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Image 1

Image ID: 32234474

4/13/ Theo Jol
Town Hall 113 W. 43 ny
Cheers ~~for~~ for the sound of
music and ~~for~~ my
lovely Theodate
= Virginia T.

Image 2

Image ID: 32234475

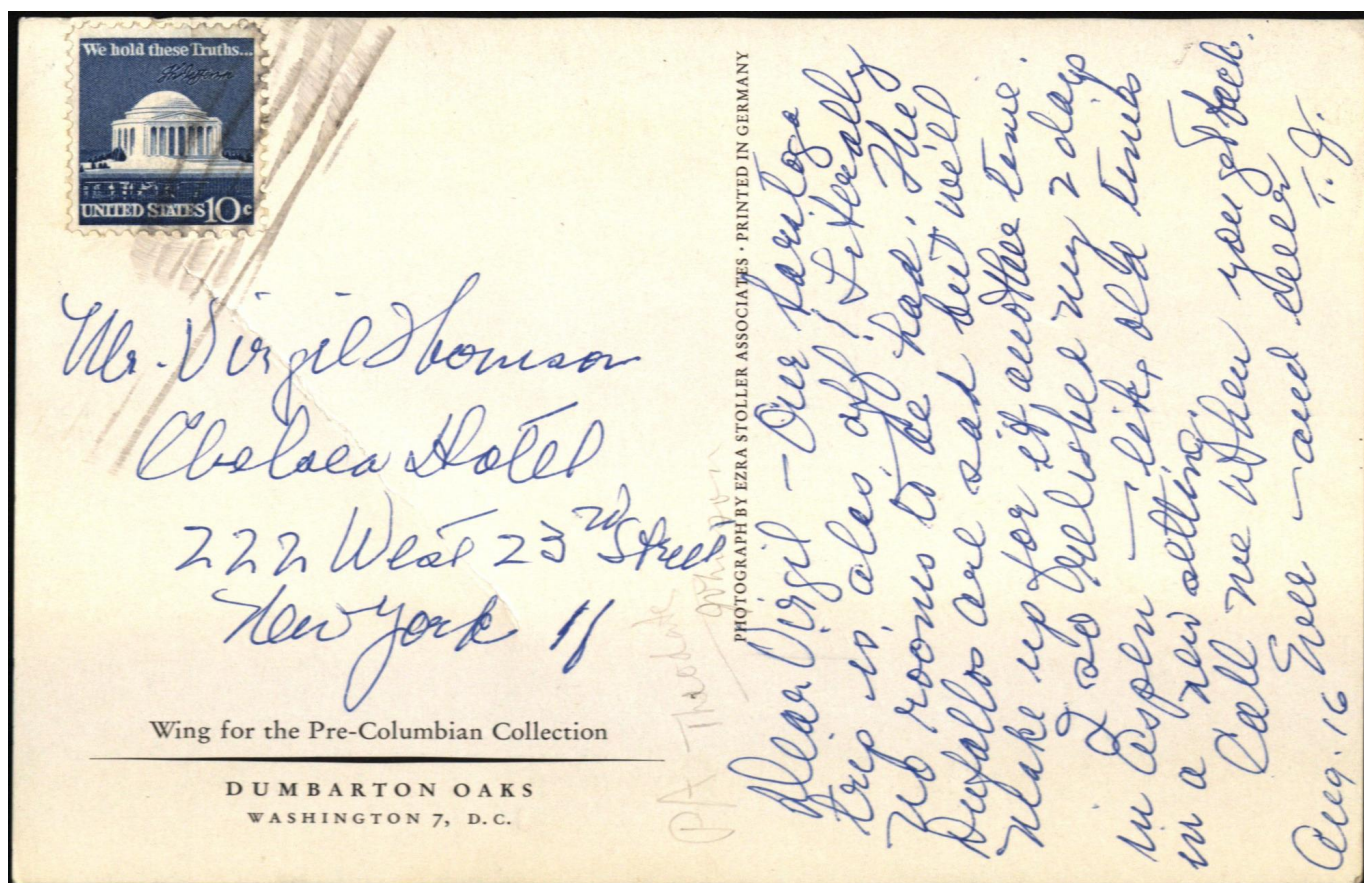


Image 3

Image ID: 32234476



THEODATE JOHNSON

PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE

PA

ph

26 Sept.

75

Welcome back, dear Virgil -
and so many warm thanks for
your Paris letter. It made me
very happy and nostalgic, too.
In fact, it's one of the dearest
letters I've ever received and
a Virgilian classic, to boot. How
you survived the country
banquet, I can't imagine!

Call me as soon as you get
back and I'll arrange another
gab fest about St. Louis and other
things.

Love - love, Theo

ONE WEST 72ND STREET NEW YORK NY 10023 (212) ~~874-0950~~

PA

New Canaan
April 30^B

Dear Virgil -

Thank you with
heartfelt thanks for your
cheering and encouraging
telegram on April 13th -

Your soup came off
very well with Paul Price
doing a splendid percussion.
Some people voted them
their favorite. I enjoyed
making them.

The audience was un-
expectedly large and warm.

I managed not to die of
stage fright after the
28 years of silence —
so all is well.

Thank you for
remembering —

Ever with love,

Herbert

Johnson

PA
Thos Johnson

Dear Virgil- The scarf arrived safely
via Scott's chaperonage. Needless to say
I adore it! It's a perfect beauty in design
and color. Most of all I appreciated the note
that came with it. I don't need to be kept
for any more. The last 5 months have been
horrible but it's another Turning Point and
something new will eventually turn up. I'm

Not very good at "not sitting".
 Give the back on as about the 5th
 and back forward to a rest with you
 before your 4 month departure. After
 this time I wonder if?
 It's going down here - a bit of
 Pictorial and just about as often as
 you see her to 6 miles (5) - probably she

J. Heller Woodcut
 MEXICO EN MEXICO

Johnson

a

New Canaan

Sunday, Sept. 3

Dear Virgil -

Had I realized
what would happen
so soon after your
departure for England
and France I would
have taken your various
addresses down and at
least sent you a cable.
Scott and I decided

Welcome that will always be
out for you. Scott knows
my deep devotion for you
through the years and wants
it to remain through the years
ahead for us all,

I hope all went splendidly
at Dartington and on the B.P.C.,
and that you'll have a good
few weeks in Paris. Come back
soon!

Ever my love & you -
Geo

To make our liaison
legal and permanent.
Keep only Philip as
witness we "ran off"
last Thursday, Aug. 31st
To a Judge's Chambers and
are having an exceedingly
quiet four day honeymoon
here in New Carson.
By October we shall
be ensconced in our
own apartment at 16.72nd
The Dakota where the

THEODATE JOHNSON

6 EAST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK 21

New Canaan N.Y.
August 13 -

The -

LYCEUM 6-8317

A accepted

Dearest Virgil -

It's been a tumultuous 3 weeks since my return. When I saw the August issue, prepared in my absence and already at the printers when I returned except for the front cover, I hit the ceiling and bounced three times. It was a steep way backwards and excusably so. I have ^{now} ~~not~~ overtly taken over as Boss. I rather hoped Ron would resign but instead he has turned over a completely new leaf after my trust and outburst and seems anxious and willing to work with me and for me. All shall be -
I hope this reaches you

before you go off to southern
France and Portugal — or
will catch up with you. I
want seriously to ask you to
write an article for us for our
1961 Special which we are already
at work on as it is scheduled to
come out Jan 1st. This time
there will only be four articles
instead of fourteen and each
article must be top notch. The
cover this year will be the "Musical
Personality of the Year" chosen by
a poll of National Music Editors and
critics. The letter to Puccini goes out
next week. Whoever wins gets his
(or her) portrait on the cover and
a detailed profile which will be
one of the four articles.
I know you have steadfastly

THEODATE JOHNSON

6 EAST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK 21

LYCEUM 6-8317

refused to write since you left
The Tribune but you also said
you would "help me in my
"hour of need" and this is it.
What about ~~these~~ the state of
Music in 1960 from your
vantage point? Anything you
desire would be welcome
and of enormous prestige for
me and the new M.C. Please
say yes and have it in to
us by November 1 as we have
to get all early start on the
make up of the year's issue.

Don't forget to tell the Mattingly
that their phone message at the
Berkeley was handed to me as I
literally stepped into the taxi on

my way to the air terminal
for Paris and dinner with you.
Thanks for your card. I
shall be at Betty Allen's
recital with fine ears to hear
your new work. Meanwhile
I keep talking up a storm
over your Mass.

Have a whirl in Portugal
- affectionate greetings to
Maurice and the Ms

Much love

Always
Theodore

Johnson



Thursday

BERKELEY HOTEL LONDON

TELEPHONE. HYDE PARK 8282

TELEGRAMS. SILENTIUM PICCY LONDON

Darling -

Am arriving late
 afternoon by Air France
 on Monday. Will get to
 the hotel (still a room
 unconfirmed ☹) around
 six. Can we have
 dinner together with or
 without Sherry?
 Must leave for Milan

on Thursday Dec 7th

Very busy here and
almost freezing to death

Love - ever

Theo

^{Johnson}
Sunday, Dec 10th Lago di Garda
To Piffi Jones

Virgil dearest -

My first moment
in which I tell you how sorry
I am about Wednesday night.
Shenny completely shied
away from joining forces.
La Signora Gitis rather
terrified him and when
he said (almost pathetically)
that he had come in for
our annual dinner à deux
I quickly said that that
would be it. So we
wandered slowly to the
Valtaine and had a superb

and ever so quiet
dinner. Henry really
is far from well. His face
looks startlingly like a
wrinkled curtain and he
has obviously not too much
strength. So please
forgive our not showing
up. Mrs. J. seemed
most attractive — I hope
you had a good evening.

Two days in Paris is
absolutely non-sufficient.
My first evening with you
at your delightful "Library
& Wines" was a high light
but not enough!

I did have a marvelous
3 hour visit with Rod and

need another two hours
with you so my trip
— even though so curtailed —
was well worth it. Well,
was a dear to give me
such an interesting party.
It was wonderful to see
Jean Cocteau again and
Languet. I hope you'll
see something more of
Lubin if you stay in Paris.
He is, to me, a most
fascinating and always
enchanting person — and
it seems, an excellent over-
teacher too.

In Milan I succeeded
during my first and — & for —

only day in accomplishing
 what I came to do. I met
 personally with Comjalome
 who accepted to become our
 correspondent with direct
 channel, enthusiasm and
 grace. Whereupon I
 informed Peter Dragatz
 that we now had an Agent
 which was our new policy
 etc. etc. He behaved in a
 very chic manner and we
 were both business like.

Am having my 2 day
 "summer vacation" with friends
 at nice place high above Lake
 Garda — pure Shangri-La.
 Love your new apartment
 — be happy work hard and
 write to me —
 Ever devotedly, Theo

III. Virgil Thomson
 17. Quai Valtaire
 Johnson
 Valois VII
 France

1618 Foto-služba "Zadružne knjige" — Beograd
 Snimio: M. Mrđanov

July 28
 I am looking at this view
 from our hotel terrace as I
 write. Our 8 days in Split were
 fascinating and we had one
 WHEE of a time. Here we
 recuperate before going to Rome
 on Saturday. I back track
 to Verona and fly from
 Milan on Aug. 15th.
 I send my greetings of you in
 Paris. Hope apartment is finished.
 A + K Neil - Theo

Image 24

Image ID: 32234497



Johnson



July 2nd

A

BERKELEY HOTEL LONDON

TELEPHONE. HYDE PARK 8282

TELEGRAMS. SILENTIUM PICCY LONDON

Darling - Am getting
nearer all the time!
I arrive at the Hotel
du Q.V. West Thursday
morning - noonish.

Do we have a dinner
date that night? I
hope so.

Having a wonderful time
here -

Love, Theo

Has Roger left for Venice yet?

A

Johnston

HOTEL **Riverside** RENO, NEVADA

June 2nd

Dealing -

With air mail luck this may reach you before you fly off on your great South American trek. It was so good to hear your cheerful voice on the phone on Tuesday. Needless to say you have been much with me on my discovery of America. Everywhere I've stopped people have asked about you and friends wanted to know Ahh about you. For the gal who had gotten stuck in the Boston - Cleveland - Washington triangle this tour has been breathtaking. Now that I've seen San Francisco I begin to wonder why anyone lives in N.Y.C. I'm just plain smitten!

I even liked Dallas enormously though it is hot and definitely flat. Rosefield was extremely nice - father than ever. But ever so cordial. I stayed with friends on Preston Blvd. as it turned out, so neither the Ashphers or the my town ~~local~~ ~~one~~ claimed me.

In L.A. Paula was on deck and you'd have thought I was her long lost family. I am still bewildered by her seemingly disinterested but very real devotion. She and I had written each other "out of the blue" on the very same day. There were flowers to greet me and dinners in Hollywood - in them I spent hours in her studio and met some of the Hollywood and L.A. teachers.

HOTEL **Riverside** RENO, NEVADA

that she is teaching Law & Trade. I ended up leaving L.A. but not like San F.

Your adorable Maria Wolner couldn't have been more outgoing and ~~adorable~~ ^{cordial}. I knew you loved New York but I hadn't realized how much! I hope to see her again and meet him later in July when this current mess is cleared up and I'll be in Denver for nearly a week on my way home.

