

Piney Woods School
Piney Woods
Mississippi 39148

Reed?

14.xi.64

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I have been dreading hearing from you, but now that I have received your note I feel much better.

I am in a state of near-cosmic dismay, to find myself at this time in my life when I feel qualified to write what I have long dreamed about, plunged much more deeply than I thought possible in the Piney Woods experiment.

I'll be here until May 24, graduation, unless I find it necessary to leave.

I think that I will be able to have one piece ready to send you by Christmas, although I don't see how it can be the way I want it to be. It will at least serve as an idea of what I want to do, and what I will do when this/is over.
job

Two things are against my working as I need to: my being in a Negro school in a segregated country, as isolated from reserach sources as if I were in central Alaska, and my work-hours. The first is easier to cope with, since I can ask a neighbor in St. Helena to pull books off my shelves, blindly but willingly. The second is increasingly uncopable: my days start at 5 and end with my last class at 9.30 at night (Except on Sundays when I sleep until 6.30 and get out of my last assignment at 6.30 at night). This schedule sounds, as I write it, unbelievable, and following it is a dare, really, to one's various strengths. It is the result of trying to run a school where students can work half-time and still follow the regular highschool or college curriculum. I have never seen people work this hard, nor thought I could do it myself.

I do not detail this to you in excuse, but in explanation of my real dismay. I had no thought, when I spoke last summer in New York of an idea I had long cherished, to write a series of pieces on modern cookery books as compared with older ones, that the plan would suddenly take active form. Neither did I know, although I had been in Piney Woods for a few weeks during the part-time summer session, that any human beings could work with such absorption as is the rule here during the winter.

Unless you feel that the plan is simply not feasible now, and with me as the writer, I shall hope to send you a piece about the astonishing vogue for big heavy slick bright books about cooking, mostly and often worthless status-symbols. I am comparing them to the same symbols of about a hundred years ago, published by Victoria's chef, the Duke of Cumberland's, and so on...status in a different form but still with the same raison d'etre. I am using Francatelli and Soyer, since they are the only ones my neighbor could find for me....but thanks to your offices I have a fine sample crop of what one of my friends calls the gastronomical mastodons of 1946.

I am trying to feel fatalistic rather than bitter about this tirck that my own timing has played on me, and I shall go right on hoping to get a decent idea of my plan to you before Christmas, until I hear otherwise from you.

Sincerely, *M.F. Fisher*

M.F.Fisher to W. Shawn, the New Yorker, 35 West 43, NYC 36

Piney Woods School
Piney Woods
Mississippi 39148

17.xii.64

Dear Mr. Shawn:

It is much too late for me to try to apologize for not sending you a first piece before Christmas, as I hoped to do.

I enclose an unfinished article. It is not the way I want it to be, but perhaps from it you can tell me if you want me to send you any more of the pieces I plan to write.

I am going to discuss current gastronomical publications in relation to their prototypes of the past centuries...it is an idea that has long been in my thoughts.

After December 28 I shall be at the following address: c/o Erskine, GENOA, Nevada 89411. There I can work again. Meanwhile I have made random but useful notes for several more pieces: gastronomy for household pets...probably starting with the sleeve-dogs of the Empress of China and her amazing diet for them; the feeding of invalids and/or infants, and then of athletes, from early Greek runners to astronauts; // 'regional cookery', in which I continue to find a macabre pleasure; self-styled definitive books on wines and drinking-in-general...

I feel ready to work fast, once away from here, and I hope that you will tell me whatever there is to tell, about the material I send herewith.

Sincerely,

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

copy to Henry Volkening

Genoa
Nevada
89411

2-17-65
15.ii.65

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Here is a thing I have written about women cookbook writers.

I wonder if it is what you hope ffrom me?

I plan next to finish sections on cooking for children and invalids, and for animals.

Sincerely,

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker Magazine
25 West 43rd Street
New York 36

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Agents

551 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

June 15, 1965.

Mr. William Shawn,
The New Yorker,
25 West 43rd Street,
New York 36, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I enclose a piece I have just had from M. F. K. Fisher, about cookery books for children, along with a letter addressed to you.

You will of course be wanting, quite properly, and to everyone's advantage, to communicate with her directly, about all matters of substance relating to this piece, and to suggestions she makes and questions she asks. Mary's sole reason for routing all this through me, as she has told me, was so that I might have the chance for a quick reading of my own.

Best regards.

Sincerely, *Ann Volkening*

pend

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Agents

551 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

Excerpt from letter of 8/14/64 from MFK Fisher:

"One thing I have always thought could be an interesting 'feature' and at the same time result in a possibly valuable little book is a regular column of 'high-class' book reviewing and literary criticism of gastronomical publications. I would like to skim the current crop, every month, or perhaps four times a year, and combine my reviews and criticisms with comparisons and discussions of other periods...books, customs, etc. etc. It need not be at all pompous or solemn, of course, but it could still be erudite, and perhaps of literary value. . . ."

(From R. Mackenzie -
8/20/64)

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California

21.viii.65

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Several of the things I am writing about current and past gastronomical literature fall into their own categories, but since you started sending me occasional review copies I have made one small pile of books that do not (Going Wild in the Kitchen, The Cook's Blessings, and so on).

I wonder if you would like me to write a kind of hodge-podge review of them all...short and hopefully cogent praise or dismissal?

It seems to me that they have some importance, as an indication of modern taste or lack of it, if nothing else. Most of the people who concocted them worked hard...

The pieces of regal and White House cuisine and on animal gastronomy are in good shape.

I wonder if the one Henry Volkening forwarded to you on infant cookery-books ever floated to the top of the summer puddles?

Sincerely,

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

PS. There are some excellent and some very ridiculous books about wines and wine drinking. Does this come under gastronomy? I would of course look at them from a 'literary' standpoint and not as a one-time wine judge...

mmx

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California 94574

16.iv.66

Dear Mr. Shawn:

On May 7 I plan to attend a symposium (University of California Extension) to study 'California's Open Lands.'

It will start early in the morning at the fair-grounds of a nearby village, and after a wine-tasting (This is wine country) and lunch will be a tour of the whole Napa Valley, which is now in grave danger of becoming a dormitory suburb.

