

June 21, 2005

Dear Emmett,

I got your departing note written on the official UT longhorn stationary last week, and noticed that it had been postmarked from Madison—a combination of the old and the new? I did call your former residence on the evening of June 9, and you were out because there was no answer. When I called again on June 10, your service had been terminated. So I guess my calls spanned your period of transit, when you were neither in one place nor the other but in some ways in both. Should this be called the ELB Uncertainty Principle? or better yet, the ELB Certainly Principle, because you are certainly somewhere. I have sent this letter to 123 WAG, as you will surely pass through here some time, or those who are in contact with you will bring you this letter. Where are you living? How easy is it to get to campus and shopping?

I have been thinking about things that humans accumulate, as I help my sisters and brothers go through the things in my parents' house. I think in particular of the 13 boxes of papers sitting in a closet in my house, which contain photocopies, printouts and longhand notes from my classes in graduate school, and drafts of dissertation chapters. Should I just shred the lot? If it would be of interest to someone, in what way would it have value? To look at what was inside my head 16 years ago or more? (I think I would not like to be under that kind of scrutiny, but I am doing it to Evans and Sundwall.) I also have a lot of primitive floppy disks which can't be opened in most systems now, and whose data have become corrupted. When I first got a computer, it came with Microsoft Word 4 on it, and when I upgraded to Word 5 (while I was in Texas), I thought that it made life more complicated, not necessarily better. Is that why you had sworn off computers, these past few years? But there are compensations: I like accessing e-mail and the Internet from my own computer, and it does change

font size nicely, as you can see here. Now that your sight has improved, and you are in a new place, will you go back to computing and e-mail? Typewriters are good things too, and your handwriting is still legible, so there are three options already for you.

Anyway, I am off to Cincinnati today, staying there the next few weeks, using the library. Apparently the library will be full this summer, what with summer Tytus fellows, and a five week papyrology institute in July. Fortunately they have stopped drilling around the windows so we won't have to hear jackhammers all day. I will be dog-sitting at Carol Hershenson's house while she and William are off on a family get together. I am looking forward to catching up on periodicals, and to Helena Tomas who will be coming in July as a Tytus fellow. Also Tom has invited me to come to Austin for a few days this fall semester, to participate in his Linear B graduate student seminar. I can then see how and what you are doing. Are you planning to go to the next Mycenological Colloquium in Rome?

Let me know how you are settling in, *and where,*

*Ruth*