

.Dear Tom,

Lots of letters to you recently. Too bad.

I found out how to print the envelopes without the glue getting dried out and crinkly, so that it resisted sticking when it was filled and sealed. I use some stuff I found just lying about in the desk in 14B, and brought up here in case I could use it. So now I've found I could use it for this, and not for that. And, though the printer is a little reluctant to print such thin sheets, I'll try it for the sake of airmail weight. *- it makes a most crinkly sound!*

I went out to supper last night, since the larder is very bare, and send you the evidence of the adventure I observed on the way back. It's an old Chinese restaurant nearby on Regent Street, reopened under a new name and owner, and it was remarkably full.

The likelihood of this letter came from recent scattered efforts of rearrange books in a couple of new bookcases. That led to short readings from various books when I felt like goofing off for a few minutes. Among them were two novels (I hardly ever read any more) that I read in the late 50's. And the wee book from which those stavrolexic diagrams I sent you on the back of a recent letter - came. Or is that anacolouthon? And this, which caught my eye as I was reading another small book, prompted by your justifiable complaint that I was in another recent letter unjustly attributing to you some of my own peculiar propensities. I don't know whether you grew up to the accompaniment of the English original of this, but I did, and it was pleasant to read bits of it again even in Latin. But this little bit seemed to echo what you had written well enough, so I send it to you here.

... Pu magno quodam saxo consedit et conatus est, id responsum quo valeret, intellegere. Ei quasi aenigma apparebat et ipse nunquam aenigmator praeclarus fuerat, quia ursus pauxilli cerebri erat. Itaque loco solutionis 'crustulum cru' cantavit:

*Crustulum, crustulum, crustulum cru
Cano aenigmata, canis ac tu?
Crustulum, crustulum, crustulum crum
Cerebrum meum est fatiga-tum.*

See you again fairly soon, that is, if my talk for Roma and your talk for Napoli both get done in time, and if Wagons-Lits gets around to contacting me at just the right time for the ticket it's supposed to fix me up with.

17 August 1991

