

Simon - street interview

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Actually it would make a fine photograph, from right about here. Nicely formed, shaped, composed, however you or whatever the artists call it. This time there's a woman standing at the ^{SF stall} bookstall, checking picture books. Probably has no children, likes to read children's books anyway.

It's funny, that when I walk ~~through~~ ^{through} Boston usually I'm not as aware of the city as I am now. I'm never quite unaware of this place the way I've been unaware of, say, Newark or many parts of New York -- I'm totally unaware of it. I rather think the panorama here is a little more interesting to me anyway. Maybe it's because the entire aura is ^C relatively old.

A lot of well-dressed women in Boston, too. Not badly dressed. Of course, in the city you have either very good legs or very bad legs. That's a fellow with a jacket.

Again a church. ^B Again the feeling that it's a building which blends perfectly against the Fall rather than the Spring or Summer. It would probably be a cool building in the summertime. The bare limbs of small, bare trees enter perfectly, too.

The Personal Book Shop ^B _____ There's a branch down here.

Arlington St. Church. ^B Potted plants in the window above it. Is that the ^{Muse} _____ up there?

Oh, here we go, here we go! Look at the red shakos. ^P And see the new '56 Pontiac. ^T And the plane-

You don't see many of these any more. You always see them at football ^P games or down at the beach in the summertime. They usually fly lower too. I guess it would be kind of tough over a city like this to fly that low. Who is that ^{SP} status of?

(Wendell Phillips) (NO. more)

Oh, yes, yes. I read a book of his speeches once. Or was that Phillips Brooks.

Turn left here again?

Again the backs of the people. ^P That gentleman up there, ^P reminds me of gentlemen or that series of gentlemen and playing chess in the park.

Fife and drum corps. And one of those social problems again. ^B Neal's of Calif. It's funny, first I look at the dresses, I felt at the same time that they were a little bit too lush, not conservative enough. Then I looked up and saw the sign on top of the store, "Neal's of Calif.", and it makes sense.

— next to Roach and Craven, ^B whoever they are, selling antiques.

My, oh my, oh my. Women. Wall, here we are, here's where we started before. ^P

Attractive women - not particularly pretty, but attractive.

Zero Newbury ^{S/} has got a shoe store. ^B I wonder if this wind comes booming down the canyon here. What street is this? Newbury? ^N The way it does on Wall St. I wonder whether we're getting an especially strong breeze.

People talk ^T about how parked cars destroy the beauty of the city, and so on. To me, parked cars along the street cause me to lose nothing whatsoever. I think the entire picture, the decor is just as fine with the cars as it would be without. What is the decor? Decor is mostly a street of shops where ^C secretaries, fairly well educated secretaries, say two years of college, come and splurge their cash for a dress once every six months when they don't buy it in Jordan Marsh or someplace like that.

Very decorate ^B steeple. It's funny, if you stand a church like that out in the woods with no other buildings around, I think it would be atrocious. [?] It's not too good looking right now.

What's the name of that street? A very nice street. Of course, this isn't a normal day -- there's no traffic on the street, ^T and having people rushing back and forth, horns honking, and taxi drivers swearing, and pedestrians cursing at the Sunday drivers - kind of take the edge off the thing. It's a fine Sunday street even though it doesn't work on Sunday. Because you don't have the unpleasantness of business. Put it this way -- it's the kind of a street of shops where they should have one or two customers an hour and not a department ^C store, bargain-counter trade. And that kind of extends out into the street. When you begin to make the whole street a mass of women pulling and pushing to buy a 42¢ girdle for 65¢. Like Brooks Bros. ^B Supposedly they're a quality shop; they don't try to do a tremendous amount of volume

Simon, Cont.

although they're not just plain gentleman's tailors....don't kid yourself about that.

Which way here?

I don't at all like the John Henry, is it, John Hancock building...I even less like that steeple up at the top. It's the only blue part of the building, blue and gold---but it looks terrible..and the way that roof is steeped off makes me think only of the bleachers at a baseball game. not very attractive.

Oh! Is this still open--Bonwit Teller open this afternoon? They are open this afternoon.

Where do you want to go? (down here) Down here? Malcolm? I thought you were trying to attract (?) me.....it's a good alley, very good alley...a lot of milk boxes outside which you could probably steal if you needed them for anything. And the garbage cans are probably cleaner than garbage cans I've seen anywhere's else in my life. No fliesyou don't mind walking in the middle of the street.

It's a very wide alley, certainly, when you compare it with alleys in Europe and especially Japan...this alley is wide enough for two taxis to pass by, neck and neck in Japan.

Fire escapes.....fire escapes having many values. They always look as if they were hung on afterwards, as an afterthought. I always think of ordinances that made people put them up.

It's getting a little trashy around here.

Well, I see the telephone company folded up the man working signs....that's something very unusual. Most often you see man working signs at three o'clock in the morning when there hasn't been a man there for a month and a half.

Hm (looks down) that parking case says made in England.

That fireescape reminds me of the inside of the Statue of Liberty perhaps.

These are great things to jump to if you could only jump that high (fasc.) I've always wanted to walk down one and have it swing under me.

Now here, Malcolm, is your utter contrast to the garment district of New York, say fifty years ago. Well lighted...well-dressed women ironing clothes. This woman (down in shop) walking in with a book could very easily pass the way she's dressed at a cocktail party.....

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and she'll probably sit down at the machine and go to work pretty quick.

An alley's a very necessary thing. I don't think people really think of them when they lay out a city...it's so necessary for things like deliveries, I suppose. More women working, cutting. Certainly not a sweat shop by any means...I doubt if there are many sweat shops in Boston, at least in this part of Boston...You thought to this work of yours down in Southie or some place like that. You might see some other things down there.

Gosh, this is a very standard part of the city, a very necessary part, it couldn't be any other way really. This block we walked around. It's functional, got to be functional, certainly not tremendously pretty---but it couldn't be much prettier. Certainly aren't going to expect a cathedral to sell shoes in..or hats. very functional type. traffic gets by well enough I think Everybody makes a lot of money around here...the property value's high I'm not shure what else you could want. There isn't much you can say about an area like this really .

It doesn't jar my sensibilities... I have very little effect from this part of the city. almost a bit contradictory to what I said before, maybe, but it doesn't mean much to me. I'm not a shopper. I walk past this part of the city. It doesn't repel me...^{but} it's cert.^{isn't} attractive.