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6-13-1949

Letter, Sinclair Lewis to Claude Lewis [June 13, 1949]

Sinclair Lewis

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Williamstown, Mass.
Monday, June 13, 1949

Dear Claude:

Mrs. Powers and I shall be leaving for Europe again between September 1st and Sept. 15th, but this time go the Northern way, with about 2½ weeks in England, a week in Holland, a few days in Belgium, a week in Paris, about 2½ weeks in the rest of France, a few days in Switzerland, then into Italy, and to Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Naples - very roughly, twelve weeks from New York to Naples.

Would you like to go along? The trouble is that, with many steamers destroyed in the war, the accommodations are limited, and have to be engaged months ahead. I would have to know by ten days from now -- by June 23d -- at the latest -- whether you were going. So think fast and let me know. *

From Florence we would take a car and go out and see Assisi, Perugia, Todi, Urbino, and some towns in the sharp mountainous Abruzzi -- very much off the beaten tourist's trail.

After Naples, Mrs. Powers and I shall stay in Italy all winter. We would be settled down, and I'll be working, and you would not be interested. So that, roughly, some time in December you would either sail back by yourself from Naples, or you might prefer to fly back, in which case you would fly from Rome to Paris, then from there to NY. Exact details of this return we would arrange after we got to Europe, but the sailing over I must arrange here immediately. We'd probably be taking a Cunarder from NY to England.

The steamer or plane fare over, each way, would cost you about five hundred dollars -- slightly over one thousand in all -- but daily expenses, food, hotels, use of cars would be somewhat less than on a trip in America. You could travel well enough with two suitcases -- a couple of ordinary good suits, one dark, blue or black, suit if you have one, and enough shirts, underclothes, socks, handkerchiefs to last you two weeks at a time. Your only preparation would be getting a passport, re which see your county clerk at St. Cloud.

You would pay just for your own food, hotel rooms, and one-third of the cost where we took motor cars on trips.

I think you would have a wonderful time and see a lot of new things, and Mrs. Powers is the best sport to travel with that ever lived. She enjoys everything, never complains about anything, will talk or shut up as you prefer.

Let me know, quick!

Ever

Harry

I can't find out
till I hear from
you which steamer we would take, but
you'd have to be ready to go by Sept. 1st.

you'd have to be ready to go by Sept. 1st.

Had planned that Mrs.

Prinell could not go on

account of her eyes - If I
get someone to look after
the house - shall probably

make the trip

Had

...

...

...

Dear George:

Monday, June 12, 1898
Mittelman, Mass.