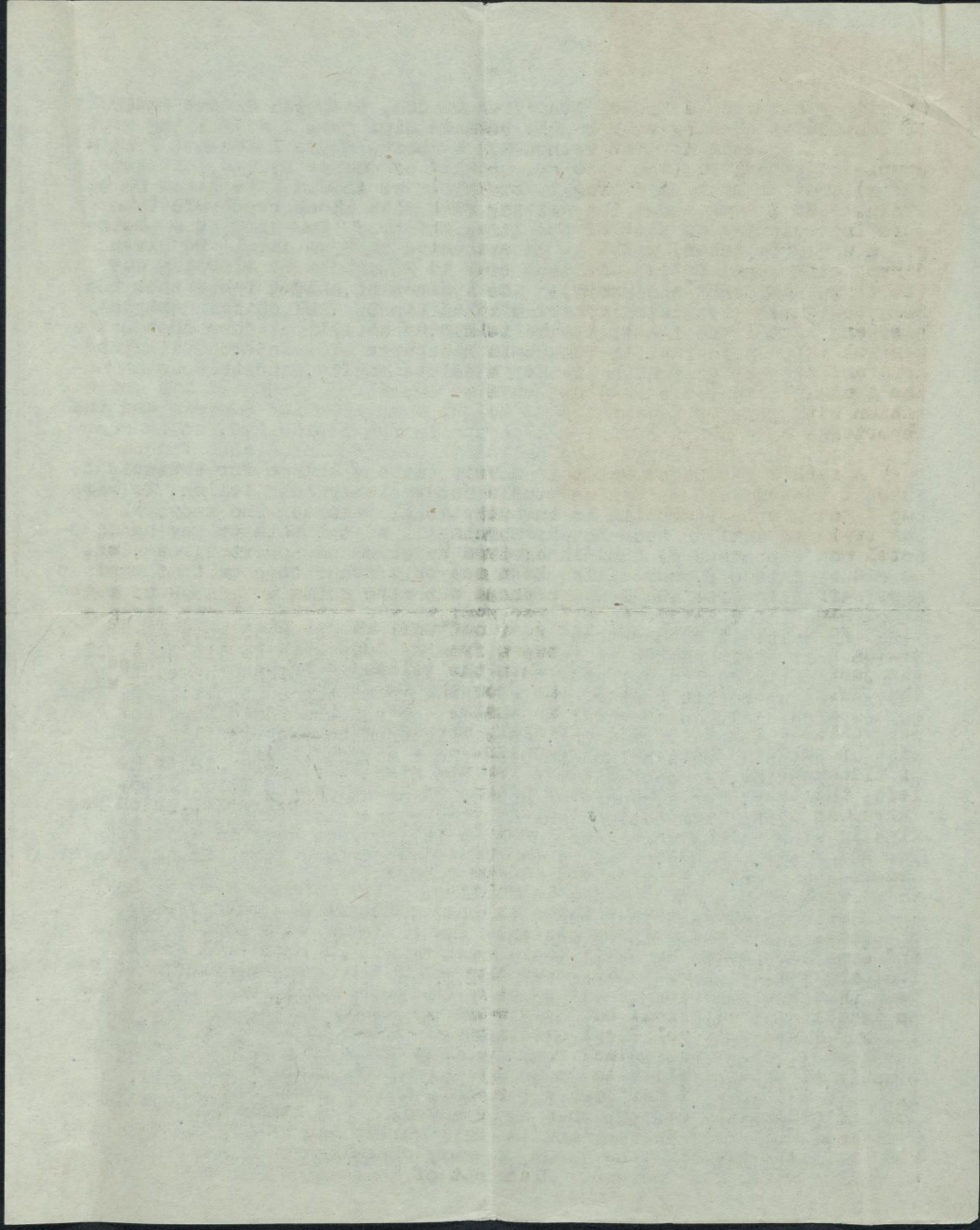
My dear Marion,

I got back from Stockholm on Monday evening, had three rather busy days, and have just taken a day and a half in bed, sleeping nearly all the time. So I feel a little refreshed, and will put down some notes of the visit while I still remember the course of events. Will you circulate this letter amongst the immediate family, and to Cousin Laura and Cousin Annie?

