

27 March
(1953)

Dear noble, generous, thoughtful, blessed Archie, or HOW does one address the person to whom one is so deeply in debt that he cannot wade/ out, swim out, or even see out of the morass. If I could write an adequate letter to thank you for the lovely picks, free verse, et al that you have sent me, it would take the remainder of my life and then it would not half tell how I do appreciate your thoughts. I also like your signatures but would criticize the last on the letter, exclusively to Mr. George, as the Archie at the bottom has grown fatter than any Archie of mine. You must feed him too well. And the accusation that I did wrong to Archie when I washed the shelves, for I never have one of those dear little animals in this house, I never wash a shelf, and in the dear, dead long ago when I did I put so much horrible antiseptic about the place that no creature would come within miles of it. Result, I had NO PESTS, they will go to better smelling neighbors. Was that KIND?

No ma'am but that was when I was a young hausfrau and had no scruples.

But back to our muttons and treve to the roaches. Of all the jolly little picks that you have walked off of the museum and sent this way, I do like Mehits Acrobats about the best, especially the smug expression on the one at the left. But the large eyed Persian Pusstill has the place of honor on my desk.

Thanks for the compliment but I fear that before we could talk of Yeats and the Home Biography this one would have to take a refresher course and even then would not be equipped to keep up with you. Perhaps she could just listen. So few people can. Have you noticed that?

Now that you are all excited about Mexico, Margaret and the almost certain trip into your magic land again you will hardly be able to finish that thesis of which I hope to hear the noble report one day. Do that first, and then make all the whoopie. As to Charles except for what you have written I have heard nothing. You mamma did not fire a barrage at him, but perhaps she had used

Love Goodbye Deprecating or appreciating letter follows. Gotta run and

VOTE. Mab Or Mehit.

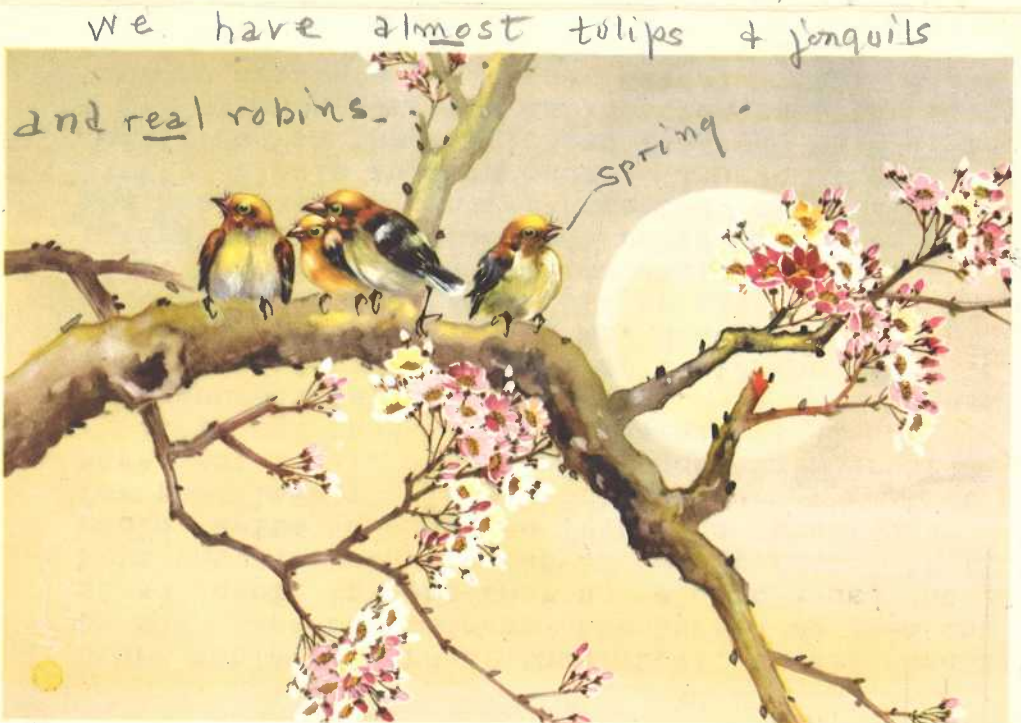
The inclosure tells you how I will vote.

I just told Ge that I had missed the winner for 50 years and may as well change my system.

Slight error, Women did not vote so long

it all on poor Doris. That very dear lady lacks
 imagination and ~~perhaps~~ tolerance so we are
 not too much influenced by what she may say. I
 am prepared to like all your friends, but could
 they bear this stodgy ~~old~~ old dame? Your other
 Omaha dame takes a ride with two school ma'ams
 and a doctor's wife to Roswell N.M. Mildred
 was not too keen about that but decided to go
 anyway as she did not know what to do and is
 a bit loncly in her apartment. Her mother was
 not there much but she is missed.
 You did not mention the Easter Hols. Do they
 give you the usual? I suppose you and Carol
 may float down to Florida. Florida sent us
 some lovely oranges which we enjoyed.
 You wish I was there* and so do I. I should so
 enjoy a few days with regular guys-- never a wor
 here except the usual* and not many of those.
 Meantime I shall soon answer a few more of
 your notes, en attendant

*'not Fla - *2- Gee a guess Mahit. That is
 At Omaha table talk - food all brother



Evening

Wong Wan-Ng

(Oct. 27, 1960)

almost November
but I'm not cold!

Hi! you two! The bits of news of your
fabulous summer are almost too good
to be true - but you have such luck
or skill or what-izzit' that while we
wonder at the accomplishments we
never question the reports. - even about
the contriving to slip in treasures with
no duty paid. And now you are all
set for the next holiday in Florida &
the summer in Europe again!! The last
an unmentionable little bird (not so
damned little) told me, and another
little bird of the same type told me
that Stu has the winning number in the
show at your museum. As I have not
seen the others I do not know how
much that means - but it is something
to be the best. So you see even though
I dwell in the darkest hinterland, I keep
'informed'. Even Jo Balmer wrote us
that Stu's parents were visiting him,
and hinted that the poor boy would
rather be 'all alone'. One can be too
popular, especially at the beginning of
a school year.

And this Charles, who shuts me off
when I say - "Give me your address." -
what is so wrong about that? I

wouldn't be shocked if he nested in a
tree ^{with a love bird}. You know me I chaqu'un à son goit-
even if his goit isn't mine. I slip
horribly sometimes talking to some
people who are not so broadminded
but usually find a place to sneak out.
Some time I'll tell you about my embar-
rassing experience when telling the story
about the negress who tells her friend "When
I mourns, I mourns!" but it is too long
for today. Here, totally surrounded by
"do-gooders" I have to keep my mouth
shut much too often and that is not easy.

This house is threatened with the
galleys for Spotted Tail next week for
final, or almost final corrections; then
back to the publisher; then back to us with
the pages proof; ~~then~~ ^{then} back for the — — index;
then back to the publisher who sends
it to be bound. So, as each operation
takes ten days or so, it is clear that the
people who are howling for this volume
will not get it until Spring. They did
want it for Xmas gifts but it will
keep; and the preparation will keep
George amused more or less.

He howls for better books in the
lighter vein, for his pleasure reading.
Almost impossible to get anything, within
the memory of mehit there were
some delightful books of travel, fiction

autobiographies et al - and now we find those highly praised and best sellers not even readable. George, on recommendation of the New York Times Book Review brought home two by a man named Richard Bissel. I read a large part of one and could not stand it - page after page of the roughest language he could dig among the lowest N.Y. producer set, were not to be endured just for two laughs.

In my hands now is the second book $7\frac{1}{2}$ c & I opened it at random sure that any page would furnish a sample. Reading an ad "Dina Mite Super Strength Drain Cleaner."

"Say Mabel" I said, How's your husband's regularity problem? Has he got it licked yet. Here's something I got in an ad."

At the risk of being called difficult or prudish I ask, is that worth printing? I must read and can bear any good old book ^{or new}. So if you have two or three titles in the back of your minds, please send them on. I mean the titles - please. Now I've ruined my nice temper with these filthy books & I ~~was~~ wish I had not mentioned it. So here's a kiss for those that love us

Mabel

Saturday -

Dear STA- which seems to mean
a health resort. I knew you
were a resort but had not
classified you. Never let it be
a last resort!! Anyway you're
an Archie of high intelligence -
up to any trick to keep out of
the kitchen. Don't ever try it
here! Your good little brownies
may be glad to be alone and
welcome the scholar's preoccupa-
tion! But me - I'm suspicious.
It seems that I remember
you as most willing to help -
but that was ante-prof. days.

**

Our gal Mildred just phoned -
she is up and at 'em but I fear
not as she would like to be.
Laugh! My religion says it is
not fair. Work is lovely but

ing that there is nothing
to read.

Poor Archie I don't know
whether to condole or congrat
on the trip to Florida! Put
this in your most secret
place until burned: I had
one hour with the Porters,
your very near neighbors in
Sakeland last week & you
know Mehit, always the lady,
I was polite I hope - but wanted
to scream!! She said "It's too
bad we can't talk to George!"
& I said "You can write,
can't you?" & she wrote
one small sentence with
her G. D. white gloves on!

e is nothing

e I don't know
dole or congrat
Florida! But
- most secret
burned: I had
th the Porters,
ar neighbors in
st week & you
t, always the lady,
thope - best wanted
she said "It's too
it talk to George!"
u can write,
& she wrote
sentence with
'te gloves on!

