

2932 Morris Road
Ardmore, Penna. 19003
July 7

Dear Jose--

I have a few things to mention. But by far the most important is the report of the (i.e., my) theft of your Gerhardt. The library's set is missing a couple of volumes, and I needed them. I was able to convince both Mrs. Carland and Hugues that it would be your will that I borrow yours, so that I could work more efficiently at home on the long and tedious business of tracking down references, etc. And of course I assured them that your will would be "rendered effective" if you were here. As a matter of fact, however, I felt something like a bad priest trying to persuade the parishioners of the will of God, without being absolutely sure of what that will was myself--i.e., it was tinged with a certain amount of wishful thinking. In any event, I was able to enlist their aid in doing what they and I were convinced would be Thy will if you were omniscient--indeed, what you would do if you were both omniscient and omnipotent.

I don't mean to make light of this, though, and would like to relieve them of their present burdens as accomplices by getting your Word one way or the other--i.e., that it is all right with you (so that I can bear the responsibility for their safe-keeping), or that it is not (so that I can return them). I surely hope that you don't mind my having done this; and I fully appreciate the responsibility, which is perhaps greater than I should have assumed.

One sort of technical problem, which I think can be handled easily enough. I want to quote from a piece which Loemker entitles "On Freedom," but which apparently (I checked rather carefully) appears only in Foucher de Careil, Nouvelles lettres et opuscules inédits de Leibniz (Paris, 1857). The Union Catalogue says that there is no copy in the Philadelphia area, and, as far as they know, none closer than the British Museum. May I cite in English translation, perhaps with some note remarking on the unavailability of the original (though that would look a little clumsy)? Or perhaps just cite in English with the appropriate reference, and let it go at that. This shouldn't happen more than a couple of times throughout, but I would like to be able to quote. O.K.? (It occurs to me that you might have F de C, though I guess it's unlikely.)

I thought I had something else to ask you, but I can't think of it. I'm sure it wasn't important. Things are going smoothly enough, though it's time-consuming work. I hope that your vacation is relaxing and/or profitable. We were at Bob Cassidy's wedding last Saturday (7/3), which was something of a spectacle. I agreed with Hugues that ritualistic mumbo-jumbo in English is a little distressing. It sounds so empirical: "This is the body of Christ!" One is far more inclined to treat that as a statement, which is therefore either true or false, and then to consider relevant evidence, etc., etc. (It was at that point in the mass that Hugues muttered, "You're kidding!")

Please give our best regards to your family, or as much of it as is with you.

Warmly -
Bill

17-7-65.