

La Cigogne
Monsieur le Grand
Mame, + rader
July 8, 1948

Dear Aunt + Edith,

It was so good to get both your long, newsy letters. Even with Mother's efforts, I feel so out of touch with things at home. A letter like yours is almost as good as a real visit. But not quite. I'd still rather have a chance to sit down with you.

I'll try to get to see your little Gilles, but I may not be able to make it. Our summer promises to be a busy one. We've given up trying to find a place to live and have passage reserved back to the States for October 1st. You have to make arrangements so far ahead now that we were afraid to wait any longer. We still don't

know what we're going to do or where we'll settle down, once we're back on that side of the ocean. However, in the U. S. most houses can be heated. This one can't, & I just couldn't see trying to take care of a newborn baby in a house where, in a mild winter, the temperature in my bedroom was right on zero for two weeks.

For the rest of the summer, we're trying to squeeze in a few trips so we can see what other parts of Europe look like. We want to go to Denmark, and Southern France, by way of Switzerland. Whether we make it or not remains to be seen. With three (or three & a half) children to be provided & arranged for, anything we do gets quite complicated.

By the way - we told the children about the new baby, and they've been so sweet about it. Dorothy is busily knitting a sweater for the baby, and they all insist it has to be another girl.

They don't want any mean old boys in their family! But they're so happy because we're getting a baby - for them, they say. Of course, News & I are hoping for a boy. News says he's tired of being the only man in the family. He says he's too badly outnumbered now. Well, we'll see!

Please write again, if you can find a few minutes. It's such a pleasure to hear from you.

Much love,

Cecile