

4 June 1966

Dear Alan,

Thanks for your letter and enclosures. I haven't heard from Matinez's yet about the menu, but no doubt I will soon. There's no need to send me a copy of the circular: you can put me down for bed and breakfast on the Friday and Saturday, plus supper on the Saturday and lunch on the Sunday. (I hope I shall not have to read a paper, though it wouldn't be the first time I had to do one as a stop-gap.)

I've just heard from Milburn (after three weeks). He says he's still willing to give a lecture on modern Catalan art, and that he can perform at any of the times I suggested when I wrote to him. (That's to say, the Friday evening or the Saturday morning or late afternoon.) As I said in my last letter, the usual time for public lectures is 5-0 p.m. on the Saturday, and there are snags about the other two times. It's a nuisance that the lecture room in Canterbury Hall isn't available on the Saturday afternoon, but I think we should go for this time and try to find another place in the neighbourhood. I wonder if you could find out whether we could use a University lecture room somewhere? (I suppose this may be difficult at the week-end, but we have managed it before.) Failing that, there's always the Friends' Meeting House on Euston Rd., though this will probably be more expensive. We'll also need to get a screen and slide projector from somewhere when we know what kind of slides he's going to use. I imagine one of us could manage to operate this: it hardly seems worth getting someone from outside to do this, particularly since I gather we're rather short of cash.

At the moment I see the Conference going something like this: Saturday morning: business meeting; lunch at Matinez's; lecture at 5-0 (or 4-30 if there's a danger of running into supper at Canterbury Hall - what time is this?); Saturday 8-0 p.m.: paper (over in time to catch the pubs). Sunday morning: two papers, lunch and finish.

Before I forget, I think the next circular should contain a note asking members to pay their subscriptions; according to Paul we're going to need all the money we can get in the near future.

That's all about the Conference. Thank you again for taking all that trouble over Miss Illingworth. I quite understand her reasons for wanting to stay in London next year. We'll advertise again about November, and if she's still interested for the following year, I'll be very pleased if she applies. This means that we shall have an unfilled post next year, alas; however, the others are rallying round and insisting that I should take my study leave.

The situation isn't quite so desperate once one starts to work out the lecturing programme. We still badly need a philologist; on the other hand, this will be the first time we have had three full lecturers in the Department, so no one should be too overworked.

I'm a bit worried at the moment over the problem of getting the London scripts backwards and forwards with the 14 days delay the GPO has just announced. I'll drop Roy a note about this. Meanwhile, if you see him, perhaps you'd warn him about the situation and advise him not to send anything by ordinary parcel post.

Yours ever,

Best Alan

Thanks for your letter and enclosure. I haven't heard from Melrose yet about the name, but no doubt I will soon. There's no need to send me a copy of the circular: you can put me down for food and breakfast on the Friday and Saturday, plus supper on the Saturday and lunch on the Sunday. (I hope I shall not have to read a paper, though it wouldn't be the first time I had to do one as a stop-gap.)

I've just heard from Wilbur (after three weeks). He says he's still willing to give a lecture on modern Catalan art, and that he can perform at any of the times I suggested when I wrote to him. (That's to say, the Friday evening or the Saturday morning or late afternoon.) As I said in my last letter, the usual time for public lectures is 5-6 p.m. on the Saturday, and there are enough about the other two times. It's a nuisance that the lecture room in Canterbury Hall isn't available on the Saturday afternoon, but I think we should go for this time and try to find another place in the neighbourhood. I wonder if you could find out whether we could use a University lecture room somewhere? I suppose this may be difficult at the week-end, but we have managed it before. (Being that there's always the Lysons' Meeting House on Weston St., though this will probably be more expensive. We'll also need to get a screen and slide projector from somewhere when we know that kind of slides he's going to use. I imagine one of us could manage to operate this: it hardly seems worth getting someone from outside to do this, particularly since I gather we're rather short of cash.)

At the moment I see the Conference going something like this: Saturday morning: business meeting; lunch at Melrose's; lecture at 2-4 (or 4-6 if there's a danger of running into supper at Canterbury Hall - what time is this?); Saturday 5-6 p.m.: paper (over in time to catch the bus); Sunday morning: two papers, lunch and finish.

Before I forget, I think the next circular should contain a note asking members to pay their subscriptions; according to Paul we're going to need all the money we can get in the near future.

That's all about the Conference. Thank you again for taking all that trouble over Miss Livingston. I quite understand her reasons for wanting to stay in London next year. We'll advertise again about November, and if she's still interested for the following year, I'll be very pleased if she applies. This means that we shall have an unutilised post next year, alas; however, the others are relying round and insisting that I should take my study leave.