In St. Louis, by no way, everyone was extremely mushy and sat on Alice's hands asking "Whom else have you spoken to?" No where else have I met up with such

suspicion and wait-and-see tactics. I'll probably have to stop by on my way back east

I'm glad we'll meet again come the middle of August. You'll have much to relate. Your friend Alfred Frankenstein sends you his best. He was most hospitable and we had a long luncheon just before I talked with you.

Now all is dear — except the gorgeous sun capped Sierras. I move to a guest house tomorrow — Langridge ¹⁶⁴⁰ ~~1460~~ Arlington St., Reno. Philip sent me a dreamy Olivette portable so I hope I can make it before my day of freedom July 14th — a day methinks we used to celebrate in Paris — All the best, all love, work hard, live full, Theo

Johnson

106 E. 56 St.

New York 22

Sunday, Sept. 12

Dearest Virgil -

I don't know whether
this will catch up with you in
Venice or follow you back to
the Chelsea - but in any
event I have a piece of news
for you -

As of August 30^B I became
legally separated from my
and am much relieved to find
myself living solo once more.
I won't go into details or
explanations - I don't
think it will come as a
surprise to you, either.

I shall be more than ever
glad when you return.
Have me an evening —
I start at "Musical America"
tomorrow — hope I'm
still employed by the time
you get back.

Hope your piano concerto
liked the air of Kitzbuhel and
became a reality — and
that the flute concerto will
have a successful Ureterian debut.

Best to Roger —

Ever devoted love to you
Theo

Two

Little Lanhams
Ware
Herts.

July 9th

Dear Virgil -

Your letter greeted me on
our return last Friday - the 4th.
I am désolée that your voices
aren't singing English harmonies
but Hertfordshire can't do much
against Aix-en-Provence, Rome
and Berlin. But I shan't give
up hope until I actually have a
letter from the "Flaunders" or the
Chelsea Hotel. We have decided
against joining Philip in Venice
and are going to stay quietly
here modest. We have come back

exhausted from our whirlwind trip
which was one continuous exciting
rush — the very thought of suitcases
and more rush plus the terrific
heat of Italy in August is too much.
So if your voices suddenly
turn to English you'll know where
to find me — and your room
is yours whenever you come.

This week-end we go to see and
Roland's in Sussex and over to
Glyndebourne for "Cenerentola" and
"Macbeth". I shall see Dorothy Dow
— very eager to hear her too.
Russell is in town. I shall see him
at the Carters next week.

What was the consensus of the
Paris press on H. S. J. ? I had left
before any reviews had appeared.
They were probably baffled —
Love, Theo

Little Fankhaus
Wane
 Herts.
 August 7th

Dear Virgil -

I don't suppose there's a
 chance that you are back in
 Paris. - This will probably catch
 up with you on the Riviera or Rome.
 But strange things can happen
 so this is to tell you that I am meeting
 Philip in Paris next Thursday PM 11^{1/2}
 to spend two or three days with him
 at the Crillon. Now you know
 I'd stay an extra day as Philip
 has to fly to Rome - but this
 is wishful thinking so at the
 moment I plan to fly back here

Late Saturday.

Is there any chance of the
voices saying "England" between
now and October 10th?

Hastily - always
much love,

Theo

Porgy a smash hit
- ditto your Lentym

University College Hospital
London

Wednesday, Oct. 22

Virgil Harding -

Leading - Pay no attention to the sinister
here for a week to recuperate from
a stubborn chest cold that wouldn't
leave me. I'll be out this week-end
in the meantime the place is quiet
(I've had no visitors allowed except
Tony) with no household to look after
has given me time to catch up on
long neglected correspondence.

I am so sorry to have missed
your Blake song with Ormandy. Were
any recordings made and how were
they received? And did your ballet

for De Mille come off as planned? I was so pleased to have the Sunday Tribune page again as that's the only way I can even vaguely keep in touch.

Tony was over for a madly rushed 3 weeks in New York, Washington and Cleveland on Sculpture Competition business. Alfred Barr has replaced James Johnson Sweeney on Tony's international jury and the Museum is collecting handsomely for the American preliminary show. I had planned to come over in December but now have postponed my annual "do" for late January and February. I shall waive as much time as humanly possible from the demands of the Cleveland family so I can be in New York and get caught up with you in particular and music in general.

We have taken a delightful flat

on Milton Crescent (Belgrave Square) for
the winter — using the country cottage
for good weather week-ends only.
Naturally I am highly pleased as I
actually dislike countryside in English
winters —

Cantelli has been making a terrific
splash here with the Philharmonia
Orchestra who have been playing
divinely for him. Sir Thomas begins
his season tonight — rather under
a cloud I am told. Ructions every-
where and bitter quarrels. I'll
see Betty once I get out of here.

Don't wear out all your new
Lawson creations before I get
here to admire! Give my
love to Geoffrey and Carl, and Philip
if he is there. Also thank Julia
de tout cœurs for sending me my
weekly Virgilean news. I am glad the Bel-
lancers are a success. I adore them here. Ever devoted love
Theo

Three

Little Janhaus
Marie Herle.

Wednesday, Aug. 27^B

Dear Virgil -

It was fun seeing Philip
and getting caught up with him (we
never write) but Paris was depressing.
The restaurants were open but
nothing else including the Louvre.
And no one but swarms of tourists
were around. I avoided #17.
We went to Versailles, had lunch
at Meudon with delightful Kelly
van Dusen and saw lots of Chateau
buildings. I ate too much twice
a day. Then Philip went to Venice.

for one day, and spent ten being
 very ill at Peggy's Palazzo.
 He comes here next week.
 Your stay with the Arnoulds
 founded mouth watering — good
 companionship, Lake Geneva and a
 pool. I must see you and meet
 Gertie as his wife the next time I am
 home which looks like November.

We have just had Alfred & Marga
 here for 5 days. Alfred and Mary were
 miserable and I emerged with
 a slight case of Marga-itis, otherwise
 it was strenuous but interesting.

Hope your "Haudra" still floats by
 the 17th. Am désolé that you didn't get
 here but after the glamour and beauty
 of Aix - Switzerland and Italy, Hertfordshire
 would have been a stifling anti-climax.

I look forward to seeing the new
 Lawin and the linen pants in the Chelsea!
 Am leaving Edinburgh opera & concerts on the radio
 Beecham as usual a wow. Much love - Theo

Little Tankards
Ware Herts.

May 16^B

Virgil - beloved -

Three months have bustled
by - two of them of intense activity
and one of recuperation. Now that
Don's "Unknown Prisoner" is a thing
of the past we can relax and
look toward the summer. What are
your plans and where will you
be for most of the free months?
I note from your own music page
that you have a date to conduct
your cello work at Newport early
in August. That probably means that

you will not be European based,
and 17th Chai Valtgine is left out
of your plans. Therefore it means
your "voices" don't say England either.

Our own plans are fairly vague,
we are lucky enough to have a couple
who have taken charge of us - blindfold
after years of struggling with all
the housework and kitchen, too. So
our vacation will probably be
just two weeks in France in July.

I'll be home for the month of
September if plans go ahead with
alterations.

We went to Oxford two weeks ago
for the serial rehearsal and first
performance of "Fremelin". Mr Thomas
had just fallen down a flight of
fourteen steps at the White Hotel so
he wasn't exactly in top form
but not even his magic can make
a whole evening of your best illusions

take on palatable form. His singers
were abominable and the staging
and scenery archaic. Only the orchestra
made ravishing sounds but cloying
beyond measure after a short while.

Sir Thomas and Betty seem convinced
they have recreated a world master-
piece which will be produced in every
country. My personal feeling is that
it won't survive Oxford! How I
longed for the "Rake's Progress" instead.
I can't thank you enough for
letting me be your companion that
exciting afternoon at the Det.

By the way, is there trouble in London?
I hear that the Det may close down?

As you can see we have moved
back to the country and have no
more London flat. (Could you
ask Julia to have my music page

which I date on readdressed to me here?) We are going to the Cornation because Jerry has a pair of tickets in his Club raffle — but he's not going to be very reverent about it. London is a mess beyond believing — has to be seen in its garishness and muddle to be appreciated.

Roland and Lee are coming for the week-end. It is pouring so I guess all we can do is over eat, over drink, over talk and sleep!

Let me hear what your plans are, how you are — I miss you as always and treasure our visits of last winter. I also look forward to more in the future —

Ever my love to you —

P.S. We are hoping to put Theo and Sigda out there Festival Hall in an all contemporary concert Nov. 3.

WARE 284.

LITTLE FANHAMS,
WARE,
HERTS.

Two

August 22 -

Dear Virgil -

Your letter from Acapulco made me so green eyed I haven't been able to answer! My whole summer has been entirely here - highly unexciting. Now I long for a touch of the tropical. Jony went to Madrid and Gibraltar where he was to join a friend on his 40 foot yacht for a sail to the Azores and Cornwall. When the boat finally reached Gibraltar a week late from St. Tropez Jony discovered it was anything but seaworthy, & refused to go. - The friend was stubborn and sailed anyway and that was 3 weeks ago. No word from them! Jony flew back here minus an ocean vacation but had been on Spain. While he was gone I went to Roland and Leo's in Sussex

and went 3 nights running to Glyndourne
Till heavily for a jugular vein, sea disease.
Maggie Ruff reached me by telephone that
week - end. Had a marvellous 3 day
visit with her in London and one night
out here. She is such a cheerful person,
I love her!

Have had a couple doing A&L in the
house but now am back as cook and
housekeeper again on my own. The wife
was taken to the local hospital for a fast
growing tumor. After a 15 inch incision
the tumor turned out to be a 3 1/2 month
baby. She is now in Wales in bed until
the baby arrives. The husband is just
hunting in London. It was pleasant
while it lasted.

I'm having quite a time organizing
a recital of the kiddies for November 1.
When I saw them at your apartment
last winter I asked if they would give
a concert for the Institute of Contemporary
Art in Festival Hall. They agreed with
alacrity and enthusiasm, bless them.
Then over here my troubles began. The

state of music (contemporary) in London has to be experienced to be believed. I can't go into all the details but such questions. Edward Clark, who is psychopathic as well as a complete cats paw for the Communist party, was ousted from the I.C.A. music committee. Dennis Dabson took his place. He and his committee got frightened about trying to put over a concert at the Festival Hall. I had to back down on that and take tiny Wignmore on a Sunday afternoon instead. The boys were disappointed but were nice enough to say they would still give us the concert. Now, as of last week, Edward has sent a petition around the entire musical world of England and with over 100 signatures (including Billy Walton and Arnold Bax) he is demanding reinstatement. I came out flatly and said I'd put the

concert on alone with Hilfred van Dyke unless they settled down and went at it in a professional way. I didn't want gold and ditzels associated with such shenanigans. Yesterday they meekly agreed so the concert is still under the auspices of the I.C.A. - but I don't trust them. We are going to have the world premiere of the new Bouleux concerto and I have asked them to repeat the Stravinsky "by request". I am working in earnest next week - they must have a sold out house.

I shall be home in late November for the whole month of December. When plans are really set I'll let you know. Wish I could be with you at Sylvia and Scud's. Give them my love. Wish you'd let me know how the concert at Newport and in Mexico City went.

I had heard about M's death and wrote at once. Had a touching letter from Sherry in return. Hope to see him this fall. Have you finished your flute concerto?
Love, Theo

Little Fanhams,
Ware, Herts.

Ware 284

Sept. 22

Dear Virgil -

Mother has taken
a new lease on life
so I don't need to do
a head dash home
home which means I can
sail with my on
Oct. 19th on the maiden
voyage of a Greek ship
the S. S. "Olympia" from
Southampton. It's an 8 day

boat but because of
celebrations in different
ports it seems we don't
land until Oct. 29th.

We have to go to Cleveland
at once but I'll at least
talk to you before going out.
We'll be back "in residence"
at #106 by the middle of
November.

Can't wait to see
you and be near at
land once more.

What are you doing
in Savannah for so long?

Much love — Theo

London -

Jan. 30^B

Virgil darling -

Philip has to give up Nidden House after all so I am flying over next week Thursday and shall be home for 6 or 7 weeks. I am thrilled as not only do I hope to see as much of you as your work and desire makes possible but it leaves me free to come to Paris in May for the "Four Saints".

I have to go to Philadelphia for a Thomas wedding immediately on arrival and then out to see Mother who is ailing. I'll try to talk to you on Feb 8^B while passing through New York (T.W.A. ought, I'd willing,

To get me into Uge. about 11:00
and I'll go straight to 757)

I'll be back for a two week
stay on the 19th and again for
a week before flying back March 28th.
I yearn to see you as well
as to hear some music with
you if that's possible, too. It's
going to seem very odd not
to have Maggie here to greet me
from around the corner!

Have just come back from
a superb performance of "Wozzeck"
under Kleiber. Mendelsohn is
getting better and better —

Love and until we
speak a vive voce —
Theo

Wish you could be
with us tomorrow eve.
My favorite people are
coming for dinner -
Henry Moore and his
wife, the Reg Butlers and
the Millers. You'd
like them, too -

Essendon Place
Essendon
Herts.

