

Amsterdam, 6 Oct 1997

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Dear Stewart. Letter writing is a prerogative
of the mortals denied to the Gods. This letter
is a token of life from the mortal Adrian DO.
and both mortals Vera and Adrian are de-
lighted to receive you in Amsterdam on
22nd until 24th October.

Lest it becomes a dreary letter, I decide to cite
a poem:

"Talk not to me of Nature's charming ease
By which alone a woman ought to please,
Nature shoots forth, rank weeds as well as flowers
and oft the nettle o'er the lilly towers.
The buxom lass whom you may always see
So mighty nat'ral and so mighty free.
A vulgar Buxom may with love inspire,
But art must from the woman I admire:
Art which usurps not beauteous nature's place
But adds to nature dignity and grace."

James Boswell studied in Utrecht for short while
and came across the noble lady Bella van Zuylen

and expressed his feelings for her in this poem, written on 9th July 1764. The same James Boswell coined the phrase: "I should live no more than I can record.... There is a waste of food, if it cannot be preserved."

"Thoughts" are invisible and fleeting and yet the thinking process distinguishes the one from another and determines the uniqueness of every ~~human~~ human being. I cannot help thinking that the features of thoughts are identical to the features of the Soul. The two gentlemen who dogmatized Christianity, Augustine and Thomas Aquinas observed that the soul is made of an immaterial-and-fleeting substance and at the same time it constitutes our "Substantia essentialia". Considering the statements above, my conclusion is: The more you think, the more soul you possess. And it is also true that the written letter is the end-product of the thinking process. The more letters you write ^{to me}, the more soul I impute to you!! Your immortality is preserved in your writing letters. James Boswell knew it.

Changing the topic, I enclose a clipping from JHT in which is stated that Britain as a country is a myth that never existed prior to the Union Act of 1707. The inception of Holland, a

federation of Counties and Towns, is considered to be constituted by the Treaty of Utrecht in AD 1579. The main provision was to act in an united way against the king (of Spain) and it forbade the signatories to enter separately in peace negotiations with Spain. It is good to know that the Dutch state is 128 years older than Britain as a nation. Now I come to the point that I cannot keep up this high brow level and the remaining will be a very ordinary letter.

- First of all you wish to be kept abreast of my health situation: It is getting better and the wound becomes smaller and smaller. We look forward to your visit. From a health point of view, we are fit to receive you!!

- Road directions:

a) If you drive via the Hague, Schiphol airport turn off at the RAI-Exit and follow the signs S 109 until ^{you arrive} at the T-crossing with the Rijks Museum at your left. At that T-crossing turn right. Thereafter first to the left, then straight-on and you are driving in the Vijzelstraat. Turn at the Keizersgracht (the

second canal) to your right. Near to the end, close to the next bridge, of that stretch, you are most welcome on No. 702!

- b) If you drive via Vrecks, follow the sign Amsterdam Centrum. When you cross the bridge over the river Amstel turn right. Drive straight on whilst holding the river at your right hand, until you come across a T-Crossing. Turn left and thereafter turn right at the third traffic light. If you will then enter the Vijzelstraat as mentioned above.

- It is practical to have enough Dutch guilder coins (or Nfl 2.50 coins) when in Amsterdam with a car.
- Do not nowadays transgress the speed limit in the Netherlands.

I hope you are all well and we count the nights before you arrive.

Please convey our love to Ursula and reassure her that we shall be less philosophical during your stay in Amsterdam.
Love also from Vera Carriao.