

HOTEL NORMANDIE
SIXTH AT NORMANDIE
LOS ANGELES 5, CALIF.

June 15th 45

My dear Fasset:—

I read with mingled feelings the account of your leaving the editing of the Technology Review. I was present at its birth, when my classmates Henry D. Bates, & Guild, first started it, (as an architectural paper.) I wonder if you knew that? You have done a splendid job, & I am happy to see you move to a bigger better one, & one which will again keep you

close to that human phenomenon
& charming fellow, Vannest Bush.
But it makes me feel forlorn to
not be able to think of you there
in "my buildings" - at any rate
it is comforting to see that you are
to be an Editorial Associate.

I am sure Beverly Dudley will
fill your place admirably. Will you
please give him my best wishes.

& tell him I plan to come to Boston
as soon as I get back from here,
just how soon, depends on my wife's
health. (for which we came.) She
is progressing finely under Mme
Jelesnoffs' scientific treatment.

HOTEL NORMANDIE
SIXTH AT NORMANDIE
LOS ANGELES 5, CALIF.

blood analysis, (by electronics), &
chemical restoratives: & some form
of interrenalae sodium; as nearly
as I can make it out. You will
hear more of her. She's a sort of
Marie Curie. & a "Cameron Founda-
tion" group has been formed here, to
be able to carry on her discoveries
when she passes out.

As to those drawings &c. I left
with you. Will you kindly tell
Dudley I'll see him about them
on my next visit.

A cattle gram has just come

HOTEL NORMANDIE
LOS ANGELES CALIF.

announcing my election" by over-
whelming majority" as full member
of the Institut de France.

There was no vacancy before, but
I am to take the place of the late
Whitney Warren. I was elected a
"corresponding member" about 1930.

I don't suppose that item of personal
news will be of much interest to
Review readers, but if they'd like it
I can send a fairly good photograph.
How "sweet & modest" this seems!.

But I am really proud of it, myself,
as the crowning honor for a student
of the Ecole des Beaux Arts. + M.I.T.

With warm regards + a kiss to old

State Street News - I am ever sincerely yours

Welles F

VB

Farratt +
Basworth

This characteristic
letter from a rare and
warmhearted spirit says
some nice things and
has greetings for you.

F

Remarkable letter. There
are redbirds and
snow in Wash in
the winter - I have never
seen them subsided -
perhaps you will. The
red bird is a nice bird.
Down here the natives seldom
call him a cardinal.

Ans'd by hand 12/24/46

OLD TREES
LOCUST VALLEY
LONG ISLAND

Dec 24. 1945

My dear Fred: —

Christmas eve! —

If I didn't know what a generous & understanding nature yours is, I should never have dared to wait so long before acknowledging your greatly appreciated letter of Sept. 19th — but, I wanted to answer it in the same vein, & be uninterrupted, with plenty of time — All of which proves to me, that I have not yet lost my natural optimism, or I should have learned from what my life has been since September, that what I was looking for, is as rare as a red-bird in the snow!

Did you ever see one? A thrilling sight I saw only two or three times, in Southern Ohio. Not in Portland! But there, I used to see & hear.

Those black & gold Baltimore Orioles, swinging on the tips of the old elm tree branches in State St.

Of course I've thought of you very often & been happy in your nearness to Dr. Bush. for both your sakes. So long as we have men like him (& you) looking out for wisdom, & manifesting it, I know we have nothing to fear, & everything to look forward to: in the useful application of atomic energy. Will you please give him my hearty congratulations on the way circumstances have permitted him to focus his leading intellect on such enormously important matters, to "this damned human race" as Mark Twain felicitously called us; as well as on the clearness, & the strength of character, if I may put it that way - that he showed to the public. Every mention of him gave me a thrill - So I can imagine what it is to you, to be there beside him.

I've just received such a satisfactory letter from Carl Compton (& he's another!) I had had to write him that the plans for the new laboratory, at the N. end of the Mass. Ave. facade, are still only engineering, & no sign of blooming into architecture. They push forward with an uncut impudence & lack of all deference like an overgrown boy twirling his fingers at his nose

round the Harlor door, at his mother's tea party. There is absolutely OLD TREES
LOCUST VALLEY
LONG ISLAND not a line, or string course to tie in & make friends with that great facade. Walter was away when I called. Before the Compton dinner - to be informed, up to date. But Mr. Smith, a nice new partner, who showed me the designs, appreciated at once the rightness of my criticisms, & assured me that new studies would be made to carry them out. I don't at all expect to see pilasters &c, continued on around the corner, but some consideration given to lines & shadows - Forgive me for this digression, Walter would it like my writing you like this, & in writing to Carl. I asked him not to hurt Walter's feelings - for our relations are very cordial - I only do this with you & Carl so that you may realize that so long as I am around, I can do a lot to "save the picture" - The plans for the Library, are moving along well, & many good ideas are developing. We haven't yet got to the study of facades -

Mrs B. about whose health you spoke so kindly,
is now well enough to begin packing up here.
We plan to go to N.Y. in January. (about the
15th) & stay there with our trunks & bags around
us, until a good boat sails. I've engaged
rooms at the Hotel de Paris at Monte Carlo,
~~about~~ the best place in France. Sun shine,
^{quite} warmth & reasonable food - they say. Then
in the spring we can go back to our home near
Paris. I do hope you & your family may come
there to see us. You would see why my wife
has been so homesick —

I'm sending herewith a little book
which seems to me to have unusual value.
Wont you please tell me what you think of it?

With best wishes to you & your family
for the New Year — I am as ever
yours cordially

Welles Bosworth.

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S et O.)

TEL: GAMBETTA 03-80

Sept. 26. '48

My dear Fred:

I've been thinking about a real poetical letter to you, ever since that rare treat of a beauty from you: + chewing the thought like a cud. — When, all of a heap! along comes a young chap + persuades our elder daughter to go half way with him + meet at the altar! We are all delighted. He's one of the most likeable tall blond blue eyed boys you ever saw. Yale '48, with a good war record. Navy. It's fairly possible you may know something of his father W^m. Eggleton - now living in Washington + serving the Navy in some way. Anyhow, the boy's about as lucky as the girl. For Françoise is a rare specimen. She is really bi-lingual. + highly educated - a perfect

encyclopedia of general knowledge. He is studying for the diplomatic service, & knows she is the kind to keep him in that kind of life.

We are especially glad she did not take for a french man these days. eh?

But now about you - dear boy. How is your health? Do you keep a balance of the five essentials of life - in each twenty four hours?

1. Right food.
 2. enough sleep.
 3. enough water.
 4. enough oxygen.
 5. enough exercise —
- I should add a sixth, enough fun?

If so. I'm sure you'll live happily until we can meet again - & next time I hope that rare creature Vannevar Bush may be with us. Can't you both make it necessary for you to come to Paris? We'll put you up here & give you a happy time —

With affectionate regards to you both.

