

Monday, July 19.

Dear Margaret,

You will forgive me for my brief silence — I was very glad to get your letter, but in the last few days, I have been rather busy, as our new research set up has just gone under way, and as I am supposed to organize it etc. for the summer — (the other 2 principals in it are going to be away till September).

It seems to be a very pleasant group — Most of its members seem quite bright, and we hope to keep it closely knit.

The only drawback is the quantity of work to be done, and the relatively short amount of time to do it —

I am supposed to have 2 publications ready by summer 1899,

Which makes the prospect of being able to get away to Europe this summer rather doubtful, at least at the moment.

The one big chunk for which I will be responsible is a study of the evolution of value criteria and their psychosocial basis, in the intelligentsia from about 1900 to the late '30's.

The smaller piece will be a critical examination of the fuses of the 30's + 40's and of their implications ~~for~~ the delineation of the character of the enemy, ~~to~~ to be published as part of a collective study on Soviet culture —

It's all rather interesting work, and as my mood has drastically improved, I feel much abler to tackle it.

the general tone of your letter
doesn't seem very cheerful — I
feel a bit worried about it, as —
you will forgive me for saying this —
I have derived the notion from
our brief acquaintance that
you saddle yourself with far
too many responsibilities —
It is of course true that much
of one's happiness is ultimately
derived from ~~the~~ what one is
able to do for others —
But, in your case, I think
that this maxim ^{has been} ~~is~~ exaggerated
to ~~the~~ a point where it becomes
a denial of your own personal
happiness. I wonder to what
extent, some of your self denial
(for that is what it amounts
to) may not be based on
totally unsubstantiated

guilt feelings, and on a turning of whatever aggressive feelings ^{in you} awoken against your own self.

The psych. courses you are taking sound rather good — I suppose you have found out that you can't take them anywhere else ~~that~~ than at Penn. — At least there ought to be some decent reading in your child psych. course — If there isn't you might take a look at the work of the London School, Mainla Klein & Co. You may find it rewarding.

As you know, I wrote a brief note to Janet a while ago — It is difficult to say what motivated me. There certainly was no longer any compulsive urge to see her

3.
(I must confess that this
urge would arise from time to time
during the Spring) — but
I was still exceedingly fond
not so much of Janet, as of
the memory of the few happy
months that we had had
together —

At any rate, her answering
letter already cooled me off
considerably. It was written
at her narcissistic best, and
charged with a load of
aggression, which surprised
me after all these months.
She dropped in on me
yesterday with her friend
Dick Childs — We spent a few
hours in cocktail chatter —
with Janet posing as the queen
bee, and Dick (who otherwise
appears to be a nice enough

fellow), looking around like
 a more humble member of the
 species — I am afraid that I
 fitted into the pattern somewhat.
 The whole thing left me with
 a violent urge to vomit, and
 my disgust was directed as
 much at myself as it was at
 Janet — (You know — the "how
 could I ever have wasted all
 those feelings on that creature"
 reaction).

Forgive me for letting off
 steam — I forgot for a moment that
 she ~~was~~ ^{is} your sister.

In spite of this, I may see
 her again — The motives are quite
 mixed — On one hand, a
 desire to see whether there is
 anything ^{left} in her that corresponds
 to the image I was once attracted
 to — On the other, a desire
 to punish myself for ~~the~~ having

been such a fool -

4.

I didn't see Dory before she left - It was partly my fault - She wrote me a letter from Minneapolis, which by mistake, was forwarded to my cousin in Paris. By the time I got it, I presume that she had left. Do you have her European address, for I would like to send her a note of apology + the information that she requested. I hope to hear from you soon -

My respects to your parents
and all my best to you,

Leo.