Sunday, Dec. 30th

Dear Virgil -

Sir Thomas and Betty have
just departed this morning on
the "Queen Mary" and you'll be seeing
them perhaps even before this
reaches you because of the current
gales. They are bringing with
them a Picasso print (yours
is #35 out of 50) that P. did for the
Institute when he was here. I
thought it might amuse you and
be a note of safety. I didn't
dare send it by post otherwise

it would have reached you long ago. The Beechams seemed pleased to lug it along. In case they forget, ask for it, please. It is a very small thank you for the weekly N.T. envelope that means so much to me. I follow your plea to the West for a more contemporary outlook which been returned. You are so right and I hope you'll keep right on needing them. Do you think they will do me "Kake's Progress"? Now I wish I could have heard Orson's "Regimen". You outdid yourself in unstinted praise and made my mouth water! Gene was thrilled and gratified. He mentioned his pleasure in a letter on a Christmas card. I had just heard the Regimen done by Sir Malcolm Sargent with a mammoth male chorus

and soloists from La Scala -
Eke Skizmani a fine war horse,
and a wonderfully beautiful soprano
just especially in high PPPs by
an American, Lucia Kelston. The
two men were dreadful but it was
otherwise very handsomely and
thrillingly done despite Albert Hall.

Has Joshua Heifetz presented his
killing card yet? That was a
masterly review and must have
strung him to the quick.

I heard "Billy Budd" and was
to my surprise, deeply moved by it.
Uppman is excellent as Billy -
have you heard him in America?
The libretto is magnificent, the
music not surpassing but
very good and sometimes eloquent.
It played to packed houses
despite no names from the critics.

I wonder how you'll find Sir Thomas and Betty. The last time I saw him I was shocked at the change in him. I only hope he's tougher than I think and that he'll get through his current tour. Betty is much, much better than she was last summer when she was nothing but a bundle of nerves and hysteria.

As you can see, we are living in the country. I could do without it in the winter but so far so good. But it keeps me from many a musical evening. To make up for it I'm going to give me an L.P. record machine for Christmas so I can now give me my own concerts. Unfortunately only Decca has the L.P.s over here so there is not an

impressive list & choose from.

Why can't H.M.V. join the ranks?

I am having a fine time with
your Jorg Hugnet songs "La Belle
en Dormant". It's a bit low but
they are loads of fun and very
"you". Has anyone sung your
Blake songs with orchestra yet
and have you finished your
sea piece with birds in it?

Is it true that there might be a
performance of the "Junk" in
Paris this spring? Would you
come over for it and if so
when? I'll be back but I don't
know yet which month - April
or possibly June.

I missed Sherry when he
was in Paris and I missed
Alice B. when I was in Paris.

He was still in the south.
I shall go again and shall
certainly fly over if you
are ever there.

I heard Pat Conway do Aaron's
Emily Dickens's Cycle a few
weeks ago. About seven out of
the twelve were especially good
— the whole was too long and
tended to become monotonous
despite a superb job on Pat's part.
She also did 3 of Dello Jorio's
— I'd like to hear some more of his.

I miss you and long
to be with you as of yore.
I look forward to seeing you
in N.Y.C. or Paris come the spring
and here in the summer.

Love, ever devotedly,
Theo

Theo

To Gilpatric

3527 NORTH EDISON STREET
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

Tuesday

Virgil darling —

As you see I came
this way to Ohio instead
of back through New York.
Hope all went handsomely
last night — wish I
could have been there.

I would give to this
 our first written form a hat
 hopes to come to the center
 on the 19th in Carnegie.
 Every chance of being
 with you on Monday, after
 I get in? I certainly
 can hardly wait to see
 you. I'll be flying
 to your Cleveland office
 last Tuesday night or
 Monday. Hope with flying
 who is joining me in
 New London on Friday.
 I fly New this morning.
 In love —
 Much love,
 Alice

Hudson Home

Hudson

N.Y.

Saturday, Aug. 25th

Dear Virgil -

The news of Maggie's death from
polio while returning from Italy
is too much like a nightmare to be
believed. Bob Flaherty's death one can
understand and condone but not
Maggie's. I am unpeckably shocked
and grieved. You will undoubtedly
be in New York for the funeral. I
could give anything to be among her
other devoted friends at the last but
obviously cannot be. Would you
please mail the enclosed note to Johnnie
whose address I do not remember.

And do let me hear from you. I
wish we were together. In times like
this I have an urgent need to
cling tightly to those friends I love.
Your profoundly sorrowing
Theo

62 Trow St.

London, S.W.1

Wednesday, Nov. 8th

Vigil, my dear,

I am still in a delightful glow when I think back on our visits together last month. It meant more than I can say and I treasure each hour we had together in retrospect.

I came back to find Tony out of the Hambro business in a terrific faze. The whole thing has been reorganized but Tony has been kept on as before. However, we did not get to Paris as planned and now between times when we will be able to cross that ridiculous but apparently formidable Channel! Did you write Alice B. we might be coming?

If so, maybe I had better write her
a postal saying our visit is postponed.
At the moment we are saving
our pennies for a Christmas visit
to our new passion, Ireland. In
January I may have to go to Sweden so
Paris looks possible only in March —
and so much can happen between
now and then!

I read every word of the Music
page as it comes. It really gives
me a wonderful close up of New York's
manifold musical life. I have a
great time figuring out in advance
which concerts you will be attending!
I am eager to read how you liked
Mr. Bing's new opening and whether
"Don Carlos" with its new staging and singing
is any improvement on E. J's.

The newspapers here have been
headlining Beecham's tour on their
front page with quotes from you.
A day before yesterday Roy Harris!

letter appeared in the "Times" with an answer from Sir Thomas appearing in today's "Morning Telegraph". Obviously you are in the midst of it so there's no reason to send you clippings from here though I have cut them out. I am tremendously pleased they are having such a success. I pass all your criticisms on to my accompanist, David Honey - a fanatic disciple of Sir Thomas'. He in turn distributes them further afield. The one of de Los Angeles. I give to our old Paris friend Wilfrid Van Wyck who was the one who brought her first to England last year. I am delighted you liked her. She has a superb voice and uses it intelligently. Certain roles in opera would be magnificent "meat" for her but definitely not "Darius" which I heard her attempt. London is enjoying its fall plethora of concerts. I have not been yet because

because I couldn't get rid of that
abysmal cough of mine and finally
coughed up with 10 days in bed with
bronchitis. Tonight I miss the BBC
Symphony doing Arnold Bax's 4th Symphony
and Poulenc playing his own concerto.
Instead of going I have to stay home
and be hostess at a business dinner party
- Stankel halibut (the whole fish) with
sauce bearnaise cold meat with
salad, and a home made real
Marron' Dind Branc. Wish it
were you coming instead of some
unknown Dames!

Have found a rare bottle of Chateau
Lafite 1937. I am going to buy it
and save it for a day when you
will be here - May, June or whenever.

Do you hear anything about
Maggie and her new job? I hope
she is managing to survive!

A letter from M - They are preparing
to leave soon for Bolivia. Sherry was
greeting Emma for St. Havre.

Do let me have a written word from
you in addition to your published work. True and devoted
Theo

Three

62 Pont St.
S.W. 1

Wednesday, March 15th

Dear Virgil -

Thanks to the faithful Julia Haynes I have kept in constant touch with your musical criticism life and therefore that of New York but I begin to feel hopelessly out of touch with Virgil, my treasured friend, and that I don't care for!

It takes several months really to settle down in a new city and Tony and I are just now reaching the happy state of at least feeling at home. The flat is still filled with painters and furniture is still needed but we are at least clean and tidy and half way beautiful. By next week we can begin to have friends in for small dinners or drinks. The French cook - maid, Yvonne, is undeniably a marvel. Now I wish you could come in some evening - her hors d'oeuvres, her sauces, fresh vegetables, salad (the English are hopeless at a tossed green salad) and her variety of desserts are incomparable. I've just gotten her a new gas

stone so gustatory miracles can be kept up
and even increased. It's tough on my figure
so I diet like mad in between her dinners!
The English simply don't believe that she can
produce such reports on nations but in
true French tradition she "manages." Her
laundry work is equally elegant and superb
-another London rarity!

So much for the home life over here
-*"ça va maintenant comme sur des roulettes"*
Tony's job is extremely exacting but fascinating
and he is, from all I can gather, doing
a very fine piece of work. Unbelievably he
has had as a temporary secretary these last
two months Doris Doot Richmond. They live
very near us and while poor Stanley still
waits and waits for his Civil Service job to
materialize Doris needed and wanted to be
kept busy. It's been a mutually happy
get together and Tony will be sorry to
lose her. It seems Stanley goes to Malaya
early in May and Doris will go home to
Dublin for a few months before joining
him out there. I have loved seeing Doris
and she and I have become firm friends
even as big Doris has. Stanley baffles
and disappoints us all (by "all" I mean
Doris' many other good friends here who have

talked to me frankly) Doris is wonderful to him and with him which we all admire and love her for but Stanley is hard to take. We are all hoping that once he gets his position in Malaya that he will "come alive" and be worthy of Doris' warm, glowing, intelligent personality.

The musical life of London is still rather a puzzle to me. I have greatly loved your articles on the Intellectual Audiences and have been applying your sound reasoning to the various concerts I have attended. I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is little or no highbrow box office. Everything seems to be the broad mass appeal. The calibre of symphonic programs is exasperating. As long as there are names of Beethoven and Mozart (with a little Bach) and even of Elgar ^{or Britten} the public surges in. The minutes there is something modern or slightly bizarre seats go begging. Sir Thomas is still the favorite star conductor and - for my ears - his orchestra is by far the best. The strings are magnificent and he has as fine a collection of wood winds as our Philadelphia. The B.B.C. Orchestra has too much work to do and is constantly shifting conductors. It sounds breathless and ragged though I

heard a stunning concert with huge double
chorus last week under Sargent — Delius
"Song of Farewell", Halst "Hymn to Jesus" and
the savage exciting "Bedazzled's Feast of Wacron.
Albert Hall" was only half full for that! But
the next night it was overflowed to the rafters
for Prozac's #39 and the first English performance
of Britten's Spring Symphony — chorus and four
soloists — under von Beinum whom I don't admire
as a conductor.

The recital field is sparse — that is of
things of interest. There is a constant succession
of middling pianists (again mostly Beethoven)
violinists and cellists who play to a hall
about $\frac{1}{3}$ full. Aside from Lagotad who sang
in Concert Garden — recital — there has been
only one singer of note Victoria de La Angeles
from Spain. She sang an excellent recital
(Crowded House) and a usually poor but
vocally handsome Thini at Concert Garden. Tickets
are virtually impossible to get for the Ballet
or Opera. The English are ballet reild. I wasn't
even able to get in to see "Don Quixote" but
may later in the spring. — There is a choir
every night in the week of six or seven
musical performances but my average
is not even twice weekly.

The theatre is lusty and flourishing and

have been many times. The chief delight
are the plays of Christopher Fry. I've gotten
seats for Maggie and I intend for both of Paris.
What of your summer plans? Is there
a chance of seeing you over here or in Paris?
We expect to be there for a brief visit on our
way to Italy next month. I may stay on
longer by myself in May if Edward Jodoff
is there. Healthwise my luck has been
poor — a bronchial flu and then a tied
up intestine have made mince meat out of
trying to keep up the singing. But all is well
now and I'll get back to work next week.
Spring is already here — how wonderfully
different from New York where one day it's
winter and the next summer. I am
thrilled to be back in Europe again and living
here. We're giving our first cocktail party
next week and before we knew it over a
hundred were asked — so we aren't lacking in
friends. Sir Thomas and Betty have
been most friendly. Betty is in a very bad
nervous state and Thomas has just collapsed
with no flu and been ordered not to work for
at least a month. He has just received
your cello concerto and on first glance he
seems intrigued and pleased with it. Why
don't you come to Edinburgh and hear it?

Reanytime another crop of your
criticisms turns up I have comments galore
but now that I'm actually writing you
there's no room for detailed remarks. I
would so like to hear about you so when
you have a spare moment send me a few
lines on your own. Have you been all over
the country? From your steady reviews
I would say you'd been sticking to New York.

I miss you very much indeed and
have thought about you far, far more
than my lack of writing would indicate.
I use the lovely Dapertay sparingly so that
it may last a long time — again thank you!

Doug sends his best —

Always my love to you
Devotedly — Theo

Seeing Beechams
Saturday, I hope -
Nikolai Sokoloff
coming for tea

62 Pont St.

S.W. 1

Ther
Tuesday, Jan 30th -

Dear Virgil -

I literally missed the airplane
last Sunday - flu laid me low. So
I'll be in New York next Monday (weather
permitting) and Tuesday before going to
my law case in Boston on the 7th. Your
note said you'd be away from the 10th
& the 16th. What chance is there of seeing
you on the 5th or 6th? I'll be staying
with Emily Briggs ^(RS-3462) those two evenings but
can always "escape".

In any event I'll telephone you
at the Chelsea or the Jit when I get
in. My "Ambassador" TWA flight is due at
8:30 A.M. but I don't believe it.

I pine to see you - if even briefly!
Love, Theo

Permanent address
at the moment
90 Chase Nat. Bank
Berkeley, Ca.
W.D.

Johnson

6 Haus Crescent
S.W. 1

Tuesday, July 24th

Just a cry of love to you across
the ocean and the continent (in
case you are still in Colorado)
on the news of Bob Flaherty's death.
He wasn't one of my "oldest and
dearest" friends - I've only
known him since and because of
you and "Louisiana Story" but the
few times I was ever with him
were enough to make him a real
part of one's own life. Thank you
for having given me the privilege
of knowing him. I am a bit
surprised at the sharpness and
depth of my reaction to the news of

of his death. I have just written
Frances a note. And here on
my desk is an endearing scrawl
from him which I was about
to answer - but, alas, never
did! What an enchanting mortal
and how everyone will miss him.

