

Replied.
16/6/78

9 Fairfield Road,
Plumstead, C.P.,
7800
12th June, 1978

Dear Benji,

If I may call you that. In the first place, I was much interested in your article on Robert in Reality.

Then, the question of his letters. I gave you Coste de lauche with mine, but I have since heard from Veronica. She is bitterly opposed to publication of his letters, + so are all her people. It is contrary to the customs of her people, and Robert was always opposed to it.

It seems to me that publication would hurt her very much, and offend against the ways and wishes of her people; and frankly I think that would be wrong, and an injustice to Robert's memory. Perhaps I express myself too strongly, but I do think her wishes should be regarded.

Will you therefore disregard my remonstrance?
If I may do so without being presumptuous, I think a book by you on Robert,

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quoting from his letters to you, might be different, an excellent record, and find acceptance with Veronica.

I may say that I was unaware of her strong objection, and when Pete Brown asked me to write, I didn't think of consulting her, but as you saw, quoted "in moderation."

I hope you do not mind my writing this. I do understand your wish to publish in toto. Who knows that that may not come later. But a "life" now, before the fickle young forget, would be an excellent thing. It may have to be published overseas, depending on how much you quote + how much paraphrase. I had unaccustomed as I was, of the problem until I saw my article in print.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Nell Merquand.

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