

SMITH
Raymond D. Jr.

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523 East 84th Street
New York 28, New York
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Dear Gordon,

First, I'd better introduce myself again. I'm the guy who appeared in L'Abbaye about five nights straight back last October, the one with the scarf around his neck to avoid drafts. Then I spent the school year in Rennes out in Brittany, and only got back to L'Abbaye once this summer before coming back to the States early this month.

I finally got hold of yours and Lee's records from Elecktra here in New York. As always, the singing is excellent, though I must say the records can't capture the atmosphere of an evening in L'Abbaye. Strictly technically, the recordings are amazingly faithful. Solos or duets with guitar accompaniment are about the toughest things to record well and faithfully.

Anyway, all I really wanted to say is that I hope you all have got another recording in the works and that it'll include more French folk songs. When I first came to L'Abbaye, I asked for "Greensleeves" every night, but as I listened longer, some of those French songs really got under my skin -- "L'Amour de Moy", for example. Next go round, I hope you'll be able to get "Aux Marches du Palais" and "File la Laine" (or is that the correct title of that one?) *on a record.*

You'll be interested in knowing that I "sold" four of your recordings in one day. The repairman fixing the phonograph played them to adjust the pick-up arm and took down Elecktra's address before he left in order to order the records. That same night, I played them for a friend, who immediately demanded to know where she could get them.

If either or both of you plan to make any appearances on this side of the Atlantic anytime soon, please let me know. If not, I may be back to L'Abbaye within the next couple of years anyway. The army gets me October 5th, and I hope I can argue them into sending me back to France.

Amities,
Ray Smith