

Small Area Study
Miss Marinakis

As I walked along Berkley Street, I think one of the first things I remember noticing was the {sign} sign of Worth's, and then I don't remember whether it was the next thing I saw, {sign} a Schrafft's sign, I think it was. I mentioned the fact that the . . . looking up to these store windows, above these store windows, suddenly you realize that there are many things there that you had not noticed before because you so often walk intently by stores just looking on the ground floor, and I noticed there was a little {B} music and record shop with little green {SF} awnings, and I commented on how surprisingly odd it looked, and then I thought maybe it wasn't so odd, because this was typical of Boston.

We walked along and I think the next things I noticed were the travel {B} and stamship line offices, and commented on how I always stopped and looked at the pictures of people who were going to Europe, sort of a vicarious pleasure - I guess, and then we went along. I mentioned clothes again, pretty clothes in {B} Sabien's windows, and also in Peck {B} and Peck, and also mentioned the fact as we came around to Arlington Street of Shreve Crump {B} and Low. How they were so truly traditional in the whole spirit of old Boston, that they were something like Tiffany's was, definitely not flashy in the spirit of -- it was conservative in New York -- that it was a different kind of conservativeness. We rounded the corner of {B} Arlington Street Church. I remember commenting on the {SF} statue of Channing right opposite the church - he was the first pastor, I think, of the church. Also, they were fixing the building and I thought, I wondered if this was the damage that had been done in the hurricane, but then decided that it probably wasn't. We walked along, passed by {B} Neil of California, and then I remember commenting on the very distinguished address of {B} Charles Antell, zero Newbury Street.

As we rounded Newbury Street I expressed my real love for some place like that. I said that when I was away from Boston most of my memories were of this area, and that Newbury Street {C} was so indicative of Boston's old world aristocracy. As you walk along you can even see further up a bow {B} window with glass panes typical of -- now that I think of it - typical of those seen on Christmas cards -- with the Kennsington (?) type characters all dressed in hoop skirts, although I remember that yesterday I did not think of it that way. I remembered that it was just the kind of place where you would expect a girl with a hoop skirt to be standing. Then way, way up at the top, at one of the top garrett type floors on one {B} of the buildings there was {sign} a little sign, a girl's name, and underneath there was _____, and also as I looked up at the roof, there was this box type doorway done in some metal, and I rather thought of it as incongruous. I don't know what I expected as a roof entrance, except that seemed a little bit out of place.

We rounded the corner and there was {B} Bonwit's, and I thought how very unlike a store it looked, and we commented that it had been a museum, and that it gave this whole store a very unique and individual type of atmosphere. And at Brooks {B} Brothers, which is right opposite Bonwit's, we were saying if anything could be compared to the kind of store that Bonwit's was for women, Brooks Brothers certainly was the place, that could be compared as parallel for men, and at the end of Brooks Brothers we turned into this {space} very narrow alley way, which one paralleled Boylston and Newbury.

It was completely different. {C} There was garbage all over the place, strewn - flung out of the cans, and I remembered thinking that was probably so because these were the backs of restaurants and some stores that you saw on Boylston Street. As we walked along there was a brick {SF} wall that had a very large part of it just omitted. It seemed to be as if someone had broken down part of the wall and then had tried to sustain it with this diagonal log. Then we walked along and I kept thinking and commenting that this was probably the kind of street that you would find in some of the worst slum areas - just so very {space} narrow and filled with trash {SF} barrels, and so forth.

We went along in this little alley way - you could look down at windows, through grimy windows looking down into the basement area of what appeared {B} to be shops - dressmaking shops, and I commented on how it appeared that these {P} people were making customs type clothes because each one seems to be working on a different type of dress or costume. We neared the end of the alley way and I noticed that the parking lot {space} which is right there and I assumed it was the Ritz Carlton parking lot, which it is. The last building, just as you enter Arlington Street, you could see the back of it end you could see that there were open windows, with no shades, and I assumed that they were empty apartments but then later thought that they were offices for those people who had - Neal's of California, in particular, in that building.

