

Is it useless to tell you that what I want more than anything is a set of the pictures I took of you when I was with you?
Please Santa!

I'll be in Washington for a day or so at Christmas time.

Yours
Brenda

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December 6th '31

Well, Laurie dear:

I'm beginning to realize there's no sense in sitting around waiting for a bill from you! I thought of course you'd enclose one with the prints of Casals, or at least mail it next day. What kind of a business woman are you, anyway?

I must have a bill, and I must have it right away, so get busy. Mrs. Whittlesey was touchingly delighted with his

print - he simply worships Casals.
And so was I delighted with
mine. I think the new paper
a fine happy mean between
platinum & silver. Are you
using that a great deal, now,
& does it save you something
on commissions? I hope so!

Trust your Dad has acquired
a holiday job or two. I've
landed a queer sort of one.
Not creative - merely restorative
and supervisory, if you get me.
An elderly Miss Hegeman, of
Pittsburgh & Washington, is
in despair over this monument
in the Pittsburgh cemetery.

It was commissioned & carved

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in Italy about 25 years ago,
& being in Carrara marble, is
entirely disintegrating in the
sulphuric atmosphere of Pittsburgh.
It's a huge winged angel (much
draped) standing and gesticulating
in front of a 14 foot cross. The
fingers are gone, one wing has
fallen & broken to bits, the
face is a mass of black, the
hair perforated by rain until
it looks like seaweed. And it's
so cracked round the base
it threatens to topple over any
minute. So something must
be done, p.d. q. I dashed out

to Pittsburgh last week-end &
surveyed the wreck. She doesn't
want another marble. Nor does she
want a granite figure. So the
best thing seems to be to re-
produce the figure in bronze &
set it against a granite cross.
So the cemetery people are
taking down the figure and
shipping it bodily to New
York, where Basley & I will
make a piece-mold of it, re-
model missing parts, and
then turn it over to Kunst
to make the bronze.

Miss H. has already seen
several firms about casting
& carving, so there are rival

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bronze & marble people struggling to get the job, & besieging me with telegrams and estimates. We haven't yet decided to whom to award the granite work, but I'm determined, if I do the modelling, on Basley & Kunst for the figure. She shouldn't object, as their rock-bottom prices will save her about \$4,000! No mean sum, even for a rich lady, these days.

Funny business altogether - but one takes what one can get, these days. I've been

exhibiting my last year's work —

"Puck" (small model) and the
big "Joseph & Mary" at Grand
Central, and the "Huntington
Sundial" at the Academy.

And not a word from any
of the critics about any of 'em!

I think my family is quite
disgusted — thought I was
going to set the Thames on
fire, or something!

Puck & the wood-carving
go next to the architectural
league, & the sundial to
Philadelphia on its way
South.

Meantime, I'm pottering

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about with odds & ends. ~~I~~ Trying
to finish the bust of Mr. Herzog,
for one thing. Drat him, he
won't sit for me, so I've only
memory, & your photograph
to go by. But by golly, it is
good, even if they don't like
it, and I'm not a-goin' to
throw it away. I shall put
it in plaster, anyway. Maybe
years hence, when he's passed
on, the younger generation may
like to have it. They - the Bryant
Herzogs - are absolutely up against
it, poor things. His job with Y. F. F.
has been non-existent for almost

of thing he plays best. Wish you'd been there? (see page 1)
What do you want for Christmas, Laurie?
a year, & he's trying to make a precarious living as a rare-stamp dealer! And there's the new baby & all. Poor Hazel is doing all her own work, & the children have had to give up all outside lessons - music, dancing, etc.

Joan Hartley's class has dwindled so this year she doesn't know how she can carry on. Mary McNeill's business has been practically dead for months. It is sickening - the whole damned business.

Eliot's show opens in Washington tomorrow. Hope to goodness he sells something! Glad he's definitely booked for Colo. Springs.

Louis Persinger gave a most lovely recital last Wednesday eve. Sent me tickets, bless him! The Mozart concerto was divine - just the sort