I was made aware of being a person in the public eye, at La Guardia Field, where a young woman called the Public Relations Officer took charge. My bags went through without any charge for overweight, but this may have been because the plane was only half filled. There were several reporters (it is an exceptional reporter who knows what questions to ask) and two photographers - I had to be taken waving farewell from the steps of the plane; the Kauffers and Robert Giroux, who were seeing me off, were allowed as a great favour to come to the plane and look inside it; and I was presented to the Captain. At Gander the stewardess (Miss Sullivan, of Chicago) engaged me in conversation during the halt: it seemed that she was very interested to know about Virginia Woolf. I had two seats to myself, so was able to lie down flat, though tightly curled up; and in the middle of the night the captain invited me up to sit beside him in his cabin at the controls; explained the various dials and levers; the navigator and the radio operator showed me what they were doing, and I listened to conversations with weather ships. This helped to pass the time, and I was grateful for the distraction, as one gets very little sleep - I think I really slept, however, for a couple of hours. And at London Airport I was shot through the examinations ahead of everyone else (which is a little embarrassing to one who is not used to it) and sent home in a private car by myself. Thus, that part of the journey was less tiring than it might have been.

I had three days in London, to pick up my ticket and pack my dress clothes. Here there was some question as to what to do about the Order of Merit. The ribbon is very long, so that it hung down to the waist: I was sure that was wrong, and it would swing out dangerously when one bowed. I had always seen it worn close to the collar. John rang up a firm which knows all about medals, and they said, cut it to the right length. I sent it round by my secretary to the jewellers who made it, and they said it was against the King's wishes to cut it. Finally, I rang up the Master of Trinity, in Cambridge, who said, Put a safety pin in it. Then I had an inspiration and got our housekeeper to take a couple of tucks in it, and that worked beautifully.

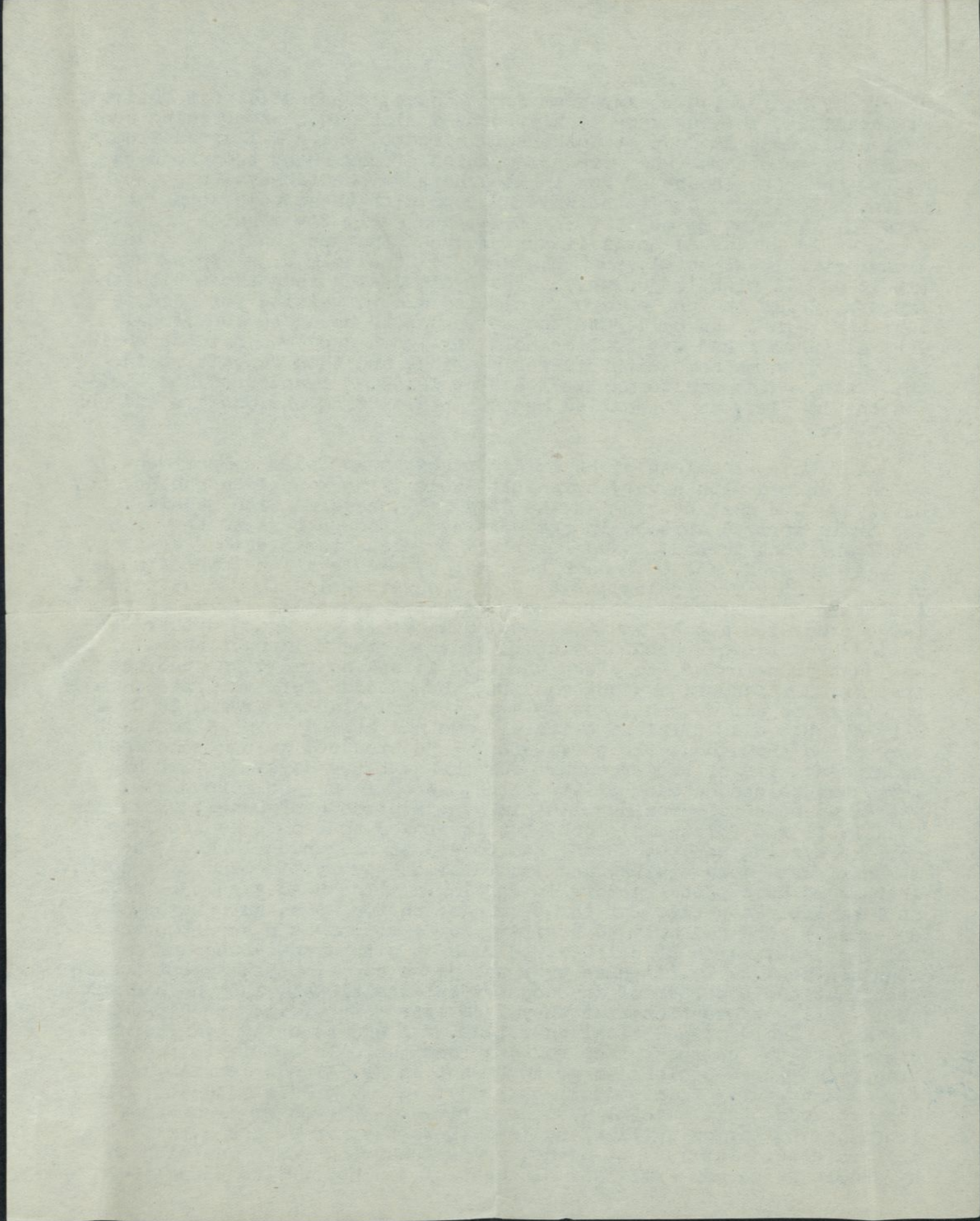
The publicity on the air journey to Sweden was shared with the



