

## 21 Letters from Dr Christina Cruickshank Miller (1899-2001)

*I have made every effort to reproduce Dr Miller's letters as she wrote them. Contractions, which are numerous, I have left unchanged; e.g. USA and U.S.A.; and others. Most of them are easily recognized as references to academic institutions etc.; K.B. is King's Buildings; E.U. is Edinburgh University; hon's '53 means honours graduates of 1953; E.R.I. is Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. An exception may be ppc, with variations, meaning picture post card.*

*J. P. Ward*

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### Letter no. 1

2 December 1984

2 Craiglockhart Grove  
Edinburgh EH14 1ET  
Scotland

Dear Jim,

As usual I was delighted to have all your news of the Ward family last Christmas. I hope that you and Jetty have not had so much trouble this year with the internal bits and pieces, and that Frans's right hand has not been too seriously damaged. It must have worried you and Jetty a lot. Stomach ulcers are a curse to many people – our former doctor is a victim. One of my friends in Lancashire, a minister, has found Tagamet very good. Another drug made by Glaxo, Zantac, was mentioned in the 'Sunday Post'.

How the children have grown, the boys about 6' and Miriam 5'7". They'd swamp me completely. Has Frans completed his electronics course and has Miriam left school or has she another year to do? Michael of course has a few more years at school but has no doubt some idea of what of what he wants to do eventually.

Did you have good holidays this year and choose them in the right kind of weather, not as last year when 1 [encircled] it was very wet, 2 [encircled] it was too hot? I have stopped going away and thereby save myself a lot of hassle, although I could well do with a break from domestic life. I was amused at Michael's find and not too generous reward, and your purchase of a military bugle! Has Jetty threatened to throw you out?

Congrats on being elected to membership of the General Council of the Royal Dutch Chem. Soc. which should be an interesting experience. I used to scan Rec. Trav. Chem. des Pays Bas regularly. I note that life at work has its problems, and trust that you still have a job or are in retraining for a new line of activity. I was lucky to reach a normal retirement without having any of the worries that so many people experience now, even before they are 50.

My contact with K.B. this year has been nil, but Mrs Ritchie was here from Peebles in October and told me that Prof. Campbell had been very ill and is in hospital with a virus pneumonia. However, when my sister 'phoned a little later to enquire, he was at home and gradually recovering. You would see that Prof. Knox was elected F.R.S. I was very surprised to read in my E.U. diary that he was now Prof.- emeritus and a University Fellow, suggesting that he is now concentrating solely on research. Of course his H.P.L.C. work has a link with industry. Prof. Ramage, a Glasgow graduate, is the new organic Prof. of whom I know nothing. I invited the Andersons to tea but they are always hopelessly busy, Douglas now researching on medical themes and Joan doing full time work as a Research Associate in the Nursing Studies Unit at E.U.

I have no news of Andrew Stanners as our mutual friend is now in Inverness. News of others of your year is now a year old. Winnie Stafford was working in the Vet school and enjoying it. Evelyn Hay still roams the world and had an exciting holiday last year in Zambia and Zimbabwe, seeing the animal reserves and so on. Jim Headridge was home for a few weeks at Christmas and New Year and presumably will be home this year too. As head of school, through unexpected resignation of someone, he has to spend 2/3 of his time on administration. Research accounts for only 5% and teaching for the remainder. His son is now in a boarding school in England, where the younger girl is. Dr. A. H. Johnstone has been made a Reader at Glasgow University.

John Hunter and his boys were along here in late August to help pile the huge crop of early apples and collect what they wanted. Later we had another pulling of apples and pears. Most had to be given away, so all visitors went off with a bagful. Incidentally, the Hunters had a holiday in Holland in June.

Visitors have been numerous and I have acquired 4 new correspondents as a result of the various reunions in recent years, e.g. of hons. '30, '46, '54 and '56. Dr. Robert Shaw ('56 hons.) from Silicon Valley, California, was here 2 months ago. Heather Alexander is the '1954 one. You may recall them. The oldest, a retired director of Scotland Yard Lab., was here from London in Sept., glad to know that I survived!! Dr. R.A.Chalmers (Ph.D. '53) called early last month, disappointed that I was unable to attend the 50<sup>th</sup> A.G.M. and celebratory dinner of R.S.C. Anal. Div., Scottish Region. I had not fully recovered from a minor mishap that caused a major upset in a leg – similar to last year's but in the other leg. Wear and tear in muscles and joints are the problems of my old age. My sister was recently pulled over by the dog, startled by a squib going off, and knocked her forehead on the kerb. Fortunately she has recovered. I hope all the Peebles relatives are O.K.

