

I've just seen quite a lot of Mackie at the Starrs and in Boston--we even got lost on the strategic highway to Concord and Bedford. She seems in very good shape in deed and happy about teaching in Connecticut--she'll ^{BE} in be in charge of a whole dormitory of your Girls in a Library, teaching them a Modest Proposal.

Liked your Red review; ~~I'd just finished a rather drawn version of the~~ Before I read yours, I'd just written a rather drawn out version on the same lines for Ransom. I'm quite ~~###~~ bowled over by Berryman's Anne Bradstreet and wish I'd written it. By the way our house is unintentionally where Alden Standish and the Winslows first settled. But I'm all for the living against the dead, and have dreams of buying my seventeenth century furniture in Holland rather than on the Cape.

My love along with E's to you and Mary,

CAL

Dear Randall: I've read all your essays over time & time again in the magazines & now I've read them in book form twice. They are certainly extraordinary - I always love everything you write. Looking forward to your novel. Will you all come to see us next summer in Wuxbury? You must, we want you so much & dream of looking up to find you skidding to a stop in your *MC (that from Robie) in front of our door. I want to meet Mary. Hope the Greenboro term of duty is pleasant.
Affectionate greetings to both of you,
Elizabeth

* I NOW HAVE A 1936 SOUP GREEN PACKARD AND HAVE DRIVEN THOUSANDS OF MILES IN THE FOUR I'S IOWA, ILLINOIS, INDIANA AND OHIO.

Lowell
232 Summit
Iowa City, Iowa

Sept. 22nd

[c. 1953]

Dear Randall:

My first business letter to you. Giroux suggests that we do a big joint anthology to replace Untermeyer. It would start with Hardy and Robinson and end with ourselves and Thomas. We would put the poets with smaller selections at the back not however with the designation "minor". Each poet would have a paragraph or two of descriptive comment--much less than Untermeyer--more or less on the lines of the Stock series of French anthologies, if you know them. We would make immense selections ^{i.e., 30 POEMS} from Yeats Hardy ^{ETC.} and there seems to be a chance that we might get them if HB offers MacMillan a royalty rate. The book might be a big commercial success, so they think, and bring us a thousand dollars or so a year. The text-book department seems (with a little determined prodding) amenable to giving us a free hand. I suggest that we each make out a sketch of table of contents separately in the next month or so and then compare and then send them one. We ought to be close enough to make joint editorship possible. ^(I THINK IT SHOULD ALMOST AS LONG AS UNTERMEYER, BUT WITHOUT JUNK.) Poetry and the Age is terrific, and I think that after another book or two you will be with Eliot and Arnold--this by the way seems to be what everyone is thinking though often unwillingly and with abstruse qualifications. Saw one of the chapters you sent Rahv. Unlike ~~the PR boys~~ ^{THE PR BOYS} I think it is not only powerful and wounding but also will make a wonderful new kind of novel. I'm sure you are biologically immune from discouragement but for God's sake don't let anyone talk you down--you've got hold of some very new, possibly your best work.

I'm in seventh heaven because I've just bought a 1740 house WITH a 1950 oil furnace in Duxbury Mass. We plan to go there in February if I can get out of Cincinnati. My one semester appointment here is permanent, so we're set for life--like Racine before he'd written the verses to Phèdre.