Harringay Rangers, a hockey team from London, composed almost entirely of Canadians, chewing very highly scented mint gum. Everything went well until we came down at Gothenburg airport, where I learned from a couple of reporters (who were accompanied of course by two photographers) that on account of fog in Stockholm we should have to go on by train. So I hung about the waiting room with these reporters (who were interviewing me most of the time, and every few minutes a photograph would be taken) until it was announced that we should be given dinner at a local hotel, and then sent to Stockholm by sleeping car (it is a full night's journey). So I dined at a long table with the Rangers, while the photographers circled about, waiting for good poses; and then I was called to the telephone to speak to the Consul General (whom I had met in Stockholm six years ago) who said he would come and take me home with him for a drink, and then deposit me in the train, which was to ~~xxxxxx~~ leave at 10.45. I accepted his invitation with joy, as it enabled me to get away from the Rangers and the reporters.

A rather sleepless night in a very tight and warm compartment, which I shared with a very agreeable Swede (I have no idea who he was, but I saw him next evening at the City Hall, covered with medals). The train arrived at 6.30 in the morning: I took a taxi to the Grand Hotel and went to bed. Had I arrived by plane the previous evening, as was expected, I should have been met by a delegation (all of whom were suffering from colds); but those who were going to get up to meet the train only arrived after I had gone to the hotel. I was given a large room with a bath and the best outlook: it was made further welcoming by a large bunch of flowers from my Stockholm publishers. I was just dropping off to sleep when the telephone rang, to announce that Mr. Bo Alander, a young man from the Swedish Foreign Office, was on his way to see me, so I got up again. Mr. Alander proved to be a very amiable and efficient official, who had been appointed to take care of me throughout the ceremonies. He produced a long memorandum or aide-memoire of the procedure for the next two days. After he left, the telephone rang pretty often, so there was no more sleep. There was some telephoning with him over a press conference, which was finally fixed for two o'clock; but it proved that this was too late for the evening papers, whom I had to see at eleven o'clock. The moment I came down stairs, and indeed almost every time one came down, there were more photographers in waiting. (The Swedes seem to have an insatiable appetite for three things: photographs, autographs, and speeches. One had only to hesitate for a moment at a street corner and some man, woman or child would rush up with a note-book and a fountain pen). I will pass over the press conferences, except to repeat that the reporter of any country is exceptional, when he can ask an intelligent question; but they were extremely civil, and did not ask any awkward or political questions. I had to bring my afternoon conference (which took place round a long table in a private room) abruptly at three o'clock to go to dress, as Mr. Alander was to call for me at four. I had just got ready, and my medals adjusted and my top hat moderately smooth, when he arrived. The other "laureates" Professor Muller of Switzerland (a dull worthy man he seems, wife ditto) Professor Tiselius the Swede, a very charming young man with an agreeable wife) and Professor Blackett of Manchester (to whom I took a

To a
class



strong and definable dislike) were also waiting, and we moved off in separate cars, each with his appointed escort. We were taken into the usual ante-room; we waited for the fanfare of trumpets to announce the arrival of Royalty; and we then proceeded to take our places on a stage. Imagine a very large Sanders Theatre, with three tiers of galleries, and a powerful band occupying the topmost; magnesium lamps of the photographers snapping away the whole time; then the National Anthem: and from one's place on the platform one faced the Royal Family, the Court, the Cabinet, and several thousand citizens of Stockholm.