I look forward to news of you all in due course and of the "surprise" that you will get on the 5<sup>th</sup>. I laughed over last year's bib.

Very best wishes for a happy Christmas and a good New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Chrissie Miller

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## Letter no. 2

14 John Ker Court  
42 Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
Scotland  
2 December 1986

Dear Jim,

It is difficult to believe we have been here a year and are well enough adjusted to our new mode of life. Being able to get our daily requirements so easily is a great boon, especially when weather is inclement. As we had a non-summer we did not miss the Craiglockhart garden as much as we might otherwise have done. It was mid-summer (?) before I felt physically back to normal, and then my sister had a series of upsets that lasted all July. However, she eventually recovered. We did a few bus runs within the city – Alice has foot bothers and cannot walk far without pain. As my legs are good I get around a bit more. During and after the festival I visited three exhibitions, visited Central Library a few times, and sometimes took a bus somewhere and had a moderate prowling before coming back here. October was a nice month for about 3 weeks, so I endeavoured to utilise it. Unfortunately I had hospital-visiting as my holiday chum on many fine trips has developed Parkinson's disease and is showing signs of senility. I fear it will mean a geriatric hospital for her. Miss Inch had her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in August and looks very well, although she requires to use a Zimmer when walking about in her nursing home.

There was an awful spate of deaths recently relating to K. B. hons. 1931-37. I expect you will have heard of Margaret Ritchie's unexpected death in her sleep. Mowbray's widow was expected here, but in the end did not come. I saw Neil at another funeral at Warriston that related to one of his research students, George Learmouth, who married one of mine. Out of the blue George was stricken with an unknown trouble in the lymph system, not cancer but as serious. If chemotherapy failed (it did) there was no hope. He and his wife were to be visiting us anon. Instead I was at his funeral. Neil had 3 funerals in 3 weeks, as a 1937 man who played bridge regularly with the Campbells died of a stroke. Did you know Dr. Manners who became a Prof. at Heriot-Watt? His 32-year old son died suddenly in his sleep, leaving a young wife with a 2-year old son.

There have been sundry visitors, first Dr. Percival, Mrs. McDowell, and her husband. She is near 81 years of age but is as lively as ever. They visit Europe ever and anon, but are tending to use hotels and travel by rail instead of towing a caravan and using camping sites. Mr. McDowell is 5 years younger than his wife. My Inverness friend hears a little about the Stanners family. Elinor is teaching physics in Lossiemouth, John is a technical teacher and, by this time, Adam will have graduated from Gordon's Tech. College in Aberdeen.

Jim Headridge's father died peacefully in August, and his mother may be at Mayburn House, a church home in Loanhead. Anne, Jim's wife is studying part-time for a B.Ed. degree from Cardiff Univ. Jim got a B.Sc. in applied chemistry and is now doing teacher training, while Ruth has started dentistry at Newcastle Univ. Peter is still at school, Jim mentioned that he

was having an interview for the Head of Chemistry post at Lancashire polytechnic (Preston) on Sept. 29<sup>th</sup> but I have heard no more. Why he should be considering a change I do not know.

Dr. Chalmers of Aberdeen was here in June, during a visit to Edinburgh to take part in a schools' lecture. He is now fully retired from Aberdeen Univ. but is as busy as ever as Editor in Chief of 'Talanta', the Jany. edition of which was printed in his honour and to commemorate 20 years of highly successful editorship. Myra Rennie (née McDougall) arrived unexpectedly on the way to visit her mother who had broken her femur and was in hospital. Myra does full time teaching in St. Albans. Douglas and Joan Anderson had a lovely holiday in U.S.A. (New York, S. Carolina, Florida) in Sept. but I still await Joan's promised visit. She is working full-time in the nursing studies unit at E.U. I don't know [how] she manages it. The youngest girl had glandular fever and had to be off school for the best part of a session, and the oldest one had a spell of depression during her medical course at E.U.

I am wondering if you have had the celebration dinner, etc. etc. marking your 25 years at Unilever. When you last wrote you seemed to be enjoying a pleasant spell at work, churning out publications and having enough material in reserve for a few years. You'll be able to strum out joyful songs with your guitar. What about the bagpipes now? Is Jetty still painting and playing bridge? I have been studying chess but still know only how the various pieces are moved not why. As primary school children learn quite quickly how to play, I feel I should manage to do better than I have done to date. One really needs an opponent to help one along.