We came out again on Arlington Street, and we crossed {space} over to the Park. I can remember -- I don't know whether it was here, or before, that I mentioned the fact that that wrought iron - black wrought {SF} iron fence that was around the Public Gardens, just seemed to be the exact type of old world atmosphere, someplace like the Public Gardens of Boston would have. The Gardens were beautiful - they have always been beautiful to me, it was sunny, {NP} and therefore, it looked even nicer. There were a few people {P} skating on the pond, and at first I thought that perhaps you would assume that the ice would be too thin, but it had been cold, and still was slightly so I assumed that this was hard enough for them to skate on. Playing Hockey, they were older people, and I thought they were either trying for professional places, or perhaps people who were going to school and perhaps were just out for the afternoon.

We continued walking and I -- across from the Ritz {B} Carlton and commented how absolutely wonderful it would be - it has been to sit in the dining room of the Ritz Carlton and look out across the park, and that it was just a beautiful sight to see, especially at dusk, if you could sit there and have dinner there. There was also this big brown {B} house, old type home or brick building, standing next to the Ritz Carlton, and though it has been rumored that that is supposed to be torn down, I thought that despite the fact that it was very bad, functional wise, definitely it was a type of building that had an awful lot of atmosphere and was certainly typical of the old brick buildings that are so prevalent in all of Boston.

I noticed across the street that there was a beautiful {C} grouping of homes of buildings of the old Boston type, and I said that the buildings had such a different type of skyline from the type of building you see when I looked from Central Park out to the skyline there. The buildings in New York skyline were so tall, and these buildings were so short, with small windows, and yet there was something about them that gave you a beautiful atmosphere. I remember mentioning that they are exceptionally beautiful when the trees are in flower and you can look through the green branches and see parts of the buildings peeping through. Just about here, I think our walk ended.

(Do you remember any other things or comments that you saw yesterday?) That I saw and did not comment on at the time? Well, your eye takes in an awful lot more than you mention. I remember seeing all of Boylston Street and I can immediately recall that whole street, whereas I would not mention everything that I saw, such as mentioning every minute detail of every store of every kind, but you sort of unconsciously read every sign. (What thing or event of your walk made the greatest impression on you?) Emotional wise? I think it was either Newbury {Space} Street - walking down Newbury Street particularly, or walking in the Park, or Public {Space} Gardens.

(Do you remember any particular buildings, you mentioned quit a few) Yes, I remember particularly the building with the {B} bow window, and also the {B} building with that odd roof entrance, and of course, I very much remember the three {B C} buildings that I spoke of as being seen from a distance and adding to the skyline, and also the brown brick {B} building

next to the Ritz Carlton. (Any others?) The {B} Ritz-Carlton, of course, I remember, and I remember - well, I don't remember the building so much, but I certainly remember the store front of Charles Antell, {B} having commented on it. The Arlington Street {B} Church I certainly remember, Bonwit's {B} and Brooks {B} Brothers I remember. Places and stores as a group I remember but the buildings that I mentioned previously are the ones that I really - stand out in my mind.

(Do you remember any particular features, architectural or any other features of any of these buildings?) Yes. There was this whole {C} feeling of oldness. Not one of the buildings was this spanking new type of things, it was just definitely and old building. I think I remember saying that Boston, if I were to describe it in colors, would always be brown and white, or black and white, not black so much as contrasting black and white, but the dull engraving type of thing, that pictures - Boston looks like it just came out of an engraving anyway. I remember how the buildings that I have always liked were mostly of stone, and mostly rather simple facades, with sort of windows here and there, very well made but classically simple door gives it just that ounce of distinction that is typical of Boston homes.

(Taking the buildings separately, what about Bonwit Teller's? Do you remember anything particular?) Yes. I remember that, and even how I remember thinking that I have always wondered about the {B} windows, the two windows with awnings that Bonwit Teller's has, and thinking that was an odd way, and realizing that the building was not necessarily a store building, when it was originally set up, but I have never realized that it was a museum until the other day when I looked at it, yesterday when I looked at it, from across the street at Brooks {B} Brothers and noticed that these columns went up the front of it and gave it this museum, or post office like, or something like that, type of atmosphere. Suddenly I realized - suddenly I saw the building as a whole though I had passed by it a million times, I had not looked at it as a whole, I had noticed its very obvious distinctive qualities but not the whole building.