The King, owing to age and increasing infirmity, was absent, for the first time since the Nobel Prizes were founded. I was told that he was fairly well, and the day before had been "hunting": which meant that he sat in a chair in the park, and shot any rabbit that was driven near enough; but he can no longer support all the standing that these ceremonies entail. He was replaced by the Crown Prince and the Crown Princess. There was a good deal of music from the band. A long discourse in Swedish, about the affairs of the Nobel Foundation, opened the ceremonies. Then each candidate was presented by his appropriate sponsor: a long speech about him in Swedish, followed by a shorter one in one's own language. I was the fourth. One rose, advanced, descended some steps, and was handed the diploma and the medal by the Crown Prince, with a few words, and then re-mounted the platform.

We were then slowly reassembled in our motor ~~cars~~ cars, with our attendants, and taken from the Concert House to the City Hall. Here Mr. Alander handed me over to the Councillor of the British Embassy, who presented me to the Crown Prince and the members of the Royal Family. I was presented to Princess Ingeborg, whom I was to take in to dinner: with instructions (from Mr. Alander) that I was to keep close by her, so as to be ready for the march in. I was very fortunate in having her - she is about 70 or more, and very jolly - and when the procession was formed, we filed in, between rows of people in full dress and decorations, all bowing and ~~curtsying~~ curtsying as we went past. I had on my left the Crown Princess, who is English anyway, and was very agreeable. This took place in an immense hall of golden mosaics; between six and seven hundred people dining. At the beginning of the repast Hellstrom, the President of the Swedish Academy, got up onto a kind of pulpit and made a long speech (read from a paper) about the laureates: we were told that at the end we should have to reply, and for this purpose I should come first. I was somewhat worried to know whether I should stand up in my place to speak, or whether I should walk round to the pulpit: I referred the problem to the Crown Princess, who referred it to the Lord Chamberlain on her left, who said that after a fanfare of trumpets my name would be announced, and I should walk round to the pulpit. So, when the coffee had been served, there came the fanfare of trumpets, and I heard my name from a loudspeaker. The distance to walk was considerable: I have never in my life sat at so long a table. I should think it took me three or four minutes to get to the pulpit, being delayed on the way by people wanting to shake hands with me, especially my old friends Bishop and Mrs. Aulen of Strangness. Fortunately, I not only had my speech written out, but had cut it to the right length - it will be published in the proceedings of the Nobel Foundation: it seemed to suit the occasion. After that

I took the same course back, and listened peacefully to the other speakers - and to tell the truth, none of them seemed to me to do as well as I did, except for Tiselius, who spoke in Swedish, so that I could not judge. Then we rose from dinner, and deppited the ROYAL Family on a balcony overlooking the vast lower hall, and took our places on the steps. We were then regaled by a performance by a choir of students; and one of the students then made a speech, in English, on our honour. To this speech I had been chosen, by the other laureates who had made the decision in my absence, to reply: so I descended to the microphone. After I had spoken, they sang a few more songs, and then marched out, with banners flying. After that the Royal Family retired, the guests scrambled up for supper, the young people danced; and one had only to hang about, sign autograph books, and talk to the numerous American students who all came up to me, until midnight. For the Nobel Family give a small party, of not more than a hundred or two guests, to the laureates, which begins at midnight. I was taken there by the Councillor: and there it was necessary to stand about for another couple of hours, in a great din occasioned by too many people in too small a flat, talking every language at once. A Mr. Nobel, a nephew of the founder, made a speech in our honour. Later, somebody hinted to me that our host would probably be pleased if I made a speech in his honour. But by that time I was too far gone; I had made two speeches; I thought that if any more speeches were to be made, somebody else should make them; and I said I couldn't. So nobody did. I was finally taken away, kindly, by the Naval Attaché of our Embassy; and got to bed at three o'clock.