This region is unique in the world, probably, and converting the vineyards to subdivisions and small industrial areas is imminent.

I plan to go on the tour as Mary Friede, property owner. I plan to keep quiet and listen. I wonder if you would like me to try to write some sort of report of this day for you? If you did, I would of course make notes of names and so on, instead of merely satisfying my own curiosity.

I feel that the problem to be studied is national, but that its local significance is perhaps unusual...at least in its setting.

Sincerely,

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

Phone: 707-963-2855

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Agents

551 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

MURRAY HILL 2-5340

DIARMUID RUSSELL
HENRY VOLKENING
CANDIDA DONADIO

April 25, 1966

Mr. William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York, N. Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Shawn:

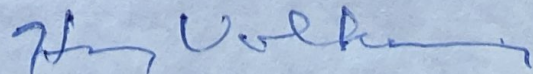
I enclose Mary Fisher's latest piece, tentatively entitled THE ANATOMY OF A RECIPE, which I hope you will like as much as I did. (Some notes for your checkers are also attached.)

In her accompanying letter she says, "I am assuming that more of these pieces are wanted? I have plenty of material here ... a couple I really want to do this minute." Perhaps you would like to write her your thoughts and feelings about this, which both Mary and I would appreciate.

Many thanks, by the way, for the two recent and very generous checks. The big bonus was an especially gratifying surprise. Even over the 3,000 miles between here and St. Helena, I can see an attractive and pleased smile.

Best regards.

Sincerely,



Henry Volkening

Enclosure

Early May '66: US talked with Mrs. Fisher on phone.

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California
94574

4.v.66

Dear Mr. Shawn:

That was very nice of you, to call me. Thank you.

I am glad you like the things about cookery-bookery. I find them interesting and enjoyable to write, probably because I am using a somewhat familiar subject. On the other hand, it might be fun to write about bon-sai trees, or chess... at least, if I were younger. (Not that I know much if anything at all about them...)

I am ignorant but involved, as far as the problem goes of the spoilage of the land. I have lived it. I knew Southern California when it was a lovely place indeed, and after some forty-two years there I fled it and 'settled' here, where the same heedless destruction is under way. Most probably this is true everywhere, from what I read. I have never gone on any kind of Conducted Tour, but I thought this one I wrote to you about might be an adventure of one kind or another, and if I was not too wrong I'll send you some notes about it.

Don't worry about my getting into wines and wine-tasting and all that. I flee it like the pox (in this case phylloxera...).

I am not much interested in how the changing of the landscapes influences the 'social groups'. The people who did all this, the French and Italians and so on, are gone or very old. The new people are oblivious, moving automatically from one bracketed suburb to another.

When I said that I felt dismal because before long we would all be underground anyway, I did not mean AT ALL the Irish way of it, deep in the tomb. I meant that the only escape hatch, quite probably, is to burrow and live in inverted skyscrapers, which possibly some of us may be doing...air-conditioned and all that. This emotional bro-haha about survival on the surface of Earth is quite silly. That is what I meant by being under ground.

And as I told you, I feel much more cheerful since you called!

Sincerely,

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn, Eq.
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd St., NYC 36

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California 94574

Fish

4.iv.67

Dear Mr. Shawn:

When I returned to Northern California two days ago, it was at once plain to me that I would be unwise to leave here again for a while.

So...I thank you, more than I can say, for offering to let me work in one of your rooms for a time, and very regretfully I must give up the invitation. It was a heartwarming one, and I'll continue to feel encouraged by it.

I have found a place to work in, without telephone and so on, and I hope to send a few laggards to your offices before long...one about 'fad' cookbooks, one about White House cookery, one about purported whimsy in the kitchen...and so on.

Then I'll get rid of the Putnam deadline, of course sending the material to the New Yorker. The Putnam editor understands this.

I am very glad I met you. You and Rachel MacKenzie made me feel purposeful again...a heady sensation!

Sincerely,

Mary MacKenzie Fisher

M.F.K.Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

COTTON & PERCENTAGE

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California 94574

27.ix.67

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I think I should ask you about something that bothers and troubles me.

I have been writing reviews for the New Yorker about food nooks and cooking, mentioning both old stuff and some of the current things which are sent to me, mostly from your offices. They are accepted for publication, and I am generously paid for them, but they do not appear. I think this may be unfair to the publishers and authors who give us the copies, and for myself I feel at sea.

Before I went to France in the early summer of 1966, and Mr. Whittaker went to Japan, I corrected 'Rush' galleys of two or three peices, which have never been published. Neither, as far as I know, has anything else by Fisher since then.

I wonder if you want me to continue to write about modern cookbooks.

As the material comes in from your offices, I correlate it with what I already have on the same general subject, mostly old books kept for personal use or because they are quaint or startling. By now I have about ten sections on my work-shelves...

I am very glad that you like what I write, enough to buy it. This of course helps me financially, but mainly it strengthens my spirits. I hope you will tell me candidly if you want me to continue to write about current cookbooks which will be forgotten by the time the pieces appear, if they every do.

And meanwhile I thank you for the very valuable things I have learned while working for you. I am immeasurably richer in every way.

Sincerely,

Mary Fisher

M.F.K.Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

October 27, 1967

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Yes, I wish you would continue to write about modern cookbooks, in spite of our bad record in publishing them. (Well, we have at least run the piece on mass cooking since you wrote to me.) I should think that perhaps two or three pieces of this kind in the next year would be right, since we have your "Gastronomy Recalled" series to run off. Then, after that, perhaps more frequent Books pieces.

With growing admiration, and warm regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. M. F. K. Fisher
1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena, California

a

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
Ca: 94574

27.ix.68

Dear Mr. Shawn:

A few months ago you said that you would like me to write 'three or so' cookbook reviews during this year. But I wonder if you still want them. You seem to have a lot of material on hand, from the Gastronomy Recalled book, and I in turn do not have too many current books, although I have about five articles all ready to go: one about White House 'gastronomy' which might be ill-placed this year, one about gentlemen chefs, and so on. It takes me rather a lot of time to organize a good review, I find, and if you don't actually need them now, I would like to work on other things. But if you do, I am of course ready and willing, like Barkis or whoever it was.

