

Franconia, N.H.
Nov. 15, 1969

Dear Margie: (It certainly has taken us a longtime to hit upon a proper name and I don't know that we're finished yet, Barchie baby.)

Well the awful moment has come and what is it that makes me feel restless about this move? I do n't know. Still, it would be ~~monstrous~~ ~~monstrous~~ be something ungood, at my age, to stay put. Old Hem used to go to New York and see people and be interviewed even when he positively loathed the experience. "If you don't watch out," he said, "you wind up in a small room talking to yourself." And I think he is right about this bestirring bit. I notice you do it and heartily commend you for it. Inertia, I think, gets heavier as we grow older and who knows when it will become too heavy unless we keep tossing our head around to test that we are able to move.

We leave Monday, ~~Nov~~ Nov. 17 for London via BOAC, flight No. 56aY at 9 p.m. arriving there the next morning. We will be staying at:

THE ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION
37 Charles Street
Berkeley Square,
London W1X

We will be staying at this address for a couple of weeks probably but they will always forward our mail and keep track of our activities because we have joined that organization. Probably we will move into a small hotel or apartment and after that who knows. Sometime during our stay of probably six months, we will want to go to the continent for a visit to Switzerland to see dear friends; I would also like to go to West Germany, possibly to buy a Volkswagen. I brought one of those back from Italy you know and have enjoyed it very much. Of course it will be cold in England at this time of the year but the rates are low and in any case the weather will be a fur piece better than it is here in bleak New Hampshire. Ruth really feels, and the docs confirm, that she will feel better in a country where the temperature swings are not so extreme. We are very excited about making this kind of adlib trip and look forward to England particularly. I hope to see Don Ogden Stewart, Hem's old SUN ALSO RISES FRIEND (part of the Bill Gorton character along with Bill Smith). Somewhere I imagine, we will cross paths with old Harold (Loeb) who will be making his annual round about hejira to his wife's stamping grounds in South Africa. And I hope to revitalize my writing and get it going again although one has one's doubt about travel and new environment making this kind of painful discipline particularly easy.

Because of my going away I think it unconsonable to keep the photos any longer, even though you didn't want them in California particularly. I think everything is complete. I took you up on your generous offer of returning copies in only two cases, the Mao shot of Hem and the one of him smiling with the fish. I see by my correspondence that you authorized me to keep a family pix of you, and I do believe I inadvertently sent that back, but I guess my copy is okay Wish me luck and luck and love to you and thanks, thanks, thanks