I have a chance of your
coming over later this summer
or early fall? Or has our West
Coast and Oregon seduced you
forever from European shores?
I've seen quite a lot of Edward
Clark who is a sweetie pie. Should
you ever come this way he and
the rest of us in L. C. A (Institute
of Contemporary Arts) want you to
lecture. Philip was here for ten
days and gave a superb lecture
and made a great splash in
general. So come on over and do
likewise!

we have had a rather rough time
of it these past two months. We
have this temporary flat we are in
and especially after it was royally
burgled — gone are all the little
trinkets and what was left of diamonds
and gold jewelry. We were caught
without insurance which adds
to the frown. And recently it
has been ascertained that Tony must
live hereafter in the country so
~~the~~ that we are moving at the
end of this week. We have rented
an Elizabethan cottage on the estate
of some friends of ours near Ware
in Hertfordshire. It's tiny and has
no central heating and it's very
quaint. Hope I learn how to
fit in to such an ambience. It
won't be free until the middle of
October so until then we'll be

"peaching" with different friends
near by. And by September we
hope to have a car which will
be a jobber.

Lee and Roland also hope
you will be over — we are
down on their farm nearly
every other week-end.

For Thomas' is scintillating and
gave a superb series of "Pleasant
at Court Garden. Next month he is
giving the "Bohemian Girl" for a
solid two weeks here! Betty is
quite impossible — exasperated
nervous and weepy. She will
die long before he does —

Had a letter from Sherry and M.
from their Balkanic Lotus Land.
I wonder if they'll ever return to
civilization? Probably not, as long
as Sherry awaits World War III.

Your articles sound as though you
were having a good time on a business
holiday. Do let me hear from you all time, the



PAR AVION - AIR MAIL

French Line

à bord

le 29

juin

Dear Virginia

Boxes of candy arrived from your Madison Ave. shop and I have left them packed as they came so I could more easily get them to London safely. I am eager to get at the contents but am being patient. That was wonderful of you to think of it and we shall both be thrilled.

Tomorrow comes Plymouth and the end of this most agreeable French vacation. I'd forgotten how very French these boats are from the minute one climbs aboard. I was lucky in having two young French jet pilots as table companions so have chattered like mad the whole way across. Emily Quaver and her husband looked me up the second day — she really is

quite fascinating — a very brilliant, very
 spirited woman who reminds me
 of a cross between ~~Wanda~~ and Sylvia ~~Barber~~.
 Her husband is gregarious and amusing.
 I haven't seen very much of them, I
 must confess. ^{brod's} Josy Spivakovsky ^{and} is also
 on board — very nice and jolly. I have
 spent most of my time — apart from
 my Frenchmen — with Hans, Soukhanov
 — the stage director at City Center and
 very nice indeed.

Have overestimated vigorously "bathed"
 in excellent wines and all in all
 am now ready to face austerity
 England again.

Darling — I did so love our
 evening together with Jeffrey. The
 food was superb (what a steak) and
 the wines even more so. But Robert
 part of all this being cozy again it
 and able to look once more in
 your affection. I am devoted to
 you for life and I very much
 need you for it. I'll let you
 know how London seems and shall
 see what can be done about having you
 over in the ^{early} fall. Ever so much love, Always Theo

Alan drove out to the coast
and back and on their
return stopped off at the
farm so I made that
the excuse for fleeing
from the ink-some tedious
hour and joined them
out there for ten joyously
lazy and hilarious days.
We've just now returned and

216 EAST 49 STREET, NEW YORK

August 12^B
[1934]

Virgil darling -
I can't believe a whole
month has flown by since your
sad little letter reached me.
I wanted to sit right down
and keep with you over your
horrid and never-ending
abcesses but what with
there being the Atlantic

between us and a piece of
 west here (or what might
 we see!) time elapsed by
 and the summer is nearly
 gone.
 I cannot be now your
 profane sojourn. Reading
 when together you were
 our shed - I hope I want
 such is the case I think
 perhaps in that most
 with winter's leisure are
 already taken up by said
 abroad, the memory is
 this morning! I have
 seeing I hope by the
 time this morning you
 that you have accomplished
 a card what you want
 over for and are continuing
 your return to us.
 I have had a busy
 night summer. Gladly out

about 30 of whom were
 100% loyal and with them to
 the end. Now, six weeks later,
 after seeing people and
 counting of 24 states, they
 have a lot of new ideas and
 strengthened beliefs. How
 many of the 30 or 100 still
 for these remains also seen
 this week. Philip and Alan are
 still hotly enthusiastic and
 zealous. — I miss you, my dear,
 please don't stay away too long and
 for heaven's sake take care of yourself
 My love to you & this

216 EAST 49 STREET, NEW YORK

tomorrow life of work and
 steady begins in earnest
 My concert at Town Hall
 is still going forward —
 definitely October 31st and I
 am counting on your being
 here not only for moral
 support but to do your
 "stuff" in the Phases of Salomon

which I am still writing
 much credit on doing
 to get the program made:
 I. Haggard
 II. Thurgood
 III. Solomon
 IV. Song
 V. Debury
 VI. Debur
 The writer has been in the
 hands out it is coming
 along ever so much better
 and smoother and more
 exciting! Now I expect
 to do nothing but excellent
 early on one or the other
 of aforementioned groups.
 The National Party of
 America is coming along
 strongly but surely. Today
 they left about June 28th
 they had a group of 1000

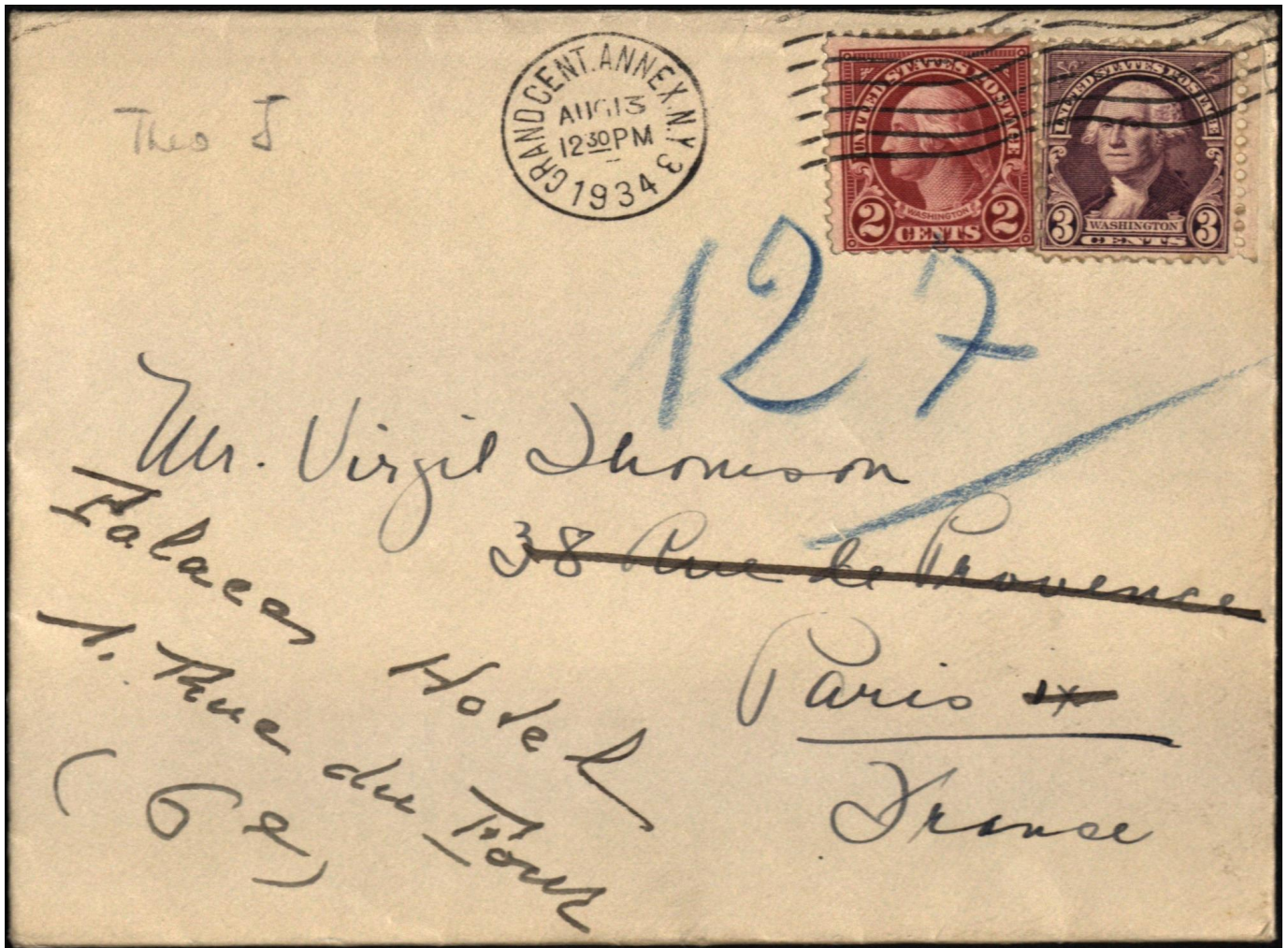
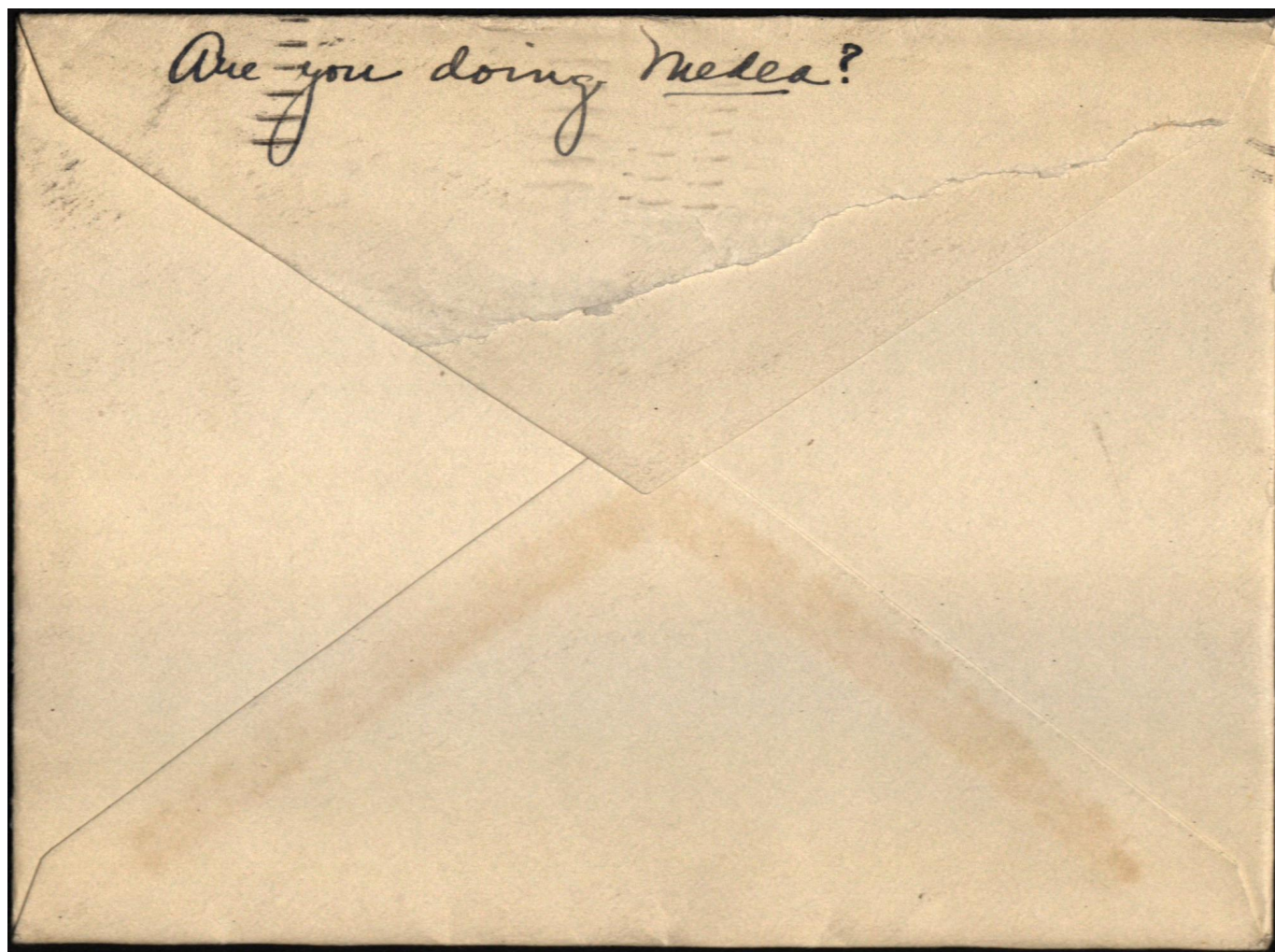


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[Theodate Johnson]

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Lester Wiener

requests the pleasure of

Mr. Thompson's

company after the recital of Elsie Thornton and
Yolande

on Saturday, February first [1941]

at 399 Park Ave., eleven o'clock

R. J. V. P.

February 5, 1941

Dear Alma:

I am sorry I could not come to your party last Saturday night. I had to go back to the Herald Tribune after the concert to write my review. It was nice of you to ask me.