It may interest you that I am getting a small but most amazing lot of mail about the first piece in the new series...and today the reaction started, from the second one. So far, everything is very rosy, with nothing sour or wry or plain mean. Apparently there is a thick streak of nostalgia in a lot of the readers. This may indicate the age-level of the ones who are writing...but they are an articulate and even witty bunch! Of course they all want to tell me about their grandmothers' Boiled Dressing...and it is important to them that in Kenyon, Ohio, and even (today) in Puerto Rico, there were once ladies who had a Secret Ingredient for Pickled Tomatoes which outdid anything I could ever have experienced. It is fun. And some of them, mostly female so far, tell me they like the way I write. & Flowers for the living.

Please accept my thanks for the mysterious news I get, now and then, about such things as a check for \$50 which will be paid to me monthly for a time. It makes me feel as if I had indeed stepped through the looking glass, and I plan several excapades at once...a fiscal montage: case of champagne, overnight in San Francisco, a dozen French fruit knives, Belgian endive at Christmas. Good for my spirits.

Sincerely, and please know that I'll be very glad indeed if you do want the lightly mentionned reviews...can do them with pleasure...

Mary Francis Fisher

MFKFisher
to
WShwan
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St.
NYC 36

October 29, 1968

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Yes, I do think we can use a few more books pieces in the near future, and then, after we have finished publishing the Gastronomy series, we can certainly continue with "three or so" a year.

All the comment on Gastronomy has been good.

Warm regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. M. F. K. Fisher
1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
California

h

1467 Oak Avenue
St. Helena
Ca: 94574

18.xii.68

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Thank you for your note. I am late in saying this, and am sorry.

I have been sent, from your office, quite a lot of current cookbooks, and I have at least two reviews shaped. I can't send them for a few weeks. I'll try to keep them up to date.

Then there are a couple more, one about White House cookbooks which I have simmered about for several months, which may please you...the other is about gentlemen-cooks...

As I have told Rachel MacKenzie, the only subversive note so far about the food-pieces is a mild chiding from a lady who thought I was rather mean to my Grandmother about her Boiled Dressing. The writer then said kinder things, and gave me her own recipe (much better!).

I hope the new year is a fine full one for you and yours.

And thank you for asking me to sign the First Reading Agreement. I am pleased that you want me to continue to write for your possible approval.

Your friend,

Wally Rouse Silver

M.F.K.Fisher
to
Wm. Shawn, Esq..
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
NYC 36

Bouverie Ranch
Glen Ellen
Ca: 95442

2.ix.71

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Mr. Greensteing has informed me that from now on I'll have a monthly check from the New Yorker for \$64.44. This news is astonishing, and also very heady...visions of sugarplums...

I have no idea of why, of course. It seems to me that you have been more than kind to me, in both tangibles and intangibles. And I accept this amazing new generosity with my thanks and with great pleasure: I am already planning little sprees for people I like (always including me, naturally...) The second check may go for taxes, but the first one will buy a toast to you, drunk by people who are happy for me.

Sincerely,

Mary Fancis Fisher

M.F.K.Fisher
to
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St
NYC 36

RACERASE BOND

SOUTHWORTH CO. U.S.A.

36% COTTON FIBER

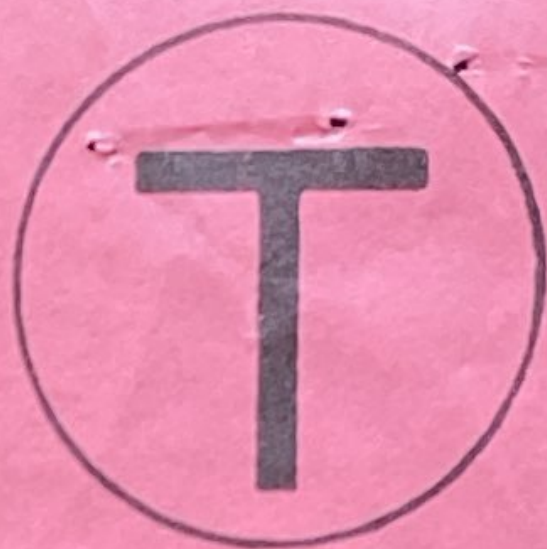
Mrs. Fisher saw R. Mack on 9/30/72. Said
she was still receiving cookbooks, felt guilty
about books she had but not used. Suggested
she update them. "Chinese Cooking" is
only book she had on record as but it killed.

Should we see if cook books are still being
sent to her?

10/8/73: WS said this taken care of.

To:

From:



FOR USE ONLY WITH RUSH MESSAGES OR MATERIAL

Bouverie Ranch
13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen
Ca. 95442

October 19, 1976

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I am sending this piece called "A Common Danger" to you because it is not fiction, and not a cookbook review, and I don't know where to direct it.

After Rachel MacKenzie left, Frances Keenan wrote a nice note to me. I sent her two stories, which were quickly rejected by somebody who addressed me as "Dear Mr. Fisher." This dampened my spirits a little, after several decades of being called Miss or Mrs. at The New Yorker, but since I have worked on my very personal view of the evil town of Marseille, and hope to have it finished before Christmas. Of course I'll send it to whomever you wish at the magazine; it must also go to Knopf, with a copy to Russell and Volkening.

I hope you will like something about the material, as I need not tell you.

Very good wishes, always with grateful respect for what you have taught me.

May Frances Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn, Editor
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd Street
New York, N.Y. 10036

cc to Timothy Seldis, Russell and Volkening, 551 5th Ave. N.Y. City 10017

Fisher, MFK

April 4, 1977

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

It's painful for me to send this piece back to you, because I admire it so much. It's a flawless piece of writing. Yet the decision here was against it, because of the nature of the material. In the last few years, we have gradually moved away from reminiscent pieces of this kind; the feeling developed here that we had run too many of them in the past, or at least enough of them to hold us for a long time. There may be an occasional exception -- for one reason or another -- but it's hard to say when or exactly why. At any rate, please let us read your Marseilles piece, just in case it may be our exception. I can't tell you how sorry I am about losing "A Common Danger." Much of it is very beautiful.

Best regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. M. F. K. Fisher
Bouverie Ranch
13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen, Calif. 95442

RUSSELL & VOLKENING, Inc.

