

356 West 22nd St
New York 11, N.Y.
October 20th '49

Laurie Dear:

In answer to your little note — don't worry, everything O.K. here, and with Dad.

My silence caused mainly by frustration at the incredible delays & stupidities on the part of Washington in the matter of the plaques for the House Chambers. The sculptors are frantic & furious, having laid aside other work in order to meet this almost impossible deadline — & no exact specifications forthcoming, so we can't even start though blueprints & scale-models have been promised since the middle of August!

So what was there to write about?

But last week a lot of things happened: Eliot arrived from the West; Desmond & his Aunt Louise drove down from Boston, & we all converged upon the Mauretania, bringing back from Switzerland our Julie and her Mother. They stayed here with me, while the others stayed in a nearby hotel. Gone as sweet as ever, & trying to be good & rest a lot (her heart still enlarged & with a murmur); not so easy to rest, when everyone was talking at full speed trying to catch up!

We were all then engaged last Saturday morning when the postman brought an electrifying parcel — **YOUR BEAUTIFUL BOOK!**

I wish you could have heard the gasps of delight & admiration as it was passed around! We talked of nothing else the rest of the morning, and many times thereafter. Not the least enthusiastic was Louise Fay, who immediately ordered a copy. She's been a great traveller since she retired as head of a girls' school — and such a book as yours

great straight to her heart! Me - I was just bursting with pride. I hope you feel as happy about D & P's job as I do. The reproductions are superb - so clear & brilliant & third-dimensional.

I love your new introduction - but alas, that was as far as I had a chance to read over the hectic weekend. Am alone again, now that they're gone - & had hoped to go through the book from cover to cover before writing. But I can't do that. There is a medal

competition, a most tempting one, for the Medallie Art Society's 50th Anniversary.

Thinking I'd be completely awamped by the Washington job, I had foregone all thought of trying for it - but now I say "To heck with Washington" - I'm going to try - even though I'm terribly late in starting. Thing has to be finished & delivered by Dec 1st.

However - I'm counting on happy browsing in the book, each night before I turn in. And will write more fully about it later.

Delighted that it was launched so auspiciously - moreover, I believe it will prove a steady seller; and repay you in full measure for the tremendous effort and exquisite art you put into it. I don't see how they managed to keep the price down to \$6! Wonderful.

Did Wally write the sympathetic little blurb on the jacket below your picture?

I like it. And I love the photo. It is the essence of you.

Must get back to work now, - but all my leisure moments will be spent with your wonderful book. A thousand thanks for describing & sending me one of your precious first copies. All love - R. endie

Hope you had a worthwhile trip to Colo Sprs.