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Dear Bill,

The printing of "Owls" sounds very good indeed. I am anxious to see it. I sympathize, though, with Marta Anderson's problem -- everything here is taking me weeks longer than I had anticipated -- and everything takes me by surprise; new problems keep appearing. What I'm really saying is that I'm not sure I can finish the printable version of the poem while I'm still here in upstate N.Y. I must go down to N.Y.C. today for a reading, then have a week during early August in Detroit at a writers' conference. Meantime, problems about my house (painting, jacking up the foundations) keep arising. So I may have to take the piece back to Newark, Del. with me in Sept. -- I hope not, but I think it's only fair to warn you.

Meantime, how interesting that you've run across the correspondence between Untermeyer and myself on the poem. I recall that we talked a lot about the title, but don't remember much else except that my relations with U. were always a pleasure -- he was one very savvy cat and I liked him a lot. (I guess I should -- he singlehandedly gave me the Pulitzer and it so offended the other judges that he lost his power and finally his place on the committee!)

I do have at least one copy of the MS with me here, but I would be interested in seeing a copy of the one you purchased, just to see if there are variants I could use.

I am having a lovely summer (except that it's too short) and hope it's the same for you. Thanks so much for the lovely printing of Heyen's piece; it's extremely handsome and I'm grateful for it.

Best,