I am ever sincerely your friend Welles —



VIS
LE MUSE
4 R. SI R



Frederick G. Fassett Jr. Esq

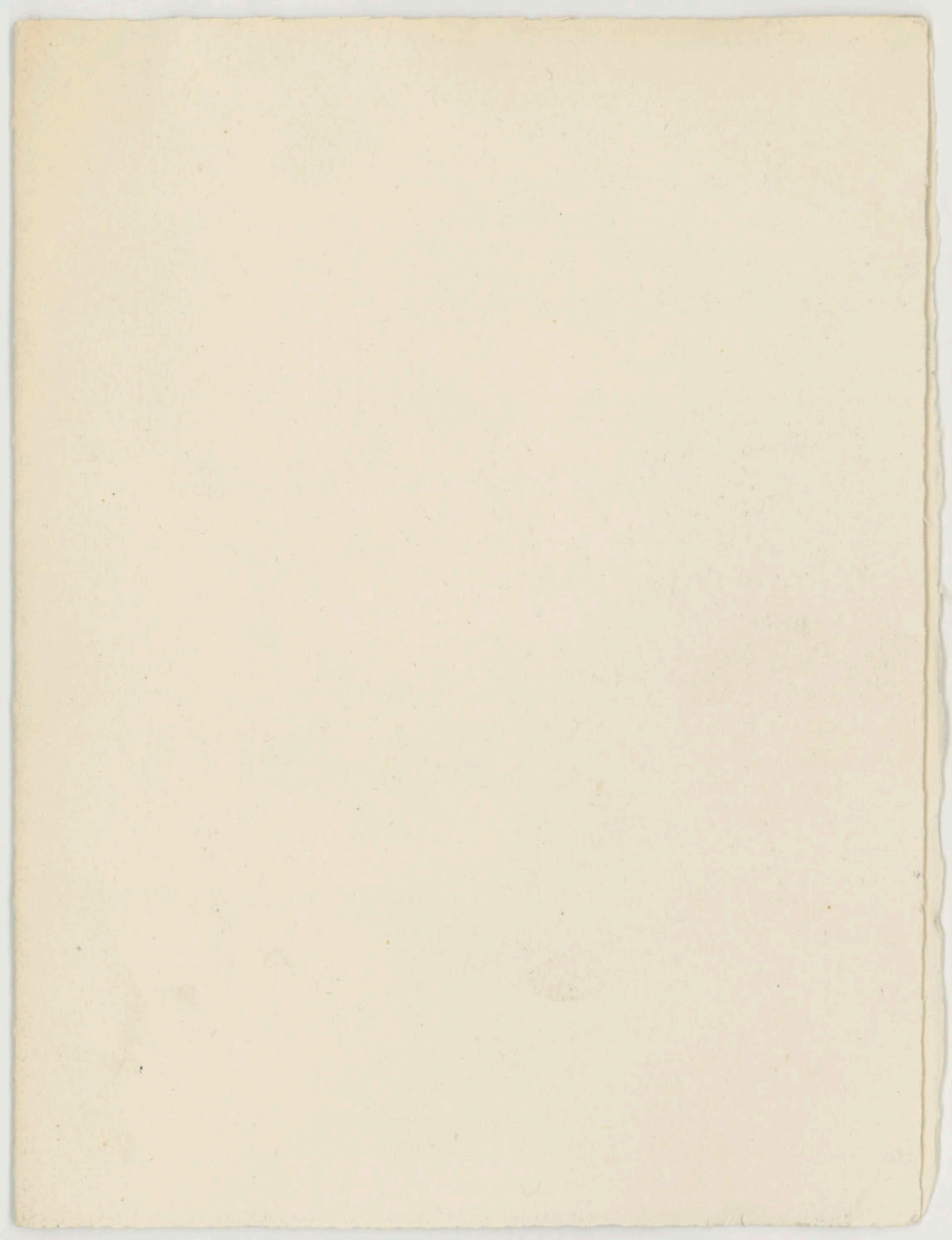
Carnegie Institution.

1530 P. St N.W. 5

Washington D.C

U.S.A

W.B
VAUCRESSON
S.ET O.



Wishing you a Happy New Year in 1949.

from

Renee & Welles Bosworth.



Versailles

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S. E. O.)

TÉL: GAMBETTA 03-80

Aug 10. 49

My dear Fred: —

Although your fine letter + the copy of the Review with your admirable + delightful poem on space, were sent first class, it didn't come until we had left for a short trip to New York, & only came to my hand + eye, on our return.

I went at once to call at the Hotel Louvois, only to find that Dr. Lome was away — but he wrote on his return & I have had the great pleasure of having him out here for tea + dinner —

He is, as you promised, an altogether delightful fellow — with a mind that is both philosophic + artistic, as well as richly informed —

Quite worthy of the Institute in Princeton.

I feel deeply indebted to you for bringing us together — My only regret was, that you were not with us. But I trust the future to "fix that up!"

As to your not finding time for fantasy, you must treat time as you do your budget.

Apportion each 24 hours so that some, even small part of it, is sacredly given to creative

P.S. I was expecting to be obliged to join Bancroft, & stop writing
to you. Did you see Charles' friend Mr. Condo that's in Boston.
I was delighted with his comments on M. S. T. I'm so glad you
feel happy about William - I shall feel the same way.
Please give my affectionate greetings to Vanneman Bush.
& keep a big fragrant bunch for yourself. As ever yours Wm. S. Allen.

"Vibrations" — They keep the circulation
in equilibrium — The German soldiers
here, stretched wires between many of our
young trees. I ordered them cut away so
as not to choke the trees, but several were
so deeply imbedded beneath the bark, that
they were overlooked. Those trees died.

Such, is the effect of trying to keep one's
desk clear of unnumbered mail ^{+ female} matter.

Wm. Vanneman Bush perfects some way
of doing it mentally. Forestalls will jump!

Billy Chase has learned (or was born) to
look sadly at a heap of work, heave a sigh,
swear an oath mildly & then lie down & sleep.

That's why he's still giving his delightful com-
panionship (I see I've put the bench g in the word)

to his friends — I was happy to see that
you & he had lunched together. I was greatly
disappointed not to have to go to Boston,

but our trip this year was too short.

Next year, we must meet: you & he & I, in the St. B. Club.

P.S. up a top! —

Dear Fred: —

M. 5. '53
Vauresson (S. et C.)
Tel. Gambetta 03-80

I know it will interest you

WELLES BOSWORTH

to see

Membre de l'Institut

The way I keep hammering
at Karl + Jim about sculpture.

+ I know you will always keep
where you can. How are
things going with you + yours?

I trust all's well. The longer
I live the more I enjoy
life & I'm sure that's the way
it is with you also -

affectionately yours

Welles

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S ET O.)

TÉL: GAMBETTA 03-80

April 19th, 1954

Dear Miss Schillaber,

April
Your article about the history of the architecture of the M.I.T. in the ~~March~~ Review has of course interested me probably more than any other of your readers, for up to a few years ago, I certainly knew more about it. I felt sorry not to have seen the manuscript before it was printed, for I could have told you a few things to make it more accurate and complete.

But first let me congratulate you on it, and the way it is written, like those "broad sweeps" you speak of - leaving out unimportant detail - easy to read for the hurried reader.

Secondly, for your kind words about me. At the risk of reviewing to you some things you already know, but may not, I shall write you some of the thoughts your article stirred up in my memory.

Do you know about the celebration of moving from the old building on Boylton Street to the new group in Cambridge? How the Corporation and Faculty and prominent men connected with M.I.T. all met in caps and gowns and paraded to a wharf where we boarded a flat-boat called the "Bucentor" and decorated with white plaster ornaments from rail to water, and rowed by students I believe to the landing in Cambridge. It was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, at that time Head of the Department of Architecture, who also managed the ceremonies of dedication. A detail not spoken of above the breath, was that the weight of the crowd on the barge was so much greater than calculated that it was barely above water level and caused terrible anxiety to those responsible until we got safely across. I sat just behind President Lowell of Harvard, Grovenor Coolidge and ^{President} Mac Laurin of M.I.T. and knowing about the situation, with no life preservers, wondered if they could both swim. On the way over fire works made a fine effect from the Court and dome of the new buildings where the Governor made the address of welcome from an imposing dais in front of the colonnade. A sort of of theatrical performance followed with a plate glass lit from red lights in a pit below while Loie Fuller, I think, danced on the glass with flaming scarves. There were various large groups of students in costume - were they Greeks or Indians? I've forgotten,

but they danced and paraded and created a lively festive atmosphere very satisfying as a celebration.

The next day there were visits to the buildings and all that. I remember being introduced to the handsome Robert Bacon, of the Corporation. What a man! and T. Coleman Dupont was another. You evidently do not know that the M.I.T. did not buy the land in Cambridge, as you say, but that he gave it to them, which is the reason for their naming the East Court for him. The other court, on the west, Lowell, because at that time President Lowell and Dr. Mac Laurin had combined the Engineering School that Harvard was asked by the Mc Kay bequest to form into one equipment as it seemed absurd to have two schools so alike in the same town. Also this gave M.I.T. a large fund to draw upon to equip the new buildings, but alas! the Mc Kay heirs brought suit on Harvard for not carrying out the terms of the bequest, and the scheme fell through "fell into the water" as the French say. M.I.T. suffered greatly in consequence, as the courts, instead of being treated with a lower level in the centre, with a road for automobiles to conduct visitors of importance on state occasions, up to the portico, and terraces leading from the front on the Charles River Road up around in front of the colonnade, leaving the smaller courts on a higher level, had to be abandoned, and courts all leveled off just filled up with gravel!

Can you see how much finer the effect would have been? with more height of additional steps along in front of the colonnade, and a green terrace with a double alley of formal trees bordering a path along the facades of the buildings?

All these things are so quickly forgotten. A complete set of drawings showing all this which Jacques Greber the famous French urbanist and landscape gardner helped me work out, is surely still on file at the Institute.

