

DOUGLAS FAMILY

ALLIE V. DOUGLAS

Correspondence

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File 75

# ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

Burlington House,  
London, W.1.

1956 February.

Dear *Dr Douglas,*

As you will be aware, the expenditure of the Royal Astronomical Society has considerably exceeded its income for the past few years. The deficits have been due to heavy increases in costs and a further rise is expected in the coming year. In 1955 the deficit reached £843, and at the Annual Meeting on February 10 last it was resolved to increase the annual contribution from three to four guineas and to make a corresponding increase in composition fees. In the hope of improving the financial situation still further, the Council has decided to issue an appeal for donations to those Fellows who in past years have compounded on terms which are favourable by comparison with the present rates.

In inviting you as a compounder to make a donation to the Society's funds, may I draw your attention to the seven-year covenant as a means of increasing the value of any donation you may feel able to make to the Society? Sums of money paid annually to the Society under a covenant covering a period of at least seven years are treated for tax purposes not as income of the person making the covenant but as income of the Society. Since the Society is not liable to income tax, whereas in general the donor is, the Inland Revenue authorities will refund to the Society any income tax already paid by the donor in respect of the sums involved. In this way a donation of (say) £7 paid not as a lump sum, but in seven annual instalments under a deed of covenant, by a Fellow liable to income tax at the full rate of 8s. 6d. in the £, is worth to the Society the sum of £12 3s. 6d., that is, the £7 donation from the Fellow plus £5 3s. 6d. income tax recovered from the Inland Revenue authorities.

If you are willing to assist the Society by a donation, you are asked to sign and return to the Assistant Secretary the enclosed form of covenant, completing it for one-seventh of the total sum you are prepared to contribute. This does no more than bind you to make your donation in seven equal annual instalments. Subsequently you will be asked, when you actually pay the instalment each year, to complete and return a tax deduction certificate setting out the amount of tax paid. Should this be less than the full amount at the standard rate, the Society will be glad to refund to you any resulting increase in your tax liability. There are no other formalities. If you will do this, you can, with very little trouble to yourself, respond to the Council's appeal in a way which may almost double the value of your donation to the Society.

Yours sincerely,

*L. M. Milne-Thomson*

Treasurer.

2E Oxford & Camb. Mansions  
Marblebone Road  
London NW1.  
Feb 12, 1956

Dearest A.A. and Mary;

Again what a gap since I have  
last written! If I only did more Carlson  
jobs, but I hate Carlson writing for me.

Winter is here with a great bang! I left here  
2 weeks ago to go to Ripon in Yorkshire.

While there the snow came. I had felt Winter  
was over, it had been so warm in London  
so I'd not taken my boots or H<sub>2</sub>O bottles or  
socks. What a fool! I positively froze!! &

I felt such an idiot when everyone said -  
"Oh you must like this, isn't it Canadian!"

However I had a lovely & interesting time  
just the same! Grantley Hall is about 8  
miles from Ripon & 3 miles from Fountains  
Abbey - a glorious spot. I went to Grantley  
Hall to take a short course with a vague  
title "Human Relationships & New Communities"

Grantley Hall is a lovely 18<sup>th</sup> Cent House set  
in lovely grounds - Now an Adult Educ. College

I was alarmed on first arrival to find  
11 Anglican ministers & 3 free church.

I wondered what I'd struck - felt ought to  
have a dog collar on too! However it ended  
by their ruin of women in the course -

about 28 men - Apart from the Clergy there were Youth Organizers, 3 Police Constables, Pres. of Towns Women's Guilds, Marriage Councils and Housewives, and Community Planners etc.

I didn't really know what it was to be about but had been interested in people in this country thinking along lines like this. It turned out to be on these New Towns & Housing developments - People all came trying to find out what is the basis of Community - what makes a community - what do we want? How does one aid a spiritual development? It was very interesting to me for although totally different in many ways it had so many ~~ll's~~ with our own searches.