And he wrote nothing but
entertained me with a mono
logue about an experience
with Indians in Oklahoma
when he was just out of college,
Mein Gott - mon Dieu & Sacré
Blen preserve me from pickled
pedagogs. I know I should
have said gogs - but gogs is
just as good. They told me
your mom has joined an
Art Class and Carol told me
good words about the
murals you all made -
She is proud of you!

Here I have spent time
& paper on Parters & I have
little left for essentals;

folks who must work to eat
should be well and strong,
and enjoy it.

Charles et al seem to be
keeping you in good cheer
and you all like the apart-
ment. I'm sorry Carol is not
fewer miles away.

Yes - I remember one of my
opera goers saying that Tibbitt
sings like an O and that
was when he was younger -

I don't remember ever to
like him, but there are
so many that I have for-
gotten.

No No No I cannot
let you have a bookcase -
ours are bursting at the
seams - and George howl -

1. Pass pastime on train &
is Florisa why don't you
take the sketches for Kid
story illustration and you
and Carak work out the
story. Good opportunity for
you both to use up some
dull hours.

2. I lov Hermoine,

My picture of the Cloisters
was dropped in mud
& walked on by carrier
or somebody, but it
recalled the day I went
there with Zilla Cohn Brooks
who like many upper class
Jews is Theater - Music - Art
mad.

3. I'm glad you saw
a fine performance of
Misalliance. Do I remember
the Colonial Theater across
from the Tremont Hotel - or
where? I played 5 Boston
houses - the most interesting
was on a little cross street
about 6 blocks west of
that hotel - I believe it
was the Hollis Street but
it was very old - even had
a green room.

Good night - Professor
How could you! Love,

M.

Sunday.

Aw Hu Gwan back
to Mexico where
you were so happy
and sent M & G

such gorgeous cards
and notes. I think
you contentment in
Somerville is good,

but good only in
comparison with Newton!
I was thinking
about my days

in Mexico and it
occurred to me that
we ate out of doors
a lot and no flies
mosquitoes ants etc.

That made up in
a measure for the
thousand legworms
that crawled about
our bath-room but
they didn't crawl on
us. And I did
like the gentle

simple people lots! They
were so kindly and
so easily pleased.

Bless 'em,

I am so glad that
you had such a
good long visit - not
so long that you will
not wish to go back,

Congrats - are
your souvenirs an

people lots! They
kindly and
pleased,

em,
so glad that
such a
visit - not
that you will
to go back,

to - are
convenient, an
your friends

investment for business
or just His delight!
Whichever it is -
Good luck, & my
best best as always to
mein friend His,

M,

Sat- eve- and
all alone moi

1. Who dunnit? Stu

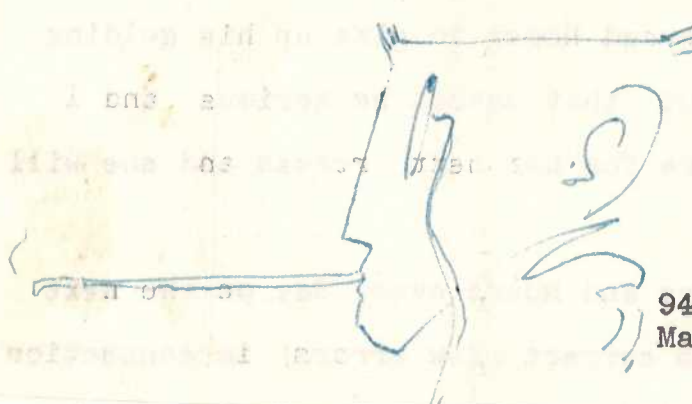
2. When? I dunno. Long, long ago.

3. Where? I know, Slumberville where Stu was blue.

4. Why? To send Mehit a most

lovely letter.

I think that I wrote you once that your loveliest letters were written when you were unhappy of uncomfortable. One that I remember was written to Geo. when you were in a trench taking extended-order drill or something. But you survived. One does, it seems. And look how happy



94 Curtis St.
March 18

you are now. And Charles the first tells me that you two are planning a summer in Guatemala. Could anything be more rewarding.

The part of Mexico that I know is not too interesting, but I have friends here who do it their way which is not yours but they adore it. Instead of hunting items for the COLLECTION they do every kind of water sports and live in the sun, coming back looking like a real Injun. Their last visit was about two months ago, to a small island just off the coast of Yucatan and it must have been most unusual and delightful if one likes that sort of thing.

Please, and if a request is not sufficient, it is an order that you let me know when your holiday starts and just a line about what you plan. If you three clever lads cannot manage a little tiny matter like that, hire a sec.

And do not let anything that Mehit says offend your dignity.

Remember that she is an older Mehit and has license to be fussy.

Just a few minutes ago she could not talk and when the goodnights were cut off shortly, she thought perhaps you had had enough of the choking. I never did that before and it is all gone now. Still alive or a reasonable fac-simile.

This was meant to be a note but it seems to have grown to both sides so I will add that I had the idea that all was not quite so well as usual chez the Andersons, Mabel had written that the miserable pest arthritis had forced Homer to give up his golfing and he was rather difficult. But that cannot be serious and I believe that Carol is going there for her next recess and she will tell me.

Poor old George is working hours and hours every day on the next book which as usual is going to correct a few errors in connection with the movements of the ^{ear} early Injuns. My impulse is to say who cares, but his greatest satisfaction is to find proof of some wild and foolish errors. Today he really cheered one discovery. Isn't it fun that people are different?

And with that by no means original remark I will say Goodnight again. So glad that you three had roast beef but I like mine not saignant but just pink. Will you save a piece of that tint for Mehit. No you would not even leave a scrap.

Be gay, and if you can't be gay, get high! Love to three and there is plenty

Mehit.

Since I am writing to a household of PROFESSORS I must mention that I am reading Harry S. Frank's "I Did cover Greece" . a primer to you but it makes me feel very ignorant. Old, date 1929, but Greece is even older. Did I tell you my pet story of Saint Gaudens and the "d^{ear} young thing" at a dinner? If not I will some day, It is sweet, and true and has Greece in it/

Charles - speaking of Greenwich vil - Did you know that my last 3 years were spent at 294 W. 4th Street - That

in Castille. Another hot spot, or Franck's Vagabonding in Spain is an orfel lyre. If you turn into a regular professor, I hope you will take advantage of the seven year leave of absence so you can travel in all seasons. I know a woman who did that when she was financed by the Chicage shhools, went around the world and to get her full salary had only to send an article once a month about what she saw. That would be duck soup for you. I rather envied her but would not have gone with her for anything. She is of the tribe that makes a JOB of everything instead of just letting the joy sink in. Gosh if you could see some of the quaint things that I remember with the most pleasure! NOT anything that the guide books ever heard of.

Tomorrow Mildred and her friends Margaret Grossman, Bertha and Frieda from THE OFFICE start for a three weeks struggle to see the great northwest. Driving Margaret's car. They hope to see Black Hills, Glacier Park, and get as far as Vancouver, and then come back through Washington and Montana etc. Gorgeous scenery but Mildred is rather dreading it before taking. What will she be after?

Dood Dod! I was interrupted and took this out of the machine and laid it on my desk. Then having complete lossof memory plus other faculties, I forgot that it was waiting, and have been bosating to George that at least one of us had written you at Oaxaca. Now you may hate me or forgive me, or do any ole thing you like. YOU do not regret the lapsus brainsus more than I,

Heard from the mom, She is making plans for next summer but seems reconciled to you in Spain.

"Entire Devotion" Mehit —

Wednesday

Hi Archie, Cards came to delight my spirit one from Zacotecas and one from a long name that I cannot spell. I like the first scene much but the caverns give me a pain in the neck remembering the torture in those chambers when I was pretending to like the Mexican dungeons. The miserable places made me so sad and then a sort of guide showed us one just a hole with an entance large enough for a man to crawl through and told that us that it was the cell in which monks were put for punishment when they failed in their "duties" it made me furious. That sort of thing and the miserable ignoratn people crawling on knees to the altar with the golden virgin covered with jewels whil the worshippers were in rags rather spoiled all the cathedral and religious part of Mexico for me. I must agree that some of the cathedrals are exquisite in location and form but still I wonder if they are worth the sacrifice.

But for you, with your special interests, it is quite another story. You are so happy to find some sherds, flints et all that that you can even forget the pain the neck or feet which goes mit. With the "good companions" and the interesting queer food, you should be most happy. The companionship is so much. We had a letter from your mom this day addressed to George and Mabel and he said why does she put my name first when I haven't written her for years. Dosen't he know that being hard-to-get adds interest to any femme. She seems to have lost faith in keeping cool in New England and spoke of planning another sort of summer next year. You will not care if you are

When 'thirsty, thirsty,
thirsty' what does
one drink ⁱⁿ your Mex -
In mine everyone
was a coke-hound,
Ugh -

quite pleasant rushing back when I had to go into the town for one thing or another. A woman that I know wrote that she went from Melrose to Vermont for the summer but I think she has a farm there and as she took four collies and a cat and two kittens, she will not be lonesome. Sounds like an old maid, but she isn't. Married because she wanted a child, when it died she got a divorce; took the baby son of a friend into her home and kept him until he finished college, and now I fear has only her animal pets. A real mother, what a pity that she missed her vocation.

I just talked to Mildred to have her latest news for you. She could not give as good a report as I would like, but said to tell you HELLO. She had polyp out of her handsome nose and it has not yet quite healed and the debbil doctor wants her to have another operation. I told her that I would consult at least two other doctors before any ~~Surgery~~ but she said "Suppose they do not agree, then what will I do?" I am truly thankful to have escaped that sort of decision or indecision. She likes being in the Teachers Co-op though there are many things that she does not like.

