

Ezra Pound Papers  
YCAL MSS 43  
Box 45, folder 1949

Series I. General Correspondence

Rouse, W. H. D. / 1934-40 [6 of 15 folders]

35  
AP  
2

" What , paroles en liberte ! "

I come back to my first opinion re/ the way to get  
the job done/ namely that you shd/ run on , in  
your own way to the END, and then go back and look  
more carefully at the meaning of each let us say PHRASE  
( not word ) of the original.

I simply don't believe that any man could do the MASTERWORD  
that a definitive english Odyssey should HHHH be ,  
at the speed you are going.

who makes the living line must SWEAT ,

be gheez.!

I appear to be the last living Rhadmanthus, turco the terrible  
and the only fool left on earth who calls down the mighty  
from their seats ( and then watches 'em clinging to the  
tacks in the upholstery ..

process usually conducted in  
taciturn aloofness .. indicated in cessation os correspondence.

Those I hear N. Angell is weeping in public that I birched  
him. ( evidence not yet to hand ).

Rous IV  
29 AB

35

reference numbers corresponding to numerals on mss/  
I. genative in OF, much less idiom than genitive in 's  
parallel epithets BAD. I mean trusty x of illustrious y  
deadly soporific in halfmuted " calss c " english pentameter.

Throw out one. HH M's henchman  
great M's Henchman.

your majesty ( better than illustrious king )

They look like royalty.

Here are a pr/ of strangers, yr/ maj. They look like roya  
; like members of some royal family.

you can LEAVE OUT any number of words so long as you do  
leave out any subject matter. i.e; so long as you TELL the  
reader everything that goes on.

IT IS the detail of the action  
that must stay/ not the detail merely put in for sound and  
movement of the hexameter.

my  
circles usually mean OMIT

is, copula/ verb of little action and no colour/ Fenollosa  
is excellent on this topic/ Dante's strength in his verbs/  
condense metaphoric expression in CHOICE of verb/  
gt/ strength in English. saves words.

WHEN the readers is WELL aware of relation of speakers,  
wife, husband, to whom a thing said, the only reason for  
using WORDS is for sake of MOVEMENT ( of hexameter in the gk  
of your prose in th trans/

The words are there to TELL the reader/ it is bad writing to  
lose sight of this PRIME reason for using words at all.

mss  
is

of verbs

HISTON MANOR,  
CAMBS.

May 20. 1935

Dear Mr Pound

Don't worry - I was only trying  
it on - but I am really pleased that you do  
not like the "Cæth" bit. It's worth  
making an English idiom, I think.

The first speeches, however, are meant <sup>by Homer</sup>  
to be formal; they are not easy adapted,  
as most of the book is. Athena is always

"coming down to persuade a nation", and

Zeus puts his foot down "with unchangeable  
will" - don't make any mistake about

that. Book 20 - the great scene of the  
lovers in a net - the gods mix themselves <sup>formally</sup>  
Just score anything you don't like

it send on the MS, as the printer will  
want more soon.

Why not eternal bliss? It's more  
natural than that. Gallego's men can  
carry.

With regards  
Gaster.

There is nothing very important: that each  
{ = sentence  
phrase I should give a bit of meaning complete  
in itself, (2) should be easy to speak without  
holding breath or pausing; & one of the sentences  
as you note it, E. Kemp at a relation, is too  
long to speak or read aloud without gabbling.  
What I want is a real audience, hearing long,  
& then I can see how everything goes down. You are  
a good substitute in the matter of clearing off  
unnecessaries, but in the other matter too abrupt,  
at least so it seems to me.

But the speech is too stilted, I agree.  
So I will try again. Do you want me to go on  
sending it to you? I gather it boxes your  
time, & it is not my wish to do that; but the  
thing was undertaken really to please you, though  
now I have got wrapped up in it myself.  
All you need do is to score what you don't  
like, & you can read a book in half an  
hour. Just say what you want. I can't  
do without some one else's criticism when I  
have no audience. Same as Homer!  
No say, no dinner. That's the test!

HISTON MANOR,  
CAMBS.

You did not answer my question about the old English Homer. (I have not forgotten him, you shall have a specimen.)

Have you a series of little books on the stocks? or on the market? It is a lovely idea — my own idea, as I told you, but lovely all the same, or I got in a whole lot of grand old books before Blackie got the wind up. But what I could give you from Holland's Plying! A man who has no more style than the Stores Catalogue or Bradshaw's Railway Guide he makes to sing like a nightingale. It can all be read aloud too, every sentence.