So also should be my complete drawings for the facade of the gap - now so sadly empty - on Massachusetts Avenue. I designed it with an incline and basement passage for autos, to go under an archway, thus making the parking space back of the dome just as serviceable. The central feature of that facade has always shown some columns, to break the long monotony that would otherwise be felt there. My earliest designs, approved by Dr. Mac Laurin show this.

I also made designs for a classical style chapel, to be built on the plot between the Walker Memorial and the President's house, in collaboration with Professor Schell. He had the designs placed on file. John Sargent told me he thought the appearance from Boston required a tall campanile, in contrast to the domes and flat roofs. I agreed at once, and showed one in connection with the chapel.

I must go back to the main Eastman Court and say I felt you should have given more credit to George Eastman than you did, for he not only gave the laboratory building, but the money with which the whole new group was originally built. You remember how secretly he was referred to as Mr. Smith. Many thought it was my friend and client Mr. Rockefeller because of the fact that I was selected as the architect, but I knew it was not, though I did not know who it was.

Another thing. The grouping of a lot of separate departments into one great building was my own, original idea, and I had to fight with many of the corporation to win them over to it. I knew from experience of just going from the old Walker building to the old main building, for different classes, without an overcoat, in winter, was cruel. Also that one great building would be so much more impressive. How I had also to fight to get them to use limestone, instead of red brick! which they thought so much more appropriate. You should also know that the President's mansion was a gift to M.I.T. from Charles A. Stone and Edwin S. Webster, of '88, who were the builders of M.I.T.

Now, for the sake of truth, I must speak of your saying that I was assisted in the "design" of the Rogers building by Carlson. He will confirm that I brought the complete design, even with a model, from Paris, just as it was built, before he had anything to do with it, and that when at President Compton's request I accepted him as associate for the execution of my designs (which he did admirably) it was recorded that I was solely responsible for "everything that had to do with the appearance of things". I never had a partner, following H.H. Richardson and R.M. Hunt, for I feel that architecture is an art.

Now, to finish I must tell you about the Rogers building and the statues, which those four pedestals are so patiently waiting for.

I have a high regard for the eloquence of sculpture in connection with architecture. I showed on my first project for the M.I.T. group a great heroic-size statue, representing the spirit of knowledge, on the axis of the Main Court. I have shown it on every drawing and painted it on air plane photos since the beginning, and I hope keenly to see it realized, for it would be so fine there as a key note to the whole institution, like the statue of Athene was on the Acropolis, or the Alma Mater at Columbia in New York. It would also be a great example of how to use sculpture to the whole country. But so far, committees always think the easiest way to cut down cost in building is to leave off sculpture.

I well remember Dr. Compton's writing me asking me to describe to him how I visualized the new Rogers entrance and vestibule to M.I.T. from Massachusetts Avenue, and my telling him there ought to be four statues of the great Greek founders of modern learning in it. He and I later agreed on them as Aristotle for the Sciences, Archimedes for Engineering, Ictinus, (and Callicrates looking over his shoulder at a plan of the Parthenon) for Architecture. Seeing these statues would certainly inspire every student and teacher of M.I.T. to follow their example and hope to become "great". The pier of masonry back of each statue was to bear incized outlines illustrating their inventions, like the water screw of Archimedes and the Parthenon of Ictinus, or famous words of theirs. The cost of this sculpture was relatively small, as the statues could well be made of artificial stone cut from plaster models. What fine memorials these would make, of distinguished M.I.T. graduates! I urged Mrs Edwin Webster to do one but she was persuaded to endow a chair. However, the idea must be continually kept alive, and I hope you may find a way of bringing it somehow into print where the Alumni will see it.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you some day,
and with kind regards,

I am, sincerely yours,

Welles Bowditch

Fasnett +
Basworth

Basworth
Welles

MARIETTA
VAUCRESSON
(S et O)

B. Dudley Esq
Editor. Tech. Review.

TEL: GAMBETTA 03-80

IV, 20, '54

Dear Mr Dudley,

Your kind letter of the 6th came just as I was about to send the enclosed, to Miss Skilleter - but as I see it will be too late for her to make any corrections or additions to her articles, it has occurred to me that you might make some use of it in your June issue - as a sort of "chaser" - ?

In any case I leave it to you, but I do feel that I owe it to posterity - to do all I can to get some idealistic sculpture - at M.I.T. Those blocks of uncut stone over the Dupont + Lowell Court entrances, should be carved to tell a story of this day - when all printers ink has faded out - ! So - I hope you will get something "planted" in the minds of the alumni - + revived from time to time. That photo, you published on the cover, of Lincoln, by my friend Paul Chester French, was eloquent: as much so as anything could be, it seems to me - of the importance of sculpture in our lives today.

Of course you will eventually send my letter on to Miss Skilleter, as an appreciation of her good work, whatever else you may do with it. and thank you again for sending me the marked copies -

Very sincerely yours,

Welles Rosworth.



COPY

THE TECHNOLOGY REVIEW
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Cambridge

MARIETTA
VAUCRESSON
(S et O)

Tel: Gambetta 03-80
April 19th, 1954

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Boatman?
Do you know about the celebration of moving from the old building on Boylston Street to the new group in Cambridge? How the Corporation and Faculty and prominent men connected with M.I.T. all met in caps and gowns and paraded to a wharf where we boarded a flat-boat called the "Bucentor" and decorated with white plaster ornaments from rail to water, and rowed by students I believe to the landing in Cambridge. It was designed by Ralph Adams Cram, at that time head of the Department of Architecture, who also managed the ceremonies of dedication. A detail not spoken of above the breath, was that the weight of the crowd on the barge was so much greater than calculated that it was barely above water level and caused terrible anxiety to those responsible until we got safely across. I sat just behind President Lowell of Harvard, *and* Grover Coolidge and Pres. Maclaurin of M I.T. ~~and~~ knowing about the situation, with no life preservers, wondered if they could both swim. On the way over fire works made a fine effect from the Court and dome of the new buildings where the Governor made the address of welcome from an imposing dais in front of the colonnade. A sort of theatrical performance followed with a plate glass lit from red lights in a pit below while Loie Fuller, I think, danced on the glass with flaming scarves. There were various large groups of students in costume ~~ix~~ -- were they Greeks or Indians? I've forgotten,

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Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you some day, and with kind regards,

I am, sincerely yours,

Welles Bosworth (Signed)

6/8/54
original letter
sent to Miss Shullaber

[portions of this letter used
in Mail Returns, June, 1954]

Fassett's Baseworth

MARIETTA
VAUCRESSON

(S R O.)

TÉL: GAMBETTA 03-80

September 14th, 1952

Frederick J. Fassett, Esq.
Dean Assistant
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Dear Fred!

You know how I value your friendship and how I counted on it to speak a good word to Killian about those marble seats, but you don't know what immense satisfaction his letter of September 9th gives me, or how much of it I feel is due to you; so I offer you a heart full of thanks. It is in a good cause, isn't it? I look forward to sitting on one of them, some day with you. Killian's account of Mr. Proctor's taking such an interest in them is just perfect. His father or maybe, grand-father! knew me when I gave him a marble temple to build in the Rockefeller gardens at Pocantico Hills, N. Y. He did a perfect job and his men never had a more difficult one to do, as the Doric, monolith columns were inclined inwards at the top so that the bases and caps could not be turned normally to the centres of the columns; you see, the base and cap mouldings had to be horizontal, while the columns were slightly tipped. That is a Greek refinement which I have never before seen done in modern times - yet for "the seeing eye" it pays like the crown on the victor. You and I are poets. What fun it is to write to one who, likes that kind of thought!

Now what do you advise about this idea? I should love to have this, lettered on the outside of the arm, (near the passage door,) of one at least, of those seats.:

GIVEN . BY . WELLES . BOSWORTH . '89 . ARCH'T

Perhaps Mr. Proctor would like to see his name on the other one?

You may remember Dwight Robinson who was the engineer partner of Stone and Webster when M. I. T. was built. He is on record for stating that when Doctor MacLaurin asked me to contribute my commissions, "Due and Payable" on the foundations of the Institute buildings and I conceded, it meant that I gave them a hundred thousand dollars. It seems to me that they can afford to do it ^{(what) we did above} in view ^{also} of my waiving any reimbursements, for so many hours of work and considerable

expense for M. I. T. account during a long time, - designing a Chapel for Professor Shell to show Sloaner in case he could get him interested; an auditorium to fill the gap on Massachusetts Avenue, chiefly to go on record, showing what my ideas are as to the facade that ought to be built there eventually, with an archway under it to let vehicles go through; as well as time and visits and correspondence in connection with Walker's work on the library-buildings at the rail-road end of the Massachusetts Avenue facade - "Very badly done" I was told today by a Boston architect. The Treasury Department charged me a flat twenty thousand dollars' tax on my fees for the Rogers building. Can you believe it? Well, of course it all depends on how much the seats cost, but I wonder if you might "feel the pulse" of Killian and see if something of that sort might be done. I'm sure those seats, which will add enormously to the pleasure of the students for many decades let us believe, would not have been done, at least as well, may I say? Without me! and I don't say that from egotism, but from an impersonal judgement in which I believe you will sympathise. Am I mistaken?

