

CENTER FOR ADVANCED STUDY IN THE BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES

202 Junipero Serra Boulevard • Stanford, California

Davenport 5-0026

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Dear Kit,

Thanks for thine of Tuesday ult. I sit me down to answer it with much more of a hangover than is befitting an one of my years. When will us teachers ever learn?

But insofar as it's possible for me to think of anything enthusiastically this morning, I do do same about the idea of the prose writing course. I'd really love to try that one. To see if I could turn out some little Liddelles, or sompn. I've had some notions I always wanted to try in that area, along those lines, caeteris paribus and mutatis mutandis.

So, if that's agreeable to my fellow-conspirators in general and to you in particular, put me down for the course on How to Pose in Prose. And as soon as you tell me I can start running, I'll begin a folder of tentative notes. Yes.

Meanwhile, don't tell Howard, but so far I'm lined up for 200 dollars worth of poetry readings from BkMom and kindred conundrums. I simpered through a TV program about drama - a beautiful actress sandwiched between me and another gent, suggesting somewhat the design of the Crucifixion. And I peddled a talk at Berkeley. And there are some other items scattered along the rest of my time here, all cunningly spaced so that they produce the maximum disruption of my schedule. (Only after I had got into this bizz, and ~~realized~~ found out just how inefficient it is to interrupt one's work and get turned into another direction time after time, only then, I say, only then, did I realize that the sensible thing would have been to jam all these things into one week, and then get back to ~~my~~ the continuity of my private self-abusements. But maybe I should add that that sentence is not an example of what I had in mind about the Course in Prose Prosody.)

Ennihow. ~~Whence~~ We leave here some time in early June - and I'm shedyuled to bleat for six weeks this summer at Indiana. Then to rot (I hope curatively) during August, and then back on the Bennington Circuit, except this time to be there continuumously, just think of it, all the time inexorating, bearing down sans relent, every hour-arm, minute-hand, and second-finger, every tick of the tock I mean every click of the clock, there I'll be boring, boring, boring not only ab intra but ab extra.

In addition to ~~the~~ to ~~the~~ the work I hope I shall have finished, and ~~from~~ the ~~amenities~~ amenities of being paid to Sit and Think, I vote ~~that~~ that this here year here enabled me to witness a Cultural Rarity that even a man with a bad memory will not forget. By God, I had an opportunity,

and I won't feel right until I have figured out some way of saying so, in a fitting public deposition. I still haven't found the angle (I think of something tentatively called "The 'Temporary Elevation' of ~~Herone~~ Herone Liddell"), but the documents pile up. And the poignancy is greatly increased by the fact that our times are so drastically on the edge of a grumbling volcano. I doan no, I jes doan no.

Meanwhile, here's a quickie, that I still don't know whether how as to which it ~~meanwhile~~ will have turned out:

You ask the time -  
And common sense might say:

It's between five-thirty and fifteen minutes to six.

But poetry might say:  
Between five thwarted and fifteen  
~~Mean~~ Moans to sick.

You ask for directions -  
And common sense might say:

Straight down that road and turn right.

But poetry might say:

Straight to the right until  
You come to  
L-l-e-h  
Spelled backwards.

Then turn inside out -  
And you vermine, I mean  
You depraved image of God,  
You're  
Home...

But of course, that aint what I'm going to teachum in the Proposed Course in Improsition. Gnaw! (In fact, I don't even know what it means.)

Meanwhile, our best to the Monumental Fosters.

Sincerely,

*K.B.*

Recently I discovered among my notes some picturesque spellings I had copied from the works of one Judith Greenhill Speyer. The neatest, I think, are: sourcasim, delibretly, arrgant. Her prize equation: "the treacherous qualities of sensitivity and intelligence."