Do you know that we would like, when a cool lazy but not too lazy day comes to you, to have a report on your plans for the summer and also a little detail about life in Florida. I know O. Oh yes I do, I read the Teacher Magazine article and I know that I have not treated Homer with the respect that his career deserves. Tell him that here and now, I bow and kiss his hand.

Best to you both and to Carol MABEL R



Monday



My DEar Mabel A, For days and days and daze we had unbearable heat and drouth and to add insult we were asked not to use water to save the poor dried up grass and you can imagine that yesterday when the break came and we had rain and cool temp we were almost mad with joy. This morning there is humidity but it is not so warm and I decided to write you at once to tell you how happy I was for you all that you were able to get to Boston for Stu's graduation. Glad that you approve of his apartment, and most glad that he is enthusiastic about his engagement for next year. He wrote me some time ago about that and was most impressed by the lovely Art and Science-rooms that Homer made for ~~he~~ him. He should be happy teaching the subjects that ~~he~~ likes most in such surroundings. I was confused and wrote Science instead of English/ Probably Carol felt slighted and intruded into my subconscious. She does not write often, the last that I heard was that she was considering taking summer school work for some more degrees.

You did not say that you are staying in Wakefield nor what plans you have for the summer. It may be as pleasant there as anywhere in climate and more comfortable in housing. My experience with camps and summer homes leaves much to be desired. I have read that New York and Boston have had the same sort of summer as we, storms, and heat, and all that but as I remember that region, when one gets out of the cities it is never quite so uncomfortable. I have summered in Arlington Heights and in New Rochelle and found both

in that category that I will just skip it. Pour example, how can anything called human take me for a drive to cool em off last night and go through south Omaha where the smells are booful always and even handsomer when it is warm plus humid, and then through Council bluffs which is low and hideous. George was strong enough to refuse the TREAT.

Noshe is getting up and soon will howl for food so I will ciss. Mehita sends you three mieows, and one faint purr, and love and all sorts of good wishes for you summer. As for the pipe and gin party, that will come when it will come if I survive this -----.

My most best to the family and to Carol one wish that I may know whatinL she is doing with the summer.

Mehit.

Friday, Too early.

Dear Archy. If this does not arrive at your new so-noble home before you take to the road, I sha feel most sad. But do not blame me, blame me old enemy Sol. He has me gemurdered for days and daz and I do only le stricte necessaire. Slept on glider for nights until the morning chorus of birds wakes me and suffer the rest of the time. But I did enjoy your communications and was glad that you succeeded in finding the right apartment, even the mom says it is lovely, I am glad for you and for the parents. It is fine that you have a place for them during the heated term. How long that is in Florida, I do not know but plenty I am sure. As I remember the environs of Boston, they were never TOO warm but going into the city was Hades. Moral --don't go. I am inferring that the parienta are making their headquarters at your place for the summer and hope that they will find it most agreeable.

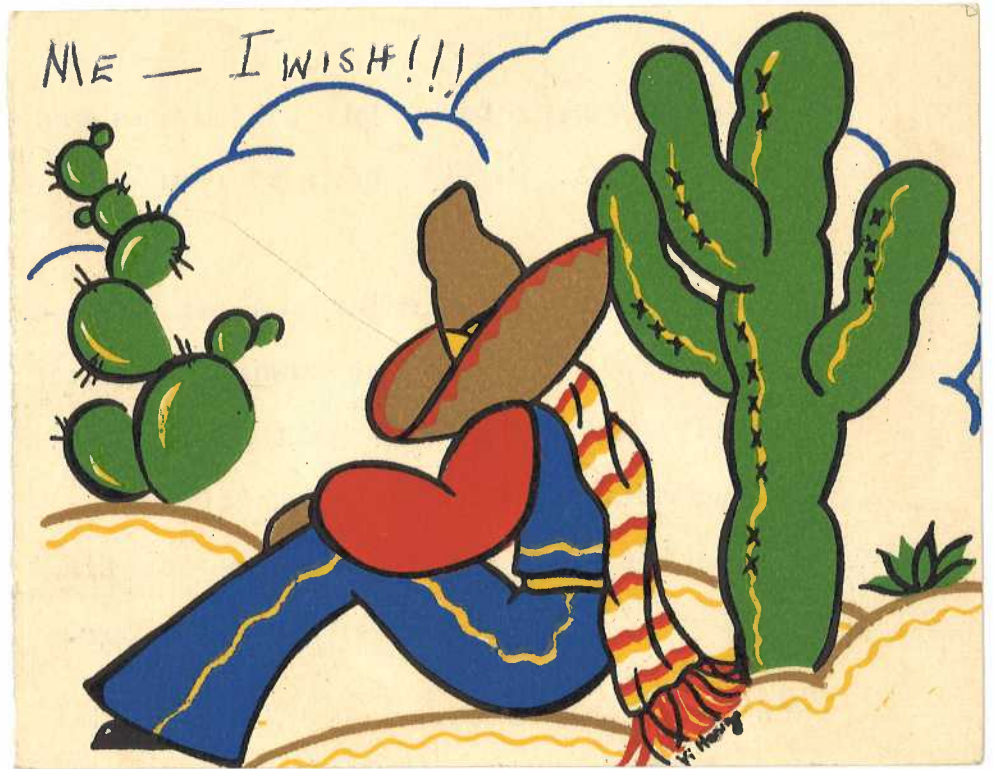
Sometimes I think your genius overworks dfinding just the right card to insult us. How did you know that we both have taken the pumpkin for our emblem and that we hate it. George pretends not, but I admit that I would do anything, But Anything, to lose -~~h~~the extra waist line., and the growling tiger on which you wrote your last charming note which I am attempting to answer, exactly expresses my mood. And it is not just that it is before breakfast, but all the time. I could eat nails and that goes for all the hot weather.

How you can bear to trek south to more of the same, I dinna ken. But there are so many things

Mehitable wishes too,, but as wishes are
not airplanes, it will have to rest
thar.

I think Mexico is charming and can under-
stand your loving it. But hownell can you
buy and house there and go to Spain
next summer. Either is an ambitious
undertaking. I suppose you are counting
on the maid who will sleep on the floor.
Not this maie, But she will
settle for a hammock. settle

Archy was under the
pumpkin - dinner!



when feeling rather glum , or glummer than
usual, I happened to see this and think it

so appropriate:

always game and always gay
archie that is me hellwhat the hell
tehres a dance or two in the
old dame yetclass is the thing that count
archie you cant get away from class

well boss i think in spite
of her brave words and gallant
spirit our friend mehitable
is feeling her years and constant
exposure to the elementsanother year and
i will likely
see her funeral cortege
winding through the traffica-line-of-d-s--
a line of d as c wagons headed
for the refuse scows
and poor mehitable ashily stark
in the froemost cart. archy

Gay isn't it.? Which reminds that George notice
a request in the Bookeller Mag Wanted
copy of Archy and Mahitable author unknown.
Isn't that something, but we see some even
worse.

Which reminds me to tell you and all con-
cerned She is now La Reine des potiross,,
She looks so like me.

I wish I had a few brains and could tell
you that we guarantee a quiet, cool time

August 13

(1953)

Dear Sir Sturat, With whom does time fly

withal. Widh me for one, and this morning
when I read your card to George I was shocked
into realising that I have shamefully neglected
your little troupe. Sorry that Margaret is
not well, as the trip is a long one and
not easy at best. I shall always remember
the time we drove over six hundred miles into
S^n Antonio --- and it was HOT. However if
you are going to Chicago, and if you can
make it this way as easily as any other , we
should be most happy to see you.

After I had written the address on the envel-
ope for this, I wondered if you would be a
bit insulted at the spelling and then I
noted that you had spelled it the same on
your envelope. Proof enclosed. Anyhow
that Mehit loves rats. A few days ago

but I have too many to tell a lie that
is sure to be found out.

Not a word from your sis, and just one
letter from your mom. She wishes she had
stayed in Florida. Perhaps another year
she will have found a place for the hot
term bearer home.

I am so grateful to you for the delightful
messages from Oaxaca and shall miss them
as you take to the road. Oh I do
hope that you will all feel well and enjoy
every minute.

I looked through "Mexican Journeys" yester-
day and found that memory served in that
the American hotel in Taxco is very like
the picture you sent from Oaxaco.

My best to Archy et al
La Reine

*You may exact any penalty
for the unforgivable
errors - which would
be quite unintelligible
to anyone but one
of us.*

we try to forget it ^{but} anything approaching pleasure is out of the question. But Carol has stood it very well, as we all have although much of the time with perspiration, This is mild, if I wrote what I really think of the summer we are living through you would be shocked and NEVER write me again. Three months, my dear, without a break is laying it on a bit too thick,

Your good letter should have been answered sooner if I had not used up all the words in the language reviling the ----- weather. Tonight with three fans going, I read the paper and rained on the sheets. Carol was dining out and wishing she were here where she could wear almost nothing. The only consolation is that the minimum of clothing means the minimum of laundry work. And now so many things do not need ironing, bless them.

I hope that you and Homer are comfortable and even happy in Newton. If you can stay until the lovely autumn colors appear it will be worth while I think. That part of the world has so much beauty especially when the hard maples turn.

