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Letter, Sinclair Lewis to Claude Lewis [April 8, 1934]

Sinclair Lewis

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17 WOOD END LANE
BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

April 8, '34

Dear Claude:

I don't know Professor Alexander of Columbia -- in fact, I have been in New York so little of recent years, that I am out of touch with almost all of the Columbia faculty -- but I am sure the school there will be excellent, and I hope that Isabel will be admitted. Let me know anything I can do.

Yes, the play from Dodsworth is an enormous success -- in fact, just now, the biggest hit on Broadway, and increasing weekly. I started getting \$650.00 a week out of it, and that increased to \$907.00 for the last weekly check. And the play promises to run (except for a six-weeks lay off next July and August) all through the year, though undoubtedly next fall it won't gross anything like as much as now. That's all to the good, because books are scarcely selling at all. Nowadays, a book that has sold 15,000 will be a fourth or fifth best-seller; ten years ago, such a position would have indicated that the book had sold perhaps 70,000 copies. My "Work of Art" is the second-best seller for the country as a whole, and it has gone only 65,000 so far. Probably the best sales are in the price-lowered reprints, such as Freeman is dealing in. His position ought to be very sound.

The production of the play (called "Brother Burdette") which I wrote with Lloyd Lewis of Chicago has been postponed to fall. We hope to start rehearsals in August.

In Bermuda we had thought of skipping over to Europe when we got back here, but it is so lovely at the new house here, with spring just starting, that we have been glad to stay. Dorothy will have to go over to the Continent sometime before long, but she may postpone the trip till late June.

Ever,

H