

16 Grey Gardens E.  
Cambridge, Mass.

December 20 '60.

Dear Father Louis: —

Thank you very much for your letter of the 15<sup>th</sup>. I am very glad that you found the Coomaraswamy papers + the pamphlets so useful. I of course entirely agree with your estimate of A.K.C. and of our great need of learning from him more about our own spiritual affairs. I will be only too glad to send you other pieces of his writing whenever you have time for them.

Dona Luisa Coomaraswamy, as she styles herself, is a near neighbor here in Cambridge, and we see her occasionally, though she sticks very closely to her work, and seldom goes out. I will speak to her of your interest when

we next meet. Her son Rama Cornwell is a doctor and a convert to Catholicism. He has a little girl who is very ill indeed, and I am sure that both the parents and the grand mother would be very grateful for your prayers.

I quite understand your architectural difficulties. We have forgotten the nature of ecclesiastical life. Very few of our present day builders have any right to the name of architect, or any conception of what it properly stands for. The prominent ones are almost without exception engineers whose thinking has been perverted by the practices of advertisement & packaging. The Catholic Art Association is planning to feature exhibited - and problems at its Convention next August. We are rushing the nature of the Sacred, and of sacred space, our Convention theme. I hope we will be able to direct some

attention to this most important subject. Miss Adé de Bethune of Newport, R.I. is the only person I know who has anything really practical to offer in the present confusion. She has no formal architectural background, but has done a lot of good as an architectural consultant, when she has been called in early enough in the designing process. She has all the basic understandings and skills which the 999 builders so notably lack.

I would like very much to see photographs of Peter Watts' carvings, both at your abbey and elsewhere. I do not recall seeing any notice of his work before. <sup>As far as I can judge from</sup> Judging by the St. Benedict which you enclosed, I would think that it may be better than Gills' in certain important respects. I'd be grateful to see as many photos of his work as you can send, with a few facts regarding the artist. I have in mind the possibility of a short illustrated article for Good Work for the March '61 issue.

I have a book on the Shakers, and some other material, that I would be glad to send you. The story of that adventure in monasticism is an extraordinarily interesting one. It seems to me a first class tragedy that the remaining "family" villages, had not been bought up by Catholic monastic groups, instead of crumbling down, being pulled down or being turned to secular purposes. I have bought quite a lot of Shaker linen, which I intend to use for altar cloths + albs, but that is not much to stem the general waste.

I have not seen Disputed Questions, + look forward to receiving the review copy you are reading. Thank you again for your letter. May your Christmas be a happy one, and the coming year full of graces.

Gratefully yours,  
Graham Casey.