

April 22,

Billitzin, Arcan ihuac ^{nicpia} ~~nicnequi~~ miae
Hlen naiz, nicnequi Hlacheulaa nochlin,
yece ahuel amilla. Uica ipan tonalli, ihuan
Hlactli ihuan nozo in yohualli no Hlagueil
ca' nochlin nican. Nochlin, Prochlin, nochtin.
Nochtin nicpia miae Hlen naiz, yece arcac
nicmati ca nicnequilo in Hlapalalcematzin.
Oc nicpia amocualli Hlatoletin icpan
in gaoyatl ipan Vietnam, yece naiz
nochtin ca amo ahuel amo gauh guah
in gaocuzcahuan. Ni Hlataa inon pampa
inon ~~one~~ huehuicempoalhuan matlact tonaltin
oricmatic in Mexicatlatolli. Ni Hlatoaloz arcac
ipan Englishlatolli.

An azda to spare you the boredom
of trying to find out what it is that I
just wrote, I'll just say that it is Nahuatl,
the Aztec language. Don't ask me why I've
learned it because I couldn't tell you if I
wanted to. I guess, however, that this effort
amounts to what one might call the paragon
of Gentling's useless knowledge. I am far
from being fluent in the language, but I imagine
in the next two months I could easily be
fluent. It is a beautiful tongue and who knows
it might even come in handy to an amateur
archaeologist who is age shit over precolombian
cultures. A kind of depresses me, though, to
think that I have been putting so much effort into
translating a "dead" language. I have almost
finished translating what I believe to be the
only Nahuatl primer in existence. I will,
I hope also complete a small dictionary
to accompany the book. I will then submit
them to the University of Oklahoma press, which
publishes a great deal on Indians. Probably
won't get it published but it's worth a try. Even if

I don't get any results, I would like to send a Xeroxed copy to the Tulane Library so that interested students (if there are any) can have a convenient and fairly thorough manual which they might use to fathom through the Lyric Tongue.

Actually, Habushth is not hard to learn, once you ~~master~~ master a few simple rules and learn the pronunciation. Translating the book has been no scholarly feat, for any second or even first year Spanish student, I think, could read it. Anyway the work has been more a diversion than a scholarly effort.

I have done very little work on the play, but the play is not hurting because of it. Now I could, and I just might write the tedious part in their own language. Anyway some of the inspiration to complete the work has faltered since both the Cultural and theatrical directors who asked me to do it have been fired. Still, though, if the thing is any good, I imagine it might be performed. Scott was a smashing success in Dallas. His show quickly sold out (grossing \$29,000.00) and he is kind of famous in Dallas Art circles, simply because it was the largest art opening Dallas has ever had and the attendance during the run of the show set new records.

I have been accepted at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts and will go there in the fall if Uncle Sam doesn't get me. Speaking of Uncle Sam, what are your plans. I hope that you have come at last to the same conclusion that the U.D.T. would be too strenuous for one such as you - so used to the life of ease and debauch.

I hope to see you at the beginning of the summer since Scott and I are coming to East Texas for a month - to paint. I'll write again when I am in better spirit. Tuitzin
Ste.