Killian was indeed most kind to offer to pay me for the design, but I won't hear of that. I enclose you a copy of my letter to him.

Now one more thing I'll ask of you. It is to send me two blue-prints of the drawing. I need them in getting estimates over here.

What a letter I've imposed upon you, dear Fred. I apologize, but it shows the sincerity of my admiration as well as my affection for you.

Trusting that all's well with you and your delightful family, to whom I send my cordial remembrances and best wishes. I am

As ever yours -
Welles

BOSWORTH, Welles

Fassett
+ Bosworth

Dear Mr. Dudley.

XII. 4. '55
Vauvresson & Co.
Cib. Gambetta 03-80

I like so much the black & white
pen & ink **WELLES BOSWORTH**

drawing of *Membre de l'Institut*

The main front of the dome & portico, as used
on page 211. in the Nov. number of the Review,
that I wonder if I might ask you to convey my
appreciations & congratulations to the author,
whose name is lacking. I especially like
the artistic way he has given balance & grace
with the foliage in the fore-ground.

But, if he is modest & seeking improving

BOSWORTH, Welles

Fascett
+ Bosworth

criticism, as he should be; you might say I
was shocked at the grossly heavy bases of the col-
umns - & that the shadow on the left of the dome
is too black.

With my thanks, & kind regards, &
my love to Horace Ford & Fred Fascett,
when you see them, I am

Very sincerely yours

Welles Bosworth.



Frederick G. Johnson Esq

Director of Publications .

M. I. T. —

Cambridge

Mass.

U. S. A.

1874
10-10
1874

Vt 7:51
Vaucriesson (S. et C.)
Tel. Gambetta 03-80

My dear Fred :-

I was very happy to see

WELLES BOSWORTH

in the

M.I.T.

MEMBRE DE L'INSTITUT

news Letter. for May, just
rec'd. - that you are going back
to them again. That make me
feel more at home there than
I have been able to ever since
you left. Of course Karl's going

going back has helped a lot
too. I'm looking forward to
seeing Killian over here this
summer. Can't you come
with him? How is my old
friend Wm Chase? All's well
with us here. Renee is having a
fall (over 200) for Audrey, on the 9th!
So things are lively here. With best
wishes for second wind at M.I.T. Affly yours

Welles



Millettrom



Just to show you that we are
thinking of you + wishing you a
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year.
Rensie + Welles Rosworth.





Audrey Horton-Fawkes.
Oct 2. 1954



Frederick G. Fassett Jr Esq
Associate Dean of M. I. T.
Cambridge
Mass.

U. S. A.

49 rue Pierre Charron

U.C

~~8 RUE DE PRESBOURG~~

PARIS

AID TO VIMOUTIERS

ADDRESS
CARE OF MORGAN & C^{ie}
14, PLACE VENDOME
PARIS

Date III. 15. '52

President

Welles Bosworth

Treasurer

Julian Allen

Legal Adviser

Pendleton Beckley

Secretary

Francis T. Smith

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The Hon. Norman Armour

Mr & Mrs Robert Woods Bliss

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Mrs John M. Gates

Mrs Kathleen Van B. Hale

Mr Chauncey, J. Hamlin

Mrs Archibald Mackay

Mrs Margaret Mitchell Marsh

Mr & Mrs Paul Pennoyer

Mr James Sheldon

My dear Fred:

I was just on the point of writing to Killian to ask what had become of you, not having heard from you for such a long time, when I saw the article about you in the Feby Review. Needless to say how glad I was to be able to think of you again as back at the Institute where you seem to belong! We had the great pleasure of getting to know the Killians pretty well. I thought, when they were here last summer - we both fell in love with both of them! to put it poetically! Killian's announcement of your qualities is very pleasing & I know how happy you must feel about it all. What's become of Edwin Schell? I mustn't write any more now, as I'm stealing time from something else, but this is just to congratulate you & wish you many happy days.

*I am, as ever cordially yours
Welles B*

2nd March 1953.

President Emeritus -
Karl T. Compton Esq.,
Mass. Inst. of Technology,
Cambridge, U.S.A.

Dear Karl —

If the magnificent photograph of French's statue of Lincoln on the February cover of the Review is a result of my question to you, "What intimation do you give to the students of the M.I.T. of the value of sculpture to human life," then I give devout thanks to your open-minded intelligence to take good suggestions and act on them.

In any case, may I ask you to convey my heartfelt congratulations and my personal thanks, as an alumnus profoundly interested in our splendid institution, to whomever did it. It revives my hope to live to see the day when we may see a great statue of the "Spirit of Learning" *breathing* in the centre of the Main Court, just as the "Alma Mater" does on the steps of the Library of Columbia College. Also, that I may see those four statues of the Greek Founders of Modern Learning which you and I planned for, from the first sketches in the Rogers entrance vestibules. Couldn't you persuade the Ford Foundation to give them, as an inspiration and encouragement to the young men who are constantly passing through there? They would be impressed by them all through life.

I was with French at the dedication of this statue and (as a representative of the Art Commission of New York) was asked to wear a long coat and silk hat. French had not been warned and appeared in a straw hat and short coat. He was deeply embarrassed, the President and all the "top brass" (a phrase not known at that time) of Washington ^{being} there, even Lincoln's son. Of course I took him behind one of those great Greek columns and changed coats and hats with him, and he was delighted as they fitted him perfectly.

With warm regards to Margaret and yourself, in which Renee joins me.

I am, as ever, very devotedly yours,

Welles —

BOSWORTH, W.

March 30, 1953

Mr. Welles Bosworth
Villa Marietta
Vaucresson,
Seine et Oise,
France

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

Dr. Compton has been good enough to let me see your letter of March 2, in which you comment on the photograph of the Lincoln Memorial on the cover of the February issue of The Technology Review. This piece of sculpture has always appealed very much to me, and I felt it was particularly appropriate for The Review for the excellence of photographic rendition, the magnificence of the memorial itself, and the lofty character of Lincoln's life.

From your relatively recent visits with Dr. Compton, you undoubtedly know much better than I do that the Institute is making a very strenuous effort to give its students a background in the humanities, as well as in the purely technical subjects for which it is so well known. Certainly the Institute of today offers many cultural advantages and outlets in student activities which did not exist prior to World War II, and I am sure that many of them must reflect the views outlined in your letter to Dr. Compton.

You may be interested to know that we have a manuscript in The Review office dealing with the development of the Institute buildings from the time the Institute was formed up to the present. This is a rather long article and will require a good deal of work for all of the illustrations which are at hand. Probably we will not be able to publish this story in The Review until next fall or winter. I think you may be interested in knowing, however, that your name figures prominently throughout all of this story. We can not yet record as facts the fulfillment of your idea to have statues in the Great Court or on the pedestals in Building 7. There is a good deal of activity at the Institute, however, and I have no doubt but that we may ultimately see these further manifestations of The Institute's interest in cultural matters.

Yours sincerely,

B. Dudley
Editor

D/s

April 6, 1954

→ Mr. Welles Bosworth
Villa Marietta
Vaucresson, Seine et Oise
France

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

Professor Schell was kind enough to pass on to me your brief note regarding the tribute to you which appeared on the contents page for the December and January issues of The Technology Review. This series of photographs on "Do You Know Boston" is the result of the combined efforts of Raymond E. Hanson and The Technology Review editor, and as a matter of fact, I made the photograph which appeared in the December issue. I, therefore, have to accept responsibility for this series. I am gratified you derived some satisfaction from it.

The April and May issues of The Technology Review contain an article on the architecture of the Institute's buildings from the early buildings on Boylston Street to our present structures. A marked copy of the April issue already has been sent to you and a copy of the May issue will go forward to you as soon as it comes from the printer. Of course, your own architectural work comes in for a good deal of mention, particularly in the period when the Institute buildings conformed to the classic style. The second of this series of articles will bring you up-to-date on some of the more recent buildings which have been built on our campus. The chapel has not yet been built but its construction has been approved by the Corporation and I believe work is to begin in the summer or fall.