I read in the papers about all these mountains of agricultural products and wonder if your E.E.C. conference a year ago produced any worthwhile proposals. The whole situation is nonsensical.

What are Frans, Miriam and Michael up to now? Do they all speak English fluently? I am also eager to know about your holidays and how you fared with weather. John Hunter and his family had a lovely holiday in Switzerland. I have no news of Winnie Stafford or Evelyn Hay but expect to hear from them in due course.

I hope you and Jetty and the family are all in good health, also your mother, sister and brothers, and that you will have a happy festive season.

All good wishes from Alice and myself,

Chrissie Miller.

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### Letter no. 3

14 John Ker Court  
42 Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
27 November 1987

Dear Jim,

I see I acknowledged your letter of 10/12/86 in February, and now I have the lovely p.p.c. you sent from Bournemouth in October. Your news is most surprising, especially the number of people asked to accept retirement at an early age. From what I have read in 'The Scotsman' and 'Chemistry in Britain' I got the impression that Dutch Unilever is flourishing. However, I am very ignorant of the effect of market forces. I really wonder if all this retirement in the fifties does much good when so much compensation has to be paid and pensions given for more years than people have worked. Senior people have a vast amount of experience behind them that surely means something in the company. I'd have hated having to retire at 55. I have not yet heard how Jim Headridge is getting on with his consultancy and if it is taking up his time adequately. As far as I know, no one at KB has been asked to retire prematurely. I await your further news with considerable interest.

How are Jetty and the children getting along at work and play. By this time Michael too will have left school and have doubtless some ideas regarding his future. Life is not too easy nowadays for young people. Did Miriam achieve her idea to go to U.S.A. for a year? I hope Frans has got permanently settled in a job and collected some necessary qualifications.

We are getting along here, leading a pretty quiet life as age takes its toll. My sister's health is always a bit uncertain, with interior upsets at intervals. Usually she goes out for our daily requirements, and enjoys chatting with others in our building who are doing the same thing. Meanwhile I am left to do the housework and the cooking. At present we need no domestic help, except that a window cleaner comes regularly. There is a laundry room on the premises, but I send bedlinen to a laundry, as we did at no. 2. I am a bit handicapped, now by muscular arthritis which affected my wrists and hands very badly in June. Severe swelling was eventually eliminated by my taking the anti-inflammatory drug Naprosyn, but my fingers remain stiff and I cannot grip well and exert pressure. However, the situation is not yet desperate and I still manage with care to go on busses when the need arises. I wonder how your mother is and if she is still very active.

We had a minor spate of visits including numerous ex-K.B.ites, earlier in the year, among them Jim and Ann Headridge from Sheffield, when he was visiting his widowed mother who is now in a church home in Loanhead. The others ranged from hons. '33 to hons. '49, and you would likely know Clare Wylam (Mrs Morgan of '49). She and her husband were in St Andrews for the capping of their elder son and came to Edinburgh before returning to Cambridge where both have a few years' work ahead of them yet. Both sons are now at Manchester Univ., the elder to complete his medical course, the younger doing computer

science. Dr Betty MacBean, my former colleague, who left K.B. to marry in 1947, retired after widowhood to Peebles. She turned up one afternoon on her own as Mrs Ritchie, Mowbray's widow, who used to bring her to see us, no longer cares to drive in the city. My ex-Newtonmore friend, who now lives in Inverness, has not been here either, Her elderly dog now refuses to go far in her car, and she is not very keen now on driving alone from Inverness to Edinburgh.

Lady Hirst came along one morning, looking very well, at 81, after a nice holiday in the Channel Islands. She told me that the McDowells (Eliz. Percival and husband) had been holidaying in Turkey and visiting all the tourist attractions. Evelyn Hay is one of the few lecturers left of the science staff left at Moray House. She has bought a flat, I think in South Oswald Road, not far from Lady Hirst's abode. Douglas and Joan Anderson travelled across U.S.A. to Redlands in California but Joan has not paid her intended visit to report. Their eldest daughter was due to graduate MB.,Ch.B. this year and their son has now completed a course of business studies at Manchester Univ.

I ran into the Campbells on a bus in Sept. Neil was in excellent shape but his wife had fallen outside in early Aug. and broken a leg. However, she was given a new hip, sent home from R.I.E. after 10 days to convalesce under her husband's care, and made a splendid recovery I feel he deserved an Hon. M.D.!