Always devotedly yours,

Mrs. Paul Lester Wiener
399 Park Avenue
New York City

ce 19/6-46

Cher Monsieur Thomson

Ainsi que je vous ai parlé, il me reste un
petit service de table (1-nappe et 6 serviettes)
dernier Souvenir de Miss Johnson; que je
me ferais également un plaisir de vous
remettre;

Je me propose de vous le déposer chez
vous Samedi matin, vers 12^h 30, après
mon travail, si vous n'êtes pas chez vous
je laisserai le petit paquet à la Concierge
qui je l'espère vous le remettra.

Je pense que vous êtes bien acclimaté à la
vie de Paris, et vous prie de croire cher
Monsieur et mes sentiments bien dévoués.

Fanny Lavergne

[1947]

[Cohen]

Dear Virgil Thompson

It was a great privilege to listen in
on Mother's lecture & I want to
thank you. You & G. Stein sure do
do something rather special &
wonderful. I found this piece very
moving, quite profound, in fact,

besides being wonderfully witty.
Good luck!

Sincerely
Margaret DeSilva

ans. 399 PARK AVENUE [1947]
Thursday

Dear Theodore —

it's very nice To
be part of the publishing of
Virgil's Opera, I'm back in my
old world again. Greetings To you
Alma Wiener

50 DEEPWOOD DRIVE
HAMDEN 14, CONNECTICUT

Wed.

[1947]

Dear Miss Johnson:

Thanks for so much in
your letter. ^{Memories of}
the Martins. Confidence in
Gutride. Notice of Sunday's
broadcast.

But there ^{is} ~~are~~ ~~that~~ me
things I cannot do
now — I cannot
release another cent
— oh, the claims this
year, and I still not

"producing" since when I
 entered the Army in
 42. ~~My~~ My little stint for
 the great Gertrude is a
 Preface To "Four in
 America" which I am
 just completing for the
 Yale Press.

I feel sure you will find
 your subsidy - on all sides I hear
 of the happy reception of the
 America. Forgive me my inability
 to take part. I hope I make a
 lot of money soon and can
 participate again in all the
 excellent projects that come to
 my attention these days.

Cordially and
 warmly
 Thomas Alder

[1947]

Dear Miss Johnson

I was really quite shocked by your
story of the non-publication of
"4 Saints" & therefore I'd like to
help along the publication of
"Mother of Us All", & with the

Secret hope that if it is successful
gets to Bdry, then Maybe there
might Some day be a revival of
"4 Saints"!

Sincerely

Margaret DeSilva

Enc.

MRS. ARCHIBALD MACLEISH 36 EAST 70TH STREET NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

My dear Theo Johnson:-

Thank you for your
nice letter of welcome. It was most
heart warming.

We would love to dine with
you, whenever you want us or
whenever we are in town.

As to the other matter - at the
moment we are absolutely busted.
This trip abroad was a knock out
blow. & we are in the red.

But if we could help out later
and you are in need of more
people, will you try us again?
We might be able to scrape up \$100

come another quarter - and certainly
we would like too. A year's work for
UNESCO with no pay. Has left us
in a poor spot.

Looking forward to seeing you

Always Sincerely,

all.
MRS. KENNETH F. SIMPSON
109 EAST 91st STREET
NEW YORK 28, NEW YORK

[1947]
Tuesday

Dear Theo,

My butcher & baker
are waiting for money &
one thing but I am
nevertheless glad to
enclose this loan.

Hope to see you soon.
Have rented the Locust Valley
place again and am
thinking of moving to
Tanglewood for the
Mozart & Bach Sunday
in July. The other pro-
grams, as I remember
them, looked dull.
Affectionately Helen & KRS

[9473]

MRS. R. KIRK ASKEW
PPACK FARM R. D. 1
EAST GREENVILLE, PA.

Dear Theo, - "Find enclosed", etc. -
 Sorry not to have been
 prompt-er, - but my vaccination
 floored me - I've just crawled
 out - from under the ice-packs, -
 The date on the check may
 seem odd, - it's the date of the
 when our I made out and tore
 up, - I did want to bother to
 re-arrange my check-book, -
 Hope the good work goes well, -
 Love
 Samhauer.

Thursday -

Random House, Inc.



THE MODERN LIBRARY

457 MADISON AVENUE • NEW YORK 22, N. Y.

BENNETT A. CERF, PRESIDENT

April 18, 1947.

Miss Theodate Johnson,
Hidden House,
751 Third Avenue,
New York City.

Dear Miss Johnson:

In answer to your note about the Stein project, I will be happy to see you and give you what help I can. Please call me. The number is Plaza 3-0230.

Sincerely yours,

Bennett A. Cerf

bac;pk

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TELEPHONE: RITTENHOUSE 6-5470

CABLE ADDRESS "PHILADORCH"

THE PHILADELPHIA ORCHESTRA ASSOCIATION

FOUNDED 1900 INCORPORATED 1933

HARL McDONALD
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NORMAN S. SHIRK
H. TATNALL BROWN, JR.
ASSISTANT MANAGERS

JUDITH M. COLT
ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGER

1910 GIRARD TRUST COMPANY BUILDING
PHILADELPHIA 2

April 18, 1947

Dear Theo:

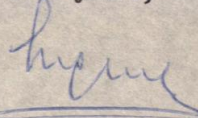
Thank you for your letter of April 18th regarding the publishing of Virgil's new opera.

Right now I am more in debt than I have been since putting foot on these blessed soil, mostly because of the demands made by Steffy's lawyers and the additional income tax I have had to pay. However, if my promise that I will do it is satisfactory, and if you will let me know the latest date I can send the check, I will be more than happy to join you. Anyway, you can count on me with the greatest of pleasure.

Do forgive me that I cannot send a check just now, but really I am in serious difficulties. This is only a temporary condition, of course.

My best to you, and hoping for a reply from you,

As ever yours,



Forgive this hasty note!

Miss Theodate Johnson,
Hidden House,
751 Third Avenue,
New York, N.Y.

ans. by tel.

820 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK 21, NEW YORK

[1947]

Monday, April 21.

Dear Rodate:

Despite my teasing,
I am very glad to lend, invest,
underwrite or give you \$100
towards your very worthwhile
undertakings. Thanks for including
me. Yours as ever,
Louise.

[CRANE]

THE JOHN AND MABLE RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART
OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE STATE OF FLORIDA
SARASOTA, FLORIDA

April 24 1947

Theodate dear:

It was so good to hear from you and it was good to know that Virgil's new work will be published. I am so sorry that I wont be able to be in New York to hear it. In five minutes I am leaving for California via Tallahassee where I have to go to a meeting. It grieves me tell you that I am flat broke. I habe had to buy a house here and fix it up and I have hardly enough to make the trip. However if it is not too late you can count on me for a hundred in May when I get a bit more pay from the State of Florida. I will take your letter with me so that it wont slip my mind as soon as I get some cash.

I shall be back here on the fifteenth of May for two weeks and will then go right to the summer theater in Windham. Why dont you come up for a few days visit this summer? I long to see you.

I must pack now. Forgive the shortness of this note. When I see you I will inform you of the mad winters doings and of the great success we have had.

Ever

Chuck.

Ans. 5/18/47

RAMBLESIDE
WESTPORT, CONNECTICUT

Friday — May 2nd [1947]

Dear Miss Johnson:

I found your letter here
when we arrived from Pittsburgh
on Monday! Wed + Thurs —
we were in New York and I
telephoned you interminably
all day both days in between
Employment Agencies —
as I am quite without
help.

We would like to hear
Miguel's Opera on the 7th
but I have no tickets. If
we came in we could have
dinner that night with you.

The Telephone Strike is
making it very different
for us in Westport with
our New York friends.
I enclose the \$100. which we
are delighted to enlist in
the publishing of *Legals*
scene. You didn't enclose
the letter you spoke of —
but you can tell me the
plan when we see each
other. Why don't you & *Legal*
pick a time to come to
Rambleside before he sails?
Hastily but sincerely
Carloha Peiner

JOHN HOUSEMAN

May 5th
1947

Miss Theodate Johnson
Hidden House
751 Third Ave.
New York City

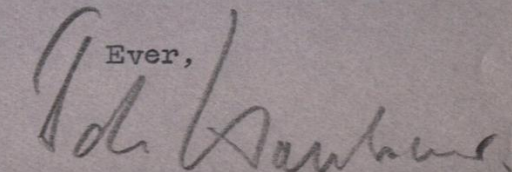
Dear Theodate:

Thanks for your letter, and I am sorry
that my movements disconcert you so.

Concerning the publication of Virgil's
opera, I agree with you that it must be
done. Virgil played it for me twice.
I thought it was extremely beautiful --
indeed, I like it better than anything
he has ever done. It distresses me that
I shall not be there to see it this week.

Regarding the loan of \$100. toward publica-
tion, the situation is this:- As you may
or may not know, I have just started a
theatre here and into it I have put all
the cash I have in the world. That leaves
me, at the moment, completely stripped.
However, this situation is not likely to
last forever, and if it will help you to
look on me as a guarantor for this sum,
available when called for during the late
summer or Fall, you may definitely count
on me. Please let me know if this does
you any good.

Ever,



8545 Franklin Ave.
Hollywood, 46, Calif.

JH:mb

ALEXANDER SMALLENS
WALLACK POINT
STAMFORD, CONN.

May 7th [1947]

Dear Theodate:

Your letter recieved and as much as I would wish to
comply with your request, I must refuse as I am temporarily
bust. I look forward to hearing the work on the evening of the
Twelveth.

Sincerely yours

Alexander Smallens

Image 108

Image ID: 32234581

CARL VAN VECHTEN

101 CENTRAL PARK WEST
NEW YORK CITY 23

TELEPHONE: ENDICOTT 2-8748

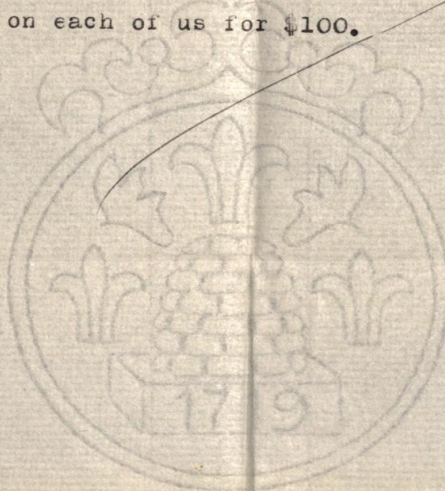
Dear Miss Johnson, Of course Fania and I both want to be in on the loan to Music Press for the purpose of publishing TMOUA. Let me know when you want the cheques. Equally of course, I'll be delighted to talk to you about the format. Telephone me when you are ready.

sincerely,

May 7, 1947

Carl Van Vechten

* I mean you can count on each of us for \$100.



LESSEBO

ans. by Tel.



ALFRED A. KNOPF, Inc.
501 MADISON AVENUE
New York (22)

Office of the Vice-President

May 12, 1947.

Dear Miss Johnson,

I am sorry not to have been able to acknowledge your letter regarding Virgil Thomson's opera, MOTHER OF US ALL, before this. As you knew, both Mr. Knopf and I were away and have only just returned.

We are enclosing our check for \$100.00 as an advance toward the publication by Music Press of this work and hope indeed that it will have every success, which it should have.

I should be glad to discuss this further with either Mr. Dana, whose letter you kindly enclosed, or with you at your convenience. I note that reports will be made as of August 1st and November 1st.

Yours very sincerely,

Blawie Knopf

Miss Theodate Johnson
751 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y.

Image 110

Image ID: 32234583



MALABAR FARM
LUCAS, OHIO

May 24, 1947

Dear Miss Johnson:

This is just a line to say
I think the Gertrude Stein project is
an excellent one and I am enclosing a
cheque for \$100 as my contribution.

I am hoping you will get
down to see us again some time soon.
Your sister is coming down tomorrow.
Please give my best to the Harpers.
Exciting news about Liffie's novel.

Best of everything,

As always,
Louis Bromfield
Louis Bromfield

THE SCHMITZ SCHOOL OF PIANO

3508 CLAY STREET
SAN FRANCISCO 18, CALIFORNIA

June 7, 1947

Ans. June 16
Miss Theodate Johnson
751 Third Ave.,
New-York city, N.Y.

Dear Theodate:

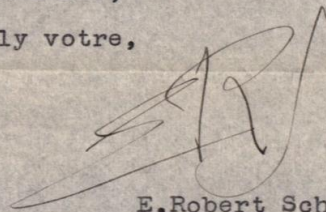
I feel quite guilty - we had some kind of plan for my broadcast of last Sunday, June first. I only returned to New-York on Friday, and it was Decoration Day, so all being closed I had a hard time to make any progress in the things I had to do. On Saturday I tried your phone in the afternoon, but could not get an answer. Then the conductor Anthony Collins became ill, and had to be replaced at the last minute by Beresowsky and we had new regear-sals to put in Sunday. It really became hectic. I am sorry not to have been able to reach you. I hope that nevertheless you were able to hear the broadcast of the Prokofieff. Virgil heard it from somewhere in Connecticut and telephoned me - he seemed very enthused by it.

I hope that your project for publication of Virgil's "the Mother of us all", is making good progress. Of course you can put my name as I told you on the 25 guarantors. Do let me know when it becomes definite, please.