The reason that you have not seen George's novel is that it does not quite click. Is most original and really funny in spots but needs a more sophisticated touch in the scenes where there are no Injuns. He has laid it by for the time being.

A hundred good wishes to you both, and hoping to see you one day????

Mabel R

Thursday

Dear Mabel A.,

Yesterday Carol told George that she intended to start for home-Saturday Sunday morning and George immediately reported to me. Then I put a stop to that with good reasons: first, because Sunday is the very worst day for travel in the state of Iowa with her narrow roads and many bad curves; second because I had to have time to get used to the idea of being a lonely dame again. So I told her NOT Sunday, and certainly not Monday as that is washday and she must go home clean. I agreed to make not more than one objection to Tuesday or Wednesday and it will probably be one of those days

Carol said I must write you the reason for her delay as you had promised all sorts of punishment if she stayed here more than four days. That would have been most impossible as it takes anyone at least a week to get really used to a new setting, and after that one can take it easy and feel at home. Carol has been a most thoughtful and helpful guest, if you can call an inmate of this "dump" (that is what George calls it) a guest. I am sure that you are missing her but if you stay in New England until October, which is what she expects, you will have a good share of her and I hope you both will enjoy many good times together.

There have been no good times here. The wicked weather continues, and

"C'est le mai, c'est le mai, c'est le joli moi de mai." I wish you could have heard Yvette Gilbert dissembling that, but alas you are too young yet. Also too young for Sara la divine. Both plain femmes but how they could act. I saw Sara in scenes from Camille when she had a wooden leg and the French called her passe, but even then she was so much better than any of our actresses who attempt it that I gave her the crown and regretted that I could not have seen her in her glory. As for your Eva, I respect her ambition and having never seen her can do no more, but I could not enjoy anyone in Macbeth. Saw the Statuesque Nance O'Neill try it and it was plenty, brother, I never would try it again.

But back to our lambs and our May. It has been one sad flop to date, all cold and rain, but ~~now the~~ darling sun has come forth and we shall soon forget the darkness. That is the best thing about unpleasant things, They are soon forgot while the dear ones remain. That is why my mind is so nearly a blank.

If you are surprised that I dared send you so banal a picture you will have to understand that I cherish a laugh, and I had such a good one at your fat lady in the subway that I just had to send you a companion piece. Two laughs in one week is a fine score for these parts.

And my poor Archie struggling to make a so perfect thesis. I hope it is all done now as the end of the year is perilously near and I want you to have some carefree days at the end of the semester. My only experience with them these theses was a few years ago when one of my former teachers was making one for The Omaha U. Knowing that English is her weakness she brought it to me for correction. I changed a few fragrant delicti and it was turned down. That surprised me, though I knew it was all wrong, as the quality of the persons holding degrees from that institution is so low that I thought anything should pass. She brought it back to Mehit and I suggested a few important changes and the gal got it

though. When I had to write a paper for the principals, this ~~was my~~ recipe, whenever I stuck I said to me, "What would Georgie Cohan do?" and then I did it. Of all the corn !! and they swallowed it without butter. When in doubt, wave the flag and go sentimental. But mein Archie does not need any helpful suggestions. He can write better than anyone that I have ever known and I have known a few good ones; and not only can he make with the words but he has the information to spread them over. I KNOW his thesis will be noble. And I do appreciate all the gems that he sends this way.

When I wrote you that I was happy about your engagement for next year, it was not that it is a surprise but that it came so soon and left your mind free to think of plans and enjoy the prospect. Hope you will have the same luck about finding the right place to live but that can wait. Nuff said, except do not let your precious possessions boss you. LUV MEHIT



Tree Peonies

Chang Shu-Chi

Cold Wednesday

Excuse it please and do not get too chesty if I say that I like Archie better than Mehit. Sometimes I am sure that I do and then I remember how much I like Mehit and decide that probably it is just a matter of mood. I should hate to have to give up either. It is shamelessly lowbrow of me to admit that when I feel bored with all the usual, I can pick up any one of my Don Marquis volumes and "feel good again."

Pour example:

some people i told him inhabit
a vacuum all their lives
and never know it then he said it dont
hurt them any no i said it dont but it
hurts people who have to associate
with them and with these words we
parted each feeling superior to the other
and is not that feeling after all
one of the great desiderata of social intercourse.

archy

And why not feel a bit superior and enjoy it when all the minus-minds are so plentiful and so satisfied. They say they "cannot read" my Don. To a few people like FPA and Frank Kieran and Stu plus a few toher choice spirits he is GREAT, if not the greatest American philosopher. And that is the way I like my humor, all soncealing real thoughts. Another humorist-philosopher, but not poet, is Harry Leon Wilson who is almost unknown in this town where he once lived. Aw wot the hell sez this Mehit.

I wonder how Archie got YOU. I caught him thirty years ago before I came to this benighted community. The only my so scholarly brother shows me the least respect is when he remembers that I discovered Don Marquis and a few others. Believe it or not, when I came here I talked to a High School teacher in the English department who had never heard of Arnold Bennett!

Anyway I had fun reading anything that pleased me to the pupils who could not escape. If only you could have heard this prinnie reading

archie interviews the pharoah

to the eighth grade at Central School, you would have chuckled. And the children loved it. They had been conditioned to my reading comedy and felt free to laugh and did in the right places. But the poor teacher shuddered at all the rough language. Nonody, just nobody, can cuss so effectively and inoffensively as Archie.

I haven't thanked you for the latest contributions to my gallery: the booful sta George, so young and pure and lovely such color and what a horse. When I consorted with painters in New York they were given to weeping because they could not get colors that endure for even one lifetime when the ancients keep clear tna and fine practifally forever. Maybe they heed something besides colors.

Your Chinese horse does have legs!

So now the queen of the Andersons has you enslaved. I can imagine almost anything, but not Stu grading papers. That gal is a witch, perhaps I will change the first letter for she wrote me BC that she was coming out here for the hols and not a word since. And my pore latch string is all froze. I do not even know that she went to Florida but heard a rumor.

I did not expect to have to use this side but I cannot close y e t.
Want to say that if you get any more brilliant, or educated, or
whatever it is, I shall not know the things that perhaps you are
telling me. But pehhaps that is your deep dark design. It leaves
you the opening that you did not mean anything at all deleterious.
Gee I know some big words too. Seriously I am very proud of
your perseverance and of your A's reported to George and I hope
that the remainder of the grind will go quickly and most successfully
and that when free you will get your reward. When you can go where
you like and do what you like---I wonder where you will land . Dig-
ging bones instead of words I suppose.

George's eye doctor is one of the lucky ones. He is taking vacation
in Guatamala at the end of February. Last month it was skiing in
Colorado and last winter the same in Switzerland. His father was
a most successful eyeman and left a fortune, so this one works
when he likes.

This machine cannot spell and I am weary of making corrections,
so Good night. I hope the other Mehit and you will have a most
delightful Valennine.

M

June II

Mein aller liebsten, whatever that may be. You may find this note stopping very suddenly as I am stealing the a machine while the author-person sorts notes. BUT if one does not take advantage of this moment LUD knows when there will be a nother chance. Wotta life!

It is already JUNE by calendar but not bb tempera-
ture, and June to your gang means so much in the
way of finishing the year's work and preparing for
the grand tour that you will have not even time to
read one of my nonsense notes. This one is es-ec-
ially to tell you that moné petit doigt (in other
words a little bird Carolling) told me that manana
Stu is having a show of his pupils' work and I must
for a moment be a school person and congratulate
you, feeling sure that all will be fine and that
you will be over whelmed with praises. Also as
an old "educator" , while regretting that your
friend Bob Hoaglund will not be with you next
year, I rejoice that one has the courage to insist
on discipline even against the will of the fondly
foolish parents. In all work with children I
have found that it pays to be the BOSS, with a
smile and kid glove when possible, but also to use
other methods whne needed. In music and phys.Ed.
especially there is too much opportunity to
hide loafing and also real destructive activities.
In view of the increase in Juvenile Del. I should
think parents would wake up to the fact that they
are complete failures and that if a child succeeds
it is because they could not prevent it.
You are not the only one who had many lilacs, we
had them too, also tulips, daffys, narcisses et al
and now it is a flood of peonies. Also a flood
of needed rain. D'r k as night this minute , 10
AMish, but who cares since we have Mr. Edison.
Thanks for thinking of me in the same breath as
sparkling burgundy. That is about the nicest little
tipple, tastes so good, looks so good and even
feels so good. / Poor little Archie, with more
luxuries than he has room for. Think of life being
so narrow that there is not even room for a Steinway.
What does John do ti- with four of them. Four
men at 2 pianos I have heard, on second thought I
have heard four but only in radio. Good but much
better a single interpretation as it has more
characte .

