Lord
Make me
An Instrument of
Thy Peace
January 5, 1956

Dear Mrs. Raymond,

The more time one has, the less one gets accomplished. I have been very busy in my case. The vacation has ended, and I still have not written to you how pleased all of us were that you arranged to come out again. How much we appreciate the gifts you brought: the framed pictures, the first and Odyssey, and the specially wrapped Christmas gift book, "The Bookman's Bedlam" by Blumenthal. I have read half and there is the book and find it very informative as well as interesting. The plates show us clearly special features of some books. Of course, that one chapter on books not for thin-skinned people made me decide I would not even want to own one of the books.

Our Superior, Sister Gertrude, was greatly pleased at your thoughtfulness in preparing the pictures for her room in the new addition and wishes
me to express my gratitude to you.

Classes resumed yesterday, the 14th. Everyone is glad the first day is past; it's a little hard to get back into the routine after a vacation that is not long enough to do the things one would like.

Best wishes for the New Year to Dennis, your young companion of your visit here.

May your have a successful and blessed New Year in the prayer especially of the "Book Hookers!"

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Sister M. Rosal, O.S.F.
Copy of letter sent to Mr. John L. Raymond

Dear Mr. Raymond:

The more time one has the less one gets accomplished, has been very true in my case.

Here the vacation has ended and I still have not written to you how pleased all of us were that you arranged to come out again; how much we appreciate the gifts you brought, the framed pictures, the Iliad and Odyssey, and the especially wrapped Christmas gift book, The Bookman's Bedlam, by Blumenthal.

I have read here and there in the book, and found it very informative and interesting. The plates so clearly show special features of the books. Of course, that one chapter on Books not for thin skinned people made me decide I would not even want to own one of the books.

Our Superior, Sister M. Gerarda, was greatly pleased at your thoughtfulness in presenting the pictures for her room in the new addition and wishes me to express her gratitude to you.
The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
May He show His face to thee and have mercy on thee. May He turn His countenance to thee and give thee peace.
The Lord bless thee!

— Blessing of St. Francis.
any financial compensation for your injury—nor that it could ever compensate—and whether Deniz got anything for the car damage.

The Public Hall County Art Exhibit opens tomorrow evening with the presentation of awards. Our new house is really nearing completion now. Take the holidays Sister Claudi and I attended the Association of America College meeting in South Lorraine. It was profitable and inspirational. Each session began with

Jan. 21, 1956

Dear Mr. Raymond:

We are sorry to learn about the bad fortune suffered in the car accident on Dec. 23. Your letter was quite a shock. We hope and pray that you are really recovering of the many injuries. But as you philosophy, "Many frightful things might have happened." Your guardian angel was with you.

Whenever you are able, visit us and tell us more about it. I am wondering if the thunder got away, and whether you received
an invocation, very unusual in such a mixed group.

Rebek assured us all remember you in prayer.

Kind personal regards from all the Rock Hookers and especially yours sincerely,

Sister Mary Elda

Please excuse change in pen and ink. The "Parker" refused to work anymore.
J.M.J.F.  Joliet, Illinois
January 29, 1956

Dear Mr. Raymond,

Sister Aurea just told me that you were in an accident on your way home that day you visited us here at the Convent and the College. I can't tell you how sorry I am about this, Mr. Raymond. I feel especially bad because you met with the accident through doing us a kindness. I wish I knew more of the details. Were you in the hospital for Christmas? That would be a pity! Be sure if we had known it earlier we would have written you.

I will go on praying for you every day--and though I felt bad when I heard the news, I thanked God you were not killed. Please do get entirely well,
and let me know how you are at present. Don't put it off, please -- I shall be waiting anxiously for word.

May God bless and keep you.

Sincerely,

Sister M. Hermine O.S.F.
A Get Well Wish for You!
Dear Mr. Raymond,

This wish is such a lucky one—
It's certain to come true
And make you feel just swell again
And just as good as new!

Such a great shock— but yet we are happy and grateful to know you're out of the "mad."

Sister M. Chrysanthia
Sister M. Anna
March 5, 1956

Mr. John L. Raymond
255 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond,

The Interlude was delayed several days before being sent to you, because I had hoped to write at the same time. It would have been but a short note so I finally sent it on.

Now another Interlude has come out, but I must send it more promptly — so here it is. As you can see from both issues of the Interlude, the schedule is really filled with activities each weekend: Mariology Commission meeting, Science Fair, Parents' Day, etc. Of course, the faculty are involved in one way or another.

I read your letter to Sister Beatrice. All of us are very happy to hear of your continuous recovery. Yet, I am sure you will feel some effects for quite some time in the future.

I received the two books, Mr. Revere and I, by Robert Lawson and Silver-Sand and Snow, by Eleanor Farjeon. Both are delightful reading for older people as well as younger ones.

You may be pleased to hear how useful the Spectator Papers are to the English classes. Just now, Sister Chrysanthia is studying that period in literature, and the eight volumes enlarge so much on the books in the general collection.

Lent is passing very quickly, but if well spent, will bring a happy Easter.

Best wishes from each of the "Book Hookers".

