

16 Gray Gardens E., Cambridge, Mass.

February 22 '61.

Dear Father Merton:

Many thanks for your letter of February 9th.

I expect you are right to postpone writing for us about Confucius and our own Western formulations of the same basic truths with which all thoughtful men must deal. It will be good to have what you write when you write it.

It is good to hear that you are keen on the Shakers. I am sending a back issue of our quarterly in this same mail with a little article on them which shows that we share this interest. I did not know that there is an exhibition of Shaker work going about in New England colleges + will look out for it. A society for the preservation of ~~Shaker~~ things Shaker was formed last year (I think) + I joined it with enthusiasm. The relics are interesting in themselves, but more importantly they show how a culture can be established and perfect in the heart of an alien + godless civilization. What could be done in the 19th century could be done as well in the 20th, if a group could be got together who saw value in such a culture and were determined to achieve it. And there are still Shaker "families", ^(buildings) into which Catholic monastic orders of the right sort could move were they minded to acquire them.

Would your library like a set of The Catholic Arts Quarterly and Good Work, as far back as copies are available? I would be glad to have such a ^{piecemeal} set made up for you. It is now impossible to get together any more complete sets.

Thank you very much for the extra copy of the "great wily" essays, and especially for introducing me to Peter Watts.

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I have just had a very good letter from him with the promise of more photographs of his work. It is curious that I seem not to have heard of him before. He knew Eric Gill slightly, and Reginald Jefferies, and Hilary Pepler + Thomas Deaneich very well indeed, as I also did. It is hard to judge sculpture from photos, but what I have now seen fills me (not all of it, but enough) with real enthusiasm. He really seems like the real thing, of which we see so little.

Yes, of course, we would be very glad to see anything that you could send about Zen. About this also, of course, no hurry.

And finally, thank you for the gesture of friendship ^{using} in ~~the use~~ of what serves me for a Christian name. How should I address you? Father Louis?, Father Thomas?; what?

Very gratefully yours in P
Graham.