Please my very dear insect, do not feel that you have to write this end of the line when you are so rushed and so full of plans. I just write because there are a few things to say, and never feel neglected. You have done so much for me these two years in keeping the alleged mind alive that I could not thank you enough. Please try to give the sensitive heel a bit of rest and have the best of everything always. I know that only the best appeals to you so that is just the right wish. With best wishes for the happiest of vacations to your gang and luv to Archie

Deine dich liebende

Mehit in a
coy mood



January 21

Arch Archie, So slummerville is brown and gray?
Well you have nothing on us. Our skies are gray,
our grass is brown in the few spots where it peeps
through the snow, but the snow and our hearts are
pure and white. Wotta lie.
So now you are all "finished" I thought the date
was the 28th but naturally I was wrong. Did you
look tres charmant in your cap and gown? and do you
wear all those letters after your name or do
you shift them to suit the mood? Or will you settle
for Doctor Anderson? Can I stand that?
If the old gal goes clear off the track please know
it is just temporary. WE have the Flu or a good
imitation thereof. George is down and out, hardly
able to move and I am trying to get him a doctor.
I caught it from him, but being made of sterner stuff
am still able to do a few little things about the
house. George will not eat, and will not take
any remedies, so I shall sick a doctor on him. He
just sits or lies motionless for hours.
Ten minutes later. Dr. Dickerson said he will come
and now George is like a grouchy bear, says he does
not need a doctor etc. I have to look at him,
and cannot take it any more.
In one of your partially-answered letters you said
you have the illustrations for a child book but
that you could not write it. You must have the
thread of the story and surely you and Carol if
ever you have three spare minutes, will be able to
put it in baby talk. Have you seen "Ahole is to dig
very bad Titles should be caps A HOLE IS TO DIG.
It is having a sensational sale and it is almost
too infantile. Geeve it a look, It may encourage
you.

Good night at 4 PM Mehit

Re-2 1658 W
Rod

October 27 Shame
on MEHIT.

Good little Archie, Who or what told you that your pal loves yellow. She does, all shades of yellow, orange, beige, buttercup, buff, gold, tans and SOME browns seem to have a special appeal to this humble one, but I do not remember every mentioning it. So the orange dame mit lute, and the yellow card mit black splashes made a hit. Your mention of the ornage lanterns recalled them to me and last night if I had not hunted and hunted them in vain you would have had a letter. I keep my precious Archieisms in a gorgeous red box, gift of the Falstaff Brewing Assn. It came with two bottles and two cans and two really good bottle openers. They also sent a similar box to George. If they knew that neither of us prefers their beer they would ask us to return the gift. In fact, honest, cross my heart I do not like any beer and never did with one gorgeous exce-tion. When the world was young and gay, we found the imported Wurtzbürger Hof Bray most palatable at the Hoffbrau Haus at 30 and Broadway across from the theater entrance to the Old Garrick. Of course it has gone the way of all good things, or if not gone to pot.

Since George cannot phone, I took the liberty of giving your message verbatim to Mildred. She was most pleased. She also had an invitation to visit in Florida. And the sane thing for her would have been to take a month to build up her stranghh which the doctor said was very much depleted. Who needs a doctor to tall her that, she does not seem to care and will not eat properly or go to a decent place and have a regular life. When she got back to her room at 122 she ate funny foods morning and noon and then had friends come and take her out to a dinner. And when she started working she went to the Brandeis Cafeteris for roast beef! Tie that if you can. Roast beef perhaps, but a cafeteria. Lud save me fer from that. This is not in the least what I wished to write you. I want you to know that your cards and messages are the brightest spot in my rather dull exist. I wonder if you know what it means to be totally surrounded with people who do not regognize any sort of play on words or any of

Wednesday

Sept. 8

Mein aller liebster Archie.

Mehit is all upgemixed and does not even feel sure that you are back in your own pet spot. I wrote you that I had little faith in forwarded mail and when I note what the Spanish Post did to my poor trusting Hu! what they did (perhaps they just found his cards & letters too precious & could not give 'em up) I dunno - but I do know that their chef d'oeuvre arrived yesterday: a card mailed to Geo. in Granada 7 August, and one to Mab also in Granada Aug. 8 arrived in this town yesterday Sep. 7. A record - ? When those cards

came. I almost decided you
were taking over Spain
for life - but then I got a
magnifying glass and made
out those dates, I felt sure
you could never be happy
in such a slow ~~home~~ place
and am quite expecting you
to turn up here soon.

Poor little Archie must
feel sore in the feet & dizzy
in the head but that will
pass and he will have the
glorious memories.

For me, no memories this
summer, just heat & more
heat which I detest. Some
of the larger cats like the
hot countries but not Moke!
She'll settle for eternal
Spring and say thank you -
but never I hope have
to endure another Omaha

Summer,
you get a very large
medal for taking time to
send us all those lovely
messages - just add up
all the minutes and
name your reward.

Me, as ever, working
like a - - slave and
not ever complaining coz
George wants to get two
mss ready & Mehit helps.

More when I know
where I have you are
and plenty love all
the time
Mehit.

MABEL L. REED
4229 DOUGLAS STREET
OMAHA 3, NEBRASKA

Monday AM

Dear Archie, Last night as I lay "thinking thoughts in the dark mist" shame overcame me and I decided that I would start getting in line with my letter writing before I did one minute of Haus-frauing. Poor haus-frauing! If you saw the pile of letters calmly waiting in my desk you would be ashamed too. A few days ago I made a beginning, looked them through and arranged them in date order, the oldest was born last April. Now by the simple procedure of reversing the order, yours which arrived a few days ago comes first and as that is the one which I really wished to answer, the arrangement suits me perfectly. One very good thing about letters is that they wait quietly and never set up a howl about precedence.

It would take pages to tell you how much I enjoy the so-original selections of picks of museum pieces. I keep them all and look at them often. But not at Mehitable, I look at her all the time as she sits under the lamp on my desk. I owe it a special thank you as she sent me looking through my three volumes of Don Marquis for the Persian Pussy verse and I love looking through the Don. Never, never get over his cleverness, his audacity and his versatility. I really believe that much of his very best was written ~~at~~ when he had HAD PLENTY, which is one that we owe to Mr. Alcohol, or is it Mrs. Did not find Persian Pussy, but last night when I was doing that thinking thought, something said "Why you dumb cluck, it is Francois Cillon" so this morning I looked and here she is, remember?

tame cats on a web of persian woof
may lick their coats and purr for cream
but i am a tougher kind of goof
scheminga a freer kind of scheme

Why does not everyone write with no punk, the machine would be wo much simpler.

When I got your note saying you wanted me to come and Brattle I was puzzled. How could I be valuable to a Brattle? then the light came, of course you would sell me like the blond, down the river to a sailor, but much as I would like to provide funds for a good cause, I refuse to be for sale or for a sailor. My descent stops at admirals. As for amachursatticals, I hate the brutes and do not ask me why. Les gouts et les couleurs ne se disputent pas. But I do like Irish plays ---to read, especially Synge.

Your sister did describe in more or less detail your luxury liner digs. Some Brat you. I thought you had just a room and it has grown into a real apartment and by Carol's TALE, It is too small for your absolutely necessary articles and the growing collection of luvlies and books. The answer is throw out the bed. Seriously I am glad that you are having all the comforts, though it makes me smile to think that the man who was so happy with the chickens in Yucatan could need so many luxuries in Somerville. I suppose it all depends on the time and place. I knew a woman who had a gorgeous home in Washington Conn. and was much happier when she could hide out on a horrible first floor back in Greenwich Village, with no furniture and no daylight et al. Carol's description, probably much elaborated to make a good story, of her place reminded me of that. She too has to go out to find what the weather is. That is common enough in New York, but in a village so small that is on only one of our many atlases, I should think she would do better.

I hope you and Carol will find some sort of Joyous Thanksgiving and I am sure that for once you will miss the family. Silly girl you may fly down for the turkey and back Sunday. Easy for anyone in the money. My love to you both, tell Carol she is next on the upside-down pile.

You will have to change your mind about my thinking. Just because it can be done by Archie, he need not think it easy.

So thar M

Sunday or Febr. what
date, I dunno.

Dear Archie, You have been in my mind all day and Before trying to answer your dear letter, I must tell you what started the riot. Somewhere around noon I was in the kitchen trying to concentrate on what is still and always will be for me the task of preparing a meal which will satisfy my too fastidious palate when the author, who was looking at the paper in the next room, interrupted with: "Now what do you think the government has done? It is going to economize and pay off the National Debt by reducing the amount allowed for the destruction of the Archies of this world." For some reason or for no reason, this seemed to me excruciatingly funny and for the first time in AGES I burst out with a real bellylaugh and remembering how you used to love a laugh, I wished you were here to join me. You and Don Marquis and all the gang. And all this day I have thought of you and I am glad that you are still aware that Mehit is just the same though she does not find many opportunities to be herself. ***** Isn't that the correct way to express words that are unfit for print. Later I decided that maybe George had just invented that story to amuse me, but when I looked in the paper and found the tiny bit that brought it on. I am thankful that there is a laugh left, for much that is printed I will not even read.

But, back to our muttons. I have not thanked you, and cannot possibly tell you how pleased I was that you took time to send me the story of the DAY that you and Charles enjoyed so much. I cannot say that I wish I could have been with you for I am a truthful dame, and my feet would not have endured the miles that you must have tramped. But I think it is wonderful that you have some of the things that you enjoy so much near home, and also that you have the long vacations to go wherever you wish. Att It occurs to me that you have all the best of it, living outside the large cities but having them when you wish and having your own niche to retire to when that suits your mood.

dele
~~Your "indecent" story of the so innocent teachers and the~~
You said something about going to Mexico again this summer! That country seems to have charmed many people. Two of my friends go there every time that they have even two weeks. They went about two months ago, Flew and spent all the time left on a small island off Yucatan. Usually they have gone to an isle off the west coast but they loved the last even more. They are both mad about the water and spend the time in or on it with native divers, skiers et al. Mar The lady is no LSDY. She comes back so brown that she is taken for a colored dame and has no inhibitions. Her husband took the finest colored pictures of everything that I have ever seen.

It seems that we had an accident but if you will please excuse the mess, I will continue.