Literary Representatives

551 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK, N. Y. 10017

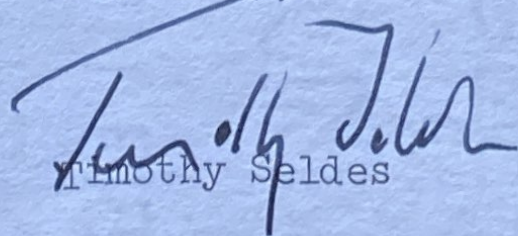
(212) MU 2-5340

May 10, 1977
William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43 Street
New York City 10036

Dear Mr Shawn,

Here is Mary Frances Fisher's manuscript,
A CONSIDERABLE TOWN. I hope you will find
parts of it appropriate to The New Yorker.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Timothy Seldes", written over the typed name.

Timothy Seldes

enc

Fisher, MFK

July 13, 1977

Dear Mr. Seldes:

We read M.F.K. Fisher's book on Marseilles with considerable interest. As always, we admired the wonderful writing. However, we did not think that this lent itself to excerpting for The New Yorker. Thank you for letting us consider it.

Best wishes,

William Shawn

Mr. Timothy Seldes
Russell & Volkening, Inc.
551 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10017

m

Robert Lescher

LITERARY AGENCY

155 East 71st Street

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

249-7600 Cable: Micawber

April 24, 1978

Dear Ms. Oliver:

I think M.F.K. Fisher may have told you that I would soon be sending you some pages you encouraged her to write. I'm happy to say they arrived this morning, and I have already read them with delight.

The piece is enclosed. Mary Frances has entitled it, at least provisionally, "Culinary Compassion" and I know she will be eager to have your thoughts.

I imagine you are aware that Mary Frances will be in New York, briefly, toward the end of this week just prior to her departure for France. Should you want to reach her, she and her sister will be staying at The Stanhope. They arrive Thursday evening, and I believe they depart on Sunday.

Naturally, I'll look forward to having your response, too.

Yours,

Robert Lescher

Ms. Edith Oliver
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

RL:po
Encl.

By Hand

Fisher, M.F.K.

May 17, 1978

Dear Mr. Lescher:

A check for M.F.K. Fisher's
piece "Culinary Compassion." Thank
you for handling this.

Best wishes,

William Shawn

Mr. Robert Lescher
155 East 71st Street
New York, New York 10021

m

Fisher, MFK

Robert Lescher

LITERARY AGENCY

155 East 71st Street

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

249-7600 Cable: Micawber

January 15, 1979

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I conveyed to M. F. K. Fisher your admiration for her essay on the Gare de Lyon, and of course she was pleased. Both she and I are delighted the piece will appear in The New Yorker.

As I mentioned when you called, and as I had mentioned previously in my note to Edith Oliver, the piece will also appear as a Preface to a book of drawings, which is scheduled for publication next Fall, probably in late September or October. The drawings are by Judith Clancy, and they all represent different facets of the Gare de Lyon. It might be that you would have some interest in seeing some of the drawings, on the chance that one of them might serve to embellish the piece by Mrs. Fisher when it appears in your magazine. I believe The New Yorker did publish one of Judith Clancy's drawings a number of years ago.

If this possibility interests you, I could arrange for Judith Clancy to send some of the drawings along, which I would then forward to you for your perusal.

I'm sending you with this note a slightly revised version of the manuscript. Mrs. Fisher feels she has strengthened the text, in addition to correcting an error. I would appreciate your relying on this version when the time comes to do whatever editing seems appropriate.

Robert Lescher

I assume that publication of the material as a Preface for Judith Clancy's book in late September or October won't conflict with your plans. If you foresee any problems, though, I would appreciate your letting me know.

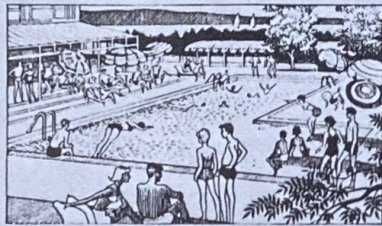
Yours,

Robert Lescher

Mr. William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York 10036

RL:hl
encl.
cc: Mrs. M. F. K. Fisher

Enjoy the new pool at Basin Harbor!



Our 75-foot pool has twin diving boards, temperature control, and special poolside luncheon daily. There's also 18 holes of uncrowded golf, tennis, supervised children's programs, and 126 lakefront miles of lovely Lake Champlain for water sports and fine fishing. Victuals are famous, as are the Club's snug lodgings. For reservations and details: N. Y. Office, 30 Rockefeller Plaza West. LT 1-6595.

BASIN HARBOR CLUB

Robert H. Beach, Manager

VERGENNES • VERMONT



Prometheus

The Life of
Balzac
by

ANDRÉ MAUROIS

THE choicest vacation reading for the sophisticated reader. "A magnificent literary biography, perhaps the greatest I have read." — IRVING STONE. Illustrated. At your bookstore, \$10.00

Harper & Row

BOOK HUNTING?

Virtually any book located—no matter how old or long out-of-print. Fiction, nonfiction. All authors, subjects. Name the book—we'll find it! (Title alone is sufficient.) Inquire, please. No obligation. Write:

BOOKS-ON-FILE

DEPT. NY-66 UNION CITY, NEW JERSEY

FANNY'S

WORLD FAMOUS RESTAURANT

Spaghetti • Southern Fried Chicken • Prime Steaks and Fanny's salad dressing.

Hours 5 to 10 pm daily Sunday 12 noon to 10 pm
(OPEN EVERY DAY) Phone GR 5-8686
1601 Simpson St. Evanston, Ill.

AUGUST 6, 1966

BOOKS

BRIEFLY NOTED

FICTION

THE PALACE OF MONEY, by W. H. Manville (Delacorte). A novel about a man who is trying to write a novel, by a man who has written two, counting this one. The hero thinks that everyone knows what is meant by love except him, and has equally perplexed thoughts about art (Aristotle vs. Percy Lubbock) and money (Hemingway vs. Fitzgerald). Though the book is written in the third person, it is difficult to distinguish the hero's irresolute attitudes and style from the author's. Mr. Manville alternates between prose of flippancy and of unsubstantiated intensity. One dramatic and frequently Freudian confrontation after another occurs between the characters—the struggling writer, his wife, her rich mother and father and sister and brother—who are defined in terms of brand names and topical references: Jax pants, Balenciaga, Enovid, Bobby Short, Algerian marijuana, Oedipus. There are signs in the passionate record of what these people eat, drink, sit on, and do when they're nervous that Mr. Manville has a sense of humor that he should have trusted further.

