January 17-1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

Just to enclose portion of the News book page.

A few books for the C.S.F. library are in hand— but, alas, have been "hooked"— and that means they will be delayed in delivery.

My kind regards to all members of the Book Hookers' Society.

Very sincerely,

[Signature]

John Raymond.
February 9, 1952.

Dear Sister Elena:

The enclosed review of Brook's 'The Confident Years' is the longest I've read, thus far—it's from the New Yorker. Said book is still "hooked"—I'll mail it to C.S.F.

Shortly, if the weather is on its good behavior on Sunday—the 10th—I plan on bringing over some items for the "Life". My good wishes to all the members of the Book Hookers' Society.

Sincerely yours,

John Raymond.
Sunday, March 9, 1952.

Dear Sister Eliza:

Please check the catalog for this: "Alice Meynell, A Memoir" by Viola Meynell, 1919.

Jonathan Cape, London. At first I had it reserved, & it is not in C.S.F. I have it reserved & if it is not in C.S.F. later in library, I'll obtain it. Later in the month I shall begin packing a few books that have been "sopping up." I'm just back from a lecture by ... Karl Steen (author of Pillars of Fate) which was interesting to the booklovers of the Booklovers' Society. Most sincerely yours, Jean Raymond...
Sister Mary Elvira, O.S.F.,
College of St. Francis,
Joliet, Illinois.
March 22, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

Please check or have checked the catalog on the following items:

Peacock Pie, Walter De La Mare  
A Chilmark Miscellany, Van Wyk Brooks.

My kind regards to the members of the Book Hookers' Society.

Most sincerely,

[Signature]

John Raymond
April 5, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

A first edition of the new juvenile, *Song of St. Francis*, is wrapped and is to be on its way to C.S.F. on Monday. The brochure on the Scully book on Mother Goose is interesting, as is the book itself. Have you seen a copy?

Will you please ask Sister Beatrice (I think she has a class on Shakespeare) if she would be interested in a set of same—the Booklovers Edition, of 1901? If a set is already in the catalog, you are free to say so, as I know how precious space can be in a crowded library. This is the edition in about twenty volumes, red buckram, with some interlining and some theatre bills pasted in some of the volumes—it is a set I have had for some time, but is in fine condition.

With Lent and Easter out of the way I plan on a long full day at the library and this time I am going to do some work and shall come prepared. Speaking of Lent, I must admit that I did get about to book shops a few times—but for such a good cause!! I have a couple items that will be of interest to the Book Hookers as well as others who like fine things.

Thank you for the Interludes which reached me today. I shall want to see the Art Exhibit of Landscapes and please save me a copy of the Summer School Bulletin.

My kind regards to all the Hooker Society members.

most sincerely,

[Signature]

John Raymond
Sister Mary Elvira, O.S.F.,

College of St. Francis,

Joliet,

Illinois.
April 30, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

The copies of the Interlude on the College have been received and enjoyed. I hope they bring great results.

A box of books will be on its way tomorrow. The little set of Poe is one I have had many years, the original covers were worn out and I had the rebinding in the blue leather. The two little cook books are a pair that my mother used in her own collection, they were originally in paper covers, so I had the more permanent cloth put on in 1936. You will note that the Wisconsin item is actually a bulletin of the State Department of Agriculture.

Just last night I finished reading your loan of Altick's The Scholar Adventurers and found it most interesting. I was astonished to learn how sure they are that Forman was "in" on the crooked deals of Thomas J. Wise. The old boy, Wise", really tops the lot. The miniature items of the Brontës intrigue me. I have never seen any of them, but have heard of the series. Altick will be returned to you with the next "shipment" going your way. Thank you for the chance of reading it.

The enclosed clipping on the latest Boswell book, in the Yale collection of papers, is from the Chicago Daily News of this date. I have not had a chance to look it over, but shall do so very soon.

I know these are busy days for all of you at C.S.F., but when you have the time, send me the Van Wyk Brooks list (in catalogue) so I can start looking for the necessary fill-ins.

My good wishes to all the Book Hookers.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]
May 5, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

Today I am wrapping and returning The Scholar Adventurers by Altick with my thanks. I enjoyed the book very much. It is interesting to consider how many people of some importance scurry about looking for clues and papers of every sort in the name of library research.

The copy of House and Garden’s complete guide to Interior Decoration is not in fine condition; it is the copy I have used a great deal and think your courses in Home Planning will find it useful. The Book Hooker’s delight in this parcel will be Aesop’s Fables, Retold, illustrated with woodcuts, and printed by Alfriede Abbe—1950 Ithaca, New York. This is number 165 of 500 copies, signed by the artists’ hand. The illustrations are printed directly from the blocks and they are splendid.

Later in the month I expect to get some more items packed and started your way, I have "hooked" them long enough.

All good wishes to the various members of the Hooking Crew.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]
May 25th, 1952.
Dear Sister Elvira:

The book described on the enclosed card is quite interesting—has been in my collection since 1943—and it should be in the R.U. at C.S.F. The Jolly Cartoon is from
The New Yorker— for the delight
of the Book Hookers' Society.