Your so-called indecent story of the unappreciated art work of the badd badd boys and the so innocent teachers gave me to chuckle too. It reminded me of my feelings when I first came back to Omaha and the teachers of the seventh and eighth grades

treated me to tales of the immorality of the girls in their classes. I did not believe them then, but now nothing surprises me as I have learned much in this village that was never dreamed of when I was a young girl. It takes all kinds to make the world go round they say and we cannot hope to make a dent in any part of it. "What is to be, will be" is my song and they cannot preach me out of it.

No more of that stuff. The caricature of Twain showed where the dear girls got the inspiration for the devilish hair-do of today. It makes them look ridiculous in my opinion for I cannot bear that the tiny body shall be dwarfed as it is. Where did that idea come from? And even in this comparatively simple community, there are many young women who spend fortunes on wigs and hairdressers to achieve that look. Now I know where the idea came from. From a clever person who counted on his gains and let the crazy women pay the price. The spike heels are another abomination. Mais, don't tell me, I know I am oldfashioned. But there never was a day when I would let anybody tell me what to wear or how to do my hair.

I have raved more than enough. Must add that I love the new deco decor on your letter but the fine Greek profile will always mean Archie.

Please greet your good pals for me and do not tell them that I am showing my age by talking too much.

LUV and a bon gros baiser pour chacun ^q

This damned machine cannot spell and me too also.

Sunday Sacred to Naps

Dear Archie, That Mehitable has just stuffed with some moderately good food and feels like curling up in a certain all soft gray wooly shawl that Archie brought her from the faar west but George says she must do a note to "tuck in". He is the goshdanndest tyrant and if one does not mind one gets a course of scowls or worse. So she minds. Maybe she will awake after a few nonsense rhymes to thee.

Your messages that have been unanswered also will reproach me if I do not "concentrate". Before going into the Souseland (or was it?) you said you were taking books to read on the train and I was reminded of a gal in Mrs. Fiske's company, who when we were going south said one day "I wish I could see a field of cotton" and I said we have passed a hundred today BUT that gal had borrowed my copy of Modjeska's memoirs and had not looked up all day. She was so intent looking for traces of an indecent love life that she could not think of looking anywhere. Her hunt was in vain, for there was little scandalous in Modjeska's lifestory as printed. In fact most actresses are discreet in their auto blogs. Even the divine Sara made no explanation of her "little accident d'amour" and went to Spain and came back with him, but no mention of a father. Perhaps she was ahead of her generation.

Your cards from Florida are more than we deserve. I am glad that you got some precious Bargains and also that you found Florida beautiful. It must be if one can stand the tropics. I recently read Cross Creek which sells southern Florida in a way, but not for me if skeeters and other /soisome insects, plus snakes, plus lizards et al are plentiful. Me no like. I rather liked Jamaica where strange to tell there are neither mosquitoes nor /flies. No screens needed. Why I dunno unless the breezes that blow in from the sea all day and down from the mountain all night blow them away. Silly old Mehitable! Any wqy this is true It was HOT there only for about one hour a day when the wind died down and the direction changed.

I just finished a book with rather good description of a bit of Spain, but it is by the Sea the beautiful sea. You never did tell me if your Spanish is

at ease. I hope so as you can have so much more fun when talking to the natives. But I am sure you boys must have turned College Spanish into something the natives can understand in Mexico and that by this time you are plenty good though your inherent modesty will never let you say a good word for my dear little Archie.

You mentioned having to teach ninth graders Wlain, and its family. My very dear child, if I could remember and tell you how many TEACHERS have told me they could not understand those simple verbs you might never believe me. One especially was an 8th grade teacher with a DEGREE and whenever she taught English or tried to and I came into the room she was so embarrassed that I took over and did the kid have fun then. Poor things. I told them that English grammar is the easiest thing in the world and is just a matter of clear thinking. The textbooks do all they can to make it a puzzle and it is rather a shame. I was a tyrant, told those children to correct any error in English that appeared on the board and after that whenever I saw one drew a line through it and said WHY did not one of the 48 pairs of young eyes in this room see that. Nasty old bitchimova!

I am sorry that you are not luvving your work but how could you? To me taeaching day in day out from morn till 3 or 4 P.M. is plenty when it isn't too much and when they pile meeting on tope of that it is killing. Mildred told me that the week before vac vacation she had to rush from school every night to some kind of meeting with no time to get ready for the next day. THAT SHOULD NOT BE. and I hope that you will do something about an eight hour day for your profession. I mean inclusive, and I mean it for the good of the children for a tired resentful teacher is not worth one damn. Heck who got me off on this horse? Down Mehit!

A woman called here yesterday. She likes to pretend appreciation so I made her listen to two of Archie's best not for her but for my pleasyure.

I know you have to talk PLANS but will you please when you know tell me about plans for Spain.

Luv and plenty good hunting Mehit

Blue Monday

Dear Stu, you
may pat yourself
on the back for
bringing me the
lovely soft shawl
from Colorado some
twenty years ago.

Just now it serves
George as - a
favorite lap robe.

This is the begin-
ning of our third
week in the "Rest Home"
to which our doctor

condemned us. 2

Preceding this were
first 4 cots in the
Clarkson Hospital where
the doctors gave him
4 transfusions and the
cots to build up
his resistance to the
advised operation -
but the specialist &
our doctor agreed
that the operation
was impossible
so they let him
come home. Hard to

get help but with 3
visiting nurses and
experienced neighbors
Mehit survived 3 wks
of that - when our doc-
tor rushed us both
where he managed
to get a room
with 2 beds, which
I insisted on, as
George had almost
entirely lost his
sight - could not
read even the

largest blackest 4
print-- and strang-
ers could not
understand him.

Four days of that,
nearer Hell than I
had ever been, when
one afternoon he said
to the nurse "I see
you!" Mrs Christlieb,
our doctor's wife was
here, and he recognized
her too - and the
miracle is still acting.

It is the hope that
it may continue
that gives us
courage - a little
but not much as
George gets no
answer when he
asks "How soon can
I go home?" The
doctor says "Be patient
one cannot tell." I am
almost sure that it
is a life sentence, but
no one tells Geo. & he has

Faith which does³⁶
sometimes make
good. Meanwhile
Geo has ~~a~~ no pain
& if he could read
books he could be
content even in
this "Rest" Home -
which annoys me
every minute. If this
scribble sounds like
raving - perhaps it is

I really wrote to
ask how Homer &

Mabel are. Carol wrote

one that Mabel is
much better but
worried about
Homer — and I
had not dreamed
that he was ill.

In attendant you
may write me to
The Florence Heights Home,
3220 Scott St

Omaha Neb.

What is left of my
Best to you and
Charles Mat

November 26

Mon cher Archie, She refuses to write the name of this day because she resents every expression of humility and gratitude when none is felt, and I do agree that, with most of the folk who make such a fuss about giving thanks, the only feeling is the wish that they had been given more, and more. But I did not mean to be so sour writing to you for I am most sad and ashamed that you have been neglected and I do appreciate that you have sent no word of reproach, only your charming notes mit pictures, cheering some of my days with the thought that somebody somewhere is getting a bit of joy out of the funny thing that we call "life". Mehit made an effort to be conventional and find somethings to be thankful for and she found:

1. Thankful for Archie
and that he is not Archibald.
2. Thankful for many smiles from Archie.
3. Thankful that he has moments of "Stolen Joy and that he does not let hte JOB get him down for more than five days a week.
3. Most thankful that his new home is happy and that he has friends to help him enjoy it.
4. Thankful for one person with whom I can be just as silly and worse with no fear of misunderstanding. (Dood Dod, these literal persons have driven me nearly mad.)

Plenty of that . Now for our muttons, if any. I feel that I need not write you about this house as I am sure George does that very much better than I could. But what about this Newport affair? Is it serious? Is anything all of that? I am glad that Carol was with you and shared the fun. She sent me pictures of her Saki and told me that he is at present the love of her life. Must not let that go too far--dogs do not live long enough. If she must love a four footed animal, let it be a Mehit, as they are sure to have at least nine lives. Eight too many this Mehit thinks.

My~~s~~ last, first and only visit to Newport will never be forgotten. It came nearer to making a socialist of me than ~~y~~ any experience that I remember. I was so furious at seeing all that lovely beach with not one person enjoying it, and only a little

tiny spot for the common herd. I used to feel almost the same about the fine houses, whole blocks of them on Fifth Avenue, all closed for two or three years at a time, while there was no room for the poor who lived two streets nearer the East River. No more do I feel that resentment, for what is the use? Je m'en fiche!

The cold November days for got to be dreary and if what I read is true, we are more fortunate in having lovely blue skies and clear air to breathe than any of my friends on the east coast. Did you say "What friends?" I have two in New York, one of the Theater and one a business woman. The actress is working in TV and says it is TRIPE and the other has interesting jobs with Women Voters' and El Welfare Hound Clubs. She likes it but it is wery hard work. If I had not come here, what would Mehitable be by this time. Maybe riding down the bay on that garbage scow? That life if exciting is not easy. The TV program starts rehearsal at 8 AM and keeps at that until the program goes on at 11:30 Can you think of anything worse? Perhaps not eating. I dunno, Perhaps being bored by lectures? You seem not to love those.

George is reading Parkman's Journals for PLEASURE and I feel so honored that one member of this household has brains and taste/ When I came to this town his sense of humor made life endurable and his serious work keeps him almost content for much of the time, So for that we will be thankful.

