

Phon. 26th May 1896

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ENGLAND

Dear Stuart,

it is a dreary day today. Only
human beings mind the weather! Notwithstanding
this wet Monday the Quinces bloom and in the back-
ground in the neighbours garden the Wysteria. Many
other shrubs and plants (*Viburnum* / *clausenii* / *abundans*)
are all in bloom notwithstanding the chillness.
Vera is training whilst at the same time watching
the golf in Wetherhurst. Any time we expect Andreas
Bonar for dinner and he will stay for one night.
He works in the City for Tohai Bank and he covers
Benelux and Germany. I am interested to learn
how this Japanese Bank is coping in a market
with such fine margins. Let me thank you
for your letter of 6th May '96 and the learned
contribution of Julian. Long time ago I
read a couple of books on Anna Boleyn.
My interest was raised because so often
I visited Hever Castle when we lived in Seven
Oaks. Hever Castle was a gift to the father
Anna Boleyn by Henry VIII for the loyalty of
the former to the monarch. Boleyn belongs to

lower rank Courtiers, though. He had, though, the S^{AV}Y to send both his Daughters to French Court, I believe, to assume a position as lady in waiting. They were much appreciated as good Company. When Anna returned to England and Henry Tudor not interested in her, she had enough sense, maybe as a result of her staying at the French Court, not to give in to Henry's advances, because once Henry had his way, he would lose interest in her. She did not want to become a mistress to the king. As a Catholic Henry could not breach a sacrament. He requested to annul his marriage, but the Pope was afraid to raise the ire of Charles V of Spain if his sister was dumped. Ann Boleyn introduced the reformatory books to the king. Any how Ann B. had to navigate between Scylla and Charibais with H^{VIII}. If she denied any longer her favours to H^{VIII} then he would lose interest in her and if she would give in then she might also lose the magic. She did seek advice of the French Ambassador. I recall that it is all properly recorded. When she became pregnant, she maintained that she was sure that she had a male infant under her tender heart and he would be sorry if he would not

marry her and a male bastard was born who could not be a heir to the throne. As the Pope was not willing to annul the marriage with C.A. he got the act of Supremacy approved. He had squandered money in the first period of his reign and was the poorest king in Europe. Through Ann B's dealing he became the richest king by confiscating all the church properties and/or ordering that the contributions to Rome ought to be paid in his treasury.

Yes, hypocrisy in the eyes of the Catholic belief, but he knew that the ~~Roman~~ law of the Catholic Church would not prevail any longer. Maybe it is all not exactly as Julian perceives this episode but I had to retrieve it from my rusty brains. Anyhow she played an important role in English History, Con we agree?

To Comment on 20th Century Europe: I read that salaries in England are on average 20% less than on the Continent. Moreover the English did not subscribe to the Social Chapter, which implies that in the UK make longer working hours (which should provide a competitive edge)! Why it is that English economy is not bursting out of their seams?

Most pension premiums were not paid into the treasury in the Netherlands. The ~~the~~ Dutch Civil Servant pension fund is the second largest pension

fund in the world. When in the fifties the
generale old age pension scheme was established
by law, it was funded by the active, working people
who paid the pensions of the retired people.
My grand mother, who already had the required
retirement age at the time it was instituted,
was flabbergasted, when she got a monthly
amount credited in her bank account, "Mamma
from heaven!" She didn't understand that
you were entitled to these monthly sums
since she had never paid any premiums.
This scheme now runs foul because the
growing population will require in the year
2020 40% of the salary of the active, working
people, to maintain the same standard
of living. In Dutch politics it is a painful
topic. When you dare to put this topic
on the agenda, you lose votes.
Since most budgets of States are dealt with on
a cash basis - except for New Zealand - it will
be difficult to compare the position of one country
with another. The criteria, I agree, to join the
EU, are arbitrary. Whatever, at that epoch, all
governments had an enormous spendthrift to
please their electorate. The Maastricht criteria
brought back to the leaders of the government leaders
of Europe that the policies of overspending would lead

to a disastrous collapse. So far Europe; I will
not dwell on BSE, Major, ~~and~~ the royal family
etc. The topic is now Aids. The latest
offer I got was that G.B. Bank is prepared to
pay me as from July 1, another 2 years + 10
months. On the one hand it is not pleasant
to be despised and rejected, on the other
hand will it be every day Sunday until 1st
May 1999. I will certainly attempt to become
a financial consultant. Every day I train myself
to become "a matador" on the computer. I will
be a modern manager who has a built-in
secretary. Further I shall ^{dedicate} ~~spend~~ some time
on the redoing of our apartment - Keizersgracht
702 - in Amsterdam. We have sold the house
in Rhon and will transfer the title latest on
31/01/97.

We still recall your most pleasant company
at ours. Had Van Gogh lived today, his
"Potato Eaters" would have been situated in
a McDonalds. You notice Van Gogh himself
behind the counter. Love to Ursula and we will
like to be posted ^{all} matters of interest at your feet!
Vera conveys her love to you both. Adria D.