In May I went to a reunion of former chem. students of Heriot Watt Univ. to celebrate the centenary of the founding of the Chem. Dept., with W.H. Perkin as Prof. All visitors present, bar myself, represented 1957-1986, while I stood out as representative for 1921! Fortunately, John Hunter (hons '52), a lecturer at H.W. since 1958, took me in charge and later brought me home. Methuselah was thanked especially for making the effort to be present!! A fortnight later I went to an R.S.E. meeting in George St. in order to see old cronies. Regrettably, one I saw (hons '26 and one of Neil's classmates) died very suddenly on 4 October. I never saw him looking other than very fit and active. It makes one think. Probably you read of the death in Canada of your contemporary R.K. Williams.

Did you have Angus Marks as a demonstrator? He left ICI Fibres in Harrogate in 1977 and went to Oxford Univ. where he spent 10 years as laboratory administrator. Of his own choice, he retired in April on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and has bought a bungalow with a large garden in Dalbeattie. He had a great love of the Solway Firth area. I expect he and Rae, his wife, will visit us next year. One son is with a building concern, the other is a vet in Leamington. The second oldest Ehrlich son is doing veterinary science at E.U. George Charalambous is still going strong in his brewery firm in U.S.A. and has no desire to retire yet.

There may be a postal strike during the festive season so I am trying to get letters posted earlier than usual. As I cannot grip a pen properly writing is worse than usual. Please excuse.

Very best wishes to you all from us both for a happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely,

Chrissie Miller.

## Letter no. 4

14 John Ker Court  
42 Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
14 November 1988

Dear Jim,

I was pleased to have your usual racy report of 14/12/87, at which time there were no further developments in the retirement business. Presumably you know where you are now and are, I hope, satisfied with the outcome. It seems ridiculous that people should be pensioned off at 55 when they live so much longer. I'd have hated it, but this situation is arising in many countries.

Jetty and Miriam ventured far afield in 1987 but were lucky to avoid hijackings and bullets. At any rate the weather would be warmer and drier than in dear old Scotland. June 1988 was a beautiful month and would have been suitable for Peebles.

I am writing very early this year as I have to convey the sad news that my sister, Alice, died unexpectedly on 8 January. She was never very well in 1987, having interior upsets ever and anon that were latterly accompanied by much pain that she attributed to indigestion and treated for such. She had to get the doctor on Christmas day, but he did not take a serious view then and up to the end of the year. On 4 Jany. I got the warden to put an emergency call through to the doctor who came and had Alice transferred at once to R. I. E. where she was operated on. The surgeon found an advanced rectal carcinoma and could not remove it anon because of Alice's heart condition. Even if it had been removed the cancer would have spread. Mercifully she was spared this horror when she died peacefully in her sleep from heart failure. With two long holiday weekends everything had been as difficult as possible. However, the warden and residents here, former Craiglockhart neighbours and many ex-K.B. friends gave me maximum support. I have no near able-bodied relatives. Dr. Anderson's wife accompanied me to the crematorium. As it was first day of term II at E.U. Douglas could just not get away. John Hunter of Heriot-Watt Univ. managed to be there, and another older researcher and his wife took some of the residents here to the service.

One of the worst problems thereafter was the non-hearing of bells, and something had to be done about it. It is all too long a story, but I started sorting out things for myself, getting relevant literature from the Royal National Institute for the Deaf and writing to firms about equipment. In the end I had an independent mains lighting circuit installed, with 5 X 12" diam. globes, each fitted with 2 lamps, placed in strategic positions. When the entryphone bell or the door bell is pressed a light flashes on momentarily in each globe.

The circuit was installed on 14 June by a Stirling firm, but not supplied with adequate lamps until 16 August, by which time I was nearly round the bend. The electricians were most dilatory

I had ignored the telephone for over 30 years, but had bought, last December, a new super power hearing aid that provides for use with the phone. So I thought I had better find out if I could utilise it. Amplification of incoming speech at the phone was required. I got a new type of amplifier on trial and bought it after finding its superiority over others I saw at a British Telecom exhibition. It packed up after 11 weeks and was sent to the manufacturer who came up against technical problems that could not be resolved. I got my money back. That was a real blow. However, I have persevered and can use the phone to a limited extent when people speak slowly and raise their voices. I don't get on very well when I get unexpected calls and fail to detect who is speaking. A call from Norma of "Glasgow" puzzled me - actually it was from Kelso! I have a gadget to alert me to the ringing of the phone, in the lounge only. It emits brilliant flashes of light and is the best visual signal I have.