It makes me scowl to think that you have not had all the supplies that you were promised. You will have to keep wishing and use what the Jehovahs send. Is that a new building, I mean is this the first year for it. Otherwise there is no excuse.

Mildred is working, but every time that I call her she says she never expects to be any better, so what is there to do? Feel very sorry for her, but that is nothing new. I always have done that--a most unhappy life, and most unfortunate temperament, and nothing will change it.

Cheerio my deario, LUV Mehiti.

Poor Mehiti cannot read Chinese but she admires the beautiful card and if you assure her that the content will not make him blush, will get one of the Chinese pupils to translate. It looks lovely but may be quite indecent and I know only the most proper people of that race. They belong to the Americanization classes and I must keep my reputation

damage and now she has no more trouble or large bills to pay. The encourages me in my wicked way of keeping out of their torture chambers.

I hope your two weeks were not too miserable and that you are now in perfect shape for your Mexican Journey. That will be spotty enough and you will need all your enthusiasm to tide you over the difficulties, and I do not mean lack of toilet and other facilities. I'd overlook those but when the insects bite I make a hasty retreat.

Poor old George will answer the other and most interesting part of your letter, I mean the gin and Keats and the rest of your wild parties. It is so very warmish now that I could do with a very long, very cold Tom Collins or any other drink of that class.

Failing that I will take cold aqua and call it a day.

Good(No, No, Hellish) night and ever so many congrats on having befuddled the examiners and luv
Mab

Mildred phoned me yesterday and she issad, as she would say plenty worried. She has to have a polyp cut out of her booful nose and her dear doctor told her she positively should have the complete sinus operation, very painful and demanding a week in hospital. I told her I would NEVER do it without consulting at least two other authorities. They the surgeons, are much too fond of cutting. That poor gal has had enough trouble without asking for more

I MUST write to your mom or she will have flown.

June 11

Dear Stu, Dood Dod Ladyfingers/! How much can a human bean stand. We should not kick having escaped the floods, the hurricanes et al, but we have NOT escaped stewing, broiling, melting and all that goes with them. It is now 11:30 pipemma and as warm as ever and I may as well be mizzable writing to you as trying to sleep.

I was more than glad to know that you have moved into a lervly apartment and that you recovered from the bout with Virus X. Though why you should have it, I dunno. I have a theory when the medics do not have any idea as to what got you, they label it a Virus. I know a dame who has had all the specialists treating her for skin irritations, sad to look at and itchy as L, and at last by accident she found out that feather pillows do the

she cannot respond in kind -
she do appreciate, oh she
do! Love you "Pomohomaha"
I call it many things worse
than that - but I'm just
an unappreciative Swede, by
contact not birth. Sud
man, what a calm, cold-
blooded --- people! They
tolerate my cuss words and
stories, but never imitate.
Wonder if like Garbo they
hide their feeling behind
* wooden ~~masks~~ masks.

My little French gal from
the Midi had a word
for them. She married
an Amer. soldier & for

ye April 9

Mein lieber Ragout - and if I
had a German wortebuch I'd
hunt out Archie in that
growley language. In the
pigeonhole which hides my
unanswered letters, I dug out
Archie's and found one of the
date Jan. 3 - answered to
be sure, but too precious to
be destroyed. This very
morning I was asking that
Mehit what she has done
to inspire Stu, a modern
of the modern, to waste his
gems on her an ancient
of dames. But even though

that sin, had to live in
Omaha for a while, then
ten years in International
Falls, which is colder than
Greenland and 90% Scan-
dinavian. How she hated
that! But she has a gift
for hating. Then she lived
in New Orleans where she
hated the pretentious Creoles
and their "chères". It seems
every is chère with a rolling
r - & not like her own people.

You asked me for a
travel hint - and I'll have
to disappoint you having no

memory. The Opera House was
open in summer & I did see
a lovely performance of Aida -
with atmosphere - But for
nice suggestions I refer you
to "The Last Time I saw Paris"
I'd like to go back and
walk in his footsteps. "April
in Paris" did not interest me
so much. Please stroll down
Rue de la Harquette for me -

Next week is your Easter
holiday and you'll have no
time to read this tardy note.
So - cheers mon cher bi

Mehit.



26 December

Hurry, hurry, hurry! or those
 Andersons will be separated by
 many miles . Isn't it shocking
 that the days run away so fast.
 This old gal cannot keep up with
 the game at all. IF she minds
 her house and feeds her sparrow,
 she neglects the common courtesies
 and feels guilty and mean and
 selfish because she dares to

read a more or less good book when she should be making marks with this machine. BUT there are complications/ When she is in the mood to write that authoring person sits at the machine and works or makes it look like work and when she can get the machine the mood is all gone sour. I hope nobody cares and that you all especially do not feel neglected You are my favorite family and I do not mean to neglect you.

I suppose you will want some Omaha gossip. Do I know any? I think this is rather amusing Katie Ryan wrote me in all seriousness "Mr. Burke writes each of us a separate Christmas letter every year. Isn't that lovely?" The Greeks had a word for it.

And the report is that Mildred is gaining and looking better but I must not tell her that as she wants sympathy.

The OEA now is running a six months bazaar and every school must give a week's service to make money for the Belle Ryan Memorial HOME. It was intended at first to be a simple home for needy retired people and now it has grown to a 12 story apartment building. Ambition is always admirable I suppose.

I will say to you nothing about a good Christmas for I know you had it if the plans all went through but I will say that 1953 looks rather old and weak and I hope 54 will take care of us all LUV Mabel

I know George has written you all the news so will not apologize for lack.

a paw near it.

Also to quote an old
London Music Hall ditty

"Now grandma had an
accident

In which she lost an eye,
The doctor came, the
doctor said

'Don't worry, she won't die'
And just at that our
old Tom Cat

Came strolling idly by,
The doctor said 'In
grandma's head
We'll graft the Tommy's eye'

Sept. 25

Dear abused Archie—

Never have I been so
completely rebuked and
abashed as by your
wordless reproach which
arrived yesterday! Two
blank cards! Silence
may be golden but it
carries a big stick.

On behalf of Mehitabel
may I say that hizzoner
sits at our lone type-
writer hour after hour
and Mehit can't get

And the Tom cat said
Nee-aw - Spt - 5 88 -!
Chorus.

Now grandma is a
quaint old bird
Such nonsense you
have never heard
She prowls round
for miles to now
Out on the tiles now
She really is a quaint
old bird."
The defense rests for
if grandma can't
prowl - who can!

You evidently said
the magic word to
Carol for she came
across with a good
letter and now I
know all. It seems
that you are both
happily situated and
even luxuriously. Not
every lone gosling has
3 rooms, and so much
to put in them. But
these are the days
of luxuries so go

with her usual autumn
asthma.

Me - yesterday paid
for my sins - Gord!
why did I accept!
Went to a luncheon
with 8 - count 'em
ex school ma'ams and
"deed I was bored" -
2½ hours seemed like
ten - Needed at least
3 drinks & there were

to it. Your poor Mil-
dred has to do with
1 room plus bath. That
is supposed to make
life easy but she finds
that every time she wants
one item she has to
move three to get to
it - and then put
them all back. That
gal had a good summer
but is paying for it

None! I refuse all
luncheons & teas by
regulations - but yielded
once - & now swear
never again - Gahble !!



Almost my
picture

If you can't
read this never mind -
I too have suffered
& it is not worth

the effort -

You're the only one
to whom I dare
send such a scrawl

Sur
— Mehit

We are only accidenting so can't
say to much. What do you think
about oil? I'll struggle for
a while probably all time with
drawing - He spoke of doing
a head and I nearly ran
out of the room.

We are still having rain.
Dad was home today listening
to the last ball game, Charlie
Goodness the last. A friend came
in yesterday to see if we
had television so he could see
the game - I move out if
that happens and I said
no. We aren't planning a
T.V. for neighbors. I'm afraid
that is what troubles happen
with the Porters. we love them
enough by being careful and
lawful.

Wednesday -

Dear Stuart, I was plus in all
about 10 minutes. College was yesterday
and last night. Just. Lesson will
be tough! But I realize I have
to learn to draw and I am struggling
with a vase - pitcher two books
and a water pitcher table cover
and mine was terrible. We
have a very quiet quiet young
guy - Tell me about this to find
out where he had his training
the better shaped. I said
I was in Boston in some private
and some in N.Y. but didn't
mention any school. I see they
got him cheap & he doesn't have
any degree. But what's a degree!
There are only four in our
class so far. He doesn't seem
to care for water color and thinks
it'd be better off with oils & easel
etc. He wants Nell to take oil too

Are you beating the brats?
Dad always said you
belonged in College and with
your training it should
be easy.

We still wonder if you
are working to school. Your
pal sounds interesting and
the fact he drives is a help
out in pure.

Carol seems happy - Dad
hope the dog isn't a nuisance
It isn't fair to keep him in
all day. Hope the D's won't
Complain + have her move.
He is company & grazed
but they are work.

Must put the beans in the
oven. Bert. Caller there is

A covered dish supper at
Church. We are drinking to
we can come home. They
will probably get on
Foreign missions and
I would walk out on
them. Am I guess
I'll keep educate them
but not convert them
Love & son
Now get
Complains & have her move
to a companion & George
Cassidy on questions
at the school at my house
over. Just called there

the small things that go into human relations. Food, gossip and quotes from the radio commentators furnish their conversations. And no one thinks it natural that I prefer books. Even if disappointing they can be laid aside, but not so with the humans. Also you must hear that once too I was bleary-eyed at school and my understanding principal let me sleep on the kindergarten table through the noon hour. I betch no Boston prinnie would let you do that even if you had the table and the desise.

