[Correspondence : Edward Lear to various correspondents]

Frederick R. Koch Collection

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5 May, 1868

My dear Mrs. Perce,

I am delighted to get your letter of the 20th April, on returning here this morning, I am more particularly that Sydney has got on so well. I felt he was pretty sure of dying, if health allowed. After all, we may yet go there on an Elephant until it done Percy. Write me, I hear Laura is a honder.

[Letter : 1868 May 5, Ajaccio, Corsica: Edward Lear to Mrs. George (Fanny Drewitt Coombe), p. 1]
been to well, as that he has to
have to heal his quarters, be
better is the orser, with chance
of ill health. Why does he suffer
how handsome? or if poor.
If I heard of any one being
from abode, how shall the
p 1. Tuscaloosa but as you say,
poor good man like that letter
just life. The Cedars are not
are bold but the small places;
get, so I meant that of that.
Total together, it is better than
I am glad you will stay i
Tuscaloosa 1st to June 1s
I hope to be there. I am very
book so if you were so, but then
it perhaps is a dream that you yourself

[Letter : 1868 May 5, Ajaccio, Corsica: Edward Lear to Mrs. George (Fanny Drewitt Coombe), p. 2-3]
Letter: 1868 May 5, Ajaccio, Corsica: Edward Lear to Mrs. George (Fanny Drewitt Coombe), p. 4
a letter written by
Edward Lear

To Mrs. George Coombe.
(little Laura Willett's,
great great grand mother)
Dear Miss Duncan,

I enclose the photograph which I hope you will approve.

I got home very safely last night, & partly this is owing to the care taken by two remarkably large & rambunctious Frogs, whose croaks I took & who were fed down the lane. (you will see a true representation of the first paragraph.) Nothing could exceed the drollery of an intelligent Gorgon, with whom I found myself continually except the vivacity of their department with melancholy & ubiquitous connotation of the mind. We inquired into the presence of mine and forty holes of various aspects & stature, some of whom were expectant shortly.
Villa Monaret
14 March. 1868.

Dear Miss Mandeville,

I send you two monograms: the first is a remarkable Pagoda built in the neighbourhood of Madjeboojungibooorreebee, the situation of which you must look for in the map. The second is such a penicell, a cipher, nor is it a correct, because I had to evolve the name out of my internal consciousness, having no pattern to draw from.

If you happen to be at home, when this note is read, would
you kindly give me the address of Mr. Henry Baring, which I little knew I or have forgotten?

Believe me,
Yours sincerely,
Edward Lear.
Mr. dear Lady Susan Percy

will do him the favor to accept

the accompanying little reseller

on "shocking paper" while if

they are free, i really some

very nice exception may at least

be even a way i wish her

ladyship a happy Christmas &

newyear.

Mr. Lear encloses a very insane

copy of verses by Miss Percy - if

they are sensible - he says lady

Percy will follow the rest of

the paper that at any rate it may

be in some degree to the postage


Dec. 22, 1840.

Sir, your present is respect to Lady Susan Percy, extend her sincere congratulations of heartfelt joy. It arrived in a kind way.
My dear Lady Susan,

I was so glad you told my wife as
it was meant. I could not have come
this evening because I dine but at Capt.
Harps & am engaged afterwards. But if we
call in with each other it will do to fix some other evening.

Meanwhile I learn that I am going into the army against the rebels. I pray that it may not be a serious business.

I have been extremely tired in the evening. I have written a letter to Lady Mary asking her to join the new club there. I hope she will do so. If she does not, I shall write to her again.

Believe me, ever your truly,

Edward Lear

29 March 1844
Ponc'nt teae. Ind. nowt.
So tne - 'Nigh Ham.

This first introduced salt meat into the menu?
Gin it up?

Noah - because he took ham into the ark.
Hotel Monte Generoso
Mendrisio
Canton Ticino
Switzerland

15 July 1883

My dear Miss Renshaw,

Some time or other, when you happen to have leisure & inclination & daylight, I should like to know if you have got your Babel Kalathos black & white drawing safe & right, & how you continue to like it.

Endless fuss has come to pass about my 50 Tunisian children, whom by the advice of some of my friends, I put up for sale in Paris, on account of the rock-otherwise room of the best being picked at first, the rest shunted. But the majority of this child's friends did not appreciate this arrangement, & so after lots of writing & rearrangement of the plan has been ordered, & all the 50 are to be sold separately, if so be they are sold at all. All the other object of art, both in color & oil have been sent to London at 129. Wardour Street are now evidently whatever you saw at Sirmione, learning that the Gentlemen, Egyptian Museum,

[Letter : 1883 July 15, Mendrisio: Edward Lear to Miss Renshaw, p. 1]
...
but with difficulty, as the railway-hall in the great heat affected me badly, but luckily I arrived up to the Hotel in a corriphoetical chair - well looked after by Donato Corali. I am tolerably in order. I have brought up 14 Communion Wines and 5 Haney's brandies.