(What about the features of the Ritz Carlton?) Well, the features of the {B} Ritz Carlton have always impressed me like a mute box - not very distinctive in any way, its rather plain, I always thought this is so because they can afford to rise above the other ones It is such a rich and exclusive hotel that it doesn't need the outside exterior to attract any attention to itself.

(You also mentioned Brooks Brothers?) Well, Brooks {B} Brothers physically, I honestly cannot remember the building as a whole. I can remember the building when I think back on it, are the three windows that make up the three sides of its box like effect and also bright colors like yellow sweaters in the windows, etc. I don't remember much more than that about Brooks Brothers.

(Do you remember any particular people or types of people?) No, I can remember, as always in the past, walking along that area, I have been so imbued with the whole atmosphere of the place that I often do not pay attention to people except wherein they add anything to the whole feeling place. Whereas, I remember finding myself somewhere else and completely lost to my environment but noticing the people {margin: bracket of last four lines in paragraph} that are in the area. I noticed that there were women very well {P} dressed, lots of furs driving cars at say, two in the afternoon, appearing to be shopping, or just going out on their own. This adds a bit to the feeling of these are the kind of people who want this kind of atmosphere. I didn't notice individuals of people as such.

(Do you remember any particular sounds?) No. It's a busy {T} thoroughfare, however, I can't honestly say I would think of it as a beeping horn traffic areas. It would

almost give you the feeling that it was a very calm area. Why the cars and obvious noise they must make do not make an impression on you, I don't know, but they don't, at least they don't on me. (in that area?) In that area, Yes.

(Do you remember anything of smells?) No, I don't know why I should say so, but I would imagine that there would be none in that area, but this place would not be at all identified with any smell of an industrial type, or of a - or any other type. It's kind of a place set apart.

(Do you remember any particular signs, street signs or store signs?) Store signs, yes. {sign} Neal's of California has always stuck in my mind, not because of the sign itself, but because of the store it indicates. I can remember {S} Worth's because it's a slab of a building {B} in front, with only this word "Worth's of Boston" in small letters, sort of impaled upon it. I can remember {S} Schrafft's and I can remember saying how very, very obvious that Schrafft's sign was, no matter where it was, you would kind of feel like it would be like a Coca-Cola sign in Egypt, you know, you'd always know a coca-cola sign and you'd always know a Schrafft's sign, whether you were in China or Egypt or anywhere else. (Any other signs?) No. I don't remember seeing any thing else. It kind of seems to me there are lost of stores in that area, but -- Peck {S} and Peck, I remember, and I remember the awning at {SF} Sabien's, coming out. It seems to be this would be the kind of place where you wouldn't have signs, at {S} least not lighted signs or too gawdy signs. This place has a quiet atmosphere. (Any other signs?) No – the Talisman Shop {S} stuck in my mind, and this is what I said before - my eye swept in lots more, but you don't mention every little thing. I saw the Talisman sign, didn't think any more about it, but now when you say, did I see signs, I can remember that I saw the Talisman sign. (Any others?) Oh, yes, now I think of it - {S} Hickox's sign - but that sign struck me because suddenly I looked up about the level that I most often look at when I am walking through Boylston Street and I realized that Hickox's school, a school that I had known, and so forth, was right there. There was a sign sticking out somewhere on the first floor, or something.

{margin: bracket around paragraph} (How many definite areas did you feel that we passed?) No, this is definitely all a piece of one material as far as I am concerned. Very definitely there is a distinction between the two streets, say take Boylston and Newbury. Newbury is very much a residential area, despite the fact that it does have several shops and so forth, but it gives me a feeling of a residential area, whereas Boylston is not at all residential, though there may be apartments above in the buildings that now house stores on the first - ground floors. But that whole area has always been, and was yesterday, too, very much one grouping - one place. (So you feel that it is one whole area, but that there are these differences?) There are these differences, yes, they are almost like a very, very closely knit family, the individual difference appear, but such a closely knit family that you can't help but think of it as a group.

(What was it that gave this area a character of its own?) Well, definitely the old world quality, the very much blue blood Boston quality. The kind of thing that the word Beacon Hill is supposed to invoke, although that is not Beacon Hill, but it's that kind of feeling. Also, the fact that it is an exceptionally aristocratic area, although aristocratic implies snobbery and it isn't that so much, it's just that very, vey correct, justifiable type of aristocracy and good living.