If you come west, do let us know, so we see you?

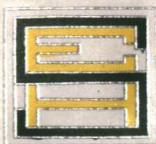
With kindest remembrances,

most sincerely yours,



E. Robert Schmitz

[June 9, 1947]



Dear Theo -

We loved "The Mother of
Us All" and wish that
we could participate
in its publication but
at the moment our re-
sources are stretched to
the well-known breaking
point and we must
clear the decks of present
commitments before under-

and everything very
much this past year
but have had neither the
time nor the energy to
hope about my lot as
the farmer's wife. We
are finally pretty well
repaired and reacquainted
and the so-called grounds
are beginning to look as
though some one cares after
all. Never think of closing
your house for five years
as we did this one. It
was practically a mortal
blow.

2
taking any more - even
loans! Is it horrible?

We feel sure that by now
you will have found twenty-
five and more good friends
who are in a somewhat
less complicated state.

Certainly the audience at
the Saturday matinee,
for which we went down
specially, looked both
madly enthusiastic and
instantaneously solvent.

I have missed every body

Best love from Jim
and
Kelli

Fannington
June 4th

1220 Park

[1947]

Theo Darling,

Here is the check for
our part of the loan. We are
very pleased to give this, though
in our new financial setup we
sort of scraped the pennies together.

Let us see you soon, my
dear, it is too long since you have
been here. The prospects are
better though since the boys
will be off by June and

Donald Oenslager

SUITE 1806 • TIMES BLDG.
1475 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY
LOngacre 3-7165

June 10, 1947

Ans. June 16

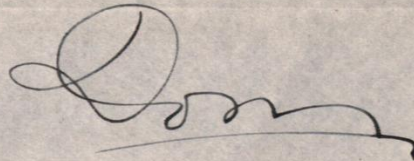
My dear Theodate:

No, I have not forgotten the publication of the Stein-Thompson opera. It has been on my mind ever since you called me.

The sad thing for both me and the publication fund is that I have just made out my income tax check and find that for this quarter I am at the bottom of the barrel. Also Zorka and I are about to take off for Colorado Springs and Central City for six weeks and that is always a financial hazard. If on my return, the fund is still in need, I shall try and see if I might help. In any case, please put me down for a copy.

With best regards,

Sincerely,



TEL. 2191

OAKHURST
WHITINSVILLE
MASS.

[June 11, 1947]

My dear Mrs Johnson:

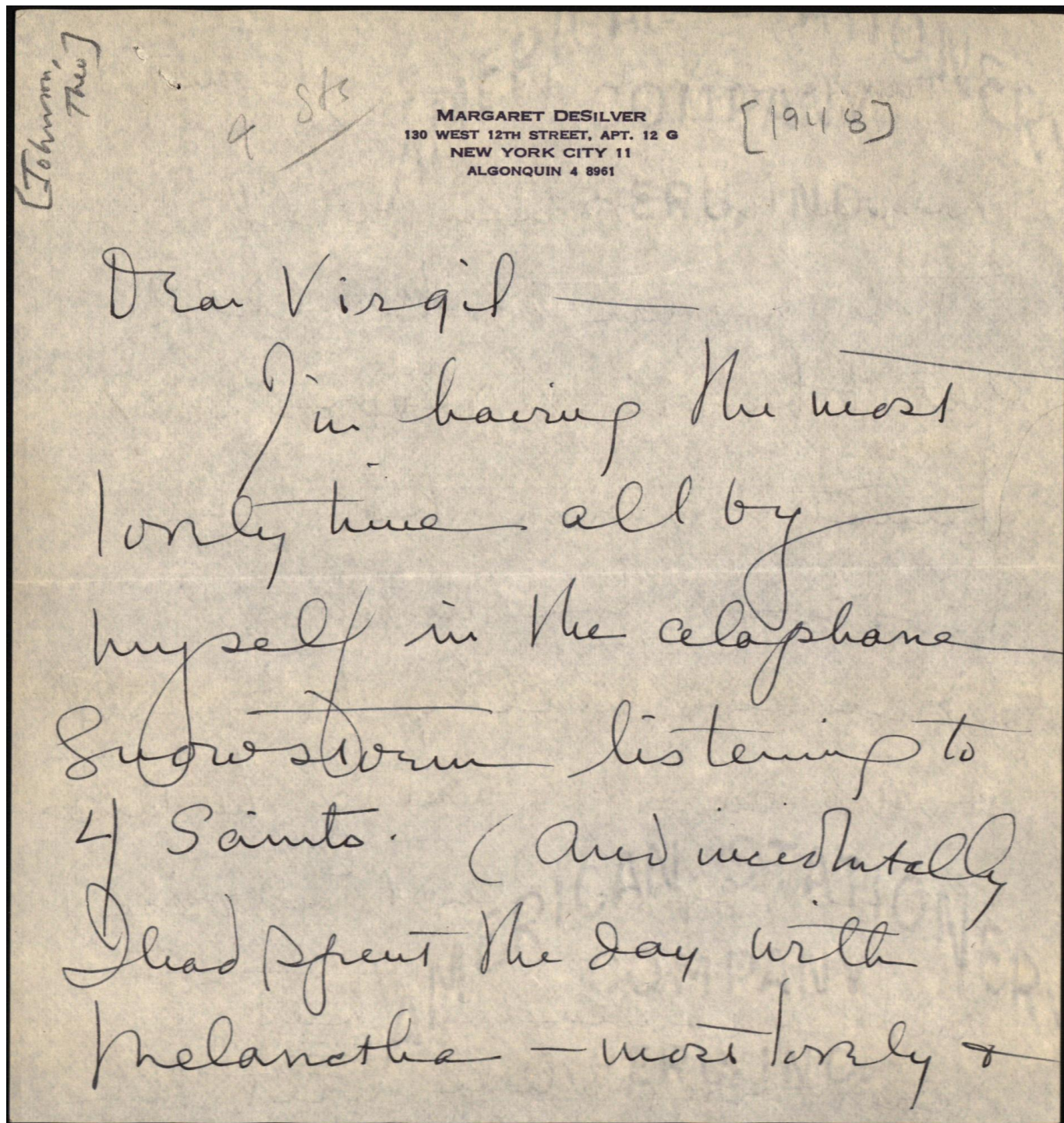
You must think it strange that I have left your letters so long unanswered. I have not been well & have left much undone - at present can't comply to your request - I was sorry not to hear the Opera, it had some very good voices & I hope Berqils friends will make up the quota to have it published -

I havint heard from Berqil for some times, & for all I know, he may be in Paris -

I am just-off to Maine
to avoid the hot-weather?
it certainly has been a
dreary wet-cold month
so far - Thank you for
remembering me & I
may be of some help
later on -

Very cordially yours
Jessie K. Lasell

June 11th
1944



touching) & what I want to
know is when will

The mother of us all
get to be on record?
Must it first have a

Bowyer production?

(Maybe Billy Rose will
take care of that if he takes
your excellent advice)

And speaking of that
repertoire, there will be

MARGARET DESILVER
130 WEST 12TH STREET, APT. 12 G
NEW YORK CITY 11
ALGONQUIN 4 8961

Management send me
my tickets for the opening
of the Rape of Lucretia
which I had already sent
in before I received a very
sweet appealing personal
printed form asking me
please to do so!

Anyway, 4 Stes in Roy
Patis factory even without

Dear lovely Delicious Florine
Anyway, from where I sit
you're OK, both your music
& your words (quite apart
from Stein's words)

Gratefully
M.E.

Sun. eve.

Find
other
sheets



CARLTON HOTEL
CANNES

This Johnson?

Feb. 19, 1949

Dearest Virgil,

Please forgive this little scrawl
but I was stricken acutely ill a
week ago to-day, this is the first
day my temp. has been normal since
then and I feel like a cork-screw
made of wet cellophane! It was
merely the epidemic influenza which
I thought I had finished with in Paris
weeks ago. But that turned out to have
been merely a mild fore-runner. ... I
was lunching in the sun on the terrace at
Monte Carlo when suddenly I was shaken
with chills and prostrating pains in all
my bones. No ordinary gripe ever gives
me a temperature but in this attack
it went up to 103 so I was filled with
penicillin and sulfa drugs. But the chief
distinction of my attack was that instead

of being the usual bronchial or
intestinal variety it settled in my
nervous system. So for two $\frac{1}{2}$ days
all the pain was centered in my head
and I really thought I should go crazy
if my brain didn't stop pushing through
my scalp. I was convinced I had
brain fever but the curtest old English
doctor assured me that that exists
only in novels to kill off heroes. It
is rare, now that it is rare, having had
something mildly spectacular except
that one has to be terribly careful
afterwards not to relapse and get
all the other varieties as well.

24 hrs later,
at this point I went into a stupor
of sleep and only now have regained
enough energy to continue this
boring document. I am so tired
of being in this damn hotel room all
this time when I have a perfectly
good villa at the Cap d'Antibes to



Image 127

Image ID: 32234600



454
 Little Fankhaus
 Waco Nerts.

Friday April 18^B [1952]

Dearest Virgil -

I finally accomplished today what I should have done as soon as I got here. Namely, I saw David Webster in his office at Covent Garden. So many people said that Covent Garden would never play host to an outside "troupe" etc. etc. But when all other avenues proved dead ends I called Webster. By that time he had gone away for an extended Easter and only returned yesterday. He couldn't have been nicer and has not turned us down flat which is hopeful. He has asked to think it over until the middle of next week. He is very eager to put

put "Four Saints" on but under the existing tight financial circumstances he dare not take any risks. So I stuck my neck out and said that I personally could guarantee a brilliant gala evening with every seat sold — under the sponsorship of I.C.A. and the American Embassy.

I talked with Nicky Tabakov on the telephone a week ago. He said it wouldn't make a difference if you all (not you, personally) flew back from London or Paris. So what Weekler is cogitating principally is a matter of a date. I gave him between June 16th (have been having a voluminous correspondence with Anatole Heller) and July 10th. He wanted to know how big an orchestra you needed and how many rehearsals — I said I thought you could do it with three

but it was nice to have as many
as possible. I know he is
sorely tempted. He adores Florence's
pictures and is enchanted with the
idea of her sets. And he has had
a score of "Four Facets" in his own
library for many years.

So - oh - now all we can do
is sit tight and hope he can
find a date and persuade the
Rep Council and various government
people that it's a MUST. I'll
cable you at the Irish when I
get a definite answer which might
be shortly after this reaches you.

I yearn to know how the
opening went. I shall have to
wait in patience until May 30th
and June 2nd. I have booked four
tickets for each of those evenings
through Mrs. Keller.

However I thank you for all
the wonderful evening we had together
during my New York "vacation"! I
shall never loved being with you
more and I treasure every one of
our visits and musical evenings
and gastronomic treats.

Your room is being got ready
in anticipation of your stay in
July and/or August. I got a "mummy"
picnic next week (The cottage wouldn't
accommodate anything larger!) and
am starting now on getting a well run
kitchen. We are also hoping to have
an Italian houseman to help me
housekeep. It's a terrific job trying
to do it all alone and I refuse to
scamp floors!

Now is the "Garo Harp" leaving?
That was a brilliant ending to my
generous trip. London and the
countryside is unusually quiet
by comparison. I returned in a

howling blizzard but Nature has
made up for herself handsomely. We
have ~~bright~~ uninterrupted perfect
spring days — cloudless skies, warm
days, fruit trees bursting out and
our front yard a carpet of daffodils
and narcissus. It will be Strawberry
season when you come!

The records came over intact
and with no duty but our machine
has not yet got the right electrical
adjustor and I've been frustrated
in leaving a single one so far.

Jon's sculpture competition is
successful beyond anyone's wildest
guess or dream. The world wide
response is terrific — over 2000
entries so far. Surely out of all
that there should be 10 good ones!
He has been swamped with work
and has even drafted me as a
part time filing clerk. Let hope
the success keeps up!

I haven't given you the details
of what I tried to do for "4 Saints"
- that is water over the dam and
I'll tell you later about it all.
I do so wish I could have been
with you these past two weeks.
I hope it is proving of interest
and joy to the ANTA public as
well as the current carrying trade.

Much love to you and endless
gratitude -

Devotedly,

Theo

P.S. Thank you for referring to
your musical friend from Europe
on the occasion of the "Don Carlo" review.
Indeed, she was much impressed.

P.S. - Thank Leroy for all his part in these
nameless dinners we had together!