GENERAL

THE ABDICATION OF KING EDWARD VIII, by Lord Beaverbrook (Atheneum). When Lord Beaverbrook died, in 1964, he left a number of manuscripts that he intended to incorporate in a series of books called "The Age of Baldwin." This account of the abdication crisis of 1936 was one of them—a day-to-day record of the author's rather prominent part in the affair, with emphasis on its political implications, and obviously designed to set matters straight for history. Beaverbrook, who was the King's man in the contest between King and Cabinet, believed that Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin was out to get rid of Edward VIII at all costs and did not care about the marriage to Mrs. Simpson one way or the other; he attempts to show how Baldwin accomplished his end by trickery and various other kinds of double-dealing. It is not a pretty

tale, and the author's interlanguage does nothing to down, but it makes for a lively Photographs.

THE FOURTH SESSION, by Rynne (Farrar, Straus & Giroux). The fourth volume of Mr. Rynne's "essay in theological journal dealing with the last session of the Second Vatican Council II. Mr. Rynne is largely on the side of the progressives and of Pope Paul's inactions (particularly on the birth control issue), but he recognizes the need for compromise, and is always fair. He



cludes that the Council was a good foundation for such a work, particularly in the innovations with which it concluded it. With running marries of the sessions and a appendix of documents. A very passages first appeared in pages.

THE AGE OF WIT: 1650-1700, by D. Judson Milburn (Macmillan). This work of scholarship is engaging despite its author's evident termination to be serious; given a happy subject and Mr. Milburn's fine sense of style, it could have been otherwise. He describes wit during its heyday in English letters—its variations, its uses, and then its decline. "sensibility" became the quality which art and artists were supposed to aspire. He is very good on the literary achievements; he clarifies—without insisting on current applicability or any sort of dactylic nonsense—some of the of Augustan thought.

CEMETERY SALESMEN

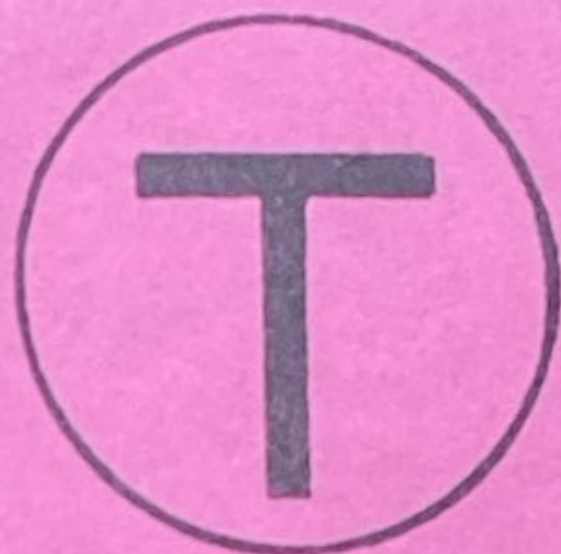
If you have been or are now a sales closer in the Cemetery Lot And Mausoleum Sales Field, We offer You a New Program Where Your Time Spent In Closing. We Deliver The Prospective Buyer To You On Our Premises And You Have But To Close The Sale. Mr. Donnell, At National Mausoleum Park, Falls Church, Va., weekdays. —Adv. in the Washington Post & Herald.

Mind if we ask what condition the prospective buyer is in when you meet him?

2/7/79

To: Mr. Shawn

From: B. Solonche



FOR USE ONLY WITH RUSH MESSAGES OR MATERIAL

Attached is a spot drawing by Judith Clancy that ran 8/6/66. It is the only drawing by her we've run.

Robert Lescher

LITERARY AGENCY

155 East 71st Street

NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021

249-7600 Cable: Micawber

Fisher mfk

May 16, 1979

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I'm sure you will remember the essay by M.F.K. Fisher on the Gare de Lyon that I sent to The New Yorker on December 11th of last year. You were kind enough to call me, soon after that, to express your pleasure and to say how happy you were to have the piece for the magazine.

I wrote to you again on the 15th of January, reminding you that the piece will appear as a Preface to a book of drawings scheduled for publication this Fall. Perhaps I should quote from the letter I sent you then:

As I mentioned when you called, and as I had mentioned previously in my note to Edith Oliver, the piece will also appear as a Preface to a book of drawings, which is scheduled for publication in late September or October. The drawings are by Judith Clancy, and they all represent different facets of the Gare de Lyon. It might be that you would have some interest in seeing some of the drawings, on the chance that one of them might serve to embellish the piece by Mrs. Fisher when it appears in your magazine. I believe The New Yorker did publish one of Judith Clancy's drawings a number of years ago.

If this possibility interests you, I could arrange for Judith Clancy to send some of the drawings along, which I would then forward to you for your perusal.

sent to
Mr. Batzford
for editing.

This was noted.

You looked at that
drawing.

Robert Lescher

May 16, 1979

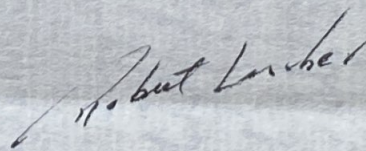
-2-

I'm sending you with this note a slightly revised version of the manuscript. Mrs. Fisher feels she has strengthened the text, in addition to correcting an error. I would appreciate your relying on this version when the time comes to do whatever editing seems appropriate.

I assume that publication of the material as a Preface for Judith Clancy's book in late September or October won't conflict with your plans. If you foresee any problems, though, I would appreciate your letting me know.

I've now been informed by Mrs. Fisher that the book is scheduled for publication in late September or early October, and I thought I should hasten to let you know. Mrs. Fisher would of course like to see proofs of the piece before it appears, because she wants to verify the corrections that were conveyed to you in the second version I sent. Will those proofs be available soon? I'd be immensely grateful if you could let me know.

