

York
11/30/82

Dear Martha et al -

This has been another of those perfect days in spite of the cold - ice on ponds and puddles all day but without a breeze, thank heaven. The frost is heavy enough to form on sidewalks and streets causing 'black ice.' When I came in from supper, the park benches were already white as with snow.

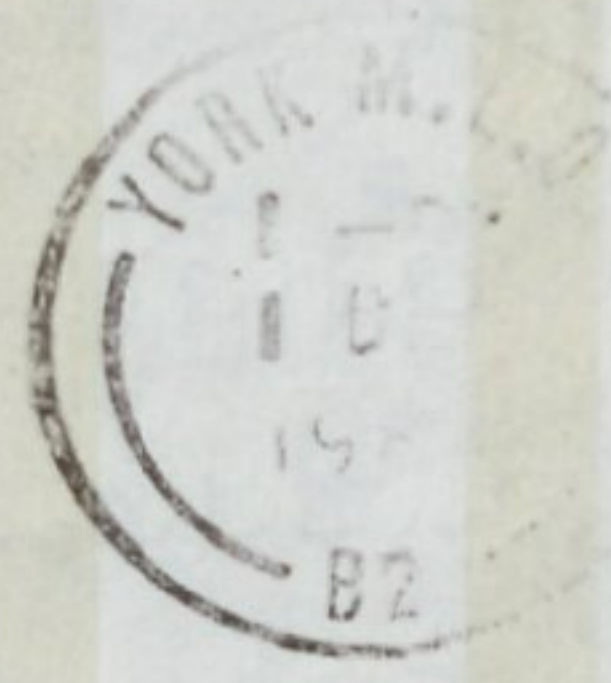
The sun peeped over the buildings about 9:00 through a clearing fog and was magical - the haze & frost. Took the bus to Beverley over J.H.'s downs. Spent the day in the minster - 4 1/2 rolls of film - all of insku, in carvings. St. Mary's Church supposedly has nearly as many but only breezed thru it. Reason seems to be because a regional minstrel's guild was based there, the mayor still uses their chain of office which was given to the city when the guild dissolved. Had lunch just up from the minster at 'The Tea Cosy.' Had Peculiar Casserole (made with Peculiar Ale), bread and butter and a pot of tea - paper doilies under cup & bread & embroidered & crocheted one under plate - in most delightful room for \$1.80 + tip. Such a difference in prices the farther north you go. On the ride back one of J.H.'s Yorkshire farmers said behind me for aways and attempted to carry on a conversation with me. Could get most of the shorter phrases but not much else. Sun gone behind buildings by 3:30. Rode home toward cantelope colored end of sunset. Arrived at 5:30 with 'harvest moon' over the Minster. Can't get used to these nights in the afternoon.

At supper across from York Minster to bell 'practice' in my almost private 'French' restaurant. Was no one else there when I was last night & had quite a chat with the waitress & proprietor. Was much later when I went tonight & she had asked him when she came on if I had been in today. They welcomed me home. People get friendlier once you get north, also. Had similar experience in restaurant in Norwich. Don't know why they bother to stay open at night when they can't be making enough to pay the staff. So I walked 'home' and started this before the bells stopped. Since I won't be here Christmas, I'm splurging now - color TV & my own bath & plenty of heat. Actually, nowhere I've been since people turned on the heat in Oct have I found it cold. Stomping around in cold cath. & minsters is something else though I could take off my scarf in Beverly. Am wearing heavy over the knee socks over my hose.

Not supposed to get out of the 20's tomorrow

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