



17 February 1994

Dear Friend of the Hemingway Collection:

In a short article in the most recent issue of the *Hemingway Newsletter* (a publication of the Hemingway Society), William Deibler, charter member of the Friends of the Hemingway Collection, reports on the condition of the Finca Vigia in the aftermath of last year's severe hurricane season. Besides Mr. Deibler's piece, we have also heard about the Finca from freelance journalist Mark Burrell, who visited Cuba to do research at the Museo Hemingway, especially on the *Pilar*, Hemingway's fishing boat. Mr. Burrell found the Finca Vigia in good condition, with damage from the "Storm of the Century" almost completely repaired. As part of his research, Mr. Burrell was investigating persistent rumors that the present *Pilar* is only a replica, the original having been lost. Mr. Burrell confirms that the real *Pilar* survives in excellent condition and has recently undergone restoration work. He was able to take a number of photographs which he has since shown to Patrick Hemingway and Wesley Wheeler, grandson of the Wesley Wheeler of Wheeler Boats who built the *Pilar* for Hemingway. Both men agree that this is certainly the real *Pilar*.

The care of the Finca is in the capable hands of Museo Hemingway Curator Gladys Rodriguez-Ferreiro. In the past several years we have been building contacts with Ms. Rodriguez, exchanging information and secondary resources with her at conferences and through visiting researchers.

Openings

We have made extensive openings of **incoming correspondence** since our last bulletin of February 8, 1993. Two sources account for the bulk of the 171 letters that have been opened. Seventy-one letters are from Thomas and Adeline Welsh, parents of Mary Welsh Hemingway, to Mary and/or Ernest Hemingway. These letters, written as Mary's parents confronted old age and failing health, illuminate another facet of the complicated relationship between Mary and Ernest.

Constituting the other major portion of this opening are 69 letters to Ernest from his first lawyer, Maurice Speiser. Dating from the early 1930s to Speiser's death in the late 1940s, these letters provide much information on the "business" of writing. Speiser discusses matters ranging from Hollywood negotiations to the production of "The Fifth Column" to Hemingway's collaboration in promoting an exhibition in New York of Spanish artist Luis Quintanilla's etchings.

Hemingway's business affairs are also the focus of many other letters in this opening, as other correspondents include Charles Scribner, Sr., Charles Scribner, Jr., Italian publisher Arnoldo Mondadori, and Key West banker Jerry Trevor.

Although slight in comparison with the quantity of the correspondence, two other items that we have opened have a mystery that more than compensates for their modest size. A poem written out in Hemingway's hand on the back of a tailor's receipt and an ocean liner ticket was recently discovered stuck between the pages of Hemingway's

December 1927 issue of *transition*. The receipt, from the Paris shop of Sleator & Carter, is dated January 30, 1926, and the ticket, made out to Henrietta Quinn for the *President Roosevelt*, is dated February 20, 1926. The poem is titled "Jed Taggard" on the ticket and "Jed Taggart" on the receipt. After brief initial excitement over the possibility that this might be a new Hemingway poem, the piece was determined to be a full **quotation** of "The Enamel Girl" by 1920s poet Genevieve Taggard, an acquaintance of Hemingway's. Nonetheless, the quotation is intriguing in itself, inviting speculation as to when, where, and especially why Hemingway wrote this poem out.

The discovery of the quotation led us to survey some of the less used portions of the Collection for other items that may have been overlooked. This process brought to light three pages of **notes** written by Hemingway some time during his service as a war correspondent on the continent during World War II. The notes, in pencil, are on the last three pages of *A Few Facts about France, Part I*, a military guidebook published by the Service d'Information Mission Militaire de Liaison Administrative. They are headed "PW. Interrogation" and, boxed off, "94th Parachute Div." As the title indicates, the notes describe the circumstances and results of an interrogation of several German prisoners-of-war. Especially as a supplement to the recently opened 1944 notebook, these notes add significantly to the store of firsthand accounts by Hemingway of his experiences during the Second World War.

Acquisitions

Several important Hemingway-related acquisitions were made this year. The **papers of William Walton**, close friend of Ernest and Mary Hemingway and the Kennedy family, came to the Library this fall. Complementing the papers are two **oral histories** conducted with Walton by Collection Curator Megan Desnoyers. The papers and oral histories are closed pending processing. From Richard Mowrer we have received a donation of **papers of Hadley Richardson Hemingway Mowrer**. In addition, Alice Hunt Sokoloff, author of a biography of Hadley Hemingway Mowrer, has donated **oral histories** conducted with Hadley in 1971-1972. All the Hadley Hemingway Mowrer materials are open for research. The Oak Park and River Forest High School has graciously given us on permanent loan a microfilm copy of *The Trapeze*, the Oak Park High School newspaper, for the period encompassing Hemingway's high school career. The microfilm is open for research. Finally, we have received photocopies of the **letters** of Hemingway to artist Waldo Peirce from the Colby College Archives, and from Hemingway's Swedish publisher we have received photocopies of their letters to Hemingway. These will be opened as soon as they are cataloged.

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for the Friends of the Hemingway Collection