

3 St. Edmund's Ter.
London, N.W. 8
31st July, 1935

7 AUG. 1935

My Dear Mr Robertson Scott:

We got home very comfortably yesterday and on the way up talked of the delightful hours we had passed under your hospitable roof. Both my sister and I enjoyed our visit so very much and Helen was lost in admiration of your Korean and Japanese treasures and of those wonderful works of Miss Elizabeth Keith.

I thought Mr Robertson Scott looked wonderfully fit and full of energy, but I should like you to take a little rest and change. I suppose you find it very difficult to get away from your absorbing work, but it is wise to ease up in time.

When I get back to Rome and see how things are going there I shall write again and let you have the situation

Copied 139.

From the Italian standpoint. We are living in wonderful times but like all transition periods they are full of perplexities. The Italian nation is a dynamic force with - at the present juncture - no adequate outlet. What strikes any student of their manifestations down the ages is their superabundant energy, always taking a universal rather than a national character. This was true of Roman civilization, of the medieval church as it radiated from Rome, of Italian art in its many forms from Dante to the high Renaissance, of Italian music which arose, as the country declined; of the Strains of the Risorgimento as expressed by Mazzini - young Italy growing into young Europe - and now again after a partial eclipse of materialism and mediocrity the nation is conscious of great possibilities and of gifts it can bring - even during the past 50 years its patient armies of emigrant workers have poured real wealth in the ~~the~~ form of their labor into the New World - and it finds nowhere a sympathetic

hearing or reception, and feels thwarted
of opportunity. It is trying
in the guided state a great social
experiment - misunderstood and
belittled by the outside world.
It is trying to build up a new rural
civilization notwithstanding the in-
numerable difficulties of financial
poverty, believing that spiritual
energy can and will overcome them.

Italy is called machiavellican when, as
a matter of fact, she is the most un-
spoken and sincere of the nations and
where France and England clothe
national motives under the cloak
of international high mindedness, she
talks of "sacred egoism" and national
needs. But enough of this.

I have greatly enjoyed my stay
in England and the day with

you is a high light in the picture.

Please tell Dr. Robertson Scott that looking through my engaged's recent book on the train I saw I really have no time to write his kind letter to the oculist, but shall have my detestable glasses righted as soon as I get back to Rome and shall bear his criticisms of them in mind in getting a new pair.

With warm friendship believe me

Very cordially yours

Olivia Rossetti Agresti

P.S. By the way, I feel rather hypocritical with you because I once heard you criticizing severely P. Catharina and did not tell you that I belong to that communion ... not so my sisters.