4 of the Terrayan subjects experimented on with a leaf. I sent 1 to put, 1 to put 1 for a view of the place & Halpine Holge from the New Bella Vista, certainly as sublime a spectacular, malarial, and view as I saw. The Watsons are here; the Tolomehcs and Warrens have others; but I live an actual a life apart from foppish Octopods, silly Scullens, and water-wonders about the V. Terrayan Junger, who I wish I could see, now that your great Daffy seeds are all grown into flowers.

I gave address the letter double-wise, sot hat if the Postman does not like Bleezer it at Rokehevers he may go to at Crasswell Place. Rokehever could carry it to both Bleezer it at.

Yours Sincerely,

Edward Lear.
Puckle Street
Portland Place
27 July 1875

My dear Mrs. Scrivens,

I enclose the little waybill George gave me - which I remember he asked me to return to him, which I didn't forget, but I couldn't find the said yellow bill when I came away, last night, as I found it here in one of my slippers.

Do you know it rained more or less all Sunday?
here?—though it was so fine at Hastings.

The Ludditons of the
rock, &t Wytts
next to lean almost
lost friendship—only this

Dummies remaining.

I intend to purchase a copple
more that of one
of to a smallen tree & a make
by degree, daily.

Yours truly,

Edward Lear

Maison Guichard, May 7th,

Dear Mrs. Gurney Sutton,

I hope you will be able to come as much before lunch as you can, stay at 12 - because it will take you some time to look over the 100 drawings - but the three of them won’t take long. None are finished, but eventually you will be well able to understand the meaning of some from seeing the views, even as they are.

As for the rest of drawings, I think you will be the say that's more amazing.

...wilderness...

...shut your...

...lightful...

...laborate...

...fulgent...

...niche & pleasure...
It was a cartoon in a child's book, deciphering

I — art revealing

J — feather colored

K — seidioscopic

L — omantary

M — intensely beautiful

N — texturing

O — over & over to be looked at

P — curiously lovely

Q — riosely laboured

R — typical

S — timable

T — laboriously worked

U — mineral

V — tentently assumed

W — up & astonished you

X — tinguishing

Y — old, Savage

Z — cocktail perplexing

collection you know beheld

Yours sincerely,

Edward Lear.
Dear Mr. Tennyson,

I am staying here with my old friend for the last time before I go. They have just had the Philae hanging on one side of the door, & have also purchased a large 'horn broadened,' which is on the opposite side, of the drawing-room.

This is the first of the large 'Tennyson' landscapes. I have sold, I being at the end of difficulty just now. I have sold it for a very modest - too much also that it belongs to people who will always enjoy it. Etc. you once.
remarked, one certainly pin and
place next to each other, these 2 pictures
by No. 108, 106, a very, a very
beautiful house, — there it is seen,
where that one is, so uncommon
without happening oneself.

Since I wrote last time has gone i
family to Phila, & is packing up
last things, & in paying last visits,
which, wanting very well just now,
not really write.

My old list also comes daily
stays some hours — at the post office.
On Wednesday, however, the last
van comes again; — on Thursday,
otherwise clear out altogether.

Next thistime, I hope to hear something decided for Frank
about this going. I must tell you
that 10 days ago, Dan'l Liddy
wrote me the latest letter possible,
emailed in one first reply. They
are touched; one extremely — as it
would be, both she & Ellen had
really felt far more than I noticed
in the Emselman's days.

Petry came a scanty line from
Frank. ibhishine, it seems, has
been vacant, & is taken for
him. Must be done & say if
Ellen is going or not, so I have
written & say that I shall start
on Thursday, if I do not find
he exactly wishes, must stay a go
with him. altogether, I believe
it will be better for me to go.
alone, and gather from his letters that some preference is at present, which is natural enough, under new and difficult circumstances. 

Saying why, what is perfectly true. thatgrave that. Log, maybe in its going, he feels that he could be better abroad for the winter.

I know to feel this once, certainly distinctly. & the will not be good for true. friends & Franklin, who seeks to promote his return to England at present. England, for the winds, together with it peculiar sad & yet hard for life at P. House, would do.
him, I am sure, widening
injury in
Let him prove himself what
he really is, a man of the highest
nobler qualities, by steadily
going on in the place he has,
chosen, at least for some years.
There will be far more chance
too of this marrying, if abroad,
(or at least in a visit here),
than if he is ever to be the
more young brother whose
prospect, access or less position
to household affection.

on to many breaks in his past, life while on his earlier journey, made. I trust this will be to ease left in day, it come.

