January 20, 1951

Dear Sister Ewina:

Your letter re Drinkwater's book of delightful essays was appreciated. Just a few days ago I was fortunate in locating his very fine life of Byron. Really meant to post & insure it to you at once— but being, at heart, a charter member of Sister Chrysanthia's "Club of Book-Hookers" I did just that—hooked it. It is a well done book— not for the Aqueanish but for good reading. It is a splendid item. I'm making a few notes as I go along (it's a fat book!)
which we will discuss. It is a 
first, inscribed presentation 
copy — a jewel for your 
C.S.F. Library Room. As I date 
on, getting people curious (because 
I'm a confidential) you may mention that 
if all goes as planned, we hope 
to have a number of Drinkwater 
firsts — all in fine leather slip- 
cases and in random sizes — a 
treat for book lovers + each one a 
Collector's item — that should 
get a certain B. H. or just bubbling 
with the question, "What titles?" 
We won't say — just yet!

Most cordially yours,

John Raymond
February 3, 1951

Dear Sister Edna:

Given an urge for warmer weather, I shall drop in for a chat or books on Sunday afternoon. The 4th.
The latest addition of “firsts” is to be delivered personally to the C.S.F. library.

Most sincerely yours—

John Raymond

60 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago, 11, Illinois
Sunday evening February 14th

Dear Sister Elvira:

A short thank you note for a most enjoyable day.

And now my conscience bothered me on the score of taking so much of your limited free time. The enclosed folder is the one I promised to send.

Thank Sister Aniceta and all who were such gracious hostesses.

More about books soon —

Very sincerely yours —

John Raymond
Dear Sister Elvira:

Coming by insured post will be two little books for our collection of "Firsts", etc.

The S. Dominic's Press item is from the private collection of Alfred de Sauty who, until recently, was special binder in fine leathers for the R.R. Donnelly Company. He has returned to England to spend his declining years and his books have come on the market. I think you will agree that this is a little jewel of delight.

Number two is Drinkwaters' Cotswold Characters published by Yale U. Press -1921 and a first edition. Note reference to one of Masefield's characters on page 17. And do read Joe Pentifer and Son—page 47. The son got his proper deserts and I love old Joe for it.

As you may rightly guess, I have been browsing about book shops—delightful places—and the two items mentioned above have fallen into my net.

Other items are "on the fire" and when baked to a turn you shall hear from me.

The Interlude reached me and I hope that you do not get into trouble with the Postal Department—sending such a picture thru the mails. I enjoyed it, none the less, and did have a bang-up good time on my last visit.

My kind regards to all my book-worm friends.

Yours most sincerely,

March 15, 1951
Income Tax Deadline!!

P.S. Bookplate in Drinkwater is of Printing Executive, designer and adviser who has let some of his books "go to market".
Dear Sister Elvira:

By parcel post: Crosby Gaige presents Footlights and Highlights. You will recall my mentioning his "informal revue of his life".

I located a copy a few days ago and have pencil-marked a few pages—see page 199—Chapter 19 and then read on to pages 209-10—but here is the joy in the job—today, on my lunch hour, I strolled into a book shop and what did I locate but a copy of Old Mrs. Chundle in mint condition!! It is copy 625 of 700 and is a little gem—I hurried to "Footlights" as soon as I got home and marked the book for you. Mrs. Chundle has been "hooked" by J.R., but will very shortly get to her new and final home in Joliet at C.S.F.

Gaige's book is not Lenten fare, as to reading, but it gives an insight into the period which it covers and of the field of the Theatre.

There remain three of Drinkwater's firsts in the tan leather slip cases which I want for your collection—two are in my hands and I hope for the last and shall happily announce the fact of it dropping into my net. One of the most charming of the three I have read a number of times and shall pester Sister B. on the various references to playwrights in it. Title: Lines for the Opening of/

THE BIRMINGHAM REPERTORY THEATRE/

February 15th, 1913/

Spoken by/

BARRY V. JACKSON/

and written by/

JOHN DRINKWATER/

Privately printed/

1913

It is in brown paper covers with authors' signature plus N.Y. and 1925 on front cover and in all only about four pages.

