

Stonegrave House Stonegrave York

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Dear Rafael:

It is already a month since I left Argentina and I have not yet written to thank you for all your kindness to me, and especially for that last wonderful weekend at San Jose del Socorro, which I enjoyed enormously. The whole experience of Argentina was a revelation, and I found the artistic situation full of interest and promise. It is stupid that I cannot read Spanish well enough to appreciate your poetry, or speak it well enough to exchange ideas with those who do not speak English. But I liked the atmosphere very much, and if only you can solve your peculiar economic and political problems there is surely a great future for the arts in your country.

I had an interesting three days in Caracas, but how different. I think the hanging gardens of Babylon must have been rather like those millionaire's palaces, with their beautiful collections of modern art. Leufert is a very good man and I liked Dr Arroyo, though I did not see enough of him. Mrs de Sujo, who seems to run most of the artistic activities there, is a charming and intelligent woman. Unfortunately Otero was in the States so I did not see him. His work is very impressive. I also liked the work of Soto and there is a writer called Jaime Tello who has done a prodigious translation of Eliot's Waste Land - about 400 footnotes!

I am trying to find a copy of Machin's The Great God Pan, but no luck so far. Is there anything else I promised you? I think I did send you a copy of my new book (Letter to a Young Painter) but always let me know if there is anything you would like to have of mine.

A week today I am off again - to Madrid first, then Barcelona and Mallorca and on to Switzerland (Ascona). Then I go to Valdarno (near Vicenza) to take part in the Marzotto jury. I think I told you about this Italian millionaire who is organising

a "European Common Market" exhibition (which will tour the Common Market countries), with the eventual idea of founding a European Museum. Then I go to Venice for a few days (to give that lecture you heard in B.A., with, I hope, a different chairman) and so home by about September 15.

There is to be a national Poetry Festival in Washington October 22-4 to which I have been invited as the only "voice from abroad". I may go, just for those three days, as all expenses are paid and the fee is enormous. But I shall have had enough travelling by the end of the year!

Please write to me from time to time, though you may find me a poor correspondent - I have no secretary in Yorkshire and I have so little time. Please give my kindest regards to your wife - I regret that I saw so little of her - and my best wishes to your brother and his wife. Try to come to England again - a warm welcome awaits you always.

Yours ever *Herbert Read*

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Sender's name and address: Sir Herbert Read

Stonegrave

YORK

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL.

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Senor Rafael Squirru

Arenales 1299

BUENOS AIRES

ARGENTINA