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Book Review

NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE

230 West 41st Street, New York 36, N. Y.

February 12, 1959

Dear Alan:

Your note about Roy Rudden prompts me to do what I have been meaning to do ever since Christmas--write to thank you and Dorrie for your Christmas card. It was the first word I'd had from you in some time, and even so brief a word as that was welcome.

There have been many changes on the paper here since you were last in New York. You may not have realized in what bad condition we had got, both financially and circulation-wise. The Reids finally had to give up and sold a controlling interest to John H. Whitney (Jock Whitney). It is in a way the best thing that could have happened to the paper, for Mr. Whitney is a man of vast and intelligent interests who has already put new hope into the paper. He himself will remain as Ambassador to England until January 1st, 1960, when his term of office will be up, but one of his representatives has been working here very quietly and wisely for the past year and another, his closest friend and business associate, I am told, is also keeping an eye on the Tribune. The Herald Tribune is now a part of the Plymouth Corporation, the name under which all of Mr. Whitney's many cultural enterprises are designated. He has also bought an interest in several small radio stations around New York which he will use as the "Times" does WQXR for music and promotion of the Tribune by reports on its contents.

George Cornish, who has been here for many years and is much respected, is Executive Editor, and we have as City Editor Dick West, who has also been on the desk for a long time. There are various other changes and shiftings of personnel, all so far to the good, I think.

Plans for the future are on foot in every department, including the Book Review, but nothing will be done suddenly, for the whole approach is a gradual and wise one. The first thing that has happened to the Book Review is that Art and Records, which had been combined with Books, are now back in Section Four of the paper and we have the Review all to ourselves. This will give us a couple of more pages every week to cover books in.

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We are also planning to report more or less regularly on paperback books, whose publication is growing by leaps and bounds in this country. In fact, we published a special paperback section in January, which I am sending to you under separate cover as you may be surprised to see the extent of this new publishing development.

I am delighted to hear that you have been writing a play, and I shall ask Annie Laurie to let me see a copy of it when it arrives. Do you mind?

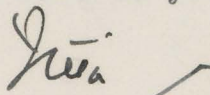
Personally, all goes well with me and my family. I have ten grandchildren now, the latest one born a year ago Christmas Eve. They and their parents are flourishing and happy.

The winter has been on the whole a hard one so far as weather is concerned--wet and cold for the most part, though today is a beautiful, clear, crisp, sunny one.

I am not sure just how much I can help your friend Roy Rudden. There is little opportunity on the Tribune just now so far as I know, but I'll talk to George Cornish about him and introduce him when he comes, just in case things have opened up a little.

I do hope you and Dorrie are well and that, despite the political difficulties under which you work, you are not feeling too discouraged. I wish you could come back here. It would be so good to see you.

My love to you both,



Irita Van Doren

Mr. Alan Paton
23 Lynton Road
KLOOF
Natal, South Africa

23 Lynton Road,
KLOOF,
Natal, South Africa.

14th May, 1959.

Dear Irita,

Many thanks for your letter about Roy Rudden. I did not realise that there had been such a drastic re-~~organi-~~sation at the HERALD TRIBUNE, and hope that Mr. Whitney is coming up to expectations. I told Roy Rudden that if he went over there you would introduce him. Now it is up to him to decide. Meanwhile he is on our biggest Sunday paper, THE SUNDAY TIMES.

The play had its first performance in Lusaka, Northern Rhodesia, and I am at this very moment engaged on a last script, which will go to Annie Laurie as soon as possible. You will be very welcome to read it.

I am glad to hear that everything goes well.. I do not know when next we shall visit the States, but if and when we do, we shall certainly see you.

Love from us both.

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