

Östersund 7/10 1955

Dear Gordon and Lee,

Thank you very much for your kind card notifying us of the new record. We have already sent the money to La Boite à Musique and now anxiously wait to get the record. If it's so good as the ~~1~~ two on Electra we'll sure be more than pleased.

Only there is something very important missing in your records: the atmosphere of Paris outside and l'Abbaye inside. We try to feel it by closing our eyes and hard concentrating, but it's quite difficult with the high snowy mountains around this little town in the North, with ~~xxx~~ nothing of the color, the dreamy excitement and thrilling tragic and glee of Paris and l'Abbaye. When we feel blue and nostalgic we put on the records, close our eyes or follow the ~~gi~~ cigarette smoke tighten and spread in happy curls or yearning strokes and long so terribly for at least my /Anne-Marie/ other home in this world.

Now, these things can't be very new to you, we are not the only people feeling like that and maybe it all sounds very silly and childish-romantic in your ears, even more because it's so very hard to describe things like that in words, and in a foreign language to. It sure feels better for us to write those things than it does for you to read them.

We had fresh memories of you by our young friend Alexander, the light and clean-looking boy we gave your address before he left Sweden this summer. He's just now trying to buy a gramophone and if he gets enough cash by writing in our paper he'll sure buy all your records. Sometimes he visits us, listens and recalls ... You both made a very strong impression on him, although he constantly tries not to be the sensitive type. You know the tough and hardboiled Hemingway-Spillane ideal is unfortunately very fashionable in this "little America-country". But really he is

very nice and adolescent. Easy to say when you just left that stage behind a short time ago yourself. Meaning adolescence and puberty.

Come to think of Alexander, he would very much like to get a copy of the words to the song "Vicar of Brae". If you find an hour or two without anything to do and with a strong knack of writing maybe you could do him the favor. Our own wish is just too much for a human being to carry out. The words to all your songs. By this time ~~xxxxxxx~~ many of them are naturally very familiar to at least me /A-M/ and some of them are already in our folksong- and blues-book, where we collect the songs we like. But in many cases we just know a verse here and there and some floating words. Maybe it's alright not to have the words and the lyric, in any case that is only a part of the whole. And the whole is in Paris. Anyway it's ~~xxxx~~ one good way of keeping our minds on a small trip south.

Have you heard anything from Vera? We have been quite worried about her, living in Casablanca these days.

You remember the Chinese group of theatre-opera visiting Paris during the dramatical festival, the group is just now in Stockholm. It's not enough living so many miles away from Paris, centre of culture, we are even 60 Swedish miles away from Stockholm. 60 Swedish miles will be about 360 English. Apart of those things we are very well, the job is so various and different every day, you meet so many people and problems of all cetegories, types and kinds there is never a chance getting bored. These days we have also started a "cine-club" in Östersund and that makes it even better. You know Sweden is a very good country, especially when you get sick, old, crippled, poor or hungry. Socially it's wonderful, we only wish the rest of the world could get even half of it. But when it comes to happiness, fun, culture of all sorts we're harder up. But really those things are futile and a little sophisticated, when the greater part of humanity is starving. But you can't help having time for a little "circenses" when your "panem" is cared for.

Now this was a much sillier letter than it really was intended to be. Anyway, we do hope you both are well with all kx l'Abbaye, not to forget Place de Fürstenberg - the most beautiful and charming square you'd find. If you get some spare time, ~~we~~ please send us a word or two, else we'll see you again next June - perhaps.

Kindest regards,

*Ar. H.*  
and *Gösta*