This year has brought quite a number of ex-K.B.ites, spread over the year and ranging in graduation date from 1935 to 1958. Jack Wilshire (1949) and his wife were here from Australia. They had come to Britain primarily to see their daughter who started a Ph.D. at Cambridge last year. My Inverness friend brought news of the Stanners family, and was to be at Elenor's wedding in July to a fellow who got a H.N.D. in computer work. John Stanners is working in Kingussie museum instead of teaching technical subjects. Adam was completing his postgraduate architectural training in Edinburgh.

Peebles has done me well. Dr. Ritchie's widow, who does not care to drive much now, came by bus with Dr. Betty MacBean, who was appointed to be my understudy in 1946 but left after a year to marry. She bought a flat in Wemyss Place, Peebles, after her husband's sudden death. Betty has been here a few times. Recently, I was taken to Peebles by car to see the home in Frankcroft area of my 1958 friend, Louise Leslie. She brought me home from Peebles via a road there from which Wemyss Place and Elliot's Park led off to the left, and March Street to the right. So now I know your whereabouts in Peebles! Two Edinburgh couples took me for runs in their cars and to their homes for tea. I cannot accept all that is offered because of the numerous disabilities that do not diminish with age. Joints jam and I get dizzy if I sit too long in a car. The same applies to bus travel.

I have not seen the Headridges this year, but Jill was to be married in March and is teaching chemistry in Derbyshire. Jim stated last year that his small business was ticking over although it was more of a hobby than the 'Enterprise of the Year'. He co-edited a book entitled "Chemistry serves the South Pacific". Evelyn Hay retired from Moray House College in July, because her health was suffering from gross overwork. As far as I know, Winnie Stafford still has her job.

There was a celebration in May at K. B. to mark the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Dr. Beevers and his 50 years' association with Chem. Dept. The star guest was Prof. Dorothy Hodgkin from Oxford. Former research students in X-ray crystallography, etc. etc. were present. Although invited, I did not go as I did not feel equal to it. Dr. Beevers has kept on his modelling since he retired from teaching and models are produced commercially for sale all over the world.



You will be sorry to know that Miss Inch died in April at the age of 92 2/3. She had no desire to live on.

Your eyes have done well, holding out to 55. I needed glasses at 46. My distance vision has improved in the last few years. I hope the whole family has had good health this year. I look forward to hearing news of all members of the household, as well as the Peebles folk. Have the plumbers completed the refurbishment of the bathroom?!

Very best wishes to you all for the festive season

Yours as ever,

Chrissie Miller.

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**Letter no. 5**

42/14 Polwarth Gardens

Edinburgh EH11 1LN

Scotland

14 March 1989

Dear Jim,

I meant to write earlier than this to thank you for your long kind letter of 12 December but the amount of letter-writing I did before Christmas put me off that job for a considerable time. There was too a spate of visitors during the festive season that was rather too much for me. All was in kindness of course. Some friends who informed me they would look in I asked to postpone their visits for a few weeks, and I duly had them later. On Christmas and on New Year's Day I was entirely alone and glad to be so. However, I did not neglect the inner woman! Turkey was represented by sliced cooked turkey breast from the butcher, and I had bought a mini Xmas pudding which just needed heating up.

You have a lot to bother you just now, as you try to get your pension arrangements sorted out with Unilever. Most of my friends who have had to retire early in the past seemed to have fared well enough, whether through university or business, so I hope your situation will be satisfactorily dealt with. You have a lot of responsibility to cope with before you reach the age of 65, with the children not yet making an adequate living.

A man of your age and ability needs something to occupy his attention and, if the ambitious study programme you suggest is your heart's desire, and does not usurp your time to the extent that you neglect wife and family, I see no objection to it. I hope Jetty approves.

Frans and Miriam seem to be realising now that life must be taken more seriously in order to make headway in this queer world. I am appalled that pupils at Michael's school are sent home when a teacher is missing. What an example for the pupils! I cannot recall any incident of that sort in my time either.

