

coincide, as Edie wonders - hopes to visit me for about a week - arriving Dec. 30th. Won't it be grand to see her again after all these years? I hope Susan comes too. Haven't played with a violin for months + with. Must to bed. Dear love + so very truly, my Laurie Brenda

35-6 West 22nd St
New York City
December 18th -29

Laurie Darling:

A Joyous Christmas to you!

Just as I put down the receiver after telephoning Putnam's to be sure & send you, immediately, the most delightful book I've read this year, comes a violent ringing at front door-bell. I rush to answer - and there is a youth handing me up a big box from Colorado Springs. The dear wreath - the lovely, heart-warming, memory-stirring wreath. Bless you, dear girl, for the thought. It is my one "dress-up" for the holidays, and hangs where everyone going in or out can see & enjoy it.

And now, before I've had half a chance to catch my breath & thank you for that, along comes something

smaller but heavier from the bookshop.
Dearest - it's not fair to go sending me
two presents! Maybe I oughtn't to open
it until Christmas, but I just can't wait,
& am going to take a peek right away.
- - - - O my dear! What a wonderful
gift! I've read so many reviews of this
book, but never dared dream of owning it,
somehow. How I shall love reading it.
Have you already done so?

The little one I sent you is not great -
but to me it is very exquisite and quite
unique. Do tell me quite frankly what
you think of it, for we don't always agree
on books, do we? But you can't doubt I'll
love the Rolland - can you? As I glance
through it, it looks fascinating. Thank you
another thousand times, Laurie.

O, I do hope your Christmas will be
a happy one, & that you won't be just
too tired to enjoy it, after the fearful rush
you must be in up to the last minute.
I'm going to have the Day itself as a

real holiday, eating 2 o'clock dinner with "all the
Herways" - but the day before, and the three
days after will be hectic - as we shall
be installing the U. A. W. P. S. Annual
Exhibition in the Fine Arts Gallery - &
I'm chairman both of Annual Jury &
Jury of Awards. Hell of a job - I can
tell you. Ten days ago, at the Sketch
Exhibition, my Jury of Awards wrangled
for four hours over their decisions,
squabbling & back-biting every inch of
the way, & me with a cold & a temperature
of 101, trying to make peace & get some
decisions out of them - and a big Huntington
dinner ahead of me! The dinner quite
finished me, & sent me to bed for three
days, but am all right again now.

Still, as May still insists I get more
rest, I'm going back to South Norwalk
tomorrow to stay until Monday. Joan
Hartley's father died last week, & she &
her Mother are coming out, too, to stay
at least a week, for they are both wrecks

after the long strain of his illness. We shall
have a lovely quiet time, & do a lot of
reading. I'll take my Beethoven along if
I can possibly get it into my suit-case.
I've been working like mad on designs
for the National Association Medal. Submitted
them to Sculptor Jory yesterday, & Executive
Board today, & the general trend is
toward one or two which I shall change
& modify & submit again in a fortnight.
Kunst made rather a botch of the first
cast of Virgin & Unicorn so it has to be
done over, & so of course won't be ready
for any gallery before Christmas, as I
had hoped. But I should worry. The bust
of Bauer was in Schirmer's window (did I write you?)
for the whole week preceding Bauer's concert, and
yesterday I trekked it over to the Beethoven Ass.
(Engel & Bauer both insisted), where it stands on a
box on the great table at the right of the
entrance hall or whatever that center room is
called. I quiver with apprehension at the thought of
all the critical eyes looking at it - but anyhow, Mrs.
B. has at last been won over! She put her arms round me
& kissed me and told me it was magnificent, & she was afraid
she'd been horrid about it - etc etc! I almost fell over!
Beethoven Concert next Monday, & they insist that I come to
the supper afterwards. I've asked Mr Hervey to help me