1943

Gil-Smythe, Harry H. - 1943-1944 (photostat)

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Recommended Citation
Staff, MSRC, "Gil-Smythe, Harry H. - 1943-1944 (photostat)" (1943). Correspondence. 50.
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Dear Dr. Johnson,

I am in England enjoying the hospitality of a very brave people. Everywhere one sees the fortitude of a nation rich in heritage, tradition, culture, education, and religion. With a song on every tongue it is difficult to accept the fact that the German wrath has spent itself on these people. Everyone seems very eager to make us welcomed in their homes and hearts. The atmosphere is saturated with the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man. Tell Dr. Nelson that I am pursuing further my liturgical music obsession. The boy choirs are still the ideal ensembles for purity of tone. My fondest regards to your wife, Mrs. Nelson, and Prof. Tibbs. To Warner: “Carry on.”

Sincerely yours,

Harry Gil-Smythe
Dear Dr. Johnson,

Have been eager to reply to your last inspiring letter, but Pond travel interfered. Never-thless, I am finding the change at least an interesting one from the point of language—the change from England to France. Destructiveness, wanton cruelty are much in evidence. Each family has its own stark cruel and story to relate. Yet, without there is a large degree of bravery and courage. Politeness and even hospitality are abundant. I am happy to know that my former co-worker Dean Melvin Watson will be on your faculty this year. My fondest greetings to Mrs. Johnson, Dr. and Mrs. Nelson, and the Rev. Mr. Watson. I am well, and in no danger.

Sincerely,

Harry Gil-Smythe