It is my hope you may derive satisfaction from the two-part article on M.I.T. architecture which is now appearing in The Technology Review.

Sincerely yours,

B. Dudley
Editor

D/k
cc: Prof. E. H. Schell

Dear Irwin:—

Vauresson (S. et C.)
Tel. Gambetta 03-80

I read your fine article in
The N.I.T. **WELLES BOSWORTH**

Review. *Membre de l'Institut*

with great interest. Did you
see the charming little tribute to me in
the Dec + Jan numbers, at the head of
the Table of Contents? Who do you
suppose did it? I wish you would
tell him for me what pleasure it

gave my wife & me. Do you ever
regret that that chapel for meditation
we planned is still lacking at the
Institute? You are broadening so into
the realm of humanities perhaps we
may yet build it. What a joy! that
would be. With kindest regards & best
wishes, I am, as ever yours.

Welles

J. 30. '54

From the desk of—
ERWIN H. SCHELL

To
The Editor
Technology Review



February 23rd 1954

Mr. Welles Bosworth,
Villa Marietta,
Vaucresson, Seine et Oise,
FRANCE.

My dear Mr. Bosworth:

Your note of January 30th, addressed to Professor Schell, arrived just after he had left Cambridge for a month's absence. He is presently in Sao Paulo attending an International Management Congress and from there he will make some visitations to educators and industrialists in Latin American countries, returning to Cambridge about March 15th.

I am quite sure you can count on hearing from him soon after his return.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Professor Schell.

2/20/54

Dear Welles

Source to give your
little card awaiting my return.
I have put it along to the Editor
of the Technology Review as you
are very kind to you

February 20th 1954

Mr. Welles Bosworth,
Villa Marietta,
Vaucresson, Seine et Oise,
FRANCE.

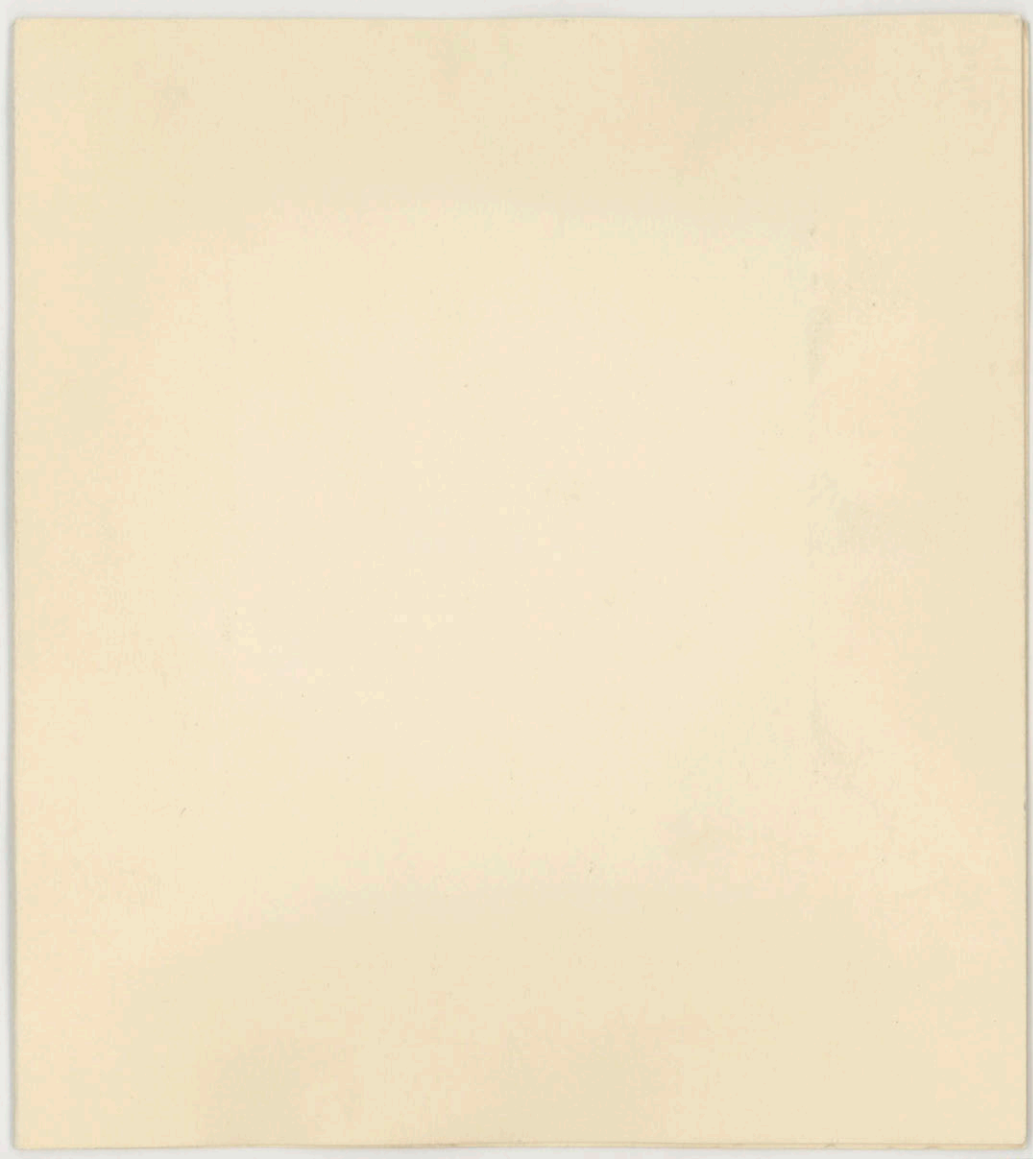
My dear Mr. Bosworth:

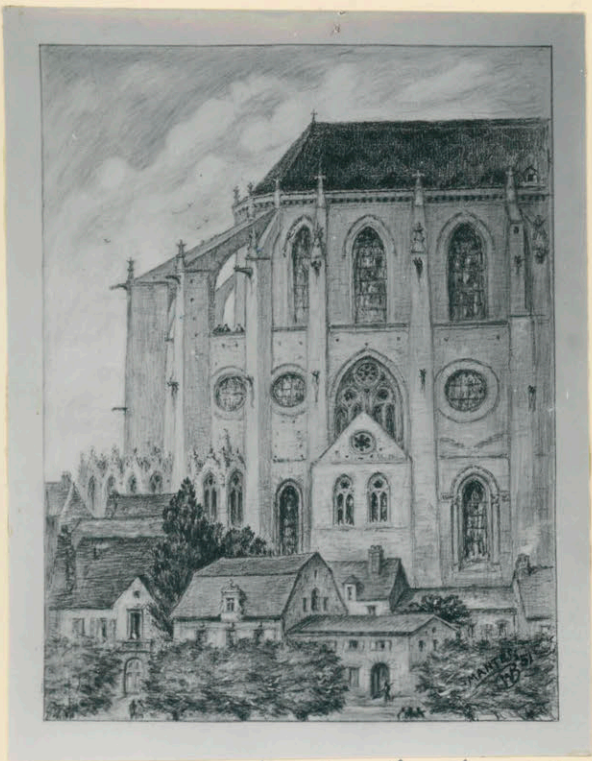
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about March 15th.

I am quite sure you can count on hearing from
him soon after his return.

Yours very truly,

Secretary to Professor Schell.





Mantua Cathedral, by WB

BEST WISHES
FOR A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR

from
Reverie & Welles Bosworth
- 1953 -



MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S. E. O.)

TÉL: GAMBETTA 03-80

7th May 1953.

F.G. Fasset Jnr., Esq.,
The Technology Press,
M.I.T., Cambridge 39,
Massachusetts.

My dear Fred,

I was glad to hear from you ⁱⁿ your letter of 2nd April, but greatly troubled in spirit at the news of your lung operation. You say that the doctors anticipate that by 1st May the bacillus will have been defeated. Since this is 7th May, I trust that by the time this reaches you, you will find that you are out of the woods.

I never knew quite how to account for the constant war that is going on between men and microbes, but it seems to me that the best way is to remember that in the days of Christ's healings, He didn't say anything that would make a man with microbes feel that it was time to give up hope or faith. I am sure you must feel that way about it too, and if you do, you will come through victoriously.

