

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Ferrater,

I would surely have written far sooner, has it not been as you guessed. I misplaced your address almost immediately, and rediscovered it only after I had decided that – rive gauche or no rive gauche – I was entitled to fresh linen at my hotel. The maid found your address neatly filed under my pillow. Although I have no idea how it got there, I am very glad to have found you.

Paris has been cool and wonderful, and, until two days ago, very much alive. The inhabitants of St. Germain des Près seem to have slept not at all between the eleventh and the fourteenth of July. Uninterrupted singing, energetic dancing, and thundering salvos of fireworks possessed the quartier for four solid days. The high point of the celebration was the appearance of a leashed duck in front of the Café Flore. On Tuesday night the duck was repeatedly doused from the sixth floor of a neighbouring building, but since it is quite difficult accurately to aim nine successive bucketfuls of water at a small and very active animal upon the sidewalk, most spectators were nearly drowned, and I – caught up in the duck-sympathizing spirit of the occasion – have, still a slight cold.

Nonetheless, the holiday in Paris was wonderful. On Monday a group of friends and I will drive to Madrid to spend, if it is terribly hot, two weeks somewhere on the coast, or if it is tolerably cool, two weeks just driving around. Since we shall surely disagree about whether it is hot or cool, the group of four will probably split as soon as we reach Spain. What I shall do there depends on who escapes with the car.

I should like to thank you so very much for having been so kind to me in Paris. If I do appear in Barcelona, please feel free to tell me that you are very busy, or that you have left for the country, or something like that, since I am so very tempted to impose upon your hospitality again. I shall write Cynthia tonight to propose Jaime for membership in the Roble Boules Club, to which his father already belongs, and of which Cynthia Lovelace is founder-president. Thank you again for a most lovely time.

Very sincerely

[Signatura]