

John Steinbeck's Letters Home

Schneider
of the royal
it (unread hat)
day. Ordinarily it
member Max W's story &
me Irish whiskey,
tender glasses at
business meeting
has tender glasses
man - "I'm a
Dear All:
I've long gone from
to Copenhagen a
Jens in the air about old
them. We'll stay here about
many things to tell. I'll never
are saw Mr. Taylor this morning
with me are going to a hotel
about two tonight. His wife
now proceed to tell you all about
streets are painfully clean and
near where, leaning like
very where, leaning like
hotel is one of a
man for carrying
be subjected to
is prayer meeting
morning
down
We should
1384
Carmel,
California
to find an
learning me. I'm a
I've started it at all. I'm sorry about
lot of work up the chimney but I don't like it and
good if you don't like
The house is
another two weeks
gaining on

AIR MAIL

NEW YORK, N.Y.
APR 4
6-PM
7951

POST CARD
GR
Daniel Heyle
Box 244
Stan

LOS GATOS
JUN 17
2 3 PM
CALIF.

Mrs. W. N. Parker,
Carmel,
Calif.

2) Last night a very unusual storm from the
front. I never heard it before - strange how there
were any in California. But I can't say you. It
is a fascinating call if you don't know it. The birds
think it is a spring to sing and they are raising their
all around tree trunks so too for a hundred miles
yesterday. The noise has been mad when the
front strikes at times. Can you feel how by
the hundreds - mountains high and very good
with such things has been you can see
how hard it is to stay in bed.
Well again happy birthday
Love
John.

Dear Mary: You have a calendar hanging in
the kitchen. I should have known that yesterday was your
birthday. But I didn't notice and so the little
present got there. Here it is - happy song, happy
to get to bed and back out at it. I'd be up
for a long time for a rainy night. The music
has been quiet and easy. Hope it stays that way
next year - with the new beginning in, we want music.
But this year a series of hard storms could
cut it off.
The biggest stuff is giving me some energy
and then I'm tired and going down. But the pain
hasn't completely left my leg yet.
I wonder if you are getting the hemorrhoids
and reported in the papers. I think you would
drive us some day. Just before I can drive to
bed I thought a lot of trees - pine, fir, cedar
from early berries, fifty raspberries, two kinds
of blueberries and a canner pear. I love them
and strawberry bushes that burst in your
you like them. We get a warning now
of them. The spring is the time to
use it. And birds love to
peep.

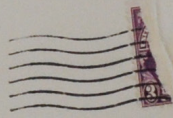
I was very worried
about the book. This was
the first time I was with
up and around soon.
I had to be a sad
and my book and read it
had day because I could
it was had all along then
principles. Well anyway
and one good thing about having
a book away and not worry
me to see us often. There isn't much
place. The swimming pool
and

Dear Mary:

We missed you Sunday and
were as long long but probably a month or so
maybe next week. If you want to come up to
fruit or stay at home with us. Ray will be here
and the key to the house gate is behind the gate for
it comes out.
Please ask Bob to come us for Ray on
see us are going away from phones and letters to try to
well and calm again. Both very tired and nervous.
Love for now,
Love
John

AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO

LOS GATOS
MAY 17
2 PM
1938
CALIF.



Sent to
Mrs. W. N. Parker

Mrs. W. N. Parker
Carmel,
Calif.

LOS GATOS
AUG 30
2 PM
1939
CALIF.



Mrs. W. N. Parker,
Carmel,
California

and for them
hilled. They would
as all well now
Love
John.



