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OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI
TRAPPIST, KENTUCKY

Feb 5, 1956

Dear Hammer-

My new life as novice master is a busy one and I am more often in the woods than at the typewriter. However I finally have a chance to write to you and tell you that I am sending the Snell book back-- long after I had promised to do so. It is indeed an important book, and I regret that it is so far from my present context that I was unable to do it full justice. It is so difficult to follow all the avenues that open out before one, and I must of necessity leave the vistas of Greek thought somewhat misty, to my regret. I have no other choice, since my limited time for reading and study is now almost all taken up with Scripture and mysticism and monastic history and whatnot-- things necessary for myself and the novices. So I did not master all of Snell.

But in any case I warmly thank you for your kindness in ~~send~~ sending me this interesting and deep book.

The Benedictines, whose magazines I gave you, have come out with a wonderful volume on Romanesque art in Auvergne-- "L'Auvergne Roman". You can get it from La Pierre qui Vire if you are interested.

I am enclosing a note which I am writing at the request of my agent who always wants me to pretend to be business-like even when there is not a matter of business. She wants a black and white agreement about the Guerric book. Namely that I have given you my essay and the Guerric texts in Latin and English, with the understanding that you can print a 300 copy edition at the Stamperia del Santuccio (or the Anvil Press), while I retain the right to further dispose of the text, which I do not at present intend to do anyway. If you will be so kind as to sign and return the attached note I will be able to placate my agent when she comes down here in a week or two to give me a session of spiritual direction. This letter will serve as your copy of the agreement.

I send you both my very best wishes. God bless you always.

Devotedly yours in Christ Our Lord,
f. m. Louis

P.S. New Directions is definitely bringing out the Tower of Babel next fall.