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5-20-1893

## To Harry de Forest Smith - May 20, 1893

Edwin Arlington Robinson

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### Recommended Citation

Robinson, Edwin Arlington, "To Harry de Forest Smith - May 20, 1893" (1893). *Edwin Arlington Robinson Letters and Transcriptions*. 102.

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TO HARRY DE FOREST SMITH

Cambridge, May 20 - '93

My dear Smith,

I have not yet got over my grouch on account of your not being able to come. Saturday was a magnificent day and I am sure you would have enjoyed yourself. But there is no use growling, I suppose.<sup>a</sup> I hope, though, that you will try to come up next Friday or at least sometime before I leave.

It is pretty hot this forenoon and I am feeling rather dull. If you were here I fancy we would both be smoking pipes or something else, and trying to keep cool and in peace with the world in general.

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I drank a pint of Ulumm {?} last evening before going to the theatre and it knocked my stomach out. I find the less I drink of anything in that line, the bet[t]er I feel. I had been making plans to go to the theatre with you Saturday evening, so I will send you a programme with another big bundle of Crimsons and Nations. The play did not amount to very much, though it was above the average.

It was enough to do a man's soul good to sit in the Common or Public Gardens yesterday afternoon. It would be hard to imagine anything more pleasant. I had an engagement at four, but went

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in early to have a smoke and watch the people. People are rather interesting after all, if you don't have to talk with them.

<sup>b</sup>Did I tell you that I went into

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<sup>a</sup> WA reads "growling. I suppose," etc.

<sup>b</sup> WA omits the indent.

Schoenhof's not long ago and spent the afternoon there.<sup>1</sup> It was a rainy day and I drifted in too {=to} look over the French and German books intending to buy one or two to take the "cuss" off. € [?] I met a congenial soul and also many volumes that took my eye, and ended up by ordering fourteen dollars worth of stuff of various sorts—including much of Coppée, Beaumarchais—a copy of Faust—Voltaire's Romances and some

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stray novels and plays. I managed to curb myself and refrain from buying a magnificent two-volume edition of Freytags<sup>c</sup> Lost Manuscript and Heyse's "In Paradise"--in German. I suppose I shall have to get them before the year is over, but if my eye[s] keep on as they are now, I shall have [a] hard time reading them.

Now make it a plan to come up here sometime during the next month. If you once get yourself started I know you will always be glad. I do not mean this as an intimation that you might have come this week—you must have had some good reason which I trust will not occur again.

Sincerely

E.A.R<sup>d</sup>

HCL US, 98-99.

#### NOTES

1. Schoenhof's Foreign Books in Harvard Square, established in 1856. Its brick-and-mortar business closed on March 25, 2017. (SL)

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<sup>c</sup> WA has "Freytag's".

<sup>d</sup> WA has "E. A. R." and omits the underline.