Yours,



Mr. William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

rl/mm

5/24/79: Called Mr. Lescher to say we were working from the second version, had made a record of book publication date, I would send proofs to Mrs. Fisher when they are available.

Fisher, MFK

July 12, 1979

Dear Mr. Lescher:

A check for M. F. K. Fisher's
piece on the Gare de Lyon. I wish
we had been able to publish it.

Thank you and regards,

William Shawn

Mr. Robert Lescher
155 East 71st Street
New York, New York 10021

13935 SONOMA HIGHWAY
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

1.1.80

Dear Mr. Greenstein:

It is with deep regret that I have asked Robert Lescher to return to the New Yorker its First Reading Agreement and accompanying check.

It would be pretentious and hypocritical of me to continue this Agreement, now meaningless after several decades of pleasant work.

Everything I have sent for possible publication, over the past two or three years, has been summarily rejected, except for one lost 'food' piece and an 'introduction' about the Gare de Lyon, which was accepted and held until too late to print, before NOT A STATION BUT A PLACE was published.

This last-minute rejection^w as a professional disappointment to the artist and the publisher, since it left no time for submitting the text elsewhere, and to me it was a personal and bitter blow.

It made me feel that perhaps the only reason any of my writing had been printed by the New Yorker over the past thirty-odd years was because I had 'friends in court' like Rachel MacKenzie and Janet Flanner....not good for anyone's morale!

Sincerely and sadly,

Mary Frances Fisher

M. F. K. Fisher
to
Milton Greenstein, vice-president
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York
N.Y. 10036

copy to R. Lescher

Fisher, mFK

February 19, 1980

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Milton Greenstein showed me your letter telling ~~him~~ why you asked Mr. Lescher to return this year's Agreement unsigned. I do understand your disappointment in what has happened recently with your writings here, but please believe me when I say that my own disappointment at not seeing your work in the magazine is comparable to yours. You remain one of the country's foremost prose stylists, in my mind, and nearly everything you have to say is of interest and of value. Your contributions to The New Yorker have been cherished, and neither Rachel MacKenzie nor Janet Flanner — as much as both of them admired your work — accounted for our publishing what you wrote. There are no "friends in court" at The New Yorker; There is no "court." We simply accepted and published what seemed appropriate to The New Yorker, and, sad to say, rejected what did not. Your enchanting piece on the Gare de Lyon was one we intended to publish, but it got deflected at the last minute due to some intramural confusion having nothing to do with our regard for you or the piece. I hope that you can forgive us for that, and that you will submit more of your work. You need not sign an Agreement; as far as rates and any other considerations are concerned, we will go along exactly as if you had an Agreement. Please write more. I miss you. We all miss you.

Affectionate regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. M.F.K.Fisher
13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen, California
95442

13935 SONOMA HIGHWAY
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

15.iv.80

Dear Mr. Shawn:

This note has two reasons.

First I want to tell you that I feel sad for you, that Rachel is not near you now. She admired and respected and loved you ferociously, which seems strange in such a gentle lady but I know is true.

Of course I am sad for all of us. We should be grateful that she was stubborn about staying alive, but I feel much lonelier now that she has stopped, and I am sure you do too.

And I want to thank you for writing to me on February 10. It was heartwarming to have you say that you would like me to write more for you. I wish that I could.

I can never thank you adequately for all that you have taught me, for all the firm feeling of direction that you have taken the time to give me. I know that if I have any skill as a user of words it is due mainly to what you, and Rachel of course, and / other people at the New Yorker, have so patiently done for me.

I think often of you, with real gratitude and admiration.

Your friend, Mary Savers Fisher

MFKFisher
to
WShawn
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St.
NYC 36

Fisher, MFK

June 24, 1980

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you for your warm and kind letter about Rachel. Everything you said greatly moved me. I value your words, and your friendship.

Best regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. M. F. K. Fisher
13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen, California
95442

Fisher, mFK

13935 SONOMA HIGHWAY
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

file

January 6, 1981

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Thank you for your note, enclosing the two copies of a First Reading Agreement. I have signed them, and returned one to Mr. Greenstein and sent the other to Robert Lescher, my agent.

*deduction

I am also forwarding my check to Mr. Lescher for his customary fee. I accept it with some embarrassment, since I fear you are throwing the money away, but I like it as a token of your invitation to return to the fold.

It is heartwarming to feel that I can send material again to the magazine, whether or not it fits the editorial demands. Thank you for telling me I may do so. I hope it means a fine new year for all of us.

Sincerely, and always with great gratitude and respect...

May Frances Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn, Editor
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

cc: Robert Lescher, Literary Agent

13935 SONOMA HIGHWAY
GLEN ELLEN, CA 95442

January 6, 1981

Dear Mr. Greenstein:

I enclose the copy of the First Reading Agreement you sent to me on December 11, 1980, signed correctly.

I'll send the original to Robert Lescher, my literary agent. I think he will be as pleased as I am by this tacit invitation to return to the fold!

Sincerely, and with good wishes.

M.F.K. Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher

to

William Shawn, Editor
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

cc: Robert Lescher

13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen
California 95442

January 30, 1982

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Your note of December 14, enclosing the new First Reading agreement, was one of the shortest and most heartwarming I have ever been sent. Thank you for it. I enclose the signed agreement.* I feel foolish or perhaps guilty about accepting the check, but am truly pleased that you still want me to.

I continue to write. But I doubt very much that I will ever submit anything more for publication. It is truly a pleasure now to do it only for my own self, as I feel you will understand.

I seem to have reached the stage where publishers want to make collections and do reprints, and am now feeling scared about writing an introduction to a batch of stories about old people. I have been collecting material since about 1937 for what I blandly thought would be my main effort as a writer, a book about aging and being old. It seems that all the time I was collecting for this definitive work, I was writing about it without meaning to, so that by now I have got rid of everything except what is in my head. The introduction will try to sum up this long period of research in a few pages...a frightening prospect, but it's my own fault.

I hope this new year will be kind to you and to all of us.

I send you my undying respect and gratitude for all you have taught me.