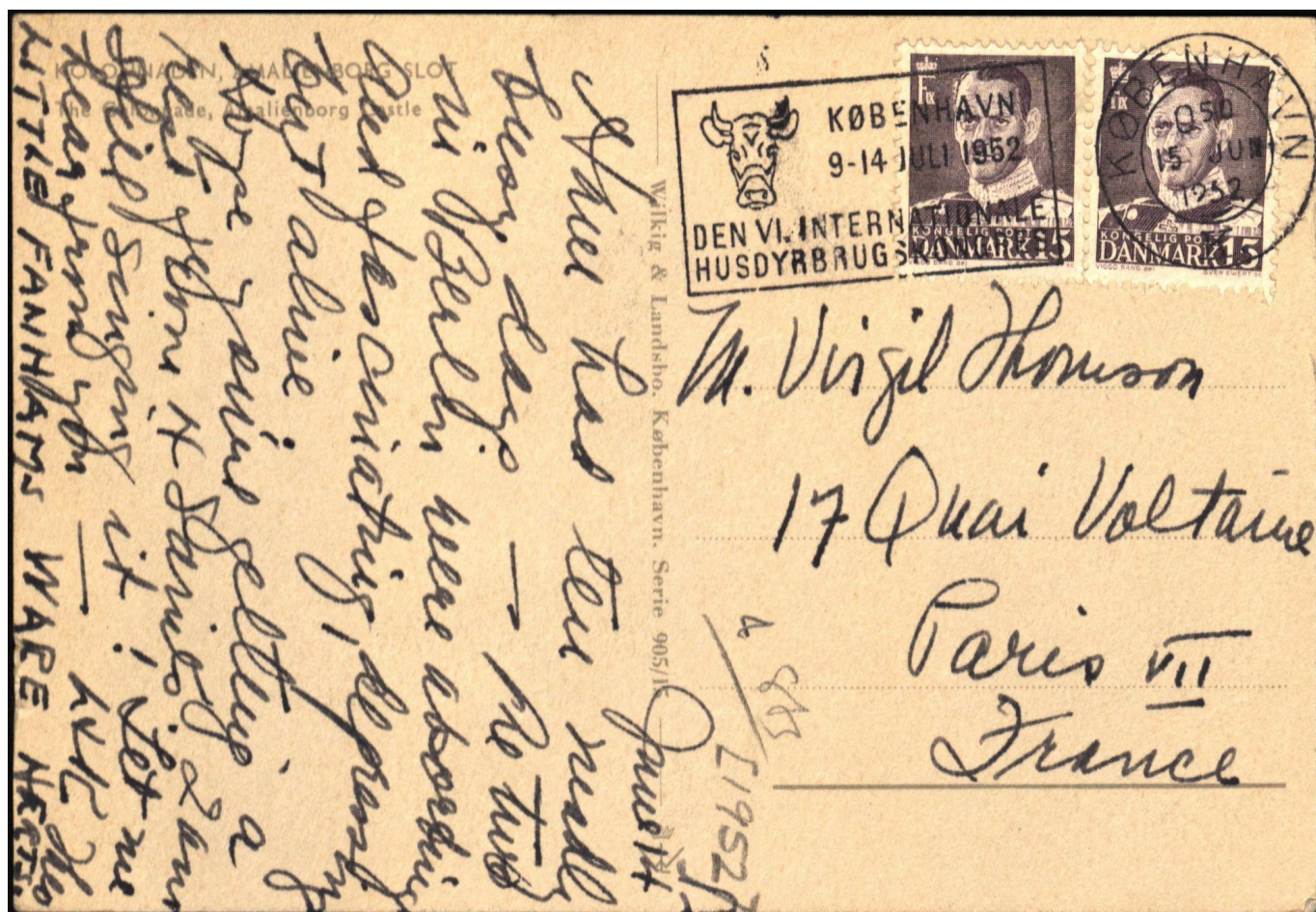


Image 135

Image ID: 32234608



Theo

October 28, 1952

Dear Theo:

Sorry you have been sick but delighted that you have a London flat for the winter. I arrived in New York on September 22 with 18 packages, including the big Berard. My ballet, which Agnes de Mille had made out of the Cello Concerto and the Hymn Tune Symphony, opened on October 1 and seems to have been a success. I conducted it on the 9th at the Metropolitan in an American composers evening with Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein and Morton Gould. On the 10th Mack Harrell and the Philadelphia Orchestra did my Blake Songs (on the 14th in New York and later in Washington and Baltimore). On the 22nd Vera Franceschi did the first performance of my Second Book of Piano Etudes. All these had wonderful press. I am now writing an orchestral piece to conduct in Dallas on December 10.

I went to Pittsburgh to see mother, who has not been well at all for three months. Now she is a little better, but she is feeble. I think she has something in the gall bladder; but we do not have to put her through excessive diagnostic procedure, since an operation would not be possible in her present condition. She was cheerful and asked me all about your life in England. I shall go to see her again at the end of November. This is all for now. I just wanted to say hello and to let you know that everything buzzes along quietly and busily. Wendell is back with me, and that makes me very happy. Geoffrey is in semi-retirement on the paper. Jay Harrison has been made music editor, Perkins being rewarded for his long service by having all that responsibility lightened. He is still with us, however, and writing excellent reviews.

Love ever,

Ther

35 Milton Crescent

S. W. I. -

November 27^B - [1952]

Rosil darling -

I was so pleased to have direct news of you and learn that all goes so successfully and happily this fall season. Would that I could have heard the Blake song and the Traucheani performances.

And ever so many thanks for the special envelope full of details about the opening of the New Year. Naturally I devoured every word and all the pictures - and wishfully wished I might

have been present with you.
I fly home for my annual
"do" on January 15th. The opening
of the American preliminary
Sculpture show takes place under
Alfred's direction at the Museum
on Jan. 20th. That gives me an
excuse to stay in and around
New York for at least a week
before my necessary two
weeks in Cleveland! This time
I am committed to give a concert
on February 6th there so I must
needs be on my "best behavior"
most of my stay! While in
New York I'll be at 106 E. 56th St.
or in New Canaan. And I
fly back February 17th.
Naturally, I am hoping that
you'll be in the east while I am

in New York and not away on
lecture tour! We have much
to catch up on.

You are probably in Pittsburgh
this Thanksgiving with your
father. Dad, but mine has
exactly the same difficulty as
yours. There isn't a thing to be
done as an operation is impossible
at this stage. All we can hope
is that they won't suffer unduly.

I am fine. Once again, and
thrilled to be in London. Tony is
in Italy this week attending his
Italian preliminary show. I've
just seen Alex Smalley who
lives around the corner while
here for "Porgy and Bess." Price
and Warfield singing like angels
and captivating London. We had
some of the cast at an I.C.A. party

last Tuesday. At present it looks
as though they'll be here for coronation.
Have also seen Sir T. and Betty
several times. Unbelievably he
is younger than ever and conducting
better than ever. At his last
concert he did a "Byron symphonic
poem" by Arnell that was fascinating
as well as a brilliant piano concerto
of Rawsthorne.

Delighted to know Wendell is
back with you — That's really
old home week and I'll be
glad to see him, too!

May all go well in Dallas
on the 10th. You can tell me
all about — I hope — come
January

Love always —
Theo

Johnson

1952

London -

Wednesday, Dec 21st

Welcome back, darling!
We arrive at the Hotel
Puei Vallaire a week
from today - we are
driving and leave
Dover on the early
morning boat.

If there is a
possible chance, could

you have dinner with
us that night?

I have such wonderful
things about the
production I can
hardly wait for the 30th.
And best of all will
be to be with you
again —

Love — until
the 28th —

Theo
Hope you had a good crossing —



Image 144

Image ID: 32234617



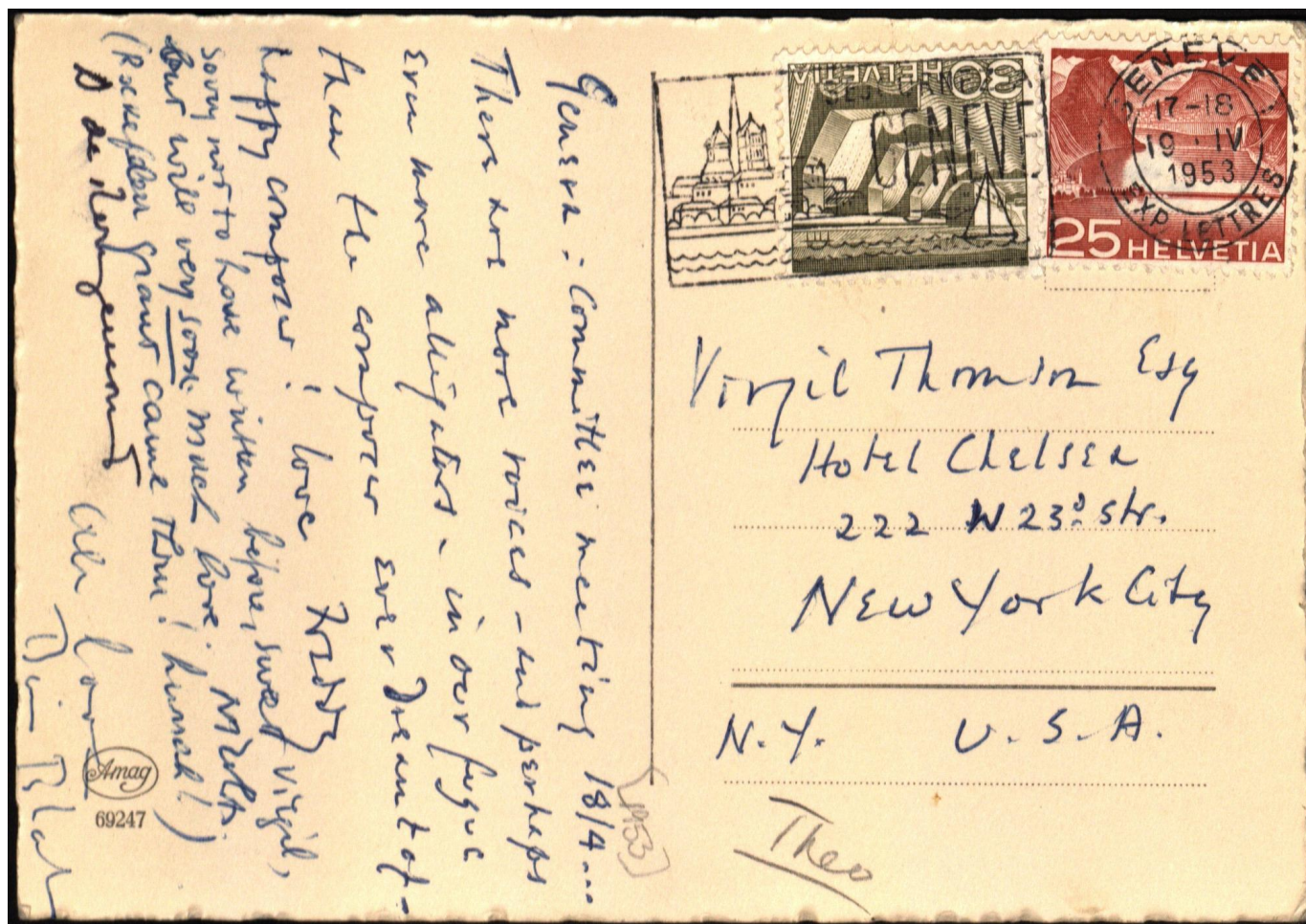


Image 146

Image ID: 32234619



Image 147

Image ID: 32234620

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W. P. MARSHALL, PRESIDENT	
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P-YXYO45 MIN NL PD=KL NEW YORK NY 14=	
VIRGIL THOMSON=	
HOTEL CHELSEA 222 WEST 23 ST NYK=	
THRICE WELCOME HOME HAVE MISSED YOU MAGGIE AND I WANT TO HONOR YOU WITH A PARTY AFTER STADIUM CONCERT TELEPHONE PLAZA 3-7999 WHEN POSSIBLE LOVE =THEO=	
THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE	

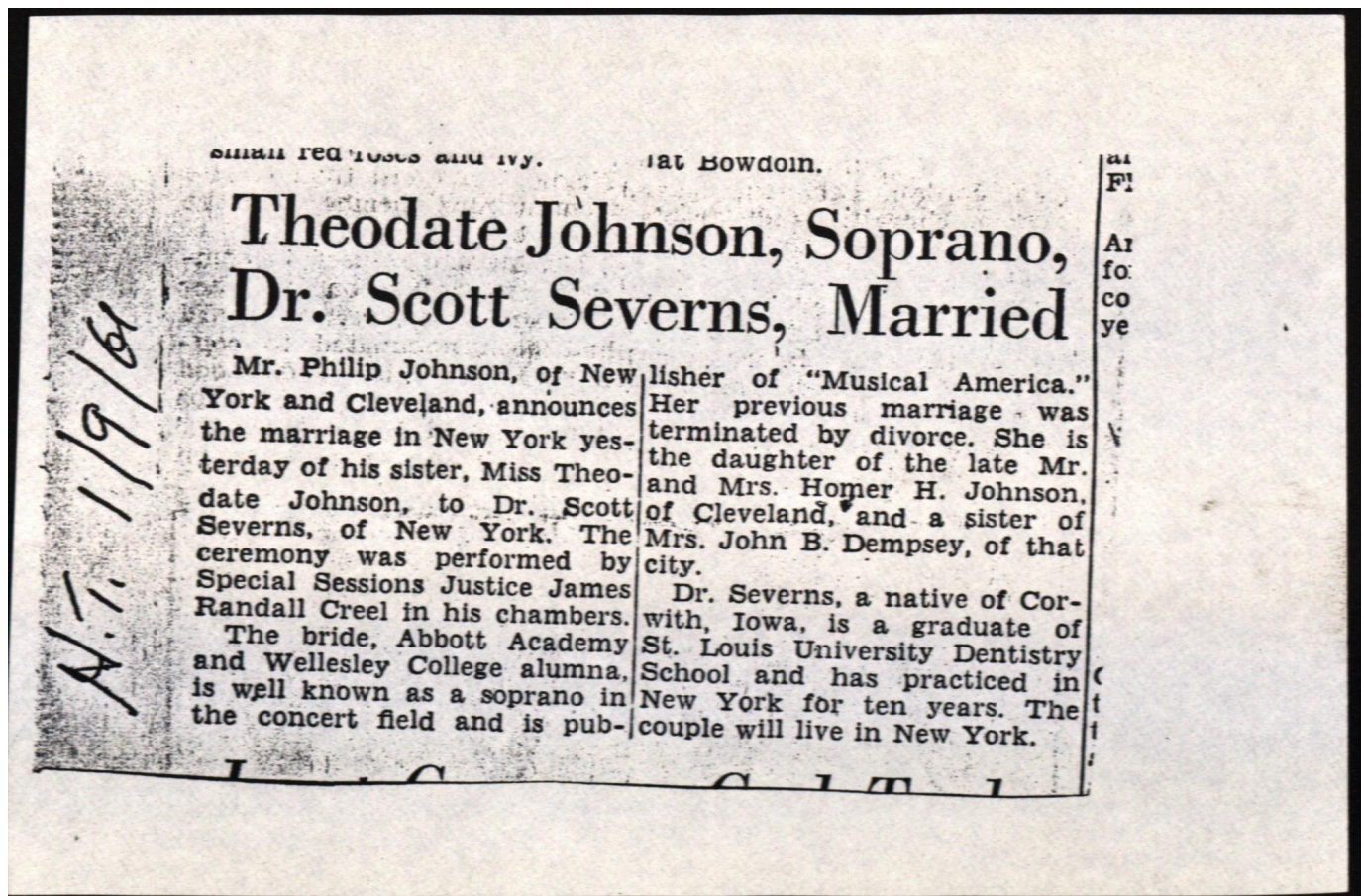


Image 149

Image ID: 32234622

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Johnson

A138 SYA438

SY GDA055 PD=GD NEW YORK NY 31 446P EDT=
VIRGIL THOMSON=
HOTEL FONDA SANTA FE NMEX=
=HAVE YOU FOUND US A RIVIEWER? ANXIOUSLY YOURS LOVE=
=THEO ••