Another thought occurs to me, of something that I read the other day, as being good and true. It is that ^{christ} consciousness never requires of you anything that is beyond your strength to do. In other words, it is never necessary for anybody to commit what I always call the beginning of all sin, and that is getting over tired. Just call a halt when you come to the brink, and you will not only be doing all that the situation requires, but be setting a good example.

My dear friend, you see I come from a long line of Puritan preachers on one side of the house, and from a long line of liberal minded New York Dutch on the other, but devout Christians. My mother's grand-father, Wynant Van Zandt, gave an Episcopal church to the town of Douglastown, on Long Island, and is buried in the family vault under the stone pavement at the entrance to Trinity Church at the head of Wall Street, so you will forgive me. In any case, I strongly recommend your reading books on Meta-physics, and imagine only health for yourself, for I feel sure that what

MARIETTA

VAURUSSON

you gaze on mentally is what you out-picture physically.

But to return to your letter. I note that your mastery of the dictionary is, if possible, becoming even greater than of yore. The way you fling words around your head reminds me of the scintillations of the giant pin-wheels in the gardens of Versailles, at one of their Summer evening *fire-works* fêtes. I started ^{a few minutes ago} to use the word "condolence," but didn't dare without being sure of its literal meaning, so got up and pulled down the "Roget's Thesaurus," and, to my surprise, I found it was not even included in the book. I therefore referred to the Universal Graphic Dictionary - one of my favourite books - and abandoned the word when I found it was "chiefly used in connection with marital difficulties." Remembering your charming wife and daughter, and their devotion to you, I am sure that no word could be more misused than that, in connection with you and your conscience.

As regards the relative values of Art and Science at M.I.T., I can only say that somebody must "peep" now and then, when Art seems entirely forgotten. You and I will agree that it is (more or less) ^{like} cutting out Poetry, in life, and Literature, as ^{being} more practical simplification of life and education. But referring to the word "peep," you will probably know that it has two meanings. One, "to chirp or cry as young birds," and the other, "to look slyly." Old Mr. John D. Rockefeller once told me a story about a masterful woman who had a timid and hen-pecked husband. A friend was announced as a caller, so she grabbed a broom and swept the little man under the bed. During the visit, she saw him looking slyly out and took the broom to sweep him back, but as he disappeared, he was heard to say, "Mehitable Butterworth, as long as I have the spirit of a man, I will peep."

You are quite right about the buergeonning of the spring here at Marietta. It is divine at this moment, and the nightingale's singing all night near the guest-room windows seems to give it perfect voice. I hope you will be coming over again soon and staying longer.

With best wishes to you and your family, in which Renée and Audrey join me,

I am ^{always} very sincerely yours,

Welles



ST. CHARLES



18
17
15
RUL



NOT IN BAKER HOUSE

Mrs. + Mrs Fred. G. Fassett-Jr.

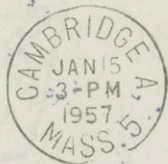
~~372~~ Memorial Drive

~~Cambridge~~

362 Memr. Dr.

372 Camb 639
Mass.

U.S.A.



DELIVER TO
DEAN OF RESIDENCE
372 MEM. DR.



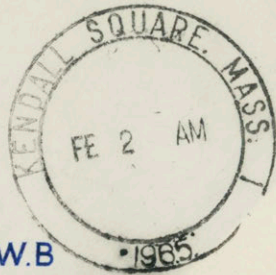
~~RETURNED FOR CARRIED ENDORSEMENT~~

Fred Lassett Esq
100 Memorial Drive
372 Cambridge
Mass.



U.S.A.

Moved. Not Fred
now 306

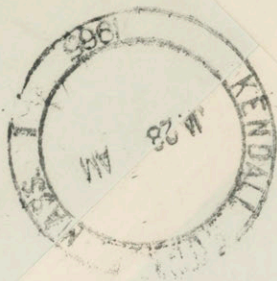


W.B

VAUCRESSON

S.ET O.

FRANCE



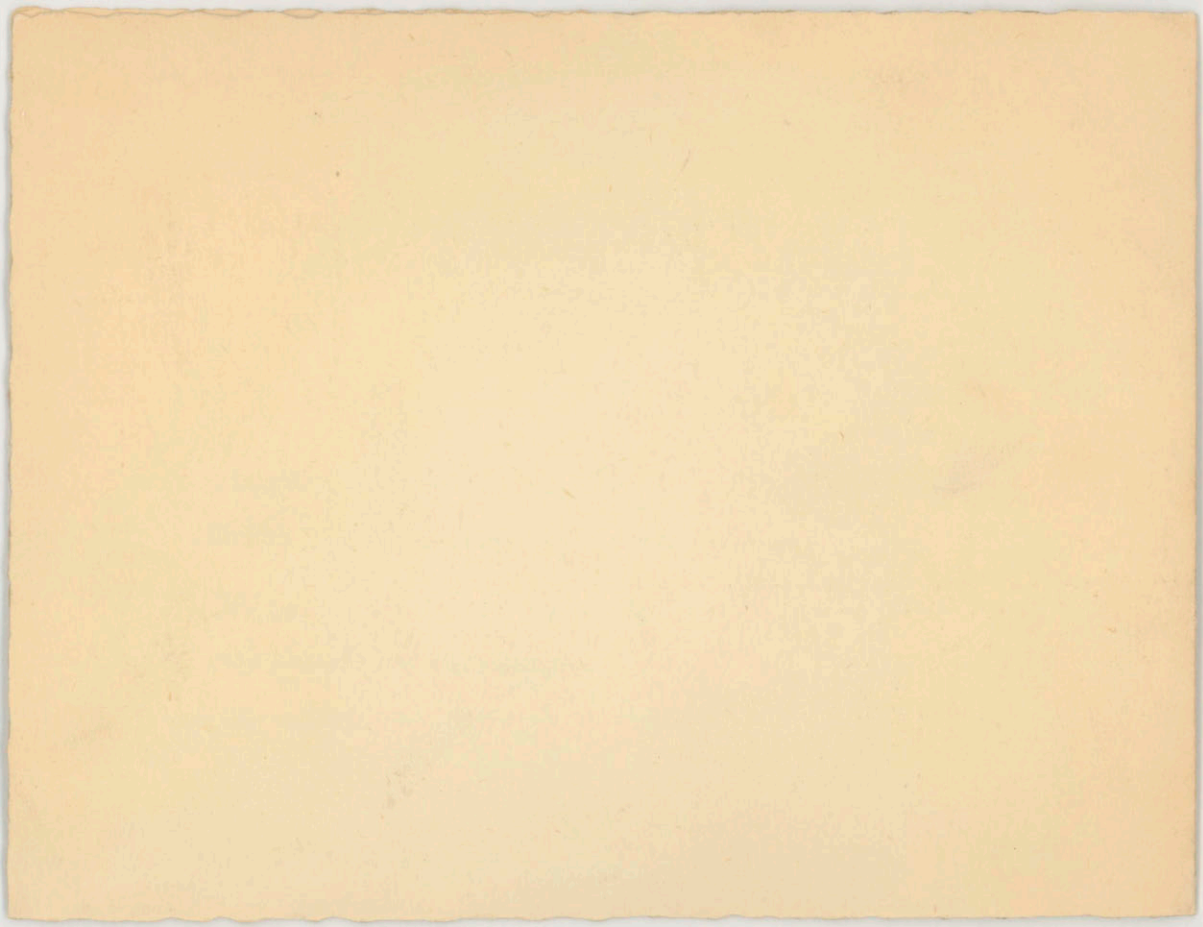


"Marietta". Vauresson, S+O. Jan 1956

Here's all the family, assembled, four generations,
to wish our friends a very

— Happy New Year. —

There's a letter going to you soon, dear Fred,
about my eternal desire to see a fine statue of
Alma Mater, or the spirit of learning - in the
main court. which I've always shown in my drawings
& which is needed like a man's neck tie, to complete
the outward expression of M.I.T. I want you &
McCord to write articles about it, to keep the idea before
the alumni - I'll send you photos, etc. Affly Welles.



31, Avenue Georges Mandel
Paris 16^E, France

19 May, 1956

Dear Dean Fassett,

It has been just about two years since, in the course of a short but interesting conversation with our departed friend Dr. Compton, that I first heard the tale of the origin of the empty pedestals in the lobby of Bldg. 7. The purpose was evident but the reasons behind the lack of realization was and is not too evident.

Recently the M.I.T. club of Paris held its first meeting in over a year. The attendance was not notable, some 13 or 14 attending, but in spirit and interest the company was stimulating. By means of a skillful jeu des coudes I managed to be seated next to the acknowledged dean of the group, whose name I remembered from the conversation with Dr. Compton, so you may have guessed, Mr. Wells Bosworth, of the class of 1899.