I am glad your mother has two of her family to help her in her old age; especially as her memory is showing signs of deterioration. You really should visit her before the situation worsens. It would be sad if you delayed until she did not recognise you. I'd hope that Jetty would chum you, but you have been thrwn when her choice of holiday did not suit you. Peebles need not be a holiday, however. It is a pity that you are so far away that you cannot pay brief visits at intervals. Jim Headridge's mother lost her memory some years ago and is now in a small nursing home in Loanhead. Jim's sister lives in Fairmilehead and keeps an eye on things. Jim's wife graduated B.Ed. with second class honours in home economics and education at the University of Wales and now does supply teaching in Sheffield area. He and Anne holidayed in S. Spain and later in Galloway last year, and are going to the Loire Valley this year. Jim does consultancy work, helps out the British Council and is contemplating writing a book on practical chemistry for younger children. In co-operation with his daughter, Jill, who teaches chemistry.

Andrew Stanners's daughter and her husband are living in East Linton. I think the younger son is doing a Ph. D. somewhere.

One of my unexpected visitors at Christmas was Winnie Stafford. She was still in the Dick Vet and did not know what was going to happen, although she more or less expected to be retiring at the end of the year. However, Glasgow not Edinburgh has got the chop. The former is resisting closure strongly so ..... [sic].

Evelyn Hay retired on 31 Jany., more dead than alive, and was going off for a holiday anon. I expect to have her along here in due course as I have not seen her since 1983.

Prof. and Mrs. Campbell called before Christmas, both being in very good form. He is not often at K.B. now but Dr. Beevers works there regularly. Dr. Anderson's wife was here a week ago. Douglas works as hard as ever and Joan is a research fellow in E.U. Nursing Studies Unit. Their second daughter, B.Sc.in social science, has not yet got a job and is presently doing a secretarial course in order to add to her qualifications. Dr. John Hunter turned up in January to see how I was faring. He expects to continue at H.-W. Univ. until he is 65. I think that Douglas Anderson can go on to 67.

George Charalambous organised a conference successfully in Crete and hopes to continue working as long as the brewery will let him. He expects to be a grandpa soon. Hans Ehrlich's 3 sons have now all graduated at a university, the second as a vet at E.U. How time flies.

For several months the non-stop tinnitus (since 1959) has been worse and if I walk more than a short distance outside I begin to feel very airy-fairy. My balance is bad too. So I have been out very little and do not go out in strong winds. My next door neighbour sometimes collects my messages. I am nervous about going on a bus and have not been on one 6 months. Nothing can be done by the doctor. Fortunately blood pressure and heart are still O.K., and I manage in the house, being able so far to provide mild hospitality for visitors. Lots of others are in much worse plight so I count my blessings.

I send my best wishes to you, Jetty and the family and hope all your problems will be resolved in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Chrissie Miller.

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## Letter no. 6

14 John Ker court  
42 Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
Scotland  
3 August 1990

Dear Jim,

I was delighted to get your end-of-session report and to know that you have so successfully achieved your first goal. Congratulations on the results of all your hard work, for hard labour it certainly was. Painting the house and gardening will be a pleasure and a fine antidote, unless this sizzling weather has put you off.

It was good of you to give me such a full detailed account of your university courses and how they are organised and run, as well as your weekly routine, travelling back and forth, and so on. With so much essay writing to do you cannot have much time for relaxation. At any rate the present kind of toil does not upset your duodenum.

You don't mention how Miriam is progressing with her English Literature studies, but I suppose she is carrying on, as the 2-month spell at Lugano suggests vacation work. I am glad Michael's preparation for the future is under way too. What sort of concern is the Nibits company? It is nice that Frans and his wife keep in touch, but I think that you and Jetty should get a Sunday dinner out of them for a change!

The winter here was not severe but there was a lot of wind to bother me. My next door neighbour was, however, very kind, bringing in my requirements when it was risky for me to venture forth. One lady here was blown over one day and got a lovely black eye and a bashed nose. At best I have to be extraordinarily careful.

Life was pretty dull when the hours of daylight were short but after that sundry people were in contact. Evelyn Hay turned up one day, looking very much better after being at home. Since then she has had a 4-day bus tour to Leningrad. Winnie Stafford seems to like gardening. Peebles friends have been on the agenda. Dr. Betty MacBean and Mrs. Ritchie announced that they proposed to arrive here one day about noon, bringing a picnic lunch. I had intended to provide a simple cold lunch for them, as I did last year, but I had to agree to their way. They duly came by bus, as Janet Ritchie no longer drives other than in Peebles, bringing ham sandwiches and Pyrex containers with a jelly and a mousse pudding, and raspberries from the freezer. They required only hot water for tea, plus necessary crockery and cutlery. It was quite an experience for me, with an element of excitement that caused me to be very unstable and dizzy next day. However, enough surplus food had been left to give me a solo repeat picnic and I just sat quietly all day and recovered.

