

Ezra Pound Papers
YCAL MSS 43
Box 45, folder 1953

Series I. General Correspondence

Rouse, W. H. D. / 1934-40 [10 of 15 folders]

HISTON MANOR,
CAMBS.

June 7. 1937

Dear Mr Pound

Put off your junk specs
& use white ones, & my things will not
appear as they did appear - I rather like
your dung-metaphor, for I see history through
the dung - The curious thing is that at any
given time the good seems so small & weak &
the evil so gigantic and voraciously that
the small good must be swallowed up, but it isn't.
It is the only thing that lasts.

I ought to have explained that my Pindar
translation is only a help to the intellect - it
helps the floundering scholar to see the meaning of
the Greek words, but he must take it through
the Greek spoken aloud, which is lovely:
only no teacher or lecturer ever speaks the
verse at all. That is what my Pindar
shows 'em how to do. If you are
interested I'll send you my Greek records.

My sense at the back of the little ode is
simple enough. His odes are a little above
Nanny, but not very much. She could recite
all the bits of the long words, just as a Greek
child knows what *Quotopodia* means
if he has never seen a camera. He would not
understand *Trinitrotoluol*, because that is
inhuman. No do I.

M. Butcher has the proofs of my old golding
& I hope he'll get a publisher. He also has
Gavin Douglas's *Aeneid*, which is fine stuff
in spite of the Scots difficulties, & the printer
like an ass has printed *Z* for the guttered y,
so that you read *Zou* tell me *Zour* take.
But that can be changed. Have you a
copy of Tales from the Isles of Greece, or if not
would you like one? They are modern Greek
sketches, which I translated 40 years ago -

It is really odd that Golding translated
a dozen folios + quater of Calvin, dreadful
stuff but so beautifully told that I got read
it for his music. He also did Caesar.

I am yours sincerely

The snobbiest stupid Englishman

W H D Rouse

HISTON MANOR,
CAMBS.

June 10. 1937

Dear Mr Pound,

I like the book globe
better - it is rather raucous for me,
jazzy, but it has interesting stuff in it.

I have added my Greek reads to
sent to you. If you have them already,
pass them on to any worthy recipient.

If not, accept them as part of my thanks for
your advice & help.

I will send your suggestion about the
Loeb Library to the trustees. I understood
that you would search it for something useful
for modern people. It is rather amusing
to see that modern science has come back

to the principle of Lucretius's deism -
it calls it a quantum now, just as it
calls God chance, or at best The Great
Architect of the Universe, in whom (or which)
there is no trace of moral or aesthetic qualities
but abundant evidence that he (or it) is a
first-rate mathematician. I see Jean
tricks out Huxley's six monkeys, and
says also that if you toss up 1000 tons of
halfpence, 500 tons will come down heads
& 500 tails - "however after this
experiment is performed, the result is the
same" - when it never has been performed
I never can be. They are very stupid men,
poor devils.

I am yours sincerely

W H D Rouse

HISTON MANOR,
CAMBS.

June 17 1937

Dear Mr Pound,

I intend my Greek records to be sent to you, but the Service says they have had difficulties in sending things to Italy: it seems you have to get a sort of passport & visa for even sending things, & then they may be sent back, expense wasted.

So I write to ask if you can square matters with the post office, so that when they come, they will be received & sent to you. The enclosed will explain what they are, & you see they contain no fatal doctrines.

I am yours sincerely

W H A Rouse

HISTON MANOR,

CAMBS.

June 23. 1927

Dear Mr Pound,

I have instructed the Secretary
of the Linguaphone Institute, 24-7 High
Holborn, London, to hold the Greek records
ready for Mrs Pound, if she will kindly
send them her address when she comes to
England.

I know you are interested in China, &
an expert I believe. I have just read a highly
interesting book called The Birth of China,
by H. G. Coak (Case)
He gives an illuminating sketch of the origin of
some of the Chinese characters. I knew old
Legge, slightly, & Sir Thomas Wade, who
indeed promised fifty years ago to get me a
job - or try - in the Chinese Customs, &
I knew intimately that wonderful genius
Trinately Richard, whose tablet is named

in his own distinct way with Confucius.

but I never got far with my Chinese studies.