I don't know how well you personally know Mr. Bosworth; I don't hesitate to add my opinion to the totality of others I have heard, that he is one of the most charming persons that I have met, and indisputably one of the most captivating speakers that anyone has heard. I suspect he hasn't had too many disappointments in life, having always had the facility to convince people that their confidence in him would be justified. Two examples include his convincing Monroe (c. 1905) that he could satisfactorily complete the M.I.T. course in architecture despite a marginal

aptitude in mathematics, and a similar movement amidst the severely competitive entrance exams to the Académie des Beaux Arts, when he convinced the director that he could always hire someone at \$15 per week to do his mathematics provided that he had had the incomparable training of the Beaux Arts. Perhaps these amusing tales aren't true to the letter, but they exemplify his self-made good fortune and confidence.

If I may presume to name it, I think one of the most personal disappointments to Mr. Bosworth is the fact that his proposed statues were never realized. I was told that every architectural sketch that he submitted concerning the relevant area indicated the statues. Furthermore, Mr. Bosworth, at his own expense, had a model made of Archimedes and his water screw, and had photos made of this superimposed upon photos of the pertinent area, the photos sent to the Institute, to Dr. Killian if I remember rightly, and the gesture was evidently not even acknowledged. Evidently there was at one time a committee on the question, I believe under Prof. Schell, but the project was not carried to any significant degree.

I fully understand the difficulties accruing to such an undertaking as the realization of the statuary would require, but I feel the project has been dormant long enough that a renewed effort might find the inspiration and interest needed to bring fruitful results. I don't profess to have a ready solution, but I would respectfully submit that a brief comment in the Technology Review might serve as a quick poll of interest. Perhaps my revered fraternity brother Prof. Schell

could suggest a course. I suggested to Mr. Bosworth that he write the Review, and he said that he would, but despite his 86-odd years he is an extremely busy man, and the letter may not be soon coming. I believe an indication of interest in the problem, by means of the Review, would please him, and achievement would please a great many people.

At a recent University Club luncheon (Mrs. Bosworth is president) the speaker was André Siegfried, of the French Academy and *Le Figaro*. His comments on latest American visit were interesting and quite gratifying, being primarily concerned with the realism of much of American education, exemplified by the case study, the limited participation and unwillingness to restrict or even to guide on the part of the Prof., and the competence, orderliness, and respect displayed by the students. This was contrasted to the pertinent facets of European education, where the Professor is an unapproachable irreproachable dictator to his classes.

Mr. Siegfried's observations stemmed primarily from his experience at Harvard, but he had a few very kind words (unsolicited, I believe) apropos to the M.D.J. curriculum.

Please excuse my presumptuousness in requesting your direct opinion or assistance. I felt that through the Review and moreover through your contact with administration, student, alumni or mixed groups you may find an opening gambit.

My sincerest regards to Mrs. Fasset and yourself,
Bob Reichard

P.S. Mr. Bosworth was amused at the description of empty pedestals wrapped as huge Christmas packages under the tree, but he obviously feels a more perpetual, more culturally provocative use is to be desired.

Mrs Nicholas
Horton - Fawkes

The Greave
Luddenden
Yorkshire
Dec 12th

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Fasset,

Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year! — I only wish it
were last year's wishes I were sending
you. I have only just this minute
come across a little old note from Papa
telling me of your present. I finally
received the letter with my other
presents after our baby was born
in July! They sat at the customs
from Easter on and I delayed
writing until I should see them. Then

our adored little Francis Guy arrived
and since then there has been chaos
in both Nicholas and my correspondances
which at the best of times isn't
punctual. We've had over 25 guests to stay
since leaving a house and for at least
two thirds of them your delightful
(is it "Folly Cove"?) table mats were
brought out and much admired. They
remind me of childish longings and "jogglings"
on Long Island when the British War Relief
sold the same work. It was far, far too
sparkling of you, but I am delighted to be now
able to "associate" my lovely mats with
you. I hope you will forgive me and
believe me to be very touched indeed.

With every sort of good wish
Bel Funks to your daughter
and many many thanks to you with
Ardrey (Bosworth) H. F.



S+CU H

0045



372
~~362~~ Memr. Dr.
Camb 39

Dear,

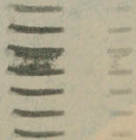
Frederick G. Fassat Jr. Esq.

372 ~~100~~ Memorial Drive, Moore House.

Cambridge
Mass—

U. S. A.

PLEASE INFORM SENDER
OF CORRECT ADDRESS
INCLUDING MAIL BOX NUMBER





CAMBRIDGE, A
MAR 1
10-PM
1957
MASS.

CAMBRIDGE, A MASS.
MAR 1 1957

CAMBRIDGE, A MASS.
MAR 1 1957

WELLES-BOSWORTH
VILLA MARIETTA
VAUCRESSON (S. & O.)

January 3, 1956

Mr. Welles Bosworth
Villa Marietta
Vaucresson, Seine Et Oise
France

Dear Mr. Bosworth:

It was nice to have your card although your inquiries regarding the pen and ink drawing of the dome and portico of building 10 provide me with some embarrassment. I felt we needed some pictorial treatment for the announcement on page Lii of the November issue of the Review and since we were pressed for time I used a cut that had been reposing in our file for many years. Unfortunately I am unable to pass on to the artist your appreciative comments. You might be interested to know that so far as I am aware, the original drawing to which you refer dates back to the time when Fred Fassett or even Jim Killian had the editorship of the Review.

If you have the time and inclination I think I should be much interested in your comments regarding the Kresge Auditorium and the M.I.T. chapel with its new bell tower. To set you at ease, I hasten to assure you that architecturally speaking I am an old moss-back conservative.

Very truly yours,

B. Dudley
Editor

BD/pf

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S 170)

TÉL: GAMBETTA 03-80

My dear Fred: —

II. 14. '57

Your charming letter at Christmas has been smiling at me, from the bottom of the pile of unanswered things; waiting patiently for the time when I could indulge in poetical thoughts, you + I both lone, (like Kentucky Cardinals whistling on snowy branches). But tonight, in turning over last week's "Time", before opening this week's number just arrived, to be sure that I hadn't missed any important news — I saw the enclosed article about the huge new Prudential Ins Co. project for Boston. It will be so near to Copley Square, that I wonder if that disgrace to Boston (+ the U.S.A.) couldn't be done over now? Of course it may have been, since I submitted my scheme for it, to my old + intimate friend Chris Heeter. He liked it but said that as "mere" Governor of the State, he had nothing to do with beautifying old Boston. You may remember that I got dear Billy Chase to co-operate with Otto Eggers, + me ^{in planning it} + get our plans put on file in the Mayor's office — Perhaps the square has been rebuilt, by now? I've no longer any friend there to tell me. You'll see by studying this photo, how well the centerings are worked out, + the great parking spaces on Boylston St. + opposite the Library facade. It's a good design, + very practical.

I wish you would consult with David McCord, who liked my work, + see if now is the time for his able pen. Ta des

Something to give it life:—

How I'd enjoy working up a project like that!.

Rockefeller restorations are still going on at Versailles —
Did you see an article I wrote about the theatre in the Palace
(to be opened on the visit of Queen Elizabeth in a few weeks. April
I believe —) which I wrote for the Magazine of the Amer. Soc.
of the French Legion of Honor. last Autumn? —

How often do you go to good old Portland?
Are there any elms left over State Street?
Thanks to John Calvin Stevens for inspiring me
to want to be an architect. . . (before the days
of brassieres for auditoriums!) but don't quote me
for saying it.

Renie is fine as ever. + joins me
in warm regards + best wishes to Julie + your good self.

Your friend always —

Welles —

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S 170.)

TÉLÉPHONE: 926-03-80

Dear Friend Fred:—

Oct. 27 '58

I'm writing, abed, on my knee—
having acquired the habit during a long illness from a
sudden operation in June, The Doctor took an X-ray, &
said: "In Architect, you've doing too much building in your
bladder— There's a big stone in it, we must remove without
delay"— Operation "perfectly successful", & I'm now pro-
nounced by the Doctors "in perfect health"—

So— I've taken the reins & whip in hand, for "yet a
little while"— before I go to the Father. I'll be 90. next
May!