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John Steinbeck's Letters Home

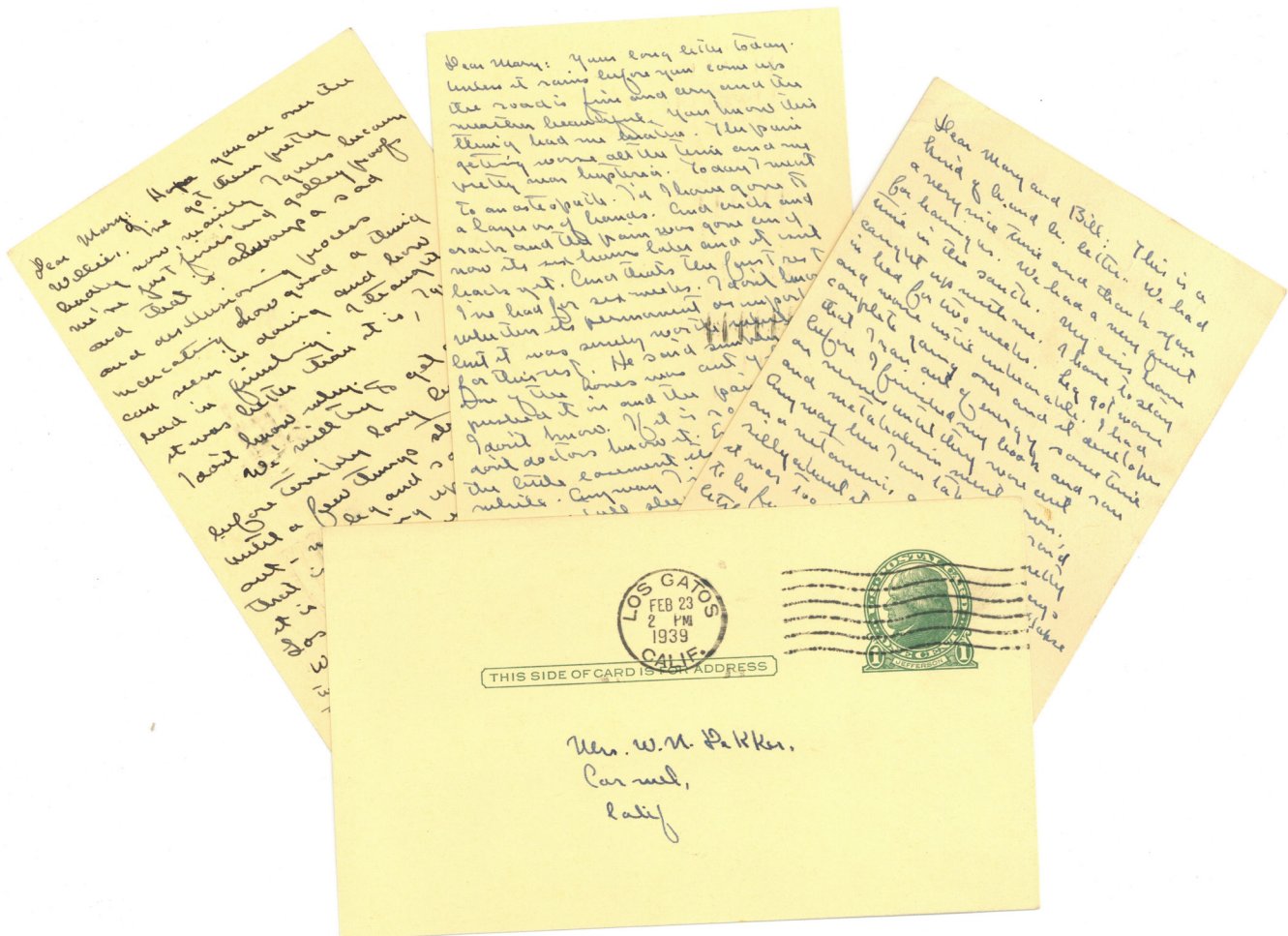
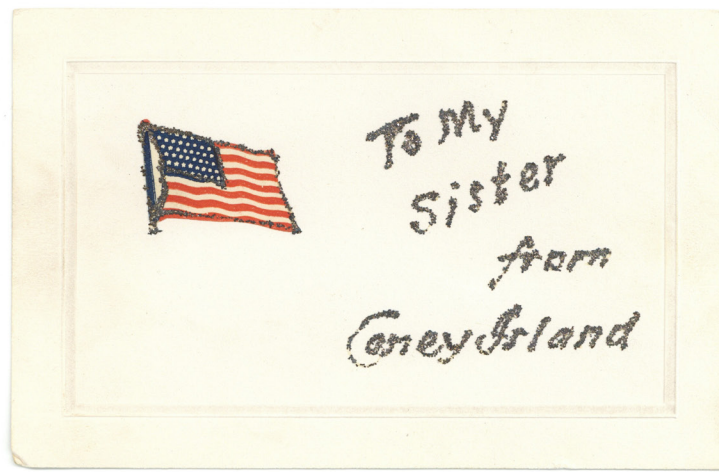
Massive archive of nearly 400 letters and postcards written by John Steinbeck to his family over the course of 29 years