Mrs. Elizott sent me a note on
her visit to C.S.F. I am "Falling"
the College for her two daughters
in the future. My regards to the
book worms—

Best regards,

[Signature]
May 24, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

Thank you for your interesting letter of the 16th. I appreciate your offer of the use of your books and may make use of the opportunity when some special item comes up for reading.

During the week I sent a couple books Joliet-ward for your future attention-I say future because I know that these are busy days for all at CSF-and will have a little "peach" in the mail the first of the week. This is a copy of the World Edition of Hans Christian Andersens' Fairy Tales published in Odense, Denmark by Flensted-1950. The editor was Svend Larson, Director of the Andersen Museum of Odense; Translation by R.P. Keigwin, with the illustrations by Pedersen. The dust wrapper is a bit mauled, I did not do it, and was unable to get a clean one, but the book itself is in mint condition. You will find that some of the stories in this edition differ from those in many others. I still hope to obtain the famous six volume edition put out by the Limited Editions Club-it may be nearer than we think. Andersen has interested me for all the years I can recall.

With so much to read, I am just getting caught up on a pile of things--the best of which is Father M. Raymond's God Goes to Murderer's Row which held me spellbound and also gave me goose pimples at times. It is greatly worth reading a number of times.

The Book Hookers will be interested to know that I almost missed the boat on Lear's Nonsense--the dealer asked me look over a table of arrivals of out-of-print and special items:

Me: "Oh, I do not think they look too interesting to me, some other time".
Dealer: "Well, just take a moment, you need not look at them all".
Me: "Okay, just a fast peek and then I must get back to work".
Again Me: "Oh, look at this, the second book I picked up is one I have wanted for a long time-wrap it up and thanks for insisting that I look".

And so it goes, I cannot imagine any other hobby being so absorbing, but then, I may be narrow on the subject.

My best to the "Hooking Crew". Affectionately,

[Signature]
May 31, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

The Graduation issue of the Interlude reached me this evening and I enjoyed it greatly. Also extra copies of the issue with the Raymond Room item. I am sending one to my cousin who is a librarian at the University of Wisconsin Library.

Do we have a copy of Theodore Weld Crusader for Freedom by Benjamin P. Thomas in the CSF Library? It is a Rutgers University Press item of 1950 and has some historic interest. I have a copy and shall be happy to send it on. I am finding it quite interesting and I am surprised to learn that some of the Abolitionists were quite violent.

Also, I have a first edition of Damien The Leper by John Farrow-Sheed and Ward-1937 in the red binding—if you have it, you may want a second copy. Let me know.

Yesterday I had a good visit with Sisters Carmel and Hermina at The St. Boniface Convent. They told me tales of the early days of the Order—fascinating—some should be put in written form for future reference for a pageant or play.

Some books will be on their way shortly, I have not had the time to wrap them for parcels post, but shall make time.

All kind regards to the Hooker Society.

Most sincerely yours,

[Signature]
June 15, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

The address you wanted is enclosed. I do not know if the Ehrgott plans are all set, or not, but they could use some information on the Joliet Franciscans.

Thomas' Theodore Weld, Farrow's Damien The Leper are being routed your way the first of the week, plus a couple more that I think will make good reference works for someone doing papers on historic subjects.

Before many days I hope to have a very rare item for our Masefield collection, a single poem, printed in a program of the launching of a ship, with photographs of the King and Queen (George and Mary) and The Prince of Wales. I am trying to get more information on the launching and also will want the slip case cleaned. It is not from the Gage Collection, but some un-named New York man who has recently sold his library. I know you will all like it.

My gathering of extra-fine, rare, and special bindings in leather is growing slowly but surely, so that one day we will be able to offer a rather nice display of elegant leather work that will make the Hooker Society have sticky fingers. The said listing of bindings are still too small for a formal showing and a few are at the Binder now. More of that at a later date.

Having seen CSF in the throes of house-cleaning, I can well imagine what has been going on there. Let us hope that no one has developed an aching back. My kind regards to the Book Hooker Members and to you.

Yours very sincerely,

[Signature]

(over)


Miss Lynn Eshgott
336 1st Street
Lombard, Illinois

Since to Mr. A., 6-19-52)
July 8, 1952

Dear Sister Elvira:

Just a short note to enclose a copy of the listing of Catholic Colleges which was passed out at my parish recently, it is not new, but I have been laggard in sending it. A number of new additions to CSF Library are neatly oiled and wrapped and will be brought over personally in the near future. Packing, cleaning, detaching myself from, etc., the many and various items of years of collection, has kept me busy for some weeks. I have placed most of my selected pieces in storage and with just a few oddments with which I like to live, have moved to a small hotel. The modest inn has the gay name of Hotel Robert, is in the Cathedral Parish, and the address is 712 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Illinois.

How long I will like living this way, I cannot say, but I am going to try it and see what I want to do.

A number of my friends are "shocked" that I would live on the west side of State Street--it is a very old area, sadly run-down, but the people seem to be just about like people elsewhere.

I am certain that all the Book Hooker Society Members are busily at work teaching and "hooking" only at rare intervals. I shall bring a few things that will make them hook in great delight.

My kind regards to all there.

Yours very sincerely,

John Raymond

[Handwritten note: New address 712 North Dearborn Street, Chicago 10, Ill.]