

Mrs. Katherine Weber
108 Beacon Road
Bethany, CT 06524

2/14/94

Dear Kathy,

They are two beautiful girls, they look like happy ones, and we are glad you remembered us with that best kind of Valentine's day card.

I've wondered from time to time how your writing in Ireland went. ^I hope ~~will~~ well.

Selections from my first five books have just been published, Carroll & Graf/Richard Gallen, with no advertising or promotional efforts of which ^I know. I have another one, which is to say about a third of the ms., I think will be out in April and another due I think in September. I've not been told and I've not asked. My purpose has been to make a record for our history and with deposits outside the books, it will be available for the future. Not that it is not better in books. I'm hoping that the September one, which could have been out last july, is not cut as heavily, I think for the purpose of lowering manufacturing costs. My history professor friends are high on both. Both ~~ser~~ ^{were} rushed to get it on paper.

Not long ago I was sent of Times of London Literary Supplement clipping, a review of a nutty book on supposed Soviet espionage. I'm not an expert on that but did know enough ~~ixt~~ to recognize it as a political diatribe rather than a serious study. Of which there are some fine ones. A picture in it reminded me of Sidney, so I'll tell you that story.

When my early submissions of Whitewash over here got either fine editorial comments or no negative ones, and in more than 100 rejections there was ~~an~~ not an adverse editorial comment, in 1965 Sidney tried to help me in England. Through his movie connections, in this case J. Arthur Rank, he knew a woman he told me had been a baroness and was referred to as that, Moura Budberg. She introduced the book to Collins. Collins went for it but got a bad report from ^Joh^N/Sparrow, warden of All Souls. I later learned he was a long-time spook. Sidney told me that Budberg was Rank's brains and that she had been the mistress of a great number of intellectuals and ^opolitical figures, including Rank. ~~No~~ indication of Sidney's involvement with her.

Lil was particularly pleased to get the picture and when she looked at it she exclaimed, "They are beautiful girls!" If one can determine such things from pictures, they look bright to me, too.

We hope this ^winter has not been as severe on you as it is over much of the east, including here. We've had no damage but have been snowed and iced in often, most of the time. The thoughtfulness of others has been meaningful and gratifying. When I was overdue for blood tests last Thursday and phoned the lab to see if it was safe there, it having been so icy in the recent past, the women told me to honk my horn and they'd come

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down and draw the blood with me in the car. Temperature 10 degrees, windchill below zero. I told them I'd try the other side of the building, where there is a canopied walk that was rarely icy and if I could not park there would return and honk. I had just opened the door to go into the building when one of the technologists was at the door telling me to take my jacket off. No overcoat, just in her uniform, with all the equipment. I persuaded her that the walk was safe for me and we went back in and she drew the blood. Bringing me a cup of coffee to drink while waiting the prescribed time to be sure I did not bleed.

Lil was with me. It made us both feel so very good- to have no children or grandchildren and to be treated by others like a favorite great-uncle or grandfather!

There ~~have~~^{has} been other fine assistance. Like the neighbor who calls me and tells me not to go out for the mail and for the papers because it is too dangerous for me and then gets on his ^{1 1/2} farmall tractor as old as you and brings them both, papers and mail.

When the windchill was too much for me to be out in and the closest parking area was too far from any entrance to the local hospital, another neighbor drove Lil and me there and back. Lil had a very successful cataract removal. If you know anyone with astigmatism and a cataract to be removed, they can now correct the astigmatism with the implant of the synthetic lens, the lens on the eye coming off with the cataract.

We both have our birthdays in April. We'll then have accumulated 163 years between us.

Our love, and to your mother, too,

Harold

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S
DAY!**

LUCY AND CHARLOTTE, JANUARY 1994

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Bethany, Connecticut 06524