I like the people however, & I do not like Japa-

One Chinese professor Moule is a student of

the alphabet also. He was born & brought up

in China.

Trinity Richard had a wonderful collection
of old maps & prints, a lot of precious music

among them, which he promised to leave to

Cambridge University at my suggestion, but

at his death his things got lost or scattered

& the music is now "rotting in Shanghai"

as Moule put it — whatever he meant.

I am yours sincerely

W H D House

Some very interesting scientific questions have just come out or are coming.

Clay also has very profitable things to say in his political books about democracy, only people won't listen now any more than they did then.

But the ancients never invented a phrase so silly as the dictatorship of the proletariat. Like Homer, the other Greeks always meant something by words. When words began to wear out & abstractions came in the language lost its character for the people had done already - see the Greek novels.

Tell me then exactly what you want, & if I can do it for you I will, if I can't I will suggest something.

Yes, the book you covered has grown into the *Odyssey* & the *Iliad* translated into plain English, & if your father likes them, I shall think my year's labour has not been wasted.

Mr. Butcher's efforts will also result in a few pounds for me, which I didn't expect, & if they turn out to be many pounds I shall expend some of them in sending you some books, only tell me which.

The work which I have spent most thought & labour upon is my *Psittacus* - begun 1912 - which I think makes him alive for the first time; but nobody will print that, which I regret, for he is as dead as mutton in university lectures. I forget whether I sent you a specimen; here it is, anyhow.

I don't like that magazine called *Globe* - I read your note in it, by the way, & it seems you have

had strange misinformation about our late crisis. An old man in our village exactly expressed the feelings of every one high & low - "Oh might have taken the humblest girl, we should all have been glad of it, so long as she was well brought up & clean" - the countryman's ideal of a wife. It is a real tragedy, a man wrecked by the defects of his own good qualities. We all love him, & that makes the sting of the tragedy. The coronation has been a veritable triumph, and I never saw anything in my life to equal the London crowds. They are a wonder of good humour always, but this year they simply filled the streets - the houses are all on strike, & a good job too - night & day without a trace of disorder, with the police helping them about like fathers if they wanted help. They laughed at a little rain now & then.

I am yours sincerely
W H D Rouse

Hester Maria
Carles
18 May 1937

Dear Mr Pound,

I am authorised to send review copies to the usual papers, & to give occasional copies to others, but nothing more I have to refer to the Trustees. I don't think they would give the whole lot to any one.

But if you print something about the Aristotles, which I could show them, & then tell me what you proposed to tackle next, it would be easy to get some volumes - so long as you don't abuse us too much!

7
' June 37

Dear Doc Rouse

Before reading yr/ letter and before answering
or having any further dealings with ANY Englishman whatsoever
I wish to say that a nation which lets a flat chested
shit of a codfish's CHNH cunt like Chamberlain steal
25% of my advance royalties on Cantos 4I/5I is not a nation
of men but of lice.

Even if a man or so is left on the god
damned island/

And until three English if not MEN, at least
men of letter } protest against being governed EXCLUSIVELY by cowshi
I shall suspend communications.

ever cordially yours.

A nation that poops on poetry and strves not only the
poets but the common people is not fit to continue on earth.

Can you tell me ANY way to get a message past Chamberpots
buggaring sucretaries so the the chief poop wd/ have
to see it ?

2 Lug

37

RHINO, sorr, is a cheap deformation of the supposed nameflow

RHIN, due to yr/ terminal D as written/ the word Rhino is
current for rhinosereass er/ceros with a rhonononbits nuz

a reportedly impulsiv animal. Most ev my friends iz animals.

I purrfur animals to pieces of furnichoer.

LSWABO /gry

There must from time to time be MUGGERZEINS/ otherwise impossible
to communicate/ have to REPEAT, and write the same damn letter
ten times/ or 30 times, or bits of it.

hence suggest you make yr/ cursor interest
in Dunc's mag/ BLASTory.

Why not a few pages of RhinoBLASTS at the
end/ or begining...

What I need to GIT ON with the few jobs needing git/on/ness
is some bloke in London who can GIT ROUND/

It oughtn't to be necessary for me to follow up
every ms/

merely because some edtr/ gits the sack or some pubx busts.