Your friend,

Wary Frances Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn
THE NEW YORKER
25 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

* It is temporarily
misplaced, but I'll
send it soon to
Mr. Greenstein —
mfk

Fisher, MPK

March 8, 1982

Dear Ms. Fisher:

Thank you for your friendly and generous letter. I look forward to reading what you write about age and aging.

Warm regards,

William Shawn

Mrs. Mary Frances Fisher
13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen, California 95442

Alfred A. Knopf Incorporated

P U B L I S H E R O F



B O R Z O I B O O K S

Cables: KNOFF NEW YORK
Telephone: (212) 751-2600

201 East 50th Street
New York, N.Y. 10022

June 17, 1982

Dear Mr. Shawn,

I don't know whether anyone sent a copy to you personally of this new M.F.K. Fisher collection, but I am sure it is something you would want to have.

I think you would be interested to know that she is now working on a collection of stories that she has written over the years about old age and dying and she is going to do a long reflective piece on the subject to introduce the book. A number of those stories first appeared in The New Yorker, and they are very powerful. I feel somehow she has lost touch with the magazine since Rachel Mackenzie left, which is sad, particularly as she is working very well again and it would be good for her to feel wanted.

I hope you'll enjoy AS THEY WERE.

with all good wishes,

Judith B. Jones

Mr. William Shawn
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York, NY 10036

Fisher

June 29, 1982

Dear Mrs. Fisher:

Thank you for sending me a copy of your beautiful book. I still regret that a series of editorial mishaps having nothing to do with the piece itself got in the way of our publishing your Gare de Lyon piece which I loved and still love.

I don't know whether I ever told you that W. H. Auden once said to me that he thought that you and Edmund Wilson were the two best writers of American prose. I hope that you don't mind sharing this compliment, or mind the national modifier, or mind my passing the compliment along.

It makes me extremely happy that you will soon be appearing in the magazine again.

With affection,

William Shawn

Mrs. M.E. K. Fisher
Bouverie Ranch
Glen Ellen, California
95442

Fisher, MFK

June 29, 1982

Dear Miss Jones:

Thank you for sending me a copy of M.F.K. Fisher's book. It was most thoughtful of you. I am happy to report that we recently accepted two pieces by Mrs. Fisher, so that she will soon be appearing in the magazine again.

Best wishes,

William Shawn

Miss Judith B. Jones
Alfred A. Knopf
201 East 50th Street
New York, New York
10022

Fisher, MFK

13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen
California 95442

January 5, 1983

Dear Mr. Shawn:

Thank you for asking me to sign the First Reading Agreement again. It makes me feel good, to think that you still like what I write.

I am happy, too, to tell you that I have been asked to consider myself an honorary Armenian. This is because of the little story about my friend the rug dealer, and of course I'll thank Linda Asher too for helping me put that into so much better shape than it was when I sent it. I like Armenians, and it will be nice to have something to put in the large blanks of questionnaires asking me to list my honorary degrees and prizes and so on...

Please accept then, with my thanks for these favors, my heartfelt wishes for a good year.

Mary Frances Fisher

M.F.K. Fisher
to
William Shawn, Esq.
The New Yorker
25 W. 43rd St.
New York, N.Y. 10036

PS - I really have two
honors: I am an honorary
colonel in Teddy
Roosevelt's Rough Riders,
to replace my father. But
I don't feel that either
would interest me academically
pollsters — and
perhaps Roosevelt might
not like an Armenian
in his ranks —

MFK

Lescher & Lescher, Ltd.

AUTHORS REPRESENTATIVES
155 East 71st Street
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10021
249-7600 Cable Micawber

August 20, 1984

Dear Laurie:

I don't know whether you can help, but I can't think of a better person to turn to.

I spoke on Friday with M.F.K. Fisher, whom I have represented for close to a decade, and she mentioned to me that when The New Yorker purchased magazine rights to a work ultimately published as With Bold Knife and Fork, The New Yorker published much of the material but not all. This must have been in 1968 and perhaps also in 1969. One piece that wasn't printed, and didn't appear in the book later, was called Crazy Quilt, and Mrs. Fisher has no copy of it. Is it possible that The New Yorker does?

Mrs. Fisher also asked me if I could retrieve from The New Yorker any other pieces purchased but not published. Is there some way for you to see whether those might be available? I have no record of them, since some were arranged long ago.

Yours,

Ms. Laurie Witkin
The New Yorker
25 West 43rd Street
New York, New York 10036

rl/mm

BY HAND

Robert Lescher

August 20, 1984

Dear Mr. Lescher:

I got your letter this afternoon and will check and see if we still have those manuscripts. However, since I'm going on vacation tomorrow, I wanted you to know that I won't be able to find out until mid-September when I get back. I hope the delay won't cause you or Mrs. Fisher any inconvenience.

Sincerely,

Laurie Witkin

Mr. Robert Lescher
155 East 71st Street
New York, New York
10021

Fisher

September 21, 1984

Dear Mr. Lescher:

Enclosed are two of M.F.K. Fisher's manuscripts that were never run. Besides the piece on the Gare de Lyon, there were also five other pieces that we didn't use, but they later appeared in "With Bold Knife & Fork." I'm sure she has a copy of the book, but if not I can have those chapters xeroxed.

Sincerely,

Laurie Witkin

Mr. Robert Lescher
155 East 71st Street
New York, New York
10021

j

January 4, 1985

Dear Mr. Lescher:

Here's the copy of our annotated table of contents of M. E. K. Fisher's "With Bold Knife & Fork." I see now that I miscounted and there were seven pieces we didn't run. Please excuse my abysmal arithmetic.