Yours in the Sacred Heart,

Sister M. Aurea, O.S.F.
April 25, 1956

Mr. John L. Raymond  
255 East Illinois Road  
Lake Forest, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond,

It is about time that I write to you again. The intention has been there since Easter. My procrastination is becoming worse as the days slip by. It also has been a daily reminder so that you have been in my thoughts frequently.

How are you since your accident? I do hope you have fully recovered and have no ill effects. All of us feel so badly about it since it was the end of your kindly visit to us, and that we learned about the accident so long after. As I recall, the building project had us practically out of a home for the time.

I received the two books, In Noah's Ark, by Rumer Godden, which is quite unusual and interesting reading, and The Rime of the Ancient Mariner, by Coleridge. The book is attractively illustrated making the poem very vivid. It recalled memories when I took a course in the Romantic Poets. Our professor greatly satirized the poem.

I took the book over to show to the Book Hookers and immediately Sister Chrysanthia requested it for the afternoon English class. She was just having Colerige at that class period. It came at a very opportune time. Sister Elvira also requested it; it will be useful in the library science course.

We are now living in the new addition for some time. The first ones moved over March 7th. The moving continued until each was in her room. During Holy Week, the first floor was prepared, and we had our first meal in the new dining room on Easter morning. I can't begin to tell you how wonderful it is.

Perhaps, now that the spring weather is near you will be able to plan to visit us again. It will be easier to show you than to write many of the details. Each of us will be looking for you some time in the near future.

Greetings and best wishes from the "Book Hookers".

Sincerely yours in St. Francis,

Sister M. Anna, O.S.F.
Lord

Make me

An Instrument

of

Thy Peace
July 15, 1956

Dear Mr. Raymond,

Despite the busy schedule -- library and teaching crowded into five weeks of the summer session -- I have been wanting to write to you sometime before the summer is over.

The majority of the college faculty are on the summer session staff. If you did not see it in the paper, you will be interested in knowing that C.S.F. received a check of $70,000 of the original amount from the Ford Foundation grant. The rest is to be given later. As you know, it is to be used for the education and salaries of teachers.

Needless to say, the book you sent early in June, Oedipus the King, by Sophocles, was greatly appreciated by the "Book Hookers". The wood engravings are lovely and make it a treasured book.

I am sure this time of the year is a very busy one for you and allows you so little for reading which, I know, you enjoy.

Prayers and best wishes from each of us.

Ever yours in St. Francis,

Sister M. Avelina, O.S.F.
September 25, 1956.

Dear Mr. Raymond:

The Deer Path Art League Festival folder which you sent looks as if interesting things are happening in that direction. Thank you for thinking of me and sending it.

I have met Mr. Pournier at art meetings and last winter we had him here as one of the judges for the Joliet-Will County Exhibit. His work should have interested me, too, I am sure. In fact, your note gave me the idea of inviting him to have an exhibition here. We have had Miss Grill’s (Barat art department head) art on exhibit here, so perhaps Mr. Pournier might consider it also.

We hope that you will soon find a little time to come and visit us. You know you are always welcome.

It was a pleasure to hear from you and delightful to know that you are a patron of the arts.

God bless you for your many kindnesses to us.

Sincerely in Him,

Sister M. DePalma, O.S.F.
October 24, 1956

Mr. John L. Raymond
255 East Illinois Road
Lake Forest, Illinois

Dear Mr. Raymond,

Though this letter is long delayed, I want to tell you we were very happy you arranged to visit us again and how much we enjoyed the day with you. I know your duties keep you occupied and difficulties prevent you from getting away, but I do hope your next visit will not be planned so far distant.

Thank you very much for the books you brought with you. I browsed through them and read a little from each, but as usual, time and work prevent me from indulging. On account of the preceding sentence, I am reminded to tell you what Mr. Dan Herr of Thomas More Bookshop spoke at the Illinois Unit of the Catholic Library Association. His topic was "What is Wrong with Librarians?". One was that librarians do not read enough. Well, we can all agree to that, but how will the other things get done if we do our quota of reading? It sometimes seems like a vicious circle.

The books you brought were quite varied and interesting. We are glad to add another of Father Knox's books, Retreat for Young People. The title should be "lay" people. I was thinking of our students who will get much good from that during their retreat. Edward Lear's Parrots, by Brian Reade has beautiful colored plates. I had no idea there were so many different varities and such different colors. Old Herbaceous, by Reginald Reade should be interesting to anyone who likes gardens. I had checked both Personal Remarks, by L. Strong and and The Oxford Dictionary of English Christian Names, by E. Withycombe for possible buying so I was happy to see these titles. I checked a review on Andersonville, by MacKinlay Kantor, in Best Sellers. It is limited to adults on account of language in parts. From the book jacket description and the review it seems it was much like the concentration camps of our day.

The books, Anthology of Japanese Literature, edited by Donald Keene; Laughter, by Bennett Cerf; Crowd Culture, by Bernard Bell; Death in Dwell Lane, by Frank Morley; The Letters of George Santayna and the Poems of E. Cummings were received through the mail. Also, thank you very much for these. I have not looked through these yet, but hope to do so in the future. I want to get this letter to you; I am going to St. Louis for a few days; companion only.

The Interludes give you the news on campus so I won't repeat. Kindest regard from each of the Book Hookers. By the way, Sister Elvira is at our new mission at Denver at present.

As ever yours in St. Francis,

Sister M. Antea, O.S.F.