[Various places]: 1937-1966. A vast archive of correspondence featuring approximately 395 letters, postcards and correspondences from the iconic American author John Steinbeck sent to family members over the course of twenty-nine years. The scope is incredible, spanning from the publication of his masterpiece *Of Mice and Men* to two years before his death.

Provenance: from the estate of John's sister, Mary Dekker Steinbeck.

The bulk of John's correspondence, over 300 letters and postcards, is written to his younger and much-adored sister Mary. These span a sweeping 28 years, from 1937 up until Mary's death in 1965.





The remainder of John's letters are written to other family members, primarily his sisters Beth and Esther, Mary's daughter Joan and her husband David Heyler. These letters continue up until 1966.

transmittal envelopes—over the years postmarks come from various locations such as New York City, Sag Harbor, California, Mexico, the Virgin Islands, Europe and more, detailing John's life by location.

The majority of the letters and postcards are autograph, though roughly 93 are typed or typed and signed; including roughly 14 typed and sent in triplicate by John to his three sisters. The vast majority of John's letters are accompanied by their original

The condition varies, but most range from Near Fine to Very Good. A spreadsheet of the contents can be provided upon request for serious inquiries only please.

330 E. 57th St.

New York City

Dear Mary: Letter from Esther last week. She said, "Wasn't it interesting about Bill and the law mine. And that's all except at the end of the letter she said - "Bill wasn't hurt - in case Mary hadn't written."

It left - if you can imagine that - a little gap in information. I haven't heard from you for a long time. We're having a quiet life but not a social one. We have a very pleasant apartment at the above address - two floors with a garden and two bed rooms, a big living room and two fire places. One of them is going right now with a big coal fire and it is blazing away and very pleasant to be in and warm. I like the cold very much, particularly when I am warm. Gwyn has been furnishing this place largely from 37th Avenue second hand and antique stores. Some very nice stuff she is getting too. When it is completed it is going to be very clean and comfortable but right now there are no drapes or beds and curtains but still it is a very pleasant place. There is a garden and the living room opens out on it. Why don't you come to see us? We have a spare room.

Willie loves the garden. Cats come to visit him every day - raft of cats. You working for O.W.D. and the War Dept and the Air Force all of them. Pascal wants us to go to England in May to make pictures and I may do it. I have never been to England. The Air Force wants me to do a book on high and low altitude bombing and I'll probably do that too. It's very funny - on the strength of that book I've turned into an authority and I can't see how the plan works, I'll probably get some possession some ships bombing over there. You buying a Westport apartment. You can get lovely.

But probably none of it will happen. All right I spent the morning with Henry Haines at the afternoon and this is Sunday. Saturday Maritime Commission and must re-write to of it. So you see I am not idle. And so to write a broad cast to Sweden which So if I can do over this letter, it is less more work today. But the work is quite in California that really got me down.

2

Gwyn is having fun furnishing the apartment. It is so nice I may keep it permanently. We could sublet it if we were going to be away for a long time. We just fill into it. I've looked for places in New York before and it is a dreadful process but this was the first place we looked at and we didn't want to look any further.