Best regards,

Laurée Witkin

Mr. Robert Lescher
155 East 71st Street
New York, New York
10021

Gare derhyon killed 7/13/79

Books lead "Culinary Compassion" killed 10/27/78

1986⁴ Books lead Chinese Cook books K 11/20/69

~~Moment of wisdom MA 1392 K 8/18/72 ?~~

MA 2014 Gastronomy Recalled: ~~Trainers + 106.6~~ 11/20/69

MA 2151 " ~~Grumps & Sud~~ 11/20/69

~~MA 2266 How to Spring Like a flea 11/20/69~~

~~MA 6279 G.R. One way to stay young 11/20/69~~

MA 2563 G.R. A Proverbial Matter 11/20/69

~~MA 2805 G.R. Plethora of Puddings 11/20/69~~

MA 280

Books Lending Cookery series:

10/21/67 - Quantity Cook

10/8/66 - old + new recipes + cookbooks
(in 1969 book)

9/24/66 - herbs

5/21/66 - Cookery for children

4/30/66 - Cookery for pets

3/26/66 - Food & modern cookbooks

6/5/65 - Female cooking books, both last & present

10 pieces ran in Gastronomy series 9/7/68 to 9/27/69

11/20/69 - Six "Gastronomy Recalled" pieces killed.
One Books Lend (Chinese cooking) killed.

9/28/72

Table of Contents
 "With Bold Knife & Fork"
 by M. F. K. Fisher, published 1969, Putnam

<u>Book Title</u>	<u>New Yorker Title</u>	<u>Date Run</u>
1. The Anatomy of a Recipe	BOOKS: One More Anatomy	Oct. 8, 1966
2. Teasers and Titbits	NOT New Yorker	K 11/20/69 MA 2014
3. Especially of the Evening	same	Sep. 20, 1969
4. How to Spring Like a Flea	NOT New Yorker	MA 2266
5. Some Seeds of this Planet	same	Nov. 16, 1968
6. Once a Tramp Always...	same	Sep. 7, 1968
7. A Recipe for Happy Hens	same	Jun. 7, 1969
8. The Trouble With Innards	same	Nov. 2, 1968
9. The Downward Path	NOT New Yorker	
10. A Proverbial Matter	same	Sep. 27, 1969
11. Having Fallen into Place	NOT New Yorker	
12. Nor Censure nor Disdain	same	Dec. 7, 1968
13. One Way to Stay Young	NOT New Yorker	MA 0279
14. Questionable Crumpets and Such	NOT New Yorker	MA 2151
15. A Plethora of Puddings	NOT New Yorker	MA 2805
16. Some Ways to Laugh	same	Apr. 26, 1969
17. The Secret Ingredient	same	Sep. 21, 1968
The Secret Ingredient pages 294-302	The Golden Age of Pickling	Oct. 5, 1968

All except the first chapter ran with the heading "Gastronomy Recalled"
 This book includes all the pieces we ran in this series.

~~How to Spring Like a Flea~~ K 11/20/69
 MA 2266

A Proverbial Matter MA 2563 K 11/20/69

An Innocence of Semantics MA 6179 2/5/71

Books leads Culinary Composition 10/25/78
 Chinese Cookbooks 11/20/69 MA 9864
 Gare de Lyon 7/13/79

E. Agar from W. Hen:
May I see please:

9/12/84

Killed Manuscripts of M.F.K. Fisher

~~A Proverbial Matter MA 2563 Killed 11/20/69~~ *rar*

Book Lead: Chinese Bookbooks M9864 Killed 11/20/69

found

An Innocence of Semantics MA 6179 Killed 2/5/71

not in files

Book Lead: Culinary Compassion Killed 10/27/78

found

* Gare de Lyon Killed 7/13/79

found

9/28/72

Table of Contents
 "With Bold Knife & Fork"
 by M. F. K. Fisher, published 1969, Putnam

<u>Book Title</u>	<u>New Yorker Title</u>	<u>Date Run</u>
1. The Anatomy of a Recipe	BOOKS:One More Anatomy	Oct. 8, 1966
2. Teasers and Titbits	NOT New Yorker	
3. Especially of the Evening	same	Sep.20, 1969
4. How to Spring Like a Flea	NOT New Yorker	
5.Some Seeds of this Planet	same	Nov.16, 1968
6. Once a Tramp Always...	same	Sep. 7, 1968
7. A Recipe for Happy Hens	same	Jun. 7, 1969
8. The Trouble With Innards	same	Nov. 2, 1968
9. The Downward Path	NOT New Yorker	
10.A Proverbial Matter	same	Sep.27, 1969
11.Having Fallen into Place	NOT New Yorker	
12.Nor Censure nor Disdain	same	Dec. 7, 1968
13.One Way to Stay Young	NOT New Yorker	
14.Questionable Crumpets and Such	NOT New Yorker	
15.A Plethora of Puddings	NOT New Yorker	
16.Some Ways to Laugh	same	Apr.26, 1969
17.The Secret Ingredient	same	Sep.21, 1968
The Secret Ingredient pages 294-302	The Golden Age of Pickling	Oct. 5, 1968

All except the first chapter ran with the heading "Gastronomy Recalled"
 This book includes all the pieces we ran in this series.

News from



National Association for the Specialty Food Trade, Inc.
215 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003 • (212) 505-1770

Toll Free: 800-255-2502

Contact: Gene Bennett
(516) 887-2677

For immediate release

M.F.K. Fisher Wins

Silver Spoon Award

NEW YORK--M.F.K. Fisher, the reknowned food writer, has been awarded the 1983 Silver Spoon by the National Association for the Specialty Food Trade.

The award was given "for her contributions to the public's understanding and appreciation of fine foods," said NASFT director David Anderson of Haddon House Products, chairperson of the awards committee.

Judith Jones of Alfred A. Knopf Publishers, accepted the award for the recipient at a reception here at the Princeton Club.

Mrs. Fisher, who lives in California, is the author of such books as "How to Cook a Wolf," and "Consider the Oyster." She is also acclaimed for her translation of the Brillat-Savarin classic, "Physiology of Taste."

NASFT established the Silver Spoon in 1962. Winners include Clementine Paddleford, Craig Claiborne, Ruth Ellen Church, James Beard, Julia Child and Mrs. Jones, with her husband, Evan.

##

Fisher, MFK,

✓

13935 Sonoma Highway
Glen Ellen,
California 95442

March 18, 1985

Dear Mr. Shawn:

I am very sad about the sale. I am sad for you, especially. As I've tried to tell you many times before, you have taught me more than any other person, probably, about writing and about other things that you would not even suspect. I am grateful to you, and I send you now my special admiration and my true affection.

Mary Frances Fisher

EATON'S
COMFORTABLE
BOND
IS A
SERVICES

25% COTTON FIBRE

5/20/85 as answered by hand