(Now within your division of Boylston and Newbury Street, what gives them this sort of division?) Well, now there are many more stores on Boylston Street than there are on Newbury Street, also the stores on Boylston Street are slightly different in that they have larger stores - they get a little bit departmentalized like Peck's, rising two or three stories, whereas the stores on Newbury Street are more apt to be one floor stores.

Much quieter, much smaller, and I can remember saying that Newbury Street has always given me a sense of warmth and richness, even a little different from Commonwealth Avenue which I very much love. Such as comparing Fifth Avenue and Madison Avenue in New York. Fifth Avenue being definitely a beautiful street and a beautiful area to be in. Madison Avenue is inclined just a slight bit more of the upper crust than Fifth Avenue.

(Was there anything that gave this area order?) Well, the block itself is quite a good rectangular or square type of block, it wasn't sort of weaving in and out, and I think the thing that makes it much more organized in my mind was that funny little alley way that we found, which I saw for the first time, that traversed that whole block right down, not the middle, but right parallel to Boylston and Newbury Street, and I've got this whole feeling that we just went in an almost exact square, and then cut down from the top of the square to the bottom.

(Was there anything that gave this area a continuity?) Well, sort of. I think that one could say there was continuity because it seemed to be contained in a way - at least one block was contained. I wouldn't consider Bonwit's on one side of Berkley in a continued or has a continuity with Brooks Brothers, which is just across the street, however, Brooks Brothers rounds the corner and Charles Antell rounds the other corner, and the Arlington Street Church rounds the third corner, and well, the fourth corner is a little bit broken up, there's two places there, but you sort of get this feeling like you never go to the end of the street and then make a sharp corner, you just sort of make a round corner there, whereas this whole block therefore seems to be a very complete continuous, compact tightly set in block, and the stores such as Bonwit's, Peck and Peck, Schrafft's, and no forth which are on the outer periphery of this square belong to the square, definitely, almost like having a moat, but they are definitely a part of the area.

(Tell me, when you keep mentioning Peck and Peck, do you mean Peck and Peck, or do you mean Fredley's?) No, I mean Peck and Peck. (I wasn't quite certain, because you commented-) I had forgotten about Fredley's, really.

(Could you describe the street pavement?) Yes, there are very {space} wide sidewalks on Boylston Street, and on Newbury Street for that matter. The sidewalk pavements are {Pa} gray, rather than red brick, they are gray cement, and they are - I can well remember that very often there were these air {Pa} ducts right along Boylston Street, much more often than I have seen elsewhere, and the fact that the sidewalk is so wide it seemed to be very essential part of the whole atmosphere - the buildings, the atmosphere of the place, and so forth.

(Could you describe the sidewalk pavement?) The pavement, well, as I think back on it. I can remember that I didn't notice that whereas I did notice the gray cement {P} pavement. The street pavement was {P} black, I believe, and not of the type usually considered Bostonian, which is the cobblestone.

(How often have you been there?) Oh, I think I have been there million times - it seems so anyway, although I can remember that I was not as aware of the area until after I grew up and began being - my later years of adolescence, I was very conscious of wanting to write this whole area seemed to lend itself, not to write about, but somehow you could almost get inspiration from the area.

(You use the area, then?) Yes, although I have never worked that far up - just for a

short while, on a part time job. And that's most often what you think of places where you have worked, but I use the area just for walking, or just for running errands up to that area, and for shopping.

(It's obvious, then, that if you went there you could find your destination without any trouble?)
Definitely.

(Do you feel at ease on that part of the city?) Oh, yes. Very much so.

(Could you describe the feelings you experienced as we walked?) Yes, if anything makes an impression on me it's the sun, and dappled sun shadows on this pavement. I'm always completely happy, I think, in that area. It acts like an antidote to any sort of anger, frustration, or anything else I may have, like good music would. It gives me a whole feeling that I belong to a real nice city. This is good, substantial, but elegant living.

(Would you change any part) No I don't think so. Not that area. That area I would leave as it is, definitely.