I am willing to agree with you about Art and Lit. but never about iced coffee. Mine must be hot. If I want a cold drink I'll take the punch thank you. Have you tired absinthe? It suits me in a martini but the plain frappe is not too good. Once I tired a pompier, Ugh it is all color and no taste. But I saw one chez Mouquin and had to try it. Don't hunt for Mouquin's, It wnet the way of all good restaurants with prohibi-tion. Old New York had many things worth remembering. All gone now.

Sorry that you have to work so hard on Saturday for your guests. The most successful man dinner-giver that I never knew was an artist and an artist chef. He had one menu Steak three inches thick, potatoes which I do not remember because I do not like them, a green salad with his dressing, Italian oil, garlic etc, and coffee. The most popular dinner an in New York and he always used the New York Times for table cloth. Maybe your guests never heard of Grenwich Village and you would not dare go quite so far but it is something to aim at. OH I forgot the choice WINE. Here is the prodigal returned and I will have to give up for the monment.

Again more thanks than you can carry for all the delightful messages

Luv Mehiti

How is your Spanish? A+ by this time, I'm sure you and Charles ~~will~~ (when she blots, she blots!) will have more fun in Spain than you could have in ~~Omaha~~. So be sure

there are antiques here in
plenty & you don't have
to dig for them. And the
can furnish plenty. But
your dream of our place
is a youth's dream. I fear
you will be horribly disappointed.
I'm glad you are quite
reconciled to Florida for
the holidays. You may be well -
but will be going so much!
So cheer up my dear!
Luv
Medit

How is your planning? As to the
time, I am sure you will be
well taken care of. I will have
you there for your family
and in the best of health.

Potroast all done, but not all gone, and a wicked tornado not too far out in Nebraska killing eleven people, and just now what looked like another coming this way but ending in only lightning and hard rain. Guess his Majesty is not ready for us yet.

Please do not think me too meekish for seeming to feel hurt ~~at~~ at the failure of your mom and Carol to write. I understand better than anyone how one can feel out of the mood for days and days and when in the mood have so many interruptions that nothing gets done. I suppose everyone that you know has sent you a copy of the Anderson saga published in the Paper of the Omaha Teachers Union so I will add mine to the collection. It is certainly appreciative and gives a clear idea of the amount of work one man can accomplish given ability and ambition but mon dieu, quelle banalité. And I was so pleased to learn on April the somethingth that Carol is expected here for Christmas. Which here, and which Christmas//~~at~~/? George has put a rubber on two or three keys and I had to hit all those to find the? Now I know where it is but I'll forget before I need it again.

I don't know a thing, and could not write it if I did but I want to say that your joy is in my mind and that I hope the summer will give you all that you expect and more and that you have found the right place for next year. As I do not know your date of sailing I cannot send you orchids but please take the wish for the flower. And remember that it is your DUTY to do just what you please when you please while you please.

My best go with you M****abell

June 7

Oh, oh, Archie, This unworthy one is sorry that the Roach Powder made you think of deserting your little pals. If they can take it you surely could. She is more sorry and eke ashamed that she has neglected writing you for so many days. But the other did send you an autographed book and a letter on your graduation so you know this house thought of you. George will DIE unless you give him notice of your formal degree. That one likes to have things just right. Why je ne dont know. Also don't know why he sent both those items in care of Carol. Perhaps he premonished that you were about to desert your friends in Slumberville. I hope he was wrong and that this delayed bomb will reach you before you leave for Mexico.

You had almost decided on an apartment when you wrote me but that may not have gone through. Also you thought that perhaps, maybe the Anderson pere et mere would be moving north for the summer. All so uncertain, dammit. Also that Carol gal, she had vague plans of continuing work on her degree but that was months ago and she may have made many other plans since that one. THE PARENTS have not sent a line since the lovely basket of Florida oranges. I did write twice. How many letters does a large bunch of oranges rate. My Arith. is not up to this. Seriously, I am grateful for every little thing, and most of all for your delightful messages. But not to be classed with the ladies who ~~an-see-~~ were scotched by an actor in the Brooklyn Stock Co. as "having reached the grateful age."

Recess while I mind the potroast.

Dear Stuart:

Your letter came yesterday just as I left to pick up my co-ed wife at the College. It was good to hear from you.

I notice you're learning about the Junior High School age. Their behavior at Lynnfield is quite characteristic of that volatile period in the human life. They are perfectly normal, but probably a little more ebullient in a new school with an entirely new cast of teachers. When they understand what is wanted of them, if done correctly, they'll settle down. Another disturbing factor, of course, is the lack of teaching equipment and materials in art, and possibly in other areas as well.

It is always good policy for a teacher to be firm, but clear and reasonable. Firmness is not a loud scolding voice, but a quiet, firm but insistent ~~demand~~ and clear direction in the activities of the hour or class. Be

sure the children understand what you're driving at. Don't be afraid to let the class suggest next steps. If a smarty shows up with a quip, turn the laugh on him. A little ridicule spoken to the rest of the class at his expense will soon cure the smart alec. But, Heck! I can't solve the problems of Lynsfield Jr High. You'll do OK.

I have never been quite convinced that Jr High is your level. It will give you good experience, but I think you should work with older youth in Senior High or College. I may be wrong. The best way to find out is by experience.

Bob Hagglund sounds like a grand young fellow. I'd like to meet him. So tell him, Howdy!

Quite a haul at the Harper estate. If you see her, give her our best wishes. Where did she go.

As a Co-ed, Mom will tell her experiences. I think she'd prefer you as the Teacher, who by the way is from Wakefield, Somerville, etc. His name Homee.
Dove Dad.

Imagine anyone landing
in the lap of a landlady
like yours. She must be
an angel - full of love
and sympathy and encour-
aging you lads in your
week-end revels. All the
landladies I have known,
Mrs. Legions, would have
made you miserable
with howls about noise,
heat & light bills et al.
How did you ever find
her? chance or recommen-
dations?

your John & Paris in
Boston make me think
of Elliot Paul & his "The

Last Time I saw Paris"
which I reread last week.
It interests me + I try
to see how a man
whose boyhood was spent
in cold New England could
have developed into such
a hot number. Perhaps, no
probably, it is rebellion
against the narrow life.
What you write makes
me more + more thank-
ful that you have escaped
it. Just now you have
everything - and the
little bit that you
object to just keeps
the average right. And

even in that bit, you
must have some joy
sharing your wealth
with the brats; I think,
with you, that doing the
same thing all the years
of ones life would be in-
tolerable, and shamed
'em by running away
for 18 years, but there's
always one of those ~~poor~~
le moment "Take the goods
the Gods provide you."

And I am willing to bet
that ~~quote~~ is from a
poet much too banal
for your Ken.

Dood Dod - time

has marched on &
I've got to get that
damned lunch & go
to a bank. You hate
K.P.!! What about me,
when I took on this
job I wept into the
bath tub every time I
washed it. "But then I
got happy again, if it's
ever happy we are strangers"
for I got used to being
a slavey. Another poet
you may not know!

Who is clever? The
person who knows the
same things we do! Who

is a moron - the poor
guy who knows &
likes something that
we despise. I looked
over a bit of W.P.A.
last night, and while
he has none of Don's
creative genius, he hits
the nail occasionally.
This pleases me "There
are 10,000,000 morons in
the U. S. for which the
magazines & Sunday papers
are grateful."

Love all time
Mekit.

Feb. 17 or
thereabouts

Dearest Sainte - How Mehit
did love the Valentine
which came from you on
your day. I am so happy
to have this copy of The
Minuet - it just suits my
nonsense of humor. It pleases
me the more by contrast
with those lacy, sugary
abominations. She also
loves the mice, & or do
you prefer meeee, both
Persian and Modern. Mehit
would naturally love a
mouse but this incarna-
tion had a pet white rat
which she wore to school
in her middy sleeve. It

was a perfect gentleman
(or lady?) and did nothing
to betray its hostess: all
this before Archy's Mehmet
was conceived.

Sorry your Oaxaca boys
growl out their griefs to
you for I should admire
them more if they starched
the upper lip and smiled.
I know the Latin tempera-
ment, It loves to howl
and I have learned to
soothe, while if quite honest
I'd give them a boat
where it would do some
good.

You seem to have
a large share of the Luck.

make me want to do a
grow-up. so excuse it please.

George is horribly busy
as usual - and poor Melit
worked to a debt with
all the spring jobs to do or
supervise. Man taking out
a dead tree - man clean-
ing rubbish to mention 2.
The tree man used to go
to Central & said I spanked
him once & sent him home
& "it did me a lot of good"
He grew on it, is now
6ft 2 and a perfect physical
specimen - I don't believe

April 15

Oh dear, dear Stu., Mistress
Carol told me yesterday that
une espèce de flu bug got you
and I don't like that at
all. You should never have
an ache at your age (unless
it's a hangover) and no for
bugs, Archie & the archeol-
should do you. With all my
heart I hope you are quite
well & your happy self
again.

This you may call
an Easter Guss-Gott minus
the lilies - 'formal cards

I ever spanked that but
he swears that I did, so
we'll leave it at that -

Saw your Mildred
last week - better I
think but her bank balance
will be sad - she's having
many gold fillings by Dr.
Merchant who over-charges
beautifully & does good
work.

Hope you feel well enough
to enjoy vacation
Mi'tit

Geo. may have news of one
book soon