

Country
I was
Agresti, whom
David Lubin,
in Rome -

clad to have a ^{cardinal note from} ~~cardinal~~ note from ^{Oliver Bonatti}
I ~~can~~ met you ago when she was right hand
head + front of International Institute of Agriculture
she feels that

Via Circo Menotti, 36,
Rome, 16.XII.1952

Russell. (2)

Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Scott,
Idbury Manor, Kingham, Oxfordshire.

Talking the other way

Agresti

Dear Friends:

It gave me great pleasure to receive your card today and to see that you remember me. I was ~~talking~~ talking about you both with my sister, Mrs. Angeli, who now lives in Rome (our old London home was blown up by a flying bomb at the end of World War II (How ominous that American way of referring to wars is); and we were remembering those interesting sketches by your sister of Korea. I suppose all that beauty has been ruthlessly destroyed. I feel that we are witnessing a period parallel to that of the break up of the Roman Empire. Things must have looked pretty black to St. Jerome when he visited those lady friends of his on the Aventine here in Rome, and yet that fall and destruction was the necessary premise to the up-building of a new and in some ways a greater civilisation and art. Perhaps now in some part of the world the Good Tidings are being brought to the shepherds who are simple enough to see what the wise are blind to. You have to be at a great distance to see the harmony of the whole grand plan. Sometimes when I look at the star-spangled night sky and watch the slow majestic passage of the planets and constellations, I think that if I were up on one of those other worlds I should see the local disturbances, the storms and eruptions and should miss the ~~the~~ wonderful harmony of the whole.

(Since the war two great things at least have been accomplished by the ~~Labor Party~~: the withdrawal from India, so that there we have a friend instead of a bitter enemy, and the health Insurance laws which ~~save~~ save such cruel financial anxiety at the very time when families are least able to meet it. Of course we all know that the nation pays for it, but it is surely a most beneficent form of insurance. ~~That a misfortune that things~~ have taken such a turn in ^{Malaya} Malaya and Indo-China. Surely it would have been much better if in both cases the example given in India had been followed.

small
collected
3/19/53

MS 23 YA : 1 : 8