

1-17-98

Dear Margrit.

I'm glad to know that you are using the Reader's Encyclopedia and look forward to being able to use it myself when we are in Kanaroch. It has been so annoying to me sometimes to be there without the resources to track down information that lingered in my mind in fragmentary form. Here we have plenty of dictionaries, Clement's Bartlett's Quotations and the reference section of our library.

You asked about what I am reading. I strongly recommend Joan Van Mehren's Minerva and the Muse, A Life of Margaret Fuller, but indeed almost any bio of Fuller would probably be worth your effort. [By the way, I don't really approve of the modern way of referring to women by their last names, but it is convenient — nor, of course, do I like it when the bookstore calls to tell me "Margaret, your book is here!"] If the Xerox in our basement is on, I'll send you an excerpt.

I'll also enclose the star chart from last Sunday's NY Times.

A foot note to our conversation on the telephone
today about a book club membership for Rebekah
my basic ^{guidelines} ~~feelings~~ about book clubs are as
follows ① the commercial point of view of
the club must be dominant to make a
business of it. ② Rebekah needs some family
guidance - if she will accept it - about books
that are relevant to the interests and capacities
we find in her ③ she enjoys the freedom
to look around the shelves of a very
well-furnished public library and to
select from books available from the various
local libraries, possibly 20 in our network.
She looks up topics, authors or titles in the
library computer and orders the book.
She is to "sleep over" here tonight,
~~then~~ on which occasion I hope to deepen
her understanding of "the horse" as a
literary and artistic metaphor from
"If wishes were horses, then beggars
would ride to the unicorn". She may try
to turn me off but I hope to make some
dent in her.

We will be off (not in the office) next week
Rebekah has invited us to attend a debate anglophile by members
of her reading group as to whether the English is a better place
reading should have been different. E thinks the book is
and the teacher are very good. The children don't like the book.
More about this after Wednesday. Love M.