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ABBEY OF GETHSEMANI
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

~~Nov~~ Dec. 1, 1960

Dear Victor:

It was certainly very pleasant to have you over here the other day and I enjoyed it immensely, but I think I would have enjoyed it more if there had not been so many people and if I could have talked quietly with you and Carolyn. Really I think the ideal group is you and Carolyn and myself with at times one other--- so that you will not hesitate to bring over the Swedish girl who is seeking some kind of a center in life.

I am sending back the Pine Furniture book after having gone through it carefully.

Here are one or two things that I am very interested in having copied if your friend can see his way to do it. I do not want to start complications around here where people are not likely to be interested just in making something beautiful (some of course might be, but anything not immediately profitable is not encouraged)

- 1- The Shaker school desk, as in plate 118, (drawing 36) would be simple to make and very effective.
- 2 - Perhaps as a seat to go with this desk there could be a stool, on the model of the one shown in drawing 16, plate 51, but proportionately larger. (Not a footstool, in other words).
- 3- It would be nice to have two of the so called "center braced forms" as illustrated in Plate 63, (drawing 21).
- 4- The chest and desk combination in Plate 110 is attractive. Also the stool illustrated in the same picture. There is no drawing but it should not be hard to make these things. Though it should have a flat top not a slanting one.

I wonder what would be the possibility and the expense of some of these, or all of them. Could we discuss this with your friend?

What size is the Christmas card going to be? I want to know in order to plan for the envelopes. Can you show me the size, or a sample of the envelope you plan to use, so that I can get some?

A book from the library: can Carolyn get for me Richard Rovere's Biography of the late lamented Senator McCarthy? Probably there are a lot of people reading it, and if there is difficulty I could try elsewhere.

I want to say again how beautifully the Menciuis Broadside turned out. You said you would send one to replace the one I gave Jim. Perhaps the best would be to send this with my compliments to Senor Ernesto Cardenal, Monasterio de la Resurreccion, Cuernavaca, (Mor.) Mexico. He would be glad to have it. And, as ever, many thanks.

Very best wishes to you all again. When shall we plan to see each other again? After our retreat in January, I presume, or early in February? God bless you,

John Lewis

There is also the problem of interesting lights. There is no electricity in the houses of course.