I haven't heard from the court in some time. The city here is very nice and on nice ends swarming with soldiers with mess and passers. A cab arrive today about half a million of them every week and and of course they all bid for the Broadway Times Square accident. It is impossible even to go to a show - a movie that is. The waiting lines extend for blocks. I came past the Museum Hall this afternoon and there was a waiting line standing close to Fifth Avenue and today was cold - nearly zero.

I guess I'll have to get to work if I'm to get the Swedish thing done tonight.

Love to you all and please do write.
John.



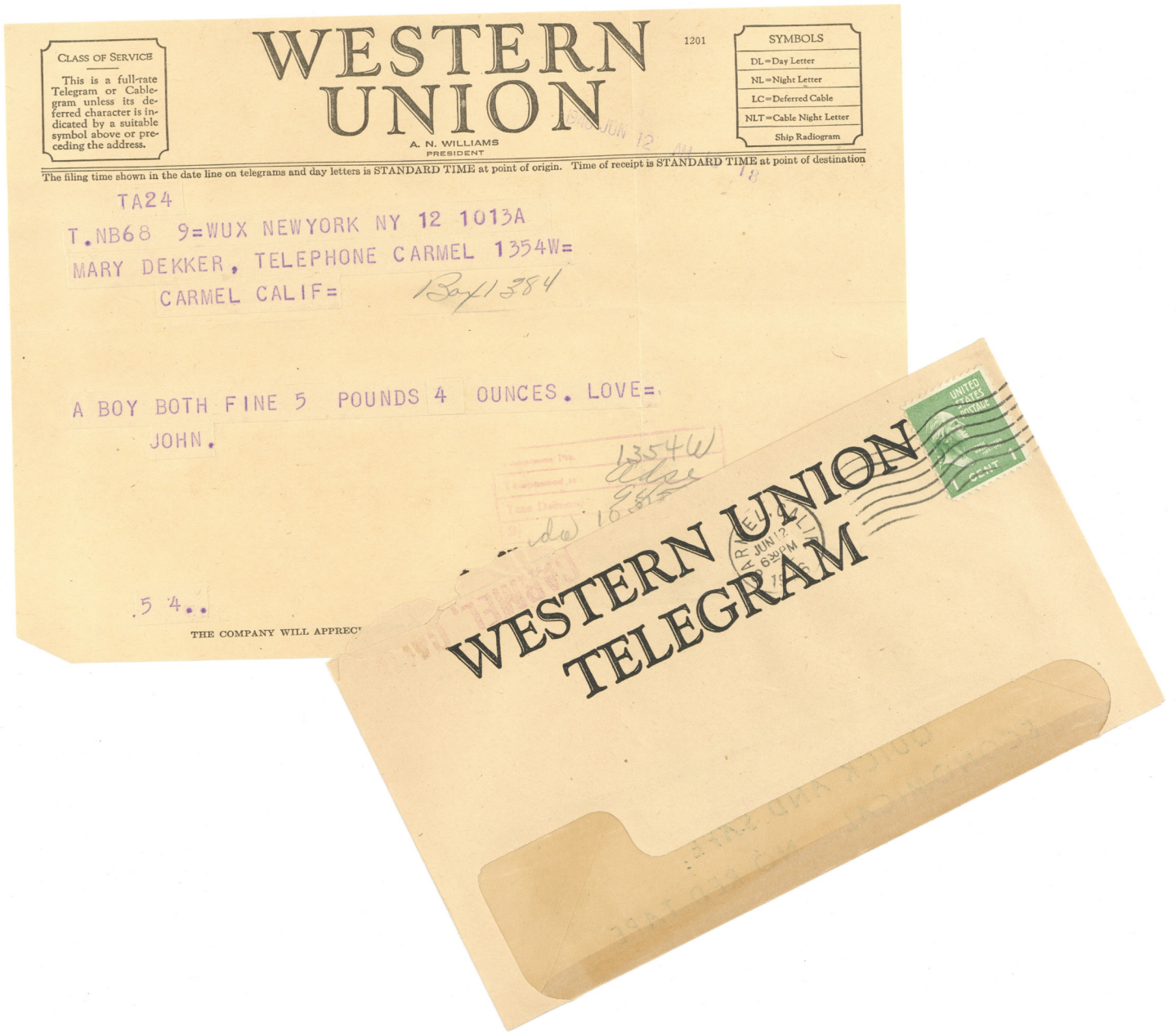
Mrs. W. H. Dekker
Currier - by - the - Sea,
California.