1962 JUL 31 PM 2 03

gl

[Johnson, Thelma]

Donald Oenslager

SUITE 1915 - PARAMOUNT BLDG.
1501 BROADWAY - NEW YORK CITY
LONGACRE 3-1531

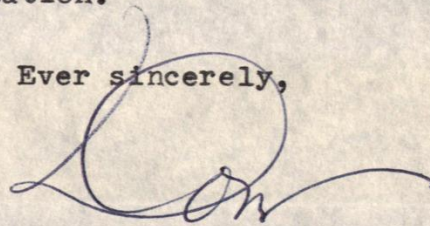
October 22, 1968

Dear Virgil,

I do want to tell you in behalf of the Inauguration Committee for Pratt how much spirit your anthem gave to the Inauguration of Jim Donovan in the Brooklyn Museum. All agreed that it is a beautiful work and how wonderful it is that your anthem will be heard through the corridors of Pratt down through the ages!

I am only sorry that you were not able to be there to hear the orchestra play it for the first time. We all thank you for your splendid work and are most grateful to you for your contribution.

Ever sincerely,



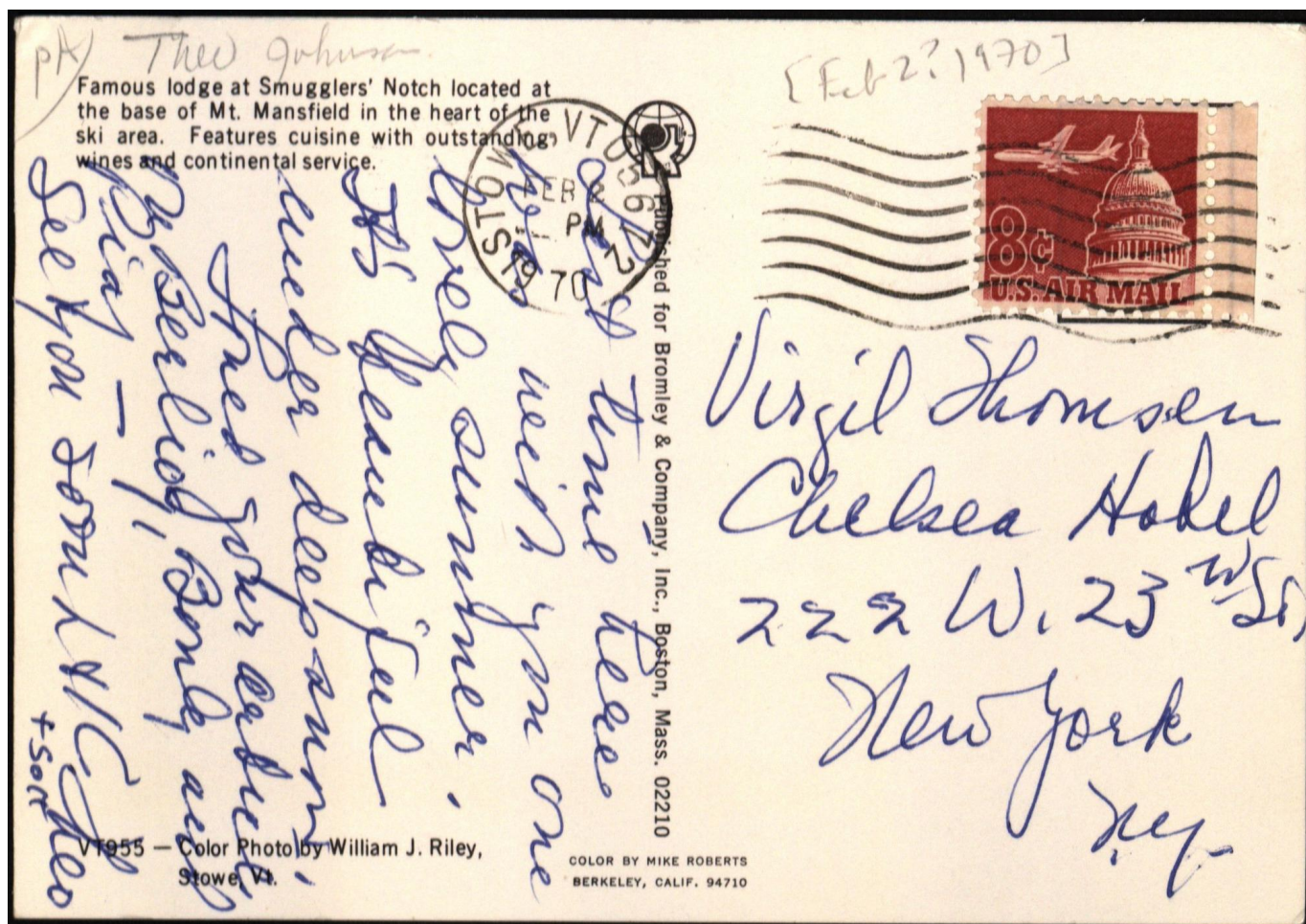


Image 152

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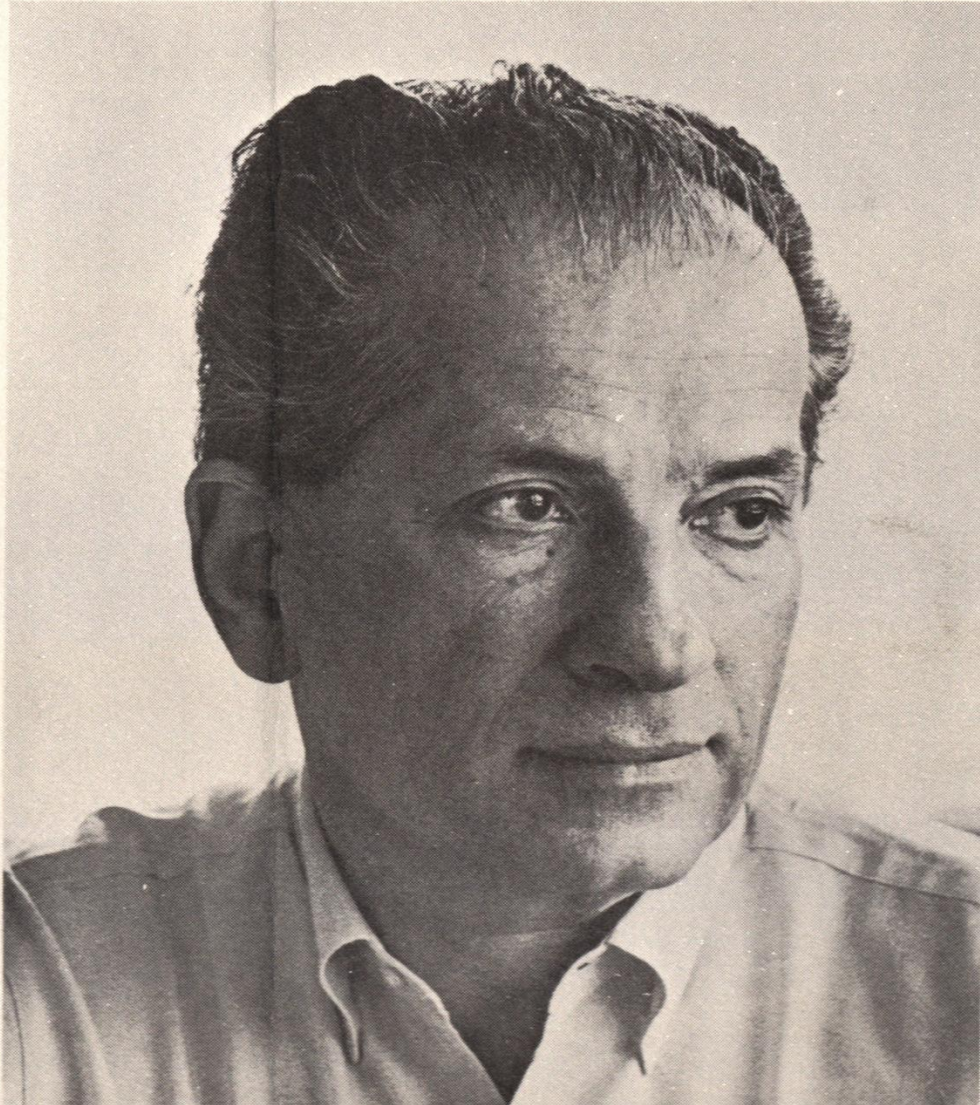
PA
 Theo Johnson
 76 [A71]

Dear Virgil —
 Just a follow up
 after our long and
 exciting night the new
 Hamak last spring —
 should wish your new
 book — Thanks for me.
 special one just for
 going to Marakosh for
 two weeks — See you in
 April —
 Love —
 Love —
 Headak

Theodate Johnson

Teachers College Columbia University presents

MUSIC OF
ELIE SIEGMEISTER



THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1971, at 8:30 P.M.
HORACE MANN AUDITORIUM
120th Street and Broadway

Tickets: \$2.00 (\$1.00 for students) at the door (Donation)
For inquiries address Theodate Johnson, 1 W. 72nd St., N.Y. 10023
Telephone 212 874-6950

[Johnson, Theodore]



RUTGERS COLLEGE • DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC • NEW BRUNSWICK • NEW JERSEY 08903 • 201/932-7541

28 April, 1978

Dear Mr. Thomson,

How lucky I was ~~that~~ Theodore Johnson asked me to accompany her to your last night's lecture.

And how very important it was to hear your summation of music in our times. Thank you for saying what has for so long been needed to be said - and to be heard.

Best sincerely,
Martin Berkofsky

10 B

MISS THEODATE JOHNSON

Vice President of the American International Music Fund, Inc.

Invites you to attend

THE SERGE and OLGA KOUSSEVITZY

A.I.M. FUND BENEFIT

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October 10, 1979

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HARKNESS HOUSE GALLERY

4 East 75th Street

New York City

Daily from ten to ⁶five o'clock

October 11th through ~~October 20th~~, 1979

Dec - 3.

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Stuart Pope

Bruce St. John

William Schuman

Carleton Sprague Smith

Henry Steinway

Virgil Thomson

MUSICIANS AS ARTISTS

Olga Koussevitzky

Enrico Caruso

Chaliapin

George Gershwin

Arnold Schoenberg

Lotte Lehman

Vladimir Golschmann

Harold Rome

Reginald Kell

Jean Morel

Emanuel Vardi

John Cage

Carl Ruggles

Willard MacGregor

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Tom Johnson

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Barbara Custance

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Irma Rogell

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Leopold Stokowski

Ada Calabrese

Harold Gomberg

Leonard Bernstein

Aldo Parisot

Stella Roman

Sviatoslav Richter

Frank Corsaro

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Misha Dichter

THE AIMS OF A.I.M.

The American International Music Fund, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization dedicated to the ideals of Serge and Olga Koussevitzky: to give recognition to composers during their lifetime, and to encourage a closer international understanding of contemporary music.

A.I.M.'s primary project is the annual Serge and Olga Koussevitzky International Recording Award, a cash award of \$2000.00 given in cooperation with High Fidelity/Musical America to the composer of a work of symphonic scope, first released on commercial recordings during the given year May 1 - April 30.

It is not possible to apply for this award. Recordings which qualify composers as candidates are automatically considered from the year's releases by a distinguished jury of music critics, editors and journalists.

The final judging is done at the end of each summer in an international locale by front-rank musicologists and critics from around the world.

Dear Virgil — Glad to
know you are back. Would
you like any more of these
for friends or would you
like to send additional ones
to me? Love, love — Theo