On my arrival in India, I shall devote myself with delight to landscape, pleasure of language, and before I have been there long I will write to you. It has been more than usual to me but my going there is to benefit myself by transfer of position to increased income. But I cannot help what Charles say or think. My life side be as separate as I can make it, both from Fland's and also from all in position above my own. But in case of illness, or other want paid, I might be free: so I shall go my own way.

Meanwhile I shall often think of you & Alfred. Whether I shall see anyone I doubt, for that leads one into tuppence society. So that if Alfred ever writes a line or my hand, like setting forth of his words, I will be content and not abased by praise without my fame, as might be justified in writing out the poems I wear one on each shoulder of Charlotte mine.
I enclose a little description of the dark picture here. They are all those designs by sea and land. I hope I may find health sufficient to work them out some day.

O dear one! I should like a line from you before I go, just to say good bye for you & Alfred. But I will keep this till after tomorrow's post, when I return to-day. 65. Oxford street.

Don't give my love to Tennyson,

Dear Mrs. Tennyson,

Yours sincerely,

Edward Lear.

Monday morning. Frank has just written. Eddy, today, is going on

The Rock of Civitella di Sabine, in the Apennines near Rome:—before sunrise.

"Morn broadened on the borders of the dark."  

A single line written by that greatest of words—landscape—painters, Alfred Tennyson, has placed a well-known scene once more before me, and has made me forget the years since last I saw it, in the almost reality of recollection— even to the solemn horror of those black woods and the unbroken silence of that strange bower.

When I first read the words, "Morn broadened on the borders of the dark," they seemed to me to describe exactly what I had to often watch in other—
days, that darkness---edge with broadening light which I had seen nothing of. Many summer and autumn months, during years of Italian wanderings and most of all, from the neighbourhood of Cintella, a village near Lubrico, about 50 or 50 miles from Rome.

--- Instantly, vividly rose before me that Eagle, nest on the crest of its double-edged pecked rock, rising sheer out of a deep, deep valley, and overlooking all the land, far and wide. Not an outline, not a detail was visible below the horizon: all seemed a profound, deep, deep purple gloom, in the depths of which the eye vainly sought any object.

Only the massive Rock, rising above the skyline, showed its awful form, its church tower and its house against the clear green sky; or perhaps, in the close fog would a single dead tree rather deepen depressed the dead feeling of darkness.

Slowly these light pink cloudlets began to fleck the pure, clear space above, as moon was warming of nearer approach to the long line, of intense crimson sobered into purple, incline towards the Southern hills, and overhead, fold on fold of draped-like cloud stretched away, each fold were deeply tinged with rose gold as it was nearer to the horizon in the brightening east.

--- Dawn broadens on the border of the dark.
fairly, only varying with weather.

He says he shall go on the 21st.

"If Ellen does not go with him, I

be thinks she hard can now."

So I shall wait. And I

shall go down t P.H. for an hour

on Thursday, - I write you after.

I am writing this from

65 Oxford Terrace, t which

if you are kind enough to write

please direct. I have just

(hope) got Woolner a head

a dog, the mother of my godson at

Woolner; perhaps in father also,

or his brothers.
Villa Emily. Sanremo.

July 5, 1873

My dear Mrs. Ward,

Your kind & pleasant letter came yesterday, & I shall reply to it at once, that your new house may have the earliest chance of embellishment which you amply deserve from my pencil. Overleaf you will find some skimming, wicker ideas of the company drawings I have by me - i.e. the smallest size, Seven pounds each without frames, or 7 Guineas framed. I have none of my larger size (8 Pounds) at present, & perhaps that may be an advantage as you say the price should be a limited one. But my notion is this - that you should write to me which of the numbered scraps you fancy most, taking care to number & name it correctly, & then I shall select a ponding to it of my own as near the pencilled choice, & this you will I know accept as a little wedding offering to you & Mr. Ward. They will both go very safely by post, & if I don't hear contrary wise, I will send them to You'll & Dick at 90 Handem Sts. & be sure frame both & send them to Oehlmeyer & SONS, & tell him to do the largest size in same small - only 8 inches by 4, but they will not look badly. Only remember one thing more, please do not go for to forget for to recollect that you must put three pence on your letter - & not six pence: for if the latter I have to pay an additional Shilling, besides being asked at the season, to go into town for the letter, - the first
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Mr. Richard Ward
21. Onslow Square
Old Brompton, SW
London.

I am making a file of some of the sketches I have done while here. I shall not show them, but I trust you will like some of them. I have been working on some of the sketches in the manner of the "Venetian" style, which is a little different from the usual "Venetian" style. I have been working on some of the sketches in the manner of the "Venetian" style, which is a little different from the usual "Venetian" style.