Correspondence 1937-1943

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

Saturday - April 25

Dear Mr. de Santillana:

No, I'm afraid I can't claim to be a practitioner of xenodacky in general. You are not just a stranger, you know, but are dear to those who are dear to me! It is a pleasure to put myself at your disposal, knowing that in so doing I'm doing something for a friend of Mr de Bosis, and also for the good cause of civilization which you represent.

I've written already to the Institute of International Education, (2 West 45th St.) about your being in this country available for lectures. They are very familiar with that field and I think it would be worth your while to get in touch with them. Dr. Duggan is the head. I have written to Miss Redford who will probably write you. But in any case I think I'd look her up. I send you under separate cover a pamphlet or two of theirs which will show you what their work is.

I've also written to Guido Ferrando, of Vassar College, in Poughkeepsie who knows you well and is one of your great admirers. There may be a connection

I enclose a note to him.

to be made with Vassar College.

It might be worth while too to look up the New School for Social Research, (you can find the address in the telephone book) and I enclose a note for Mr. Alvin Johnson the director (he was an old student of my father.)

When you are at — but I see I missed your letter — I thought you were going to Temple University in Philadelphia, but see now that word is Iowa. I was going to suggest getting in touch with President Aydelotte of Swarthmore College (he is also head of the Rhodes Scholar Foundation) and on the chance that you may go to Swarthmore (near Philadelphia) or meet him elsewhere I enclose a note to him.

Arthur Livingstone of course has the entrée to all of Columbia, so I don't suggest letters there.

Without any idea than of perhaps giving you an evening with agreeable people — I doubt if they could be useful, exactly — I'm writing of you to Mr. and Mrs. Sherman, who live near you on Riverside Drive. Mr. Sherman is head of the Books of the Month Club (on the committee of judges of which I am a member) they are both civilized, intelligent friendly people, who can give you practical advice about details of American life which may be helpful. And their son, a student at Columbia, plays Bach and Beethoven and Brahms really very well indeed.

Box 11

DOROTHY CANFIELD FISHER
ARLINGTON, VERMONT

Now on to your coming to Arlington, which would give us such pleasure. There is a direct train which leaves New York at half past eight every morning and reaches here a little after one. (This is Standard Time, not Daylight Saving New York City time which is an hour earlier.)

But better than this — if you don't mind long automobile trips, my brother is planning to drive down to New York and back, about the

middle of May, and would be delighted to bring you back with him. There is even a chance that I might be coming with him, which would mean a fine chance to exchange all the news on the way up.

I will be away from Arlington from May 3rd to the 6th and from the 8th to the 11th and from the 14th to the 16th.

But how about next week - from the 27th to the 2nd of May? Would be so glad to see you, any time.

I don't know if

Lillian de Bozis

told you how we live – on the side of a mountain, in the woods – so bring along walking clothes and rough shoes, if you have some with you. We are real country people.

I suppose you know that Professor Salvemini is at Harvard University. I know he'd be interested in your lecturing. And if just now access to us that Williams College, near us, might be a connection.

Well, we can go into more details when we have an opportunity to talk. May that be soon!

With warm greetings

Cordially yours Dorothy Canfield Fisher

157 - N. 4th. Ave.
Glendale, Ariz.

Dear Georgio:

Iris sorry to miss you and the lectures at the Newschool. Are you not coming to New York to-day? If not - why not?

I expect to be west for the next six months - going on to California when the weather is

My memoirs in Italy will be pro Mussolini: I am going ahead with them bit by bit. You promised to bring to me this Mrs. I'll not quote you in any instance unless I have your permission.

As to Jane Norman. Her divorce case is slowly dragging through the Chicago courts. She has been very unwise -- no matter whose fault it is -- & it's not all her husband's.

too warm here. Just now the
sun shines equinoctially upon these
lands in the Salt River Valley.
The mountains are gorgeous - the
air stimulating and quite brisk
at night. I often think of Roma,
for somehow the skies here have
the same endless blue depths.
I feel somehow as I did in Italy.
Did you bring me your W.S. re
Fauro? If not - why not?

I'll explain her complex to you one day.
She was at the ~~Empire~~ Radio City
Rainbow Room (Restaurant) offices - one
of the top floors of the Main building.
I know no other address in New York.

May your winter be a very
pleasant and profitable one. What
news from the del Bosis? If you
have any please write it. With
best of greetings, Cordially

Nancy Cox McCormack

Jan 31st/37.

LAURO

please return to
Sprague 16 Via Ludovisi

Thursday

825 CARLTON AVENUE - PLAINFIELD - NEW JERSEY

Dear George:

So nice to hear from you. What a program you have and how proud of you I am.

I should prove a most relaxing friend as I've never heard about any of those subjects you lecture on.

Also, I am not one of those American institutions; — a club woman. However, there may be some ideas. You will probably need an agent. Why not

consult The Town Hall, New York's Community center for lectures. It is W. 43rd St. Between Broadway & 6th Ave.

Will you please write me, if Lauro is alive. I have heard frequent reports but never any verifications. It was all too awful. Now, I wonder what has happened to make you say what you did about Europe. Generally, yes. Things seem very bad – but your reasons, are personal, specific, no doubt.

825 CARLTON AVENUE - PLAINFIELD - NEW JERSEY

Next Thursday the 11th, I will be at my sisters little apartment in New York. Could you come to see me about ten? I have a luncheon engagement up town at 1:30 ~~and~~ the ~~is~~ reason for suggesting this hour.

My sister lives at

58 W. 8th St.

Take the 6th Ave Elevated (Down Town) and get off at 8th St. She lives over a group of stores, so the entrance is not a pretentious apartment house you

might be looking for. Her name is Elaine Miller, and her bell is one to the left, as you enter the main door. The telephone no. is

Gramercy 7- 0322.

