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3-29-1892

**To Arthur R. Gledhill - March 29, 1892**

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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TO ARTHUR R. GLEDHILL

1691 Cambridge St.<sup>a</sup>

**Harvard University,  
Cambridge.**

March 29 – 1892.

My dear Art,

I received your letter this morning, and must apologize for not writing during the past month. I have kept putting it off, and you see the result. This is all I can say in my own defense, but I trust you will not be hard on me, as I think, though it seems ungenerous for me to say it at this time, that you have done the same thing in times past.

As the spring comes on they begin to feed us on eggs at Memorial Hall. It [=I] suppose it is because they are cheap this time of year, but a person of lewd mind might find a chance for a mild joke considering the fact. Don't think by this that I have

-2-

anything but a pure mind. Some of my friends probably noticed too [=the] possible humor of the thing and I have transcribed it here. Those same eggs have given me a headache. I ate them in a hurry between 1 & 1.30 P.M<sup>b</sup> and washed them down with divers glasses of milk. Such a diet ought to make a man grow fat and strong, but if he varies it with a pipe every hour through the day, perhaps he ought not to expect much benefit. I am feeling first rate though on the whole, and have no reason to complain. I smoke too much, however, and ought to stop, but somehow I keep right on. I have just written a French composition and my friend Johnson from Kentucky has copied it for his own benefit. There is nothing like associated effort in Colleges. It begins to look

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<sup>a</sup> WA does not include this address.

<sup>b</sup> WA has a period here.

now as though I might read an ordinary  
French novel or play without any great trouble

-3-

by the end of the year. What I think of  
doing is to read all summer (four or five  
novels, say) and come back here in the Fall.  
Then I shall take Course "1a" in French, which  
is a reading course especially intended for [those]  
who do not expect to continue the ~~the~~ study  
of the language. Shall also take German and  
one or two courses in English and one in History.  
But this is counting eggs in advance, and I will  
switch off.

I never supposed that I could be surprised at  
anything you would do if you took a notion;  
but I must admit that your late scheme  
for amusement staggered me a little. There  
is nothing really ~~st~~ startling about cutting up  
a stiff for diversion but the idea is a  
little uncanny to a man of sensitive temperament.  
I doubt if I could do it. Your picture  
is on my mantel now and I look to it for  
inspiration. Whitney & Barnard were in night

-4-

before last (Sunday) and W<sup>d</sup> took it up  
and began to examine it. He did not recognize  
it at first, but after a moment he rolled  
his eyes around towards us and said, "Jesus  
Christ!"--You had better take them off.

Have I ever said anything to you about a  
thesis I am to write ~~of~~ on "Pendennis"?  
I don't think I have, and now I will say  
that the time has come and I feel rather un-  
easy. The thing will cover 40 or 50 pages, and  
as I have never written anything of the kind, I  
do not feel quite sure about it. Will have  
to go to work to-morrow, however, and see what  
I am good for.--Went to hear Patti  
last Saturday in "Traviata". Never realized  
what grand opera was before. The diva was

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<sup>c</sup> WA reads "co" here.

<sup>d</sup> WA has a period here.

in a very good humor and sang [sung]<sup>e</sup> "Home, Sweet Home",  
after the second act. She received several bunches  
of flowers and Sigs. Del Puente<sup>f</sup> and Vallero<sup>g</sup>  
lugged them off.

Yours most sincerely  
Robinson

HCL

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<sup>e</sup> WA penciled this bracketed question in the margin. The holograph looks like "sung" but "sang" makes better sense in this context, especially since EAR sometimes writes his a's without bridging the top, and rarely if ever makes grammatical errors.

<sup>f</sup> WA has "Del Puede." While EAR's handwriting is as usually open to interpretation here, the actor's name was actually Giuseppe Del Puente (in the role of Germont), and I believe that this is what EAR intended and wrote here.

<sup>g</sup> The actor's name was Fernando Valero (with one "l," as Alfredo), but the holograph supports WA's reading of "Vallero."