The archive additionally includes 165 pieces of communication from other family members mostly sent within the family and a small assortment of ephemera. The majority of these peripheral letters were sent by John's second wife Gwyn Conger Steinbeck (m. 1943-1948) and third Elaine Steinbeck (m. 1950-1968) to Mary. These correspondences begin in 1940 when William (Bill) Dekker, a World War I pilot, sends his wife Mary a letter home. Bill would disappear in action over Italy in July, 1943, and John would detail attempts he made overseas with his military correspondent connections to locate Bill in letters he sent Mary. The family letters stretch onward until 1997, nearly 30 years after John died, with letters from Elaine written to Joan and David.

Included in the assorted ephemera is a note from Mary

to John's editor and friend Pat Covici on the necessity of the title East of Eden, notes, two typescripts, seven snapshot photographs depicting John and several others on a boat and one depicting John in a yard being greeted by a dog. Several telegrams are present; including the one John sent to Mary relaying the news of the birth of his second son, John IV (June 12, 1946): "A BOY BOTH FINE 5 POUNDS 4 OUNCES. LOVE= JOHN".

These letters portray a sweeping and intimate look at Steinbeck's life, as told in his own words and the words of those closest to him, through deeply personal letters, covering his private and professional life during his most artistically productive years. He ranges over countless topics from the mundane minutia of daily life, such as stockpiling meat in his new



deep freeze to save a few pennies per pound should meat prices raise, to the profound—childhood memories, the births of his sons, the collapse of his marriage to Gwyn, his grappling with depression, mortality and much more. Despite John’s worldwide acclaim and success, winning both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prizes, his nostalgic thoughts often drift back to a green cliff overlooking the Carmel River of his youth.

He writes at length of his professional life, his work and milestones, from being a war correspondent, to novelist and playwright.

He expounds on the ups and downs of his writing process—from research, to starting new work, becoming

frustrated and throwing work out, finishing work and starting again.

Collections of this magnitude and breadth regarding such a major American author are virtually unobtainable in the marketplace, with most material already held by institutions. Because this correspondence comes from family members, it offers a much more intimate and private look into the life of John Steinbeck than otherwise available. Despite his prolificacy, he never wrote an autobiography and these intimate letters offer insights available no other way.

Price on Request



Dear Mary: We're sitting in our writing room, actually it only on any day but last night getting a letter in the mail. I hope it will be long and interesting. I think tomorrow we'll get the car and treatment of the last of the year. I think tomorrow we'll get the car and treatment of the last of the year. I think tomorrow we'll get the car and treatment of the last of the year.

The opinion was that the car was a bit more like a car. I think tomorrow we'll get the car and treatment of the last of the year. I think tomorrow we'll get the car and treatment of the last of the year.

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IN A CITY OF CHARM

F. J. MONTELEONE, MANAGING DIRECTOR
A. F. SPATARO, GEN'L. MGR.

NEW ORLEANS 12, U.S.A.

Jan 20

Dear Mary:
Pattie Annan placed Gyp's mother and she wrote us this letter about Bill. To me it is very good news. The previous flying that is never always reached into Germany and many much more miraculous things have happened. There too a number of American and British prisoners escaped during the Vicksburg surrender and took to the hills - protected and hidden by the Vicksburgians and they are still coming in. That might be. And as for not hearing - Louis J. Davis could get a card for me and mother and when one comes it referred to many others which had not been received. It's the best news I've heard.