I met some awfully nice people. One, the Chaplain of the late Archbishop of York drove me to York after the conference & showed me the Cathedral and as much of the lovely town as we could see in a short time. We had next good chat about everything under the sun including Simone Weil & Bonhoeffer. The old Shambles of York are terrific - Overhanging close houses - & in the snow it was unbelievable - Enchanting.

Saw a glorious Cathedral. We sat at the East End & listened to the end of Even Song. Walked thru the narrow streets - Louvels.

Feb 15, 1956

I have just got my plans for Devon arranged. I am going there next week - or rather this Saturday - Charles Gibson an Architect friend of Tom Creeves is driving down to Somerset and has offered me a lift. I spend all week in Exeter and travel with the Drama Adviser - Jan Kelsey. One day we go to Bideford right on the Coast. It is going to be wonderful I think. Then next weekend I hope to spend with a girl I met at a course, who has a small barn theatre in Ashburton. It is all quite exciting.

I loved Yorkshire - Spent a Night in Halifax with an awfully nice girl I met at Grantley Hall. She ~~was~~<sup>is</sup> a Youth Organizer. She gave me a quilt tour of Halifax & took me in the evening to meet the Halifax Theatrians - Amateur Drama Group. I met Philip Bentley, the Novelist - quite conventional!

I visited Botton Hall Training College for Teachers - A sort of specialist college in Art, Music & Drama, and I visited a little school in a mining town called Castlegord Mr. Leeds (I liked Leeds!) where I saw the most exciting work in Movement & drama with 11 yr old children.

Mr. Stone, Inspector of Schools in the West Riding is another amazing drama person. In his own way, another Peter Slade type! It is so interesting the way these people are experimenting in the field of creative drama with children. I learned a lot thru talking to Stone.

Pais has not been very well and spends most of these days in bed. She had a bit of a fall which gave her quite a shake. She is really a wonderful person.

I spent all this morning at Pitmans, reading through their drama books - I was introduced to one of the publishers through Mary Ellen Bougeois of Sashatchman (Drama Adviser who has been here - wonderful character!!) and he got us both to make notes on books and tell him what we thought would specially interest Canadian readers. Then he took me to lunch at the Russell Sq. Hotel. It was interesting hearing the problems of publishers - I am also getting a set of books free!! Never really knew before that Pitmans went in for such things as drama!

Have seen 2 amateur productions of Restoration Comedies lately & have decided that was quite enough!! Have to be so terribly well done. One at Toyndee Hall & the other at the Institute of Educ. Also went to see Richard III - Quite a terrific movie - Rather Grosssome to say the least - Do try to see News reel of Queen's visit to Africa. Such amazing festivities by natives

Did you know that I have been asked to be one of Ruth Henrietta Davenport's Godmothers! My first godchild. I am quite thrilled! But very alarmed when I read the Christening Service and all the responsibilities of the godparents! Sheila & Franz came to lunch & Bridget on Saturday & I went too & met Ruth Henrietta for the first time. She is an absolute darling & I have never seen Sheila or Franz so happy & bubbling over before. Wonderful. The Christening is on March 4<sup>th</sup> & Aunt Violet is coming over - It is going to be a big Shindig! Betty Garland is a Godmother in "reserve" for being an R.C. She evidently doesn't feel she can take it on! Great fun though & everyone is feeling quite gay about it! I wonder what I can give as a special present - I suppose a Silver Spoon!! @

Many Bless, Did you get a big red Woolly Stoll that I had sent to you at Queens ?? You should have! long ago!

Aunt Dillie's Xmas present has never evolved yet - Darling Pet - It will come sometime!

And, PA. Darling, I discover that you have given £10/-/- to my bank. I didn't realize where it came from as

6.

Mom has probably told you. How simply terrific - I am quite overwhelmed. Thank you very much - but NO MORE. Bless you 'Precious.'

Now just a word about this Summer. Several things are sort of milling around - I find it so hard to know what & how why - I think I may be able to come to Paris & meet you after the I.F.V.W. Conference and we could have the week in Bonn together + 3 days to explore - if you would like - That would be glorious.

There are 2 possible week Summer Schools in End July & beginning August which I might try to go to in England for they are specially on Creative drama.