I had to get up the next morning in order to receive my cheque. This meant going to the Nobel Office; then proceeding with the Secretary of the Foundation to the Enskilda Bank, where we were received by the Chairman and several Directors, and immediately put against the portrait of the founder of the bank and photographed: it seems that they have always done this to every prize recipient. Eventually, the business of the cheque (for £11,016:8:5d.) was transacted; and I went off to a lunch party at the Councillor's. I was able to rest a bit in the afternoon, before dressing for dinner at the Palace: a small dinner of about 100 persons - chiefly the Royal Family again, the Court, and the Government. It was less formal, but grander: dinner off superb plate, in a room surrounded by Gobelin tapestries: and very much better food! I sat between a Lady in Waiting (very charming old lady, but I never got her name) and some courtier - but it didn't matter much, because the orchestra played so loud that conversation was fitful. After dinner, we moved about in the drawing room: I had some conversation with Prince Wilhelm (the poet of the family, whom I had met during my visit six years ago) and then with the Crown Prince, who questioned me about the political situation in Britain and America. The ROYAL Family withdrew at 10 o'clock precisely, which was the signal to everyone to depart: the laureates, and their wives went to the café of the Grand Hotel and drank beer till midnight - I explained to Professor Tiselius the importance of Edward Lear and promised to send him Lear's Complete Poetical works.

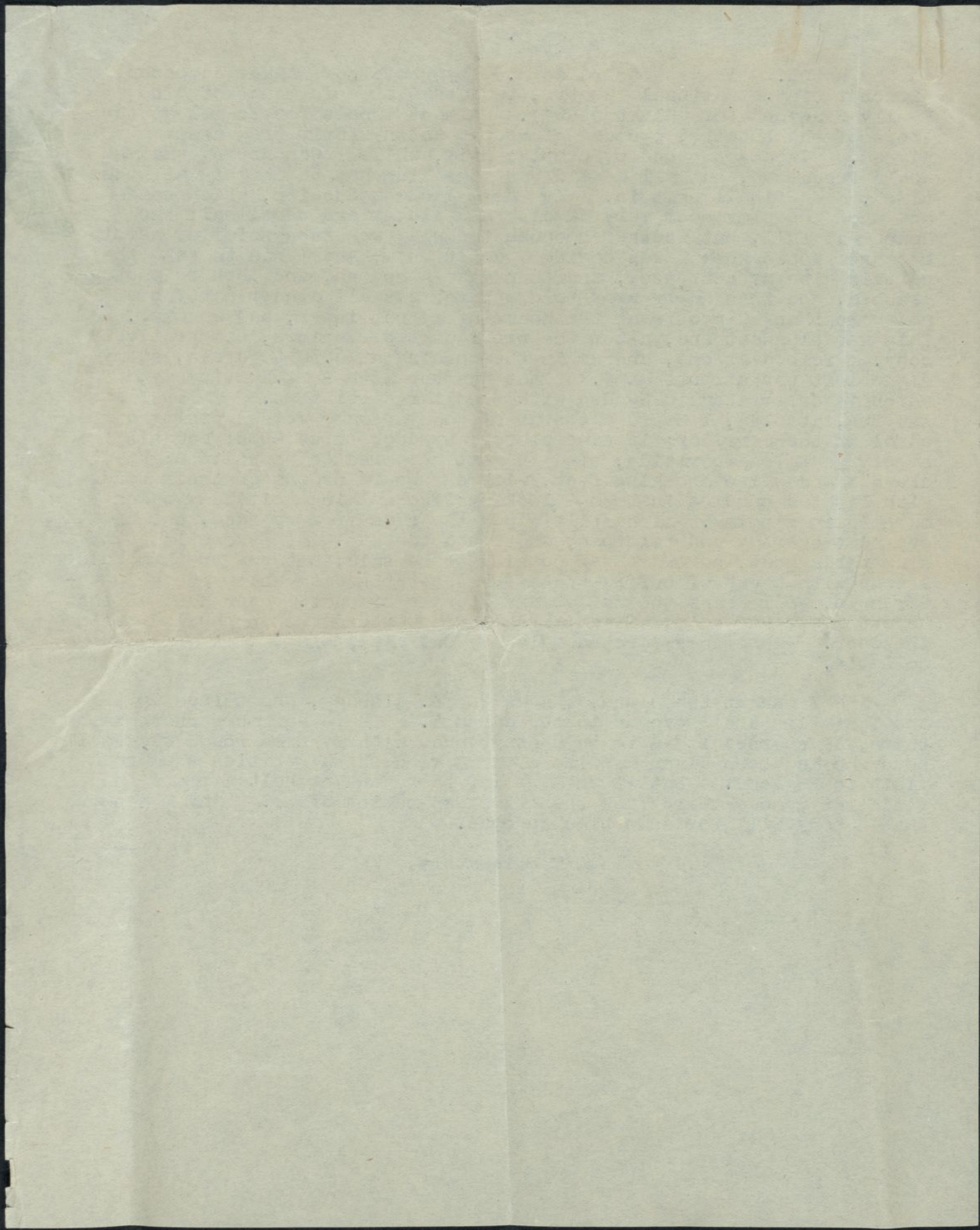
Between everything that is recorded, you may understand that there were photographers and people wanting autographs.