The Campbell's younger son, Hamish (39), was married in April to a Linlithgow lady, E.U. B.Sc. 1974, and Neill and Marjory celebrated their golden wedding on 19 June. They had a gathering of immediate family and two very old friends, both well known to me. Marjory

called afterwards to tell me about it. Neil still gets about in moderation and continues to have many interests. I have had two little outings, one to Colinton, the other to Liberton. In both cases I had a short car run before being brought back home. As riding in cars tends to make me dizzy I am dubious of the wisdom of accepting the longer runs offered.

The daughter of my youngest Peebles friend, Louise Leslie (née Anderson, B.Sc. '58) was married in April to the only son of Mr Tam Dalyell of The Binns. The latter, M.P. for Linlithgow, pesters Mrs Thatcher about the sinking of the Belgrano, and many other matters. Gordon Dalyell is a lawyer, his young wife an M.B. and they have got a flat near here.

This morning I had a card from the Headridges who, with son Peter, are holidaying in New England and Washington, U.S.A.

In June I lost a Brussels friend, Dr Alice Lacourt, who did a great deal of work on paper chromatography and microchemistry in the university. She came to see my lab in 1946 and returned in 1947 to work with me for 2 weeks. In 1950 I spent a few nights at her home and saw her lab, and she came to conferences in England and had her last holiday in Edinburgh in 1975. She was nearly 93 but her mind was as good as ever. Last month my remaining close friend of E.U. student days died in S. Africa. We first met under the clock in the Old Quad in April 1917 when we were sitting the bursary competition exams – ancient history!

I forgot to mention John Hunter as a visitor. He expects to carry on at H.W.U. to age 65.

I hope you have reassuring news about your mother and the rest of the family.

All good wishes to you and Jetty and the family.

Yours as ever,

Chrissie Miller.

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**Letter no. 7**

5 January 1991

14 John Ker Court  
Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN

Dear Jim,

I was very pleased to get your letter of 19 December, for which I had decided to wait before writing to you again. Naturally I am delighted that your historical studies are going so well and that you feel so completely settled down in your new life. Learning Latin would be a pleasant diversion from history. You are certainly doing the job thoroughly. Are you well on the way with that essay on Seneca and Stoicism? No wonder Unilever life is being forgotten.

I don't think I'd have cared for your mountain top retreat in Switzerland. On a few of my coach trips in the past I felt anxious about some of the descents we made on narrow roads, often with a nasty bend, but not a series of hairpin bends. Scottish roads have been greatly improved in the Highlands since I first travelled there. Jetty must be a capable driver. I suppose all the family will be drivers now.

Since I wrote on 3/9/90, visitors have been numerous. Clare Wylam (Mrs. Morgan) of Cambridge was in good form, retirement from university teaching due to take place at the end of Sept., although like you she has papers to write up. My ex Newtonmore friend appeared a fortnight later but had no fresh news of the Stanners household, from which all the young members have departed. A friend from Switzerland paid his annual visit and was followed by Bob Chalmers of Aberdeen, who was attending a gathering in Peebles Hydro and managed to visit me between a lunch and a dinner. Now 70, he is still very fit and fully occupied, completing the editing of a series of books. After that he hopes to be more or less retired. In July he received the Janus medal from the Czechoslovakian Chemical Society for his distinguished contributions to chemistry in Czechoslovakia.

1949 B.Sc.s were further represented by a couple from Worcester, Grace (née Davie) and John Buchanan, and Jack Wilshire + Australian wife, who had been in Portugal, Spain, France and Switzerland before arriving in Scotland for a family wedding. Jack said that his best work would not have been done if he had had to retire early. However, at 65 he begins to fancy retirement!

Evelyn Hay looked in in November and brought some photos of Rosemary Cowtan's (Thow) son's wedding. Winnie Stafford must have recovered completely from the heart attack as she is contemplating visiting Kampala where she used to work.

