

December 3, 1958

Dear Grote: -

This will be as brief and to the point as I can make it.

You sent us a so-called "inventory" similar to this latest one over a year ago when we were in Louisville. At that time you said "the goods" should be put into storage there and at a subsequent date you and I would go there and arrange for the disposal of the items. I wrote you back and told you that I did not want the furniture, that I was not going to pay for its storage or hauling, and that unless you authorized some sort of shipment or storage arrangements on your behalf, I would dispose of the items. You did not send such authorization and I did as I said I would do - I disposed of the furniture.

All items of furniture on your list, with the exception of the wing-chair, were sold in August of 1957 to a furniture dealer known as "Sandy's" in Louisville, for a total price of \$40. The wing chair he did not want since it was in need of costly repairs; he was willing to "throw it in" at the same price and the only other bid I could get on it was for \$3.00, so we decided to keep it and have since spent our own time and money in having it repaired and re-covered. I consider the chair to belong to us.

Your share of the \$40 proceeds from the sale I have credited against the large sum you owe me and which I shall be glad to discuss with you when I see you.

The Century dictionaries found no market. No one would buy them; the Salvation Army even refused to haul them away. They are still here with us in Memphis waiting to be heaved out. The box of photographs is also here.

The only sewing machine in my possession now is the same one in my possession when we moved from Wheaton. It is a modern one in leather case, given to Jean and me by Aunt Agnes sometime in 1954. I gather this gift was presented to us because Aunt Agnes had given away the machine we left with her some years ago. The other old sewing machine was standing idle and of use to no one, so sometime in 1954 or 1955 we gave it away to someone who could make use of it. There was no remuneration.

Over a year ago I told you that I would not dispose of the china or silver, and I have not.

Back in January of 1946 I made a trip from New York to Wheaton to help you go through the house and make disposition of its contents. At that time you said that you had no use for the china and since I had a growing family it was obviously of use to me, both practically and sentimentally. It was then agreed that the china should be mine.

Even so, I continued to feel that should the day ever come when you wished to establish a home and family of your own you might enjoy using "Grandmother Reber's dishes" even as my family would. It was my intention to see that you had some of the china, if you wished.

By the time we were ready to move from Louisville I'll admit that, in view of your behaviour, I didn't much care whether you wanted it or not; but Jean persuaded me that you might still have a sentimental desire to keep some of Mother's china and glassware. In return for Jean's offer to segregate the china patterns and supervise their proper packing and shipment on your behalf, you returned the inventory and demanded that we put "all the goods" into storage for some undetermined length of time after which it could be equally divided. With specific reference to the china, you announced that you "did not want all of one pattern and none of another, but some of each". This was an obvious indication that you had no real desire to keep the china for its usefulness or sentimental value; but that you had only one thought in mind - an equal division which would make any set of use to no one, meaning precisely me!

I again call to your mind the agreement reached in 1946; the china is mine and I no longer feel any moral compulsion to split it with you. I feel very sure that Mother would prefer that her china remain intact to be used by her grandchildren on festive

occasions rather than to be split up on the basis of dollar signs or for spite!

This leaves the silver, which is intact here in Memphis. In Mother's own hand is an inventory which has always remained in the box of table silver, and which clearly indicates that there are not "two complete sets of solid silver" as your inventory sets forth. There are two patterns but neither is a "complete" set. There are also a few silver-plated serving pieces and two pairs of silver candlesticks. However, none of this is immediately accessible since it is still in barrels up in our attic. At the moment I do not intend to go up into the freezing cold attic and go through the barrels in order to segregate your "goods". Sometime in the spring when the weather is more comfortable in unheated attics, and when I have the time to give, I will go through the barrels and the box and will send you an itemized listing of all the silver. We can then decide how it shall be disposed of.

In 1946 we agreed to share the silver and I still intend that it shall be shared; may I add that I shall never agree to the splitting up of each of the patterns.

There are in our home a few pieces of furniture which came from the Wheaton house, just as some furniture was put into storage for you at Hahn's. For your inventory, these are:

Two chests of drawers used by Jean and me in Wheaton, which we refinished and still use.
One pottery lamp-base; multi-colored flowers on it.
One wing-chair mentioned earlier in this letter, re-covered at our expense.
One small "ladies rocking chair" with upholstered seat and wooden arms, which we are in the process of re-finishing and re-covering so that it might be useful to us.
One metal floor-lamp-base.
One small desk-table. Originally unpainted, then stained maple and used as telephone table in lower hall in Wheaton. We have painted it and Jeff uses it in his room.
One old wooden kitchen chair - also painted and being used by Jeff.
One scatter rug, assorted colors, also used by us.

From this detailed accounting you can see that the only "goods" in my possession in which you have a partial interest is the silver -- and I have outlined to you my intention that this interest shall be divided as soon as weather and time permit -- and the old family photographs, which can also be divided at the same time.

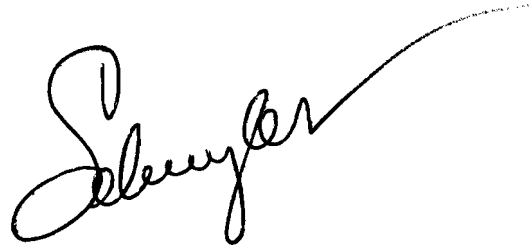
There is one other item I want to mention. I have in my possession a deed to two cemetery lots in the Wheaton cemetery. The deed is made out jointly to you and me. One of these days I will write to the cemetery and ask that the single deed be recorded as two separate deeds for two separate lots; then you may dispose of yours as you see fit and I of mine. I will send you copies of any correspondence relative to these lots. I trust that a simple division will be adequate for you and that you will not require that a survey be made to determine which is the most valuable location!

In my last letter I asked that you desist from sending me letters by registered mail, marked for delivery to addressee only. Through some perverse mental quirk you seem to delight in causing me unnecessary trouble, and now this most recent letter of yours even involved people in my office! Please get this and get it straight: if you send any more letters to me requiring that I pick up the letter at the post office, I shall instruct the postmaster to return the letter to you. And, if you send ANY letters to me at my office I shall refuse to accept them. I do not conduct personal affairs at my office. You have my home address; you can write to me, for regular delivery at my home, or not write at all!

With respect to your approaching visit to Memphis; I believe that my last letter spelled out for you as clearly as I know how that you do not come as my guest! Let me add to that; please do NOT attempt to see me either at my home or at my office, for I shall refuse to see you at either place. If you wish to visit Memphis that is your own affair; and if you will give me a call, I shall make every effort to see you at your hotel when it proves convenient for both of us. I hope I shall be in town when you get here; if I am not, please do not bother my family. I've told you before that I want to keep the children unaware of any disagreement between us and if they were to know of

your presence in Memphis, it would require some explanation to them. We have never said one unkind or critical word about you to our children. They have respect for what they know of your scientific achievement; what their impressions of you may be as a personality or as an uncle, I have no idea. I trust that you will have the good grace not to spoil their preparations for a happy Christmas by causing any more unpleasantness which might make it necessary for me to dispel either their good impressions or their respect.

If you have anything to say to me, you can say it to me; and if you come to Memphis without any advance notice -"RAIN OR SHINE"- you will have to take your chances on finding me in town and available.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Seymour". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the page. It features a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by a series of connected loops and a long, sweeping tail that extends towards the right edge of the page.