

Untermeyer

[ca 1964]

RANDALL JARRELL
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GREENSBORO, NORTH CAROLINA

Dear Lois:

Thanks ever so much for sending
me your book; it was a great
pleasure to get to read it. I
knew a lot of the poems already,
but didn't know the Heine
monologue. Several lines from
your poetry-contest-in-Kansas poem
quite haunted me, in the way
a theme from a piece of music

will.

Mary and I certainly did enjoy getting to see you and your wife in Washington; we had a wonderful time. Everybody kept telling us what a good poetry consultant you were, and how much Washington was enjoying having you here for two years.

I really do mean to write

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a book for your children's
series. (I was delighted to
see the nice write-up of
it in Time.) Something funny
happened the last time I tried.
I've written an ordinary-length,
large-vocabulary children's
book that's coming out in the next
fall. I tried to think of a
book for you, and did; but

as soon as I started writing
on it it grew and grew,
like a snow ball covered with
three-syllable words; I've
written about twenty-five pages
of it, and it's still just
half done — it's named The
Bat-Poet. What I've got to
think of for you, it's plain,
is a plot that can't grow
big and need big words; I will.

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I felt as you did about
the poets at the festival; they
were even more than non-
poets, if that's possible.

I'm eager to see your new
anthology; I certainly (this
is one of those I loved to see
you play Methusalem when I
was a little girl remarks)
grew up on your old ones.

If you ever come South to
make a lecture or read poems
do visit us; we'd love to
get to see you. Or if you
and your wife are ever
making a trip in a car why
not drive by Greensboro? —
it's a pleasant trip from
Washington.

With all best wishes,

Yours,

Randall