Sunday morning, I admit, I spent in sleep; and lunched by myself

in the hotel. I was fetched at 2.30 by Professor RAGNAR Jacobsen, Director of the National Theatre, to attend a performance of "The Family Reunion" (or "Släktmötet"). Almost impossible to get up the steps of the theatre, because of people wanting their programmes signed. Jacobsen stood by complacently, while I was hoping that he would rescue me, but all he said was "the King has to do this all the time". We finally got in. It was a good production, which somehow made the play seem very Swedish and gloomy and emotional; the house was full, but whether because the play was successful or merely because people knew I was coming I don't know; and I had to take the curtain with my actresses, and then make a speech, and then be photographed, and then hurry away to dress for a small dinner party of not more than 20 people at the house of my publisher, Kaj Bonnier. This was pleasant and, after the previous two evenings, comparatively cosy. To bed at one, and up in the morning at 6.30 to dress, as my plane left the airport at 9. That was the 13th - St. Lucy's Day, which is celebrated in Sweden with peculiar ceremonies. While I was shaving, at 6.45, I heard a chorus of young female voices piping a carol in the corridor; it came closer; my door burst open; and six comely young chambermaids, clad in what appeared to be white night-dresses and white stocking feet, with cardboard crowns on their heads with lighted candles in them - looking like walking birthday cakes - marched in singing. I hastily wiped the suds from my face, put on my overcoat over my underclothes, and bowed to them. They continued to sing throughout, so there was nothing to be said; but one of them held a tray with a cup of coffee and a few sweet biscuits which she held towards me, so I drank the coffee and ate the biscuit. And just at that moment there was a loud flash: a photographer had been concealed behind the door. Then they marched solemnly out again and I went on with my toilette.

And I caught the plane, thanks to Mr. Alander, who turned up for the last time and drove me to the airport. There was more photography there, of course: I had to be photographed with my arms round two small boys who had been given a prize of some kind which entitled them to a visit to England. But it was a relief to reach Northolt Airport and find that nobody there took the slightest notice of me. And I hope that nobody will for some time to come.

Affectionately,



Geoffrey Faber, Chairman. Richard de la Mare, Vice Chairman
Morley Kennerley (USA), T.S. Eliot, W.J. Crawley, P.F. du Sautoy

FABER AND FABER LIMITED

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24 Russell Square London W.C.1.

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Saturday.

My Dear,

Your letter to the ship and your
letter awaiting me on arrival were
both very welcome; and I should have
written before, but a feverish cold caught
on my last evening aboard, together with
the extraordinary heat of New York, laid
me rather low, and account for my not
going to Princeton until Monday. I have
hardly put my nose out of doors and
have seen no one but the Kanffers
and Robert Finou from Harcourt Brace's,
who met the steamer. I expect I shall
feel better when I have got in to a
routine life in Princeton. I shall make
no plans for a visit to the North until
I have seen how things go. But I hope

The address at Princeton is: 114 Alexander Street.

to be up for a few nights in a fortnight's time.

