

Lagasca 46
Madrid 1, Spain
May 5, 1960

Dear Nell,

I am delighted that your letter came today; we have been saving the 'Buen Retiro' candy-box-top for months and with exam pressure off, it is nice to be able to send it with some sort of a note.

There is nothing dim about our memories of our time with you. They are as vivid now as they were sweet and full of love then. And when we see you again, we will be at home again, wherever we see you.

I think that we will look back with pride and pleasure on this year we've spent here though it's likely to have little of the painful joy that we'll remember from our hours with you. (By painful, I think I mean that kind of joy that makes me clench my teeth and suck in some air in remembering it; it's an acute joy.) I think that we've made some lasting friendships on the basis of ourselves as people rather than as "nice Americans" and that a certain small part of ourselves will always reside here. We haven't seen every monument nor do we plan to; they really don't matter in the sum of things. (I remember a friend's saying after I described to him my three weeks in Mexico, "You mean you didn't get to Acapulco? Why, man, you didn't even see Mexico!" I had to agree that I hadn't seen Mexico and I suppose that there will be some dolt to whom we'll admit we never saw Spain.)

Everything you said in your interview with "The Christian Science Monitor" is so true, and so hard to accept. Our Sunday N.Y. "Times" arrives on Thursday and thus we see it with a detached and frigid attitude. How can we humans be so wonderfully obdurate? How can we be anything but humble in the face of our misdeeds? And how shall I keep from growing smug?

Our life is ideal. It's ideal in its strength and mutuality; materially we are very eager for changes. But ourselves, we seem to go together as a marriage that has been for all time. We are not always of one accord and under pressure the edges sometimes roughen a bit. They should. While we know we shouldn't do so, we hold you somehow responsible for our great happiness.

We will do everything we can to see you before we move on to other places. Until we see you, we send our love and absolute friendship.

With
May we bring you anything specific? Pottery... woven things... a bull?