We're just waiting on a plane. Hope to get out for Mexico in vacation in a day or so. We'll probably stay down there a week or so looking at chicken legs and then to Mexico City for a while. Will be back in March for sure.

If you are doing any looking around who don't you look for a place for us in the Carmel valley. About 20 acres on the river or straddling the river - not too

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NEW ORLEANS 12, U.S.A.

for up the valley. I suppose there are some to be had. If I had a house on it at all right but we would probably build one any way. I would like some hot water and some hill. Anyway keep your eyes open because the Carmel valley is where I'd like to live. I know at times and I would want to be on the river. May take years to find what we want and then again something might come up.

Today, privately, is absolutely wonderful for anything like this but if you are driving around - or here of anything I'd be glad to hear about it.

I can hear you speak at the "driving around" gag.

It's terribly crowded here - just packed.

But the food is still wonderful.

I'll give you an address in Mexico c. soon as I have one.

Love
John.



2.

But it might
her, or I
away for
too much

myself
haven't
they
people
but
so

you to go to New York and stay with
want. Good toget
has much

Sept. 25.

Dear Mary :

I have put off writing hoping that I would hear something.
I am sorry. All I can say is that nothing that happened to Bill
is as bad as waiting. I tried to get information and then got sent up
on this last campaign into Italy and was back the whole distem of
information was slightly disorganized. I saw general Drum
who commands the troop carriers and he asked me a report
and then I had to come back here and also he said he was going to
and also he said he was going to report,

I don't know what happened. On the island
down and been picked
for three weeks with
farther up in
things do happen
something
all sides
so the
And
ulous
id do
nearly
warped
rry.
if you want

Mrs. W.M. Decker,
Carmel by the Sea,
California.



AIR MAIL

John St. Beechey
135 Regent St., London

P.C. 30

P.C. 30

P.C. 30

own as nearly truly
ch that you can't
ish you could go east and
to get her over here with
icture and I have said I
me. She is very good at
with the music. But I haven't
nor whether it is possible.

everything

Feb 15

Dear Mary:

Much busyness. Getting all things ready. We are going to have a big party ~~and~~ on my birthday - after the party and a lot of people you know and quite a few you would like. Wish you were going to the ball. We have a piano player coming and I will probably end up with hand singing. In a way I am going to miss New York. I really love it.

Went up to see Thom on Saturday. He is full of beans. His block against learning is breaking down. He is the head of his class in arithmetic and second in his class in spelling. An unheard of thing. He must have got that from you. He never got it from me.

Elaine is taking typing and French. I will blunder along with my gut feelings. Really should study it though. Wonder if I am still capable of learning anything.

Nothing is going along. We will have galley, but for speed. It's name has finally been called Sweet Thursday.

My phone I will put. Hope you of me. I am vaca phone.

As we work of WA for also be

AIR MAIL

me - so away. My soon. airplanes house

We are by go to one day to Rodgers and both cry if at you might

Mrs. W. N. Rowe
Rowe 2
Carmer
California

LINE

d a half.
did it.
uct of writing.
e and pitch
e can't sing
of thought
I am going
ower and
r. It is
ed it might.
The
And

for this my letter to them
better
a note a
... getting covered with perspiration (excitement),
and getting cold. The denb (rebut) of
my few words and replies entirely on intuition
and signs like a telegraph. I must not learn
to sign (read come home) but in the phrase book
I have send a pleaure to our room "and give us
be signed. Being a Swedish lady, I do
Sweedish so I copied one of the
the lights when not in use".
Please turn off the lights when not in use".
English and
... page. It sounds so much like English and
... but funny and alcoholic. Got much a
... We leave you on the way you
... before and after. Last night in the
... spent a few days. Last night in the
... demanded it but he was sad and
... woman about in the streets, eat on
... taking a train to Krosby
... fairly well established
... to many places

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The
burns
there
I have
and to
back
burns