Then a friend whom I've made at the Institute & a friend of hers - both Librarians + one other? have invited me to drive to Italy with them for last week of August & first 1 1/2 weeks September. I'm

Wondering what you think. I am rather torn because it means leaving you before you go back, but I sort of think also that you may think it a good idea.

If this does seem a good idea I am not going to try to push off to Italy this Easter



I have been rather puzzled about it because I don't terribly want to go alone & yet don't want to go on a tour & yet don't know anyone who can go on with me at this time. I'm quite game to go to France & anywhere else alone & would do that if it was my only chance, but from all accounts one is so pursued as a lone girl that it makes life difficult. So I think I'll go to France at Easter for a short while & do some work & exploring here as well. Do you think that very unenterprising of me?

The Edinburgh Festival is from Aug 19<sup>th</sup> to Sep 1<sup>st</sup> 8<sup>th</sup>. It does not look as if I shall get to it - but I'm not too concerned - I feel stuffed w/ Culture & will be seeing so much! If I could get to it I'd love to. Could you go A.A. > Perhaps you & I could go to one of the European Festivals - Strassburg? etc. I shall enquire re dates, etc. Would it be for - just exploring anything would be for!

Then again, if you give your speech on Aug 29<sup>th</sup> I shall miss it. Oh dearling P.A. I'm terribly torn. But do tell me what you think. By the way fresh, I'm so

Rich, So you don't need to think of supporting me! We'll not "fight" though!

I want to try to be back by Sept 14<sup>th</sup> for an Adult Ed conference here I think. When are you coming over here?

By the way - I went to the Crosby Hall tea & met Miss Bowie who was awfully nice & Old Dr. ?? who is getting a bit forgetful & sentimental & several other nice people who came rushing up to ask about you and to send warmest wishes & to tell me how much they thought of you - My dear, if I'd had feathers they'd have been so puffed out with pride for my little Aunt. I can't remember a single name! Masses of students from all over the globe! So many nice people and not nearly enough time in life to know any of them!

Mary - what are you going to do next summer? If you go to Regina, Mary Ellen Bongers, Fitness & Recreation, 1100 Broad St. wants to meet you. She has 2 doctor sons. She is a perfect panic & terribly kind & you'd enjoy her. She & I have had some terribly funny times here. We went to Petticoat Lane on a pouring Sunday Morn -!

I so love you darlings - Do take care of yourselves -  
 Much, much love  
 from Buzzy.

BY AIR MAIL  
PAR AVION  
AIR LETTER  
AEROGRAMME



Dr. A. Vincent Douglas,  
Queen's University,  
Kingston,  
Ontario,  
Canada.

← Second fold here →

Sender's name and address: Dr. Douglas  
26 Oxford & Cambridge Mansions  
Manorbone Road -  
London, H.W.1.

AN AIR LETTER SHOULD NOT CONTAIN ANY  
ENCLOSURE; IF IT DOES IT WILL BE SURCHARGED  
OR SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL

Mary's  
address is?  
My thoughts &  
much with her  
for her hair & eyes -  
So much love.

25 Oxford - Cambridge  
Mansions  
Marylebone Rd - N.W.1.  
May 3, 1956

Darlingest little Aunt.

What a lovely idea it was of yours to send a wire. I was so thrilled to get it. And how two letters - and still I have not written to you properly. Reading it is all so exciting and I am so terribly happy. I love Ingram more and more and can't imagine how we could ever have met each other. It is all quite uncanny and somehow seems to be God's will. Last Saturday night he rang me from York and said he was driving Miss Garbett (Dr. G's <sup>late</sup> sister) to Winchester to see her new house, and would I like to come and meet them there and spend Sunday night & come back on Monday - Would I?!!

It has been absolutely ghastly being way down here with Ingram in York and every day has seemed a week. How deep can I be because I went to Winchester.

It was a lovely time. Ingram & I spent an hour in the Cathedral early on Monday morning - what a lovely Cathedral - but my special feelings at the moment are with York Minster!! We spent the best of Monday in Miss Garbett's new old house which is being pulled apart and put together again.

