

356 West 22nd St.
New York City
October 1st '42

Laurie My Dearest:

Not another night do I sleep without having written you! There's so much to tell - and your nice boy-friend in Khaki - Mr ~~Art~~ Ramsey, - gave me an additional incentive when he blew in to'other day. What a simple, eager, friendly chap he is - & how he appreciates you!

Unfortunately, he didn't phone beforehand, just came, at about 6 P. M., & Edie was here, & Floss and a friend expected anyminute as I'd invited 'em to go out to dinner with me. It was actually a business get-to-gether over Edie's new book, otherwise I'd have asked Ramsey to join us. But I knew E. wanted to talk "shop" - so afraid I didn't seem very hospitable to your nice friend. But he promises to ring me next time he gets a furlough in N. Y.

Yes - Edie's here with her book - "Dark Darragh", all finished at long last, except for the insertion of one additional chapter, & one or two minor changes which the publishers want.

She's been staying with Floss Nelson - who has an extra bed-room in her 9th St apt, now that Frank is out in Texas learning to fly.

Edie expected to stay only a day or two - but you know how it is with publishers - delay

Can't remember whether I sent you this snap of the "Christ" I did last Spring.
If so - pardon a repeat!

after delay - & also much ado about getting an agent to handle serial (& possible movie) rights, even in advance of publication, which won't be until Spring.

E. spent this afternoon here with me, working on revision, & confessed that dear Floss' incessant chatter made it impossible to work there. So we're trying to wangle it tactfully so she can spend this week-end with me, so she can concentrate on it!

The book is good, Laurie - a really original & very moving tale, with characters as vivid as Edie herself, & unusual & varied - & an out-of-the-ordinary plot - founded on her experience with the Boys in Ireland.

I'm hard at work - not only on Dr M's 3 figure memorial (which is quite an undertaking, & must be finished for casting this month) - but also at - - - guess what?! Mechanical Drawing! Think I'm crazy? Anyhow, I just can't make sculpture make sense today. It's too utterly remote & un-useful. So now I've embarked on a stiff (professional) course at the YMCA - 3 evenings a week, & all the homework I can sandwich in. Course lasts 12 weeks, & this is my third.

I thank the Lord I had prescience enough to bone up on geometry last summer, otherwise I'd be sunk! But the instructors don't think I'm doing so badly, & if only I don't have to tackle

any algebraic problems (never had algebra) I believe I'll be able to make the grade. So much of it revolves around the ability to see shapes: to visualize & calculate the size & shapes of forms of which only one view is given, - etc. It is perfectly fascinating, Laurie, & if I can only turn it all to some use, get me a job in the drafting-room of a plane factory or some other war job, I'll be feeling I'm doing my wee bit.

The family can't quite believe I'm serious about this - but I am. And after 40 solid years of doing sculpture, ain't I got a right to change to something else - at least for the duration?

Besides - sculpture is giving me up - as well as vice-versa. Who wants it nowadays? Nobody. And quite rightly. Their money should be buying bonds - not objects d'art - these days.

So keep your fingers crossed for me, darlin'!

Ramsey told me something about you, & your new "place of business". Also gave me your address, which I needed - since I've had none since you left Cheyenne Road. O, I know in the good old days just Colo Sprs was enough, but with your town a-swarming as it must be these days, I hardly felt I could trust the P.O. to know you were now on North Yefon. How is it going, Laurie? Have you a street-level show-window, & are you kept busy shooting sojers for the folks back

4
home, - on the new baby for a sojourn in Australia to show off to his buddies?
And - where are you living? Did Betsey have to give up her boarding-house just as it began to pay - and have you perhaps a little place together? And what of your Dad. You once wrote that he might go + visit Fran + Edna for a while. Did that go through, or fall through? So much I want to know. Earnestly do I hope this new venture will bring in money, even if you have to turn to pot-boilers for the duration!
I wish to goodness you were here right now, to take some good photos of this memorial group, & also of my oriental figure which I'm submitting to an enterprising exhibition at the Metropolitan in Dec - where they actually propose to buy some of the works submitted! Think of it!
Most people don't like my strange girl with the tiny, elongated waist + fat but flexible legs - but I think it's good, & believe you would, too.
But to h-l with sculpture! I just don't care about it now, with the war apparently going on forever. But mechanical drawing - it's such a joy to tackle problems that are concrete, that are either right or wrong, after all these years of dealing with intangibles + shifting sculptural styles + methods of approach! I begin to feel, with Edna St Vincent Millay, that "Euclid alone has looked on Beauty bare" -
Goodnight, dear Laurie, & do send me just a p.c. when you can. I want to know how things

are going. And wouldn't Edie send her dear love if she knew I was writing! I'll send it for her - with my own. Brendie

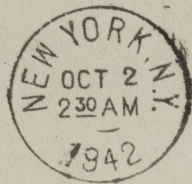


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