To HELL with EDE, Brodsky dont exist.

at least I never heard it said that he
existed/

yaaaas, I have met him/ don't know Ede/ but he was
useful in saving some of the stuff. after sophies Death.

Rodker took round my book and made a fuss/ the godd damn
commissioners in Englishry (written lunacy)

thought every thing of Sophie's was due to her beein loopy/

"acherly/

I think you wd/ have to go to N.Y. ghetto to
kick the empty paatz wet contains Mr Brodsky.

As to Cocteau and Brancush ; there IZ their collectit

works. as a cheap deformation of the supposed

as written / the word this is
now if I quot writin this le'r I might git on

wiff a narticle and pay some of the rent.

I purtur animals to please of furnisher.

casual yrs

There must from time to time be MUGGERING, otherwise impossible
to communicate / have to MURDER, and write the same in latter
ten times / or 30 times, or bits of it.

hence suggest you make yr / ourst interest

in Paris's map / HISTORY.

try not a few pages of HISTORY at the

end / or beginning...

What I need to GET ON with the few jobs needing giv/on/ness
is some picks in London who can GET ROUND /

It oughtn't to be necessary for me to follow up

every ma /

merely because some edit / give the book or some poor beast.

To talk with ME, probably don't exist.

at least I never heard it said that he

existed /

years, I have met him / don't know who / but he was
useful in saving some of the stuff after Sophie's death.

Robert took round my book and made a fuss / the good damn
commissioners in England / written /

thought every thing of Sophie's was due to her being jolly /

"seriously"

I think you will have to go to N.Y. before to
kick the empty pants wet contains Mr. Prodan.

19 Oct

37

Dear Dr Rouse

I am not the swine you will by now have thought me. Printed matter does not follow me around Italy, and I have just now found yr/ Odysseus and read the opening notes table of contents and opening sentence.

And I am not going to try to write a critique before dinner ; which is already about due.

But at any rate this is to register thanks for the volume and for the kindly words at the start of it.

God knows WHEN I shall have time to say more. Do you by any chance want the extracts of my stuff in the Rassegna Monetaria ?

Which at least explain part of my time , and I trust an essay on Meng Tsu will account for some more/

With Bill Was also demaning attention ETC.

What about the Iliad ? and why not ?

I see ' by th pypers " meaning the C riterion that Binyon is nibbling at the Purgatorio.

Waaal I eggspekk to NNjoy it. I mean the Odysseus, now sotto mano But Lord knows when I will get round to them few tasty and monumental words which ought to be spoken 5 or not ?)

and in any case THANKS.

IF you find anyone who will take over parts of my agenda ; I will get round to the above sooner than otherwise.

course
RAPALLO 20 OCT *37*

Dear Dr R//

I dont know how you now spend yr/ time. While I am hoping to get enough for Odysseus; can you fill/ in some of yrs/ answering the following:

1.

Have you connection with anyone who can get more attention paid to Tweddell's tubercular research/
calcium inhalation etc.

I suspect the tuberculosis INDUSTRY is damping down curiosity/ in any case investigation and means for Tweddell to experiment in large way AFTER 20 years hidden work
are a NEED.

2.

Had you any ken of the librarians' congress in Cam/ in Sept ?

I want energy turned on the microfotographic process in connection with MUSIC. *inverted old music*

Whittaker already on the war path
but he is in Glasgie.

Do you know Dent the music critic in Cam ??

3.

Having criticized you to some length suppose you take off GLOVES ~~think to my blue house~~ salve and honey what you really and tell me without any

think of my cantos . If you haven't the lot, I will have Faber send 'em to you. I want honest crit/ from a few men who have read a little good poetry. LONG poems as distinct from lyric whoops.

You at least know some good poetry if you do like a lot of bad.

And P/S/ alas; I read yr/ postscript. *but I* Had I knowed you were suffering from a BUNYAN I cd/ have got deeper into what worries me in yr/ translation.

I hear Eliot is pleased that your Odysseus is in print, because it will keep Lawrence's from becoming a damned nuisance.

(not at the dinner)
My leisure being at breakfast
is now over for the day. more anon when the chores are done. *ever R.T.*