Ingram has organized her to the last tack! She believes on him for everything and is so nice and nice about it. We chose Wall Paper and the architect came & made suggestions then they dropped me off in Oxford & their way back to York & I came back.

In some ways Ingram is a very calm & cheerful way he copes with such a situation and person. He is not very tall as Mary thinks - Only an inch taller than me. I have no nice pictures of him yet - but when I do I shall send you one. Anyway I know you will like him!

Darling, I don't know what the end of the summer will bring. I am not clear yet what is the best thing to do. I am not going to Italy & Helma though. I am not sure when or where we will be married but it might be in September - or it might be after Xmas. I wrote to D. Weston yesterday. It was the most terribly difficult thing to do because it was like severing myself from myself in some strange way. I am so certain though, that nothing really upset me. I shall wait for for I want to leave my work in way. Ingram agrees. But I think will understand - He is a most wonderful person & I have been so lucky to be a boss like him. I did not want anyone outside the family to know about this

until I had written to D.W., for leaving  
the Adult Educ. is one of the hardest  
things. I feel more and more though that  
I am not breaking with what I have been  
doing but just going to be able to continue  
in a different and more rewarding way.  
I think I should like to begin at Nottingham  
with Ingram in October - but it may not  
be possible. However - all things will work  
out for the best, I know. I am longing for  
you to meet him & he you! Oh, heavens, is  
it not amazing! I feel that our spiritual  
thinking is along the same path - I have  
still a few bundles to jump in seeing about  
the formal church expression. I am seeing  
more & more - although in some ways I may  
never be able to express in exactly the same  
ways. I am going to have some talks with  
a friend of his here and a terribly nice  
person - I went to his church and liked it  
all so much.

Brigid is to be married on July 7<sup>th</sup> & I hope  
will marry them. Brigid got her engagement ring  
a lovely bright sapphire & tiny diamonds - the  
comic - happy & planning a most elaborate  
one in London. She says "after all, it only  
an hour!" - I feel more like a small little  
morning I'd rather you did Not tell anyone yet  
Pr. Speas. I have a few more things to clear up  
before I feel like publicity!! ☺ I do so love  
you, and will write again soon. Love - love  
to you & Mary - 180332.

Winnipeg Man.,  
5/11/56.

Allie Darling,

The 11<sup>th</sup> Approaches &  
I want to send you my love  
especially for that day of remembrance  
of our loss. We did not realize  
our loss then, at least I did not.

It gets more & more of a loss the  
older I get & when I think of  
you I wonder so often how I  
been a father as well as a brother?  
We gods my sweet Pass I do  
adore you.

I am so so glad about the  
Scholarship it is a wonderful &  
glorious tribute something that  
will live & bear testimony to  
you as a great woman and a  
great scholar. Bless you so much.

I've sent off a wire to Bridget

Mr + Mrs Paddy Stearns,  
19 Howitt Road,  
London N.W. 3,  
Tally ho from Canada

great happiness a long and  
useful life to you both

Mary Pat John Allie Gross

I hope that you are.

I just got their address  
from O. & to  
include the whole works.

Bless you great Darling  
Puss.

h.

COPY

5 Broadwater Down

Tunbridge Wells

Kent

27th December 1956

Dear Miss Douglas,

I recently received from Thos. Nelson & Sons Ltd., a copy of your 'Life of Arthur Stanley Eddington' with a note saying that it was sent with your compliments. I wish to thank you for your kind thought. I have much enjoyed reading your book, which has brought back to me many happy memories. You have succeeded well in a difficult task, for Eddington's life was in no sense spectacular and it was no easy matter to give accounts of his scientific work and of the development of his thought and philosophy, that would interest both the general reader and the scientist.

I found it most interesting to live again through those exciting meetings of the R.A.S., when Eddington was presenting his succession of important papers and when Jeans, Milne and Eddington were protagonists in stimulating discussions.

I should like to congratulate you on your success in a difficult task. The book should have - and I hope will have - a large sale. It was an excellent idea to include two pages of Eddington's neat MS in his familiar and characteristic handwriting.

With kind regards and best wishes for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

(Signed) C. Spencer Jones