Yours sincerely  
W H D Rouse

P.S. You did not answer my question about *οἶκος τὸν τὸν*.

who has been very useful in this last - how  
do you like that sentence with TWO  
relative pronouns? and I don't write  
"and who"

I shall have heaps of time after  
next week. All this past year I had  
had a Sanskrit pupil, an Indian,  
who really knows more Sanskrit than  
I do but I had had work to keep  
up with him, sometimes 8 or 10 hours  
work for one hour's reading; but he is  
going back. The first edition of the  
new type I have known, like a glass of  
beer all froth, bubbling up all the  
political catchwords & as rain as a  
hexach. A dangerous type, & those  
are the men who want to govern India.  
Everyone will get fat jobs for all his  
relations, justice will disappear, & bribery  
& corruption will be everywhere. God  
save us, I am very apprehensive -  
Diphal Karā Bhūy. Yours sincerely

W H D Rouse

May 27. 1935

HILTON MANOR,

CAMBS.

Dear Mr Pound,

I am very glad to hear  
that you can go on with the part of  
Candid Critic. I do love a critic who  
says what he means, and I hate a man  
more than the gates of death who says one  
thing & hides another in his heart -  
Only I am anxious not to be a bore (1)  
and (2) not to hinder any one from keeping  
the wolf from the door, which I have  
to do myself but when I get a job  
like this I can't stop it. Don't worry  
about the speed, that's really what  
we want, and I can easily do load  
lots again.

But it is a new job to tell the story  
and yet to stick to Homer, and write  
experiments.

You have not seen the old Homer yet;  
I have not studied it, & it may be not  
up to Golding - Do you know Dr. J. S. P. & Phayre's Odyssey? That is in the  
same meter, & complete - in fact he has  
produced a thirteen-volume book for somewhere  
or other. I have it here.

If you see anything you like  
my pages just O.K. in will you?  
It's a great help - because these  
little sparks give me such

intense pleasure that I really don't know if  
they are good. I just explode into "Lobsters"  
pieces. The gods in the Odyssey also are too  
comic for words, & not a trace of caricature.

But Homer is like the Ocean -  
fathomless - there is always something at the  
very depths which you never saw before -  
and his last scene of Achilles & Priam  
sums up human life & destiny & leaves  
you sad but confident in the good God -

Has your father any opinions to offer on  
the Odyssey?

I have sent copies to 20 different people,  
but I can't get anything definite. Some say  
nothing (hedging), some say they like it  
(something, but no good), nobody says  
damn load when it is load, & I know  
some of it is load. However I have just  
tried a new friend who really is a critic



30 May

Rouse

35

Dear Doc R/

Me yole man sez, az he reccomembers  
recommembers, the injuns had SHORT bows, and you strung  
'em over yr/ knee, bow outward string inward, or if  
you putt the end of bow on ground, you did it bow  
outward.

I think greek vase painting wd/ be better authority  
from Odysseus' habits.

no surety that greeks wuz/ injuns.

But dad says one kept the bow as steady as possible, which  
might be against any trembling.

re/ current GLAUKOPUS ( N.E.W. ) bright and glint, partial  
tautology, but

grey eyes glinting, ought to cover the total.

it is the glint that = the glauk of owl and olive. O.K.

dunno about "tongues of sacrifice" / meaning not immediately  
or even post=immediately clear.

On the reworking, perhaps it shd/ all go ten points  
TOWARD yr/ first ~~SEED~~ story for BOYS, in making the  
total trans/ you are still hampered by trying to bring over  
the total VERBAL display, instead of the total narration.

Quickly my dear children carry out my wish/  
isn't LANGUAGE.

that pp/ no improvement on Leaf Lang

Send a herdsman to fetch that calf, and some one else  
call the men from this fellow's ship ( Tel. being clumsy at  
that point of sentence )

or simply, and get the men  
some one go call the sailors.  
brutes

Laerces can gild up the calf's horns

Z Done  
30 May 35

it all needs working down and working down to the  
BODY of the narration which is miles from the  
mass of word by word equivalence.

What I wanted ~~HERE~~ ADDED to the boy's version, was not  
a lot of LANGUAGE, but the POINTS made in the original,  
and perhaps beyond what boys of 10 wd/ take in.

Though in some cases I thought (as per the  
raft manoeuvre) the POINTS wd/ make it more interesting  
even to 7 year olds.

Get a calf, get the sailors, let <sup>4</sup>aerces gild the  
can loaf round and jolly  
cal's horns, the rest of you sit round and amuse the  
girls while they get supper. G hustle enough wood and  
and clean water.

So they set to it, and brough up the calf and the sailors,  
and <sup>4</sup>aerces came up with hammer and tongs and his  
goldsmith's little anvil, not to gild her but put  
real gold plate on the horns ...

There is NO END to the  
reworking.. but reworking AD REM; non ad verbum.