Please inform Sister C. that I extravagantly broke loose and bought myself a leather bound edition of Lamb's Essays—forward by Augustine Birrell and with the famous illustrations by Charles E. Brock and I
do not regret the spending spree as it has to be "for keeps" and "it do look pretty" on my shelves.

When I bring Mrs. Chundle over, I suggest that you and Sisters A.B. and C. read it together, it is that charming. I have read it three times today and shall do so again before it leaves me—only about 26 pages and a Thomas Hardy first. All of this just to prepare you for a treat.


Like the well-known brook I will be going on for ever—so this is the end!!

Most sincerely,

March 21, 1951
60 East Chicago Avenue
Chicago 11, Illinois.

P.S. This typing is my own system—"peck & punch." Fort or equal to my hard playing!

P.P.S. A very Happy Easter!
Hugh Walpole, An Appreciation by Joseph Hergesheimer. George H. Doran Company, New York 1919. Paper binding. In slip case of mottled brown buckram with brown leather spine. First edition. This was not sold on the open market, but presented by various dealers to their favored clients. From the Crosby Gaige Collection.


"The last of the Gaige Drinkwater items (those in special slip cases) is in my hands + she'll be wrapped in a few days. May the C.S.J. Library continue to grow.

Sincerely, [Signature]

Read, April 21
May 5th, 1937

Dear Sister Emilia:

The April Fest was enjoyed. I'm very happy that I've been able to locate the books sent so far. Yes, I do Read some of your Modern Catholic Writers and think them excellent.
A small box of books is going forward today for your pleasure and enjoyment — others to follow shortly. I'm on the look-out for the two children's books you mentioned. Helen. Fear — I shall let you know what luck. Most friendly — John.
Ten Saints by Eleanor Farjeon with Illustrations by Helen Sewell.
1936 Oxford University Press
London-New York-Toronto

The Story On The Willow plate adapted from the Chinese Legend by Leslie Thomas with illustrations by the Author.
New York 1940 William Morrow & Co.

Cleveland, Ohio 1832. First-out of print.

The above books for children will fill a certain spot for "ideas" to those of your members who teach the young. The second and third I selected for my collection because they had unusual design and material.

The other items in this package are for the general collection of C.S.F. Library.
May 8, 1951.

Dear Sister Elvira: Just a
short note to say the last of the brown
leather flip-cased Drinker Water items
is on its way to C.S.F. It is an
oddment - rare and scarce - the second
item (Change of address card) was with
the program - from the Crosby Haig
Collection, of course. It has been fun
gathering these items, but now, as they are
gone, I shall look for new pastures to
feed on. More anon -

Most Sincerely -

John Raymond
May 18-1951

Dear Sister Elvira:

A pair of small packages on their way—The four cookbooks by Helmut Ripperger are firsts—also unique as he is a "quarter"

of literary tidbits. The other three are from that fine private press — The Colt Head — in San Francisco — one is a first. This is a digression from the strictly "Literature only" — but I'm sure there is a place in a library like yours...
Which must answer to so many departments - These are for the Domestic Arts division, very shortly I shall have a selection of reference books on Interior Design and Interior Decoration as well as some novels etc. that I think are of lasting quality for those who are doing work in that field of writing.

Dincerely yours,

John Raymond
Saturday, May 19

Dear Sister Elvira:

Yesterday pm.

See and a tour of book and antique shops. Who on your faculty wanted a copy of Hieroglyphics by Arthur Machen? It's out of print but I located a fair copy. After a peek, I'll send it your way and let you locate the Sister who wanted it. Ask Sister Chrysantho. A couple boxes will start in a day or so.

Most sincerely,

John Raymond.
A Small House In The Sun
by Samuel Chamberlain
Hastings House Inc., 1936. First edition of this fine photographic work.

And: Beyond New England
Original format—such is the item that are self-explanatory.

In 'Heads & Tales,' I heard 'Malvina Hoffman Lecture.' She fainted! More anon—

Sincerely yours—

John R.
May 24th 1951.

Dear Sister Elvira:

Small pack of 3 books going out today. Please note engravings in Homer (Folio Society) on Copper — very much like the work of Eric Gill. We will have a companion volume (same artist) shortly.

After graduation, etc., I am coming over to oil and clean your rare items in leather — have been "taking lessons"!

Yours Sincerely,

John Raymond.