

DOUGLAS FAMILY

AMIE J. DOUGLAS

Correspondence

1968

2303.24

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File 85



Notes is  
heart's better now!

Chesterfield  
8th Jan 68

My dear Alice,

A grand letter from you yesterday. I'm so glad you find Mumford's book interesting, I hoped you would. We only read snippets myself but want to read more. I had to chair a interesting conference at St George, Windsor Castle last November on Central Redevelopment and the Churches. It raised some very important issues about the nature of urban life & the role of the City. Is megacopolis really what we are heading for? I hope not.

Thank you again for your more than generous cheque on the notes for the children. Anne is saving here for a school trip to Edinburgh - no - I am away, she has used it to buy a nice pair of shoes. Sarah has put hers towards a pair of skates & boots which Clarky brought

back from Nottingham Ice Rink yesterday: second hand of course but nice. She did so well skating at Scarborough that it would be a pity if she couldn't have more opportunities this winter just because she has no skates. So these are an advanced birthday & Christmas present! She is delighted with them. I wish you could see her, and the other two, but Sarah especially has amazing poise. Buzzy and I have been thrilled

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Now I wonder if you could help me over a financial matter. You remember our investing Buzzy's money in Galt's Parade 4 1/2% Stock. There were £4000 due Sept 1/83. Mary wrote to say that these were due for conversion to 6 3/4% stock on Nov. 1st. So I wrote to the Bank of Montreal, Main Office Halifax asking them to take the necessary action. They now reply that these bonds are by law not open

Chesterfield  
31 Jan 1968

My dear Allie,

How awful of me not to have written before this. I had hoped to have done so in Austria, but one of the few disappointments was the fact that our rooms just didn't lend themselves to writing. It sounds a feeble excuse to someone like Olga or yourself who seem capable of writing anywhere, at any time and on any thing! But I seem to be made difficult and can only write at all fluently when I am comfortable and relaxed!

well, as you have probably heard from Dave, the American trip was a great success, even if at the same time the outcome was a disappointment for Dave and me. But at least we know now that although we are very, very fond of each other and love being together, just neither of us felt that all sweet-talk marriage would work or be possible - much though both of us hoped it might.

Poor darling Ray I think it was a bitter disappointment, and for me too. Subconsciously I had probably been counting on it more than I realized: now I have to face the prospect of making a home for our children & on my

one for a quite indefinite future. Wives like Buzz  
don't grow on every bush - and I wonder how if I could  
ever be content to share my life with anyone less marvell-  
ous. I hope I can, because the children need a mum,  
and I need a wife in all sorts of ways.

I think it is only since May left that I have  
begun really to miss Buzz - or at least to realize as often  
as I now do how much she meant at this point of the  
olts. All kinds of things begin to remind me often -  
happily always, and yet with the sadness of realizing that  
there can be no continuation. She was such a wonderful  
companion, support & encouragement - but most of all I

just revelled in her lovely qualities and our mutual love.

You will have heard how we enjoyed Alpbach and its glorious Alpine scenery - the narrow valleys and great firs trees laden with snow, the snug houses and quaint villages - and snow, snow everywhere - so soft & deep. If only we had had a bit more sun.. But the skiing was fun, and the children took to it better than I had expected, even so pleased - proud too, and so would Buzz have been - I thought Anne might have given up after a bit, but she stuck at it well and was keen to its end - John too. Sarah did famously. How George would have thrilled to see them all! The Alp-  
bach itself the nursery slope was just behind the Conference Centre

Glad you found the Webb book interesting.

One late afternoon Clare and I skied all the way down the road to Keith, not much fun skiing but so lovely going along on our skis through the stillness of the woods..

It really was a marvellous treat she gave us all - and now of course the children want to go back!

I haven't thanked you yet for the very generous cheque you sent me and the presents for the children. They have been persuaded not to spend it money so far, but John is going to get football boots later this week; he's terrified I have used some of mine to get proper safety fastenings for my skis. Last time I used them here I broke my ankle. However it continues very mild so we may not have any further chance this year  
Very much love dear Ailie In Lurgan



Oct.  
1968

Sunday,  
527 Palmerston Blvd.  
100.4.

Dearest Auntie,

Many thanks for your letter concerning the joint account. Mary came in that same day so we were able to get the cards signed and send them on to John, I'm so glad that it has been arranged.

Life has been pretty busy and school seems to take most of my thought + energy these days. We've had to arrange for night school classes as well as the regular day - (at extra pay) so that has taken quite a bit of time - I'm not teaching any classes thank goodness at night.

Family changed - & the world. Yet Dad's great joie de vivre & his sense of right seem very relevant to us. Dear Buzzy had so much of his spirit.

Cheque enclosed should have been sent in July. The balance will be along in Nov. & December. Even without the rents from the apartment - the boys now have their rooms up there - we are more affluent than last year - because of big salary boost & Canada Council grants.

So much love  
to you from us all,

Pat.

Colds have been going their rounds in the family. Christine & I have one now - hope it will be gone by the weekend - I'm sure it will.

Mother seems so well. She is off to Harold's for lunch today with Mary Crichton. Mary is evidently enjoying herself & finding a friendly group at the Museum.

We will let you know how & when we will be coming - either Friday evening or Saturday - Hope weather will cooperate a bit more than last year. Remember being stranded?!

It will be grand to see you and hear of your meetings and travels. Hope you've caught up in sleep & with <sup>the shawl.</sup>

It is hard to believe ten years have passed since Dad died. How much our lives have changed and

ONE EAST END AVENUE

9 April, 1968

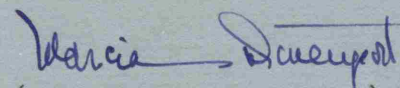
Dear Dr. Douglas,

Naturally your letter of appreciation with its references to Czechoslovakia is particularly moving at this time when extraordinary events are taking place there. At the time when I finished my current book, I could have no premonition of this; but now I think there is no doubt that the ferment is genuine. We have to wonder what it may mean, and I am hopeful that the Czechoslovaks will be able to work out some kind of freedom consonant with their real beliefs and traditions.

Your writing about your visit to Prague was interesting, and you are not the first person who has told me how much repair and reconstruction work is going on there -- very different from what I saw just three years ago. I would have thought then that I was never to see it again, but now I am not so sure.

Thank you so much for your letter.

Yours sincerely,

  
(Mrs. Marcia Davenport)

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Canada