18-8-63

Dear Nell,

As I promised you in my last letter I will give you now more information about my young friend Harry COX.

First of all I send you, by the hand of Govaert, a tape recording of his last compositions and private performances. Most of these are recorded by himself in his home which explains why one notices here and there slight imperfections and even small gaps. He has to play and to make for the recorder; the least extraneous noise (produced f.i. by a car or even a bird) had to be cancelled - so he often had to start parts over again. Some recordings however are made in a studio (as his Concerto for piano and orchestra - of which is given here an arrangement for violoncello and piano-forte (four-handed) and his two dances for piano and percussion - Also his Concerto Breve.

My friend Harry, who was one of my son Frank's best friends, is now 40 years old. He spent his youth in Antwerp where he studied contrapoint and fuga at the Royal Conservatoire and ~~became~~ obtained the greatest distinction as a pianist.

Later he went to Geneva where he studied further piano with Dino Lipatti and composition with Pierre Wissmer.

Since 1950 he lives in Paris where he played

A. S. H. CRAEYBECKX ★ LINDENLEI 63 ★ OUDE GOD ★ ANTWERP ★ BELGIUM

for a long time with Nadia Boulanger.
He played important concerts in Paris, Brussels, Antwerp, Basel (Switzerland) and Antwerp.
He composed music for orchestra, chorales, chamber-music, piano music and he has huge amount of songs - he considers as is masters: Stravinsky, and, above all: Debussy.
A couple of years ago he was appointed to the post of choral-conductor at the Radio-Television française (third programme).
In order to give you an idea of our old Flemish and Dutch music, Harry performed on the piano, specially for you Dufay (born about 1400!) and Sweelinck (born about 1562).
I hope you will enjoy, you and your friend musician, the music we chose, Harry and I, with great care and love, to please you.
Let only burn a few candles in your far - and yet so near - Villa Serena - where you listen. We will be there in the spirit with you.
Ever, with deepest affection
Herman

P.S. Added herewith the complete list of the music recorded.

Just when I was putting the stamps on the envelope Paula brought me your letter of the 14th, the kindest I ever received from you - Be blessed for that, Nell. I feel so happy to know the translation of my article - clumsy as the latter may be in comparison with what I really meant to write - brought you comfort in a sad moment of life. Why don't you give me more details about it. Could it be considered as a friend, he who is not willing to share the pain of whom he loves?
The translation seems to me very good indeed but my knowledge of English is too poor to allow me to pass judgment on it. But how I should like to have here such a translator to peel on paper what I should like to write. Keep the white paper speak for me.
Herman