

22 ALEXANDER STREET
PRINCETON, N. J.

Dec. 8, 1957

Dear Companion of many a Xmas,

Thank you for your long letter and the totally unexpected check¹ which, I believe, has also a slight scent of deer— one of the funniest mornings in my life—almost as funny as the U.S.Flopnik called "Vanguard."

In the meantime I stopped trout fishing in the Styx in which I have been wading for some time: three months more and I would have circled this globe as a satellite while searching for my star. I was for three weeks in the hospital where they removed my left kidney—and in the same moment there happened what the doctors hardly had been hoping for: my blood pressure went down to normal, my headaches (which I called sinus troubles) disappeared, and my impaired eyesight began to improve. Lourdes could not have worked more promptly. I am back to normal diet, and on Christmas I may have again my daily bottle of wine. Needless to say that the surgery left me a little weak; I also lost 20 pounds and can wear all my suits of the 1920ies again. This is a positive gain. But I am recovering gradually and plan to go to the Caribbean after New Year.

Please do not send me those excellent pears because already I am swamped with three parcels and have to give them away. I take one of them as yours and this be your Xmas present. I will not be able this year to buy Xmas presents, and you too will get nothing but a little grill which is excellent. The Two Bodies have been sent to you by the press—uninscribed like all the other copies which have been mailed, because I could not go down to the Press and the shipping business could not be performed by me. But your name is so glaring in the Preface that you will not need a special certificate. Also, you will get a copy of the *Laudes* which should appear in February.

Your Terre Rouge Gloss sounds very interesting, but I am as yet incapable of passing any judgment on its importance. Don't forget, I cannot even pickup one of the folios of Roman and Canon Law without inviting my wound (which extend almost from the navel to my spine) to break up or getting a hernia.

Your idea of scootering your way through Europe sounds both interesting and exciting. At any rate, it may be a solution, though not a really comfortable one, especially for poor Nora. Your clippings were interesting, too, and above all the 10 commandments Soap stimulated by the film. I would like you to send one package to each:

Dr. Otto Maenchen;, 10 Greenwood Common, Berkeley 8;

Dr. Arthur Salz, 680 Hartford St., Worthington, Ohio;

Sir Maurice Bowra, Wadham College, Oxford;

Dr. Harold Cherniss, 98 Battle Road, Princeton.

I enclose a check for \$7 (incl. postage) and 4 cards of mine. I am sure that gift will contribute to the Yuletide gaiety. Thank you for calling my attention to this precious Americanum.

Have a pleasant vacation and give my best to Nora.

Love

EKa. [Signed]

¹ Repayment for a loan, I'm sure, but the allusion to deer escapes me.

