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<b>Title</b>	[Typed letter signed], [1951] September 12, Croce Bianca, Lugano, [Switzerland] [to] Viola
<b>Call Number</b>	YCAL MSS 175
<b>Creator</b>	H. D. (Hilda Doolittle), 1886-1961
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Croce Bianca  
LUGANO

1951

HILDA ALDINGTON  
HÔTEL DE LA PAIX  
LAUSANNE

September 13

Dear Viola,  
 Thank you so much for the lovely Petite Belle stockings; Petite doesn't sound like me, but I am immensely flattered. The card is charming. I did not find the little messages at first, under the pansy, the daisy and the morning-glory. and finally the rose. You do find charming cards and I always treasure them. The Tree brought us all such joy, as I had my cards and presents spread out on my bed. I have no proper table in my small room, so this year, I progressed to a "birthday bed" instead of "birthday table." It seems suitable! Now this year, Perdita found me a little quotation-book, in Italian, in Florence when she was there. There are wide margins and space between the quotes and dates. So I have been writing, or she has been writing for me, the names of "family" and friends. I had a rather formidable book but it never was where I wanted it, and I left it anyway, in London. So I am starting over, with this gay little book that is small enough to take around with me. Will you be so good as to give me again, your dates, your own and the children. I will jot them down and at least think of you on the children's days, and send cards from time to time. I really feel that I will have a happy time with birthdays; they are inclined to get out of hand; Bryher writes them in her yearly diary, a year ahead, but I can not do that, off-hand. But we have had such fun, so far, just jotting down, in pencil, the friends that occur to us; it made a real "friends present and absent" occasion of it. We laughed a lot too, talking over their visit to you, they did enjoy it and were astonished at your vitality and enthusiasm. I am sure I could never keep up with you.

Thank you for the news-cutting you sent me - or did I thank you? I have had a number of very intelligent ones and I am very happy about AVON. Norman Pearson (of Yale, I told you?) wants AVON to run on, ~~or~~



over Christmas; he ~~is~~ not even offering them anything new, until February. I am leaving this in his hands and he has been so very generous with his time and advice. He was here for a few days on the way to Florence, on Hawthorne research. He says another publisher wants to do one of my "novels" that I have written under a nom-de-plume, but he thinks the Freud notes with some additions, might come first- and anyway, he does not want me to have two publishers there. This is all very satisfactory to me. You will forgive my talking of my work. But I had my nose to the grind-stone for so many, many years and piled up MSS. I destroyed a barrel-ful of old stuff, not destroyed really, as I finally boiled down the material and re-worked it in my War I and in my War II novels. I have also the Rossetti, William Morris period-piece of London of just 100 years ago. But there is no hurry for publication; only, it is good to have them properly shaped and in the hands of Norman Pearson.

It has been terribly hot here. Now it is lovely almost cold autumn. But we did have water and the Parco Civico was like ~~xxx~~ an oasis. We even had fountains going ~~whyan~~ not far, in France, hotels were closing and tourists turned away as water gave out. Even Bryher's garden suffered greatly. But the heat was terrific, 105 in Como, but they would not advertise what it was here- about the same, I think. I can not read their thermometers here, quite different numerals. I am sorry about your garden, too. Perhaps you have had rain, since last writing. I am interested in all news, and will try to write again. I am a bit over-excited as Bryher is still here and P., though they both leave soon. I also had another guest, from London and birds of passage, now and again.

I expect to go back to Hotel de la Paix about mid-October, but I will be writing, I should imagine, before then.

Again thank you for all the news and the especially beautiful stockings and the quaint pretty card.

Love  
from Hilda.