I was happy indeed! to be able to represent
The Rockefeller Brothers "last week"; I was going to say—
but it was Oct 14th, when there was an official ceremony
of inauguration of restorations, accomplished at Versailles
done by means of a Donation from them. None of the five
were able to be there, so they very naturally, as they said,
asked me to represent them. It was very agreeable—
The Minister of Education & The Fine Arts, presided,
Ex-Ambassador David Bruce & I each had to make a
speech— we each were made "Commander of The order
of Arts & Letters": with cravat & medal, & the Minister
handed me one for each of the five F. brothers, with
a letter from him to each. We had had a beautiful
lunch party for 40— in a fine corner room of the grand
Trianon, ladies included, as usual in France.
Then about 300 were shown around to see the works.

Will you please give my news & kind thoughts to Anne & Fred & Jim & Helen & E. H. Schell.

I wish I could get you to read the local friends. I said to Iant, "what information do you give students of M.I.T. of the value of sculpture in museum life" 2. The book and his note for it + make it down. Fardon such a lengthy letter. + best wishes to your family. Much affection to you. Dear boy - Wellies.

How I wish you + your family had been there with us, as you surely would have been, if in Paris. They asked me for a list of my friends to invite, + I sent cards to over a hundred.

It occurred to me that it might just possibly interest two or three - to see a notice in the M.I.T. Review, magazine, to read something like this.

Recent Honors - Welles Bosworth, '89 Architect of the main group of M.I.T. Buildings, has recently been decorated by the Minister of Public Education + the Fine Arts in France, as "Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Beaux Arts et des Lettres," for his help for many years in the restorations of the palace + gardens of Versailles + Trianons - as well as Fontainebleau + the Cathedral of Reims. Bosworth has for many years been a Commander in the Legion of Honor, + a member of the French Institut. Academie des Beaux Arts - He is F.A.S. and N.A. at home: and of course Fellow of Amer. Academy of Arts + Sciences in good old Boston.


I should like to add that he will never be happy about M.I.T. until some cultured soul is inspired enough to raise the money to place an heroic size statue of the Spirit of Learning, in the main court, as shown in his first drawings + approved by Dr. MacLaurin + all the others. What would Columbia College be without that lovely Alma Mater?

I've wanted for a long time to write you about this, + get up a movement. Karl Compler + I talked it over last time he was here. Also those statues of founders in grass, of modern learning, for those empty pedestals in Rogers entrance vestibule.



Frederick J. Fassett Jr. Esq
Dean of Residence
Mass. Inst of Technology
Cambridge, Mass
U.S.A.





W.B
VAUCRESSON
S.ET O.

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S. E. C.)

TÉLÉPHONE: 926-03-80

Dear Friend Fred: - Feb'y 9, 1959

Nothing in all the high tide of Christmas letters + cards - gave me such a deep soulful pleasure as your letter of Christmas Day!

I've kept it open standing facing me on my writing table, waiting for a quiet hour in which I could forget the pressure of outer things + feel alone with you - but none has come, because a very dear + important old friend called upon me to "give some distinction" to the design of a house he is starting to build for his favorite daughter.

"The masons will start in a fortnight," so no time to do anything but concentrate on it. That, I did! And, to my own great satisfaction, I succeeded in making "a silk purse, out of a sow's ear"

Both he + his daughter were delighted, but one thing led to another + I've had no sense of leisure since Christmas, with all the complications of home life + social obligations, as well as income tax to get going &c - I knew you would give me unshaken faith + tolerance, but it has grieved me, not to write you - - + Today came your heavy Air Mail letter, with the most gratifying notices due to your own activity, for me. Your graciousness + delicacy

of feeling in all your words + acts reveals enjoyably to me the depth of your poetic-soul; the most so, of any of the many friends I've made, in this long-varied + expanded life.

This is not a reply to your Christmas letter, it is just an apology for not having written it yet, + a promise to do so just so soon as the angels clear away the storm clouds, + let a little light of peace shine upon me.

I roused myself from sleep, to get up + write this, at five A.M. + now I'll go back to sleep, thinking of that Chinese dragon that J. Calvin Stevens carved in the mantle-board over the fire-place in his office. The first architect's office that I knew, and of his most artistic pen + ink sketches, that so inspired me to become an architect.

Your friendship, dear Fred, is just like that "Kentucky Cardinal" in the snow! -
Here ends the Preface. of my next letter to you.

With my best wishes to your wife + family -
I am, your friend always

affectionately


Welles



Frederick G. Fassett Jr. Esq.
Dean of Residence
Mass. Inst of Technology,
Cambridge 39
Mass.

U.S.A.





W.B
VAUCRESSON
S. ET O.

MARIETTA

VAUCRESSON

(S at O.)

IV. 7. '59

TÉLÉPHONE: 926-03-80

My dear Friend Fred:-

So much time has slipped by, since I wrote you a brief introduction, ^{to thank you for yours & the notices in the Review,} to this letter, ^{that} you must have thought I had forgotten you! On the contrary, I'm sure I've thought of you more often, than if I had answered, what is to me, one of my most valued letters. I'd like to send you one lately received from a great lady of English society, whose husband, Stanley Robinson, is, & has been for many years, Conservator of Ancient Coins (mostly gold) in The British Museum. She was in Cambridge, (where he went for some archeological work at Harvard), for a fortnight last Autumn; & one morning of Indian Summer weather, she took a book & went to sit under the trees in the "great court" of M.I.T.: I think it was from there that she wrote me, studying all the details of The Colonnade - as well as the ensemble, & feeling what I felt in designing it, so intimately, that I was astonished! I am not embarrassed to tell you; what she said at the close of her letter, for I know you could not accuse me of being conceited! She said - "I feel here, as if I were hearing Bach music, this a noble building & the creation of a noble soul". You can imagine how that made the tears fill my eyes...

Have you read that "literary masterpiece", G. K. Chesterton's biography of "the world's one sincere democrat" and "divine demagogue", St. Francis of Assisi? Audrey has sent it to me & I'm deeply enjoying it. A new edition by Doubleday & Co., Garden City N.Y. 2.25 - If I were sure you haven't got it, ^{ever} or ^{at} read it, I'd order it sent to you. Not so much for religion, as for the poetic pleasure in its style!

4)

You see that I wrote all that as a sort of "overture" to this, just for fun! But if you wondered at all those corrections, you will think better of them when I tell you that I learned that, from a lengthy correspondence with my dear friend Lord Arthur J. Balfour. Who always seemed to me, to be the highest & finest gentleman of the Victorian era.

He always did that in the wide margins of his type written letters, even to Mr. Rockefeller.

Do you know the famous note he made opposite a complaint sent him, that the monks of a certain country monastery were engaging the neighboring farmers, by "violating" their cows! He wrote, "it seems to require a Papal bull."

You, dear friend, will be pleased to know his last words to me, from his death-bed - shortly before he passed out.

As I went out the door & looked back, he waved his hand to me, & said "You! are the greatest poet of them all!"

But to be practical, Karl Compton asked ^{me} by letter, to act as consultant, with Ralph Walker ^{an architect} on the Hayden Library. I agreed, & went several times for consultations with him: & his draughts ⁱⁿ I had some special photos made of a part of the Palais de Chaillot, to send to him, etc. He didn't know me then as well as now, I'm very fond of him - Jim Killian wrote & asked me for my bill. I replied that if he would have a good & "proper" seat, made for each end of the main Vestibule, where students could sit & talk for a while,

5) I would make the design & send him full size details, & send no bill. He agreed. I said the seats should be of marble & stand with their backs to the wall, on one step up, marble plat forms. I sent him the details & I believe the Proctor V. marble Co gave a low estimate. Jim wrote back that the weight would require extra support from the basement, &c. &c. So I said, very well make the seats of oak, ^{to which I sent revised details.} He said agreed, & I've never had a word from him since! I forgive him, considering all the big things he has on his mind, but you are the type of "heart & mind in focus" that Theodore Roosevelt loved to talk about. Alonce Ford & Erwin Schell & Vannevar Bush have always "felt" for me & Allen Atrams feels like a brother, too. So, when & if the spirit moves you to speak, or act, say "thy grace is sufficient for me" & never doubt. I've found

by Frank Hollman.

that little sentence very comforting at times - and lately this one, which I only use when something seems to be going bad! You remember how Saint John's book in the New Testament starts, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God"; So, I just say over & over "Word of God"; Do try it, it puts a vibration in the atmosphere that works! & makes things get better, at times immediately!

Now! aren't you relieved to see the bottom of this sheet of paper?

Give my love to Julia & your children, & always remember my deep attachment for you!

Yours as ever

Welles

(7)