

AMERICAN SCHOOL OF CLASSICAL STUDIES  
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GREECE

Dear Tom,

I have arrived, and done a bit of work, and found some things just fine, and one or two frustrating. So why should I tell you about the fine things. I imagine you may be in somewhat the same position.

The immediate frustration is this machine in the School. I brought my programs and lots of disks along with files on them. I discovered that an address I thought I had brought along didn't come after all, so I sent the letter back to Loretta to look it up and send it off. I find (not yet a frustration) that there is a fine sign up sheet, controlling two slightly different machines, both double-floppy rather than hard disk ones. But I find that by the second day I was acclimated to that system, and hardly ever tried to run things as if they were on a hard machine. .. anacolouthon back to the sign-up sheet, which seems to have lots of room on it, though they do get lots of use, only not right now 9:35 a.m. One grand frustration is the printer, an Epson, which will only take hole-punched paper, and thus 8 1/2 wide only, and this seems much less promising than the Toshiba I've become accustomed to, where I can print on the 11 wide, or could even 13 or 14 I can't remember which. (Only one of the machines is tied up to the printer, or only one at a time, so I must save this, and then next time I come, since I'm just about at the end of the time I've signed up for, print it out from the other machine) Which for the long PT texts I'm fixing up right now (before I started the letter) would be so much better. And they selection of type faces is limited (or fancy in unproductive ways) and to get the right one requires modification of any file I made up back in Madison. But the immediate frustration is this. That the table for the machines is the full desk height, which is hard on my hands, the body of the machine sits on top of the table, and the monitor on top of the body, and the whole thing is too high for a bifocalized person. And, they are for some reason, perhaps the avoidance of gamma beta zeta rays, set at at least my arm-length back from the front edge. So that with my bifocals I can't read the screen with either focus, without moving my head in painful ways. So, I discovered that my music glasses (flute sounds very nice in the Queen's Megaron's Parlor) let me read the monitor just right. No distortion of my neck and head. Bravo. Only, then I can't read any piece of paper that's nearer, that I'm working from, such as the apparatus of PTT, which I'm entering into the text which I have in numerical order.

Don't know what to do. Maybe I should have got myself one of the IBM convertibles, or some other portable, where I could set it in my own quarters at a legible angle - but still be confined to 8 1/2 - and avoid the crush for the sign-up sheet which Borza tells me is really impressive in the other seasons.

Yours,

1 July 1986