Parenthesis, <sup>4</sup>argrave wants some ABSOLUTELY copper plate latin  
for Economic Charter of the <sup>4</sup>British People.

Britannorum

All I can give him is "Br~~XXXXXXXXXX~~oeconomica carta"

3. *Round* 35

never employed ithe lang/ extensively in composition or even  
in correspondence.

never HAVE had the faintest idea re/ spelling  
( parvenu renaissance uniformity )

greeks NOT worried , so far as I know. Whenever one  
quotes any greek FROM a specific text , some half wit usually  
corrects you from a dictionary with no ref/ to the  
dialest of the original .

// Phaeer Aeneid , not up to Gavin Douglas/ I really MEAN a lot  
of what I have said in ABC of Reading.

re/ BEST and second rate.

An unknown Iliad , of Golding's time ( presumably earliest known  
unless Master Watson's went beyond the two lines )

MUST be worth 32 pages of reprint. Your time,  
my time , cost of typing, etc/ as against photostat//

... IF Mott gets away with the earlier ~~etc~~ items already  
promised. I finished my addenda to Fenollosa's Chinese

Written Character yesterday. THERE IS richness, and a field  
full of plenty..

NOBODY with the faintest CRITICAL  
sense , I.E. no occidental with critical sense has yet

LOOKED at subject. F had an intuition, and did see

WHITHER ... but hadn't got /f/ very far as to

selection...

mediocrity existing in China , and the medium  
NOT taking care of any writers lack of depth, or perception.

WHERE IS yr/ tele?iso ?? In X, about I20 +  
they are talking about bow.

you say XXI, I25 / hold on Pelimidgetn

; latin trans/ gives ter quidem ipsum papulit/

Handwritten notes on the left margin, including "24" and "1992-1993".

Handwritten notes on the right margin, including "Pat" and "Lm".

Handwritten scribble on the right margin.

ROBAM KOTLIN

BRKAO

but I have kept more & more of the triflings  
& it gets less & less of a tricol.

I don't judge the experiment, & if carried  
against my will I shall not be of the same  
opinion still, but I'll just do it again.

I wish somebody else would offer an  
opinion.

The names & letters will remain a  
great problem. You can't turn them into  
Smith & Jones.

By the way your postmaster has  
done something funny. I had to pay a tax on  
the back parcel & the outside was  
stamped to the effect that this was

not a commercial sample but marketable  
merchandise therefore pay up. I tackled the  
P.M.G. at once & said if it was marketable  
I should be greatly obliged if he would sell it  
for me, but in fact it was an educational  
exercise returned for after correction.

We'll see what he says. But now I am  
having it typed the loss will not matter  
so much, & if you label it Educational  
in this country you can send heaps of  
stuff for a halfpenny. Anyhow don't  
let him call it commercial sample.

I should like to hear what you  
think of my old Nanny's dialect.  
She & the sunnier simply imposed  
themselves on my vision as old family  
servants such as I know in my youth,  
as much a part of the family as I was.

What for the cook took is "my horses"  
& "my brougham" - I can remember his  
saying at me "Don't ye break my  
windas or I'll make 'ee repent on't!"  
And the old cook who used to leave a  
packet of sandwiches & cakes near my  
bed, "Master Willey's haul" she  
called it. My sister never got any!  
Those old servants in Homer go right  
to my heart. "Thou'rt surely my  
body!" says the nurse. "Light o'  
my eyes" - says the swineherd. That's  
what we really were to the servants,  
and they to us as far as children  
can feel. It's a remarkable thing  
to find this wide & deep knowledge  
of "common people" in Homer. He was  
as universal as Shakespeare, not a  
flatterer of princes.

Yours sincerely  
W H D Rouse

June 3, 1935

HISTON MANOR,

CAMBS.

Dear Mr Pound,

Britannorum oeconomica carita is all  
right as to grammar: but oeconomica is it  
Latin, but Cicero wouldn't mind that.

Economics means to me handling. Look how the  
fundists have torn ship right about in  
the matter of free trade & go sailing due  
south for north without a bobsh. My  
economics are simple: Grow your own food  
& all these things shall be added unto thee.  
But that implies that you mustn't want  
too much, e.g. lifts & motors. Who will  
listen? No one.

You will find my letter tedious: is  
less & less a tedious. You remember I  
asked you whether you had in mind a  
tread: or a something else, & you  
thought a tread: & I tried for something  
which a man might read with the text.

30 May '35

(Rouse)

Me yole man sez , az he reccomembers , the injuns had  
SHORT ~~xxx~~ bows, and you strung 'em over yr/ knee, bow outward string  
inward , or if you putt the end of bow on ground, you did it bow  
outward.

...

But dad says one kept the bow as steady as possible, which might be  
against any trembling.