Will you call me Wednesday evening about 6 o'clock, if you can come. I suggest you do not write about our meeting. I choose to ask you, to come to my sisters ~~to~~ so we can talk, and have privacy.

If you wish to write about Laura please do for I am so anxious.

825 CARLTON AVENUE - PLAINFIELD - NEW JERSEY

Don't worry too much about your lectures. You won't find anybody who knows as much as you do.

It will be lovely to hear your voice and to see you and to talk with you.

Yours,

Dorothy Lane.

Box 11

Thames Chambers
Adelphi WC 2
21. V. 43.

My dear George, I've written quite often, & you've not, for ages. So I wonder how everything goes. Do tell me. Are you happy & settled somewhere and very busy, or reasonably so? I get so tired of living on a little island miles away from friends everywhere. No one travels now except to fight, or to plan the fight.

That was a bagful in N. Africa! So many less men & tanks & guns when we do land in Europe. But ~~don't~~ let's talk of the war.

I've been re-reading your life or sketch of Lauro & liked it. ~~Too~~ It's (like all English written by a Latin mind) far more lively than anything that has been written about him. If we can get on with a few publications about the other Italy we should print it. Our first pamphlet is coming out next month written by Montano whom you may remember: he remembers you, though I think you only corresponded. He used to work with Mondadori. We like him very much and he often turns up on our Wednesday Evenings. Those have become a sort of institution — & are fun. They started with a few "free" Italian friends and now anyone turns up, we never know who, beforehand.

Have you ~~seen~~ ~~seen~~ anything of Bobbie? Do look her up sometime with my love. She's Mrs Wescott now — in case you have forgotton, and her address is Mulhockaway, Clinton, New Jersey — and she's had a baby girl called Deborah.

There's a bad picture of her and her husband, Lloyd, in the Museum of Modern Art in New York — an exhibition of modern portraits — which may however be over by now. Munro Wheeler sent me the catalogue.

There are so many Americans in England now, but no one seems to get to know them or they us – which is a pity as they'll think we're not hospitable. I happen to know a tailor (a fellow firewatcher) who works at one of their clubs and he says he asks one of them home to supper every night, because no one else does. If you have any friends coming over, give them a line to us.

We've let the Cottage except for two rooms in it, and live here altogether. I resigned from the BBC for I'm dreadfully tired of doing propaganda which is bound to be monkeyed sort of truth anyway and needs more hard-boiled people than I can ever be. I felt we were simply re-inforcing our listeners in their age-old scepticism + nothing more — doubtless an excellent war-aim – but a shortsighted one – for until a good few Italians know they are going to be fed and have a bearable peace, no one in Italy will really try to lose.

Ahinger's a fine place to go to, out of all this + we go whenever we can – not very often. Sprigge's with Reuters now + I'm in the Ministry of Labour – part-time only – enough not to get completely bound up in red-tape, and little enough to leave time to keep a home going.

Elena + Lello are here + we often see them. Charesina's become a special friend of mine + reminds me awfully of Lauro. She 13 and at a boarding school but has long holidays. Then we go out to cinemas + places together + have unending discussions – naturally about religion just now, as she gets rather heavy doses of it at school and in the usual crude form.

The presumption of parsons is a source of never-ending amazement to me. What these children are told to accept as uncontrovertibly true every Sunday is just so much unverifiable hearsay. However Charesina doesn't need much prompting in that direction. She's not worried by funny old dogmas about immaculate conceptions and atonements and the like: that happened when she was 11; she's well away now with wanting to become a professional medium, and generally with the vexed question of immortality — all very carefully worked out. Ça passera.

I rather miss having no children of my own and tend to adopt any I meet. Spriggs's three are all alright — Robert joined the Air Force six months ago & is training to be a pilot — which will be an anxiety. He was appointed organist at Caius, his last term & really plays that instrument beautifully. I sometimes wonder how the vibration of an aeroplane will affect that — not favorably I expect. One would be grateful if he ever survived. He's a very attractive boy and has grown tremendously handsome. Rosemary's learning how to paint at the Slade School & Timothy-Lauro is still at prep. school.

The weather's lovely and altogether it's been a wonderful winter — quite mild, and everything very remote from the war except for work & news of people at the fronts. Now the raids have started again — just nuisance ones intended to keep one awake.

I wonder what you'd think of London. It's awfully dirty: nothing's been painted or decorated for years. There's a lot of dust when it hasn't rained for some time, old dust from old bomb holes. There's no débris about — everything's been tidied up, only gaps here & there and everywhere. The nicest thing that's happened is the removal of the railings for iron scrap, from the squares. The result is very pleasant. Berkeley Square looks lovely from any of its streets with huge tree trunks and grass, & Leicester Square without railings looks almost like a corner of the Luxembourg gardens. What new

buildings there are, are almost all hideous — from that point of view Berkeley Square's been ruined & so of course has the Adelphi with a real horror of vulgarity and concreteness where the old Terrace used to be.

No — we ceased being a nation of architects when Chambers died (& he built Somerset House — in case you didn't know)

What news of Ludovico? Do you ever hear now. I'm somehow sure he must have grown into someone fairly remarkable. He was 4 last time I saw him I think, & that must have been 10 years ago.

Sprigge's written a book — or rather finished a book about Italy — which we'll send you as soon as it's out. It ought to be good. He began it in 1927. But give us an address. I'm sending this to Harvard in the hope it reaches you alright — but Harvard's a big place. How's Salvemini? He's been writing some nonsense about Sardinia & Sicily in the Nazione Unite which I get every week.

Much love from us both,

& write soon

Sylvia.