

TELEPHONE  
WHITEHALL 4843  
TELEGRAMS  
S<sup>o</sup>HELLENIST (PICCY)

THE ATHENÆUM  
PALL MALL S.W.1

11 To rex Villas  
W.S.

12/9/46

Dear Noel,

I'm sorry to have been so long in answering your last two letters, but have been worrying about, & then wasn't much to say until we knew how the sale went. Things looked hopeless when I was at Ten-yr-old. The only enquirer had been a woman who wanted some large & quite flat paddocks as suitable to rear & train 30 grey hounds. Mr Stewart was a pleasant surprise. £7000 isn't bad considering the house is not only disastrously inconvenient, but also worrying damp. Mary says their life there has been one long struggle with winding wet.

I had about 3 wild days work on the wine. All poor Aunt Ida's very touching, wine lists with their confusions & misspelt names had been made without reference to the cellar itself, beyond asking Mary to count bottles in the lower

bin, & I had a quite frightful time.  
The old port was in a terrible state -  
little after bottle was empty & had  
just rotted itself out on to the floor  
of the bin; but, thanks to kind  
people's really very creditable records,  
I got it all identified & have  
tabbed each bottle. There is a very  
small quantity of old claret &  
brandy that may be alright; but  
there was much to lament. But I da  
not me help her buy wine & so on, but  
she never liked me to have a real  
look at the bins. She always wanted to  
be told that everything was marvellous  
in perfect order! However, I've got  
about 900 bottles to London - so it'll  
become me to belittle that is in fact  
a marvellous legacy.

The coaches are absolutely  
first class. 4 men & a large man  
arrived about 7.15 p.m., having  
been clearly told 'we cannot feed  
you at tea - yr - allt'. We've had  
nothing but a cup of tea since  
6 a.m. Sir ' was the peculiar  
peculiar, & feeling to be dirt I had to



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Lead their ravens army in to the  
kitchen & help for the best. The best-  
was very good indeed. Mary had  
prepared the 'Ladies' for their use  
with ~~two~~ towels & soap & scrubbing  
brushes, Mrs Morgan emerged from  
the back kitchen in full evening 'Gall  
yourselves Londoners. I'm a Londoner.  
I owe all my success to London. But  
I wouldn't arrive without notices  
in a gentleman's house at a time  
when you know how fit to get my  
gentleman's dinner. I'm busy.  
There's tea ready for you & some  
sandwiches, some eggs are on the  
fire, but you don't you men come  
joining me - - - - etc. etc. About  
20 minutes later I heard the  
wireless full on roars of laughter,  
Mary served dinner obviously  
dignified, & get back to the fun (I had  
given them some Ruby Port).  
The men stayed all the next day,

fall the next night & had all  
their meals in the kitchen. They  
slept in the van, except the  
manager, Mr Gudd, who slept in  
the end room. I asked him to have  
lunch & breakfast with us, but he  
said 'no, the lady's waiting, after  
us'. I think we may assume  
that friendly relations have been  
established, & that the rest of the  
move will go well. The price is H.  
Welsh 20, Orlestone Rd., N.7,  
but we will go into details about  
how to pay you ~~or~~ when we  
fix the dates for the next move.  
Welsh charged £60 for the wine trip.  
This, being a legacy, is in the house,  
but as I put <sup>in</sup> some linen & a little  
group of odds & ends, I suggested it  
be looked £35 to me & £25 to you.  
The next lot, the legacies + Mary's  
feyn, we may as well divide  
equally. There's no need to worry Mary  
with the matter. The third lot will  
be our two loads. The cost won't be  
so much for the next two trips, as the  
wine was hell to pack; but I may



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afraid, as there's a good deal of  
glass & china, we must expect  
bills at very much less. I told  
Clyde Bank that if they thought  
it ought to be done cheaper, I should  
not press for Welsh; but in view of the  
fact that the men are now  
permanently exceeding prices, in the  
interests of getting things done  
efficiently, it would be wise to stick  
to them.

I had an awful time with the  
~~and~~ silver. Wastski's had made a  
bad mess of it, & their man, Mr.  
Bergman, was rude & angry. He  
valued some of your poor Aunt's  
treasures at 5/- & said he wouldn't  
buy them, even at that valuation, if  
we went down to him on our knees &  
hisses. I said we wouldn't.

The removal of the legacies  
depends on the sorting of the silver

to the satisfaction of the executor  
of myself, as I am an interested party.  
I understand they were going to start  
at Phil's Sheffield & Bolton Place  
'my solid silver' this week, & will  
ask for the value for the legacies next  
week, or in the week beginning, 23<sup>rd</sup>.  
We can move as soon as the legacies  
are cleared, but I will note the two  
dates on which you are away. It looks  
as though the first week in October  
might be more convenient than  
September, but, personally, I'd like  
to hurry things up.

Kellumachs have written on  
behalf of Stewart saying he is  
interested in certain things, chiefly  
certain beds. I've written back  
to say he can go to the house & make  
a list; as our things are more or less  
labelled, & we could discuss the  
position better than I know how much  
or how little he wants. I don't want  
to sell so much quickly (but a sale  
of the residue at the house became  
an expensive business). I said I could



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not, however, entertain anything but  
a very attractive bid for the entire  
residual contents, if it should occur  
to him that that was a way out.

I'm very glad to know that  
you're arranged about the beads,  
I've asked the Bank to see if they  
can send up Helen's & Frances's  
things at the same time. If you  
are both in town, let us know.  
We can give you meals, but haven't  
a spare room at the moment, as  
we are landed with a squatter.  
Just tell us what you are arranging.

Yours  

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Mrs.  

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