As for Andover, I want to see for myself - I suppose at first it is the lonely struggle of one more adaptation. I had a letter from your aunt on arrival, and wait anxiously for news of Uncle John. This is a very very worrying time for you, and you have my love and sympathy. I will write immediately from Princeton and arrange to speak on the telephone.

Ever your
Tom.

I had a distressing evening with Janet Roberts just before I left. I fear that Michael has my brother Henry's disease, and may not live long.



Miss Emily Hale,

22 Paradise Road,

NORTHAMPTON,

Massachusetts,

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.





TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

DINNER TO RECIPIENTS OF HONORARY DEGREES

THURSDAY, 9 JUNE 1938

PLAN OF TABLES

COMBINATION ROOM

- 83 Adams, Mr H. M.
- 84 Alcock, Prof. F. E.
- 85 Allen, Mr W. S.
- 86 Allison, Prof. E. D.
- 87 Anderson, Rt Hon. Sir John
- 88 Anderson, Prof. W. A.
- 89 Bellour, Mr R. E.
- 90 Bennett, Dr H.
- 91 Bennett, Prof. N.
- 92 Bennett, Mr A. S.
- 93 Bennett, Mr
- 94 Bentley, Mr A. W.
- 95 Broad, Prof. C. D.
- 96 Broad, Dr Z.
- 97 Broad, Mr J. C.
- 98 Bury, Mr J. F. T.
- 99 Butler, Mr J. B. M.
- 100 Camps, Mr W. A.
- 101 Cantley, Dr J. R. C.
- 102 Chancellor, The
- 103 Chatter, The Master of
- 104 Clark, The Master of
- 105 Corpus Christi, The Master of
- 106 Cook, Dr A. B.
- 107 Cook, Prof. S. A.
- 108 Crawford, Prof. F. M.
- 109 Dampson, Sir W. C. D.
- 110 Davenport, Mr H.
- 111 Dean, Mr W. R.
- 112 Dean, Mr J. J.
- 113 Downing, The Master of
- 114 Dudley Ward, Mr
- 115 Duff, Mr P. W.
- 116 Du Val, Dr P.
- 117 Eddington, Prof. Sir A. S.
- 118 Eden, Rt Hon. Anthony
- 119 Elton, Mr W. S.
- 120 Farnon, Mr W. S.
- 121 Farthing, Dr N.
- 122 Fawcett, Mr A. R.
- 123 Fawcett, Sir E. J.
- 124 Fowler, Prof. R. H.
- 125 Gairdner, Mr H. L.
- 126 Giddens, Mr H. C.
- 127 Grenville and Cairns, The Master of
- 128 Gough, Mr G. S.
- 129 Goss, Mr A. S. F.
- 130 Gossage, Prof. H. C.
- 131 Hamson, Mr C. J.
- 132 Harrison, Mr E.
- 133 Haselton, Prof. H. D.
- 134 Haslam, Mr H. A.
- 135 Hilda, Mr D. A. G.
- 136 Harsh, Mr F.
- 137 Haslam, Mr H. A.
- 138 Hugh-Smith, Mr A. J.
- 139 Ingham, Mr A. E.
- 140 Innes, Mr H. M.P.
- 141 Jones, The Rev. B. Dennis
- 142 Kemp-Welch, The Rev. N. H.
- 143 King, The Provost of
- 144 Kinnon Clark, Mr G. S. B.
- 145 Knight, Mr A. H. J.
- 146 Knell, Dr B. Prof. Dr W.
- 147 Lushon, Dr R.

Sir W. C. D. Dampson 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119 120 121 122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130 131 132 133 134 135 136 137 138 139 140 141 142 143 144 145 146 147 148 149 150 151 152 153 154 155 156 157 158 159 160 161 162 163 164 165 166 167 168 169 170 171 172 173 174 175 176 177 178 179 180 181 182 183 184 185 186 187 188 189 190 191 192 193 194 195 196 197 198 199 200 201 202 203 204 205 206 207 208 209 210 211 212 213 214 215 216 217 218 219 220 221 222 223 224 225 226 227 228 229 230 231 232 233 234 235 236 237 238 239 240 241 242 243 244 245 246 247 248 249 250 251 252 253 254 255 256 257 258 259 260 261 262 263 264 265 266 267 268 269 270 271 272 273 274 275 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