

jhs

Gethsemani
April 10, 1961

Dear Victor:

It was a pity you could not get over here Saturday, it was such a lovely afternoon, but I will be expecting you on the 22nd and I hope that will be even better. I have rather cooled towards Nicholas of Cusa because I find him rather wordy and cerebral. However there is much good in him, and there are possibilities to be investigated so I will be grateful for anything Carolyn can dig up.

As to the sentence from Jerome, I would render it: "Let those who like have ancient books, whether copied out in gold and silver on purple parchment or in what they commonly call uncial letters: such books are rather written baggage ("burdens") than books. Let such people only permit me ~~to~~ and mine to have our poor copy sheets (?) and not beautiful books so much as correct ones."

Jerome is not my ideal of sanctity by any means, and what he says is very often likely to be hot air, or else something ~~downright~~ plainly uncharitable and even false. He was a headstrong and violent character and could not bear to be opposed in anything. Well, the Church thinks he is a saint, so I had better not quarrel with that judgement. As to his cave, it was probably a regular house cut into the rock, perhaps as big as my hermitage, but certainly nowhere near as nice.

I have sent David Rowland twenty five dollars, as someone made me a donation of that amount for the hermitage. The rest will follow.

Meanwhile I can be thinking of other possibilities for you between now and the 22nd. I still think the Coomaraswamy idea is the best, but his wife has said nothing definite about it.

All the best to you both, and cordial blessings in Christ

In Louis