I had a long letter from Jim Headridge who tutors young people in A-level chemistry and also works for the British Council from time to time His younger daughter should graduate at Newcastle in dentistry in July 1991 and is to marry a solicitor soon thereafter. Peter, the son, has started in Food Science at Nottingham university. Jim and his wife had a lovely holiday in USA, touring in New England, attending a friend's wedding and spending several days in

Washington D.C. Bob Rashbrook moved to North Carolina after he retired from I.C.I. Jim applied unsuccessfully for a university job in Hong Kong, but is becoming more choosy about where he would go, finding life satisfying where he is. He is doing a lot of work in connection with the local Methodist Church, assisting with a midweek club for 5 to 9 year olds. After an hour with the latter he finds tutoring very relaxing! Methinks he'll stay put.

John Hunter turned up again, giving me all the Heriot-Watt news. The Chambers Street building has been completely evacuated now – another link with my past gone. I had had no K.B. news during the year but, Joan Anderson appeared recently and told me that Douglas had been off work, April –July, and undergoing surgery. However, he seems to be well again. John Knox is gradually easing off, while Dr Beevers at 82 is still model-making at the lab. He has had to clear out the old crystallographic room at the NE corner of the building which is to be made ready for a new prof. of inorganic chemistry – a Cambridge man.

I spent Christmas and New Year alone, glad to do so as I was exhausted after having too many people calling within a short space of time. Thus I had 6 on 24 December, all with kindly intentions. The strain results primarily in the difficulty of deciphering speech, and, of course, that makes the head racket worse. The general hassle at this time is also very wearing and I require longer to recover from it! How is your mother coping?

I have a great pile of letters and cards to go over again. Correspondence with friends is my chief source of pleasure and interest, but it is hard work!

I hope you and Jetty and all the family had a nice family gathering during the festive season, and that 1991 will be a happy, healthful year.

Best wishes for success in family activities.

Yours as ever

Chrissie Miller.

P.S. George Charalambous sends greetings to al his K.B. friends.

C.M.

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## Letter no. 8

8 December 1991

14 John Ker Court  
Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN

You should have quite a lot to report as it is almost a year since the last bulletin came. Your marks for Term 1, Year 2, were good enough for a pass and you were carrying on with confidence. Congrats on getting through a course of Latin in connection with your studies. It reminds me of how I taught myself German, travelling daily between Kirkcaldy and Edinburgh for a year, before I moved from the Heriot-Watt to E.U. to start Ph.D. research under Sir James Walker. Less than half of Chem.Dept. had been built and all around was grass. Today, one can scarcely see the latter for buildings. At lunch time my room mate, an Englishman, and I sometimes took a wee turn doon the burn, when I taught him some Scottish expressions.

The holiday in Switzerland was a bit of a hair-raiser. I remember being very scared on a Cornwall/Devon coach tour when we mounted an exceedingly steep hill to our destination for the night and had to descend next day – and there were no hairpin bends. In Scotland too I have had some anxieties, especially on narrow roads where passing space was limited. I don't think I'd be happy on tours in Switzerland and Norway. However, I'll never be doing any touring again.

Has Miriam continued with her studies at Leiden? Michael, I suppose, will be back in Delft for his final year and a job thereafter I hope. I was amused that Frans and his wife come back to mum every Sunday for dinner. It is time for them to be entertaining mum and dad! It is nice though to see the attachment to the home. Are both working fulltime?

Did you get your last paper on a chemical theme published? It is certainly very different from what you are doing now. As time goes on you will forget all the chemistry you ever knew! I am sometimes appalled at all I have lost in chemistry, maths. and physics as well as in languages. Of course the 30 years of development since I retired have rendered all my work, which seemed important at the time, obsolete – a sobering thought.

I hope your mother's memory has not yet deteriorated to the extent that it creates difficulty for her family in Peebles. Do any of them know Dr Ritchie's widow and Dr Betty MacBean (B. Sc. hons '42)? In the past I knew the Litsters of March Street and I correspond regularly with a descendant in Sheffield, Jean Massey, who is daft on everything Scottish, although her father was English and she was born in England. An old Peebles contact, Miss Anne Sanderson, "Glenmoy", March Street, died in April, but I had not been in touch for a long time.

In February, I was surprised to read that the Campbell's house in Conniston was up for sale, as I knew Neil was reluctant to move. Maybe the son acted as a catalyst, for they have settled in a bungalow in Aberdour, Fife, 100 yards away from the son and his family. Mrs Campbell is not in very good health, and also got a poisoned toe that was very slow to heal and upset



their removal plans. However, Neil stated in a recent letter that life is peaceful and pleasant. He is 88 now.

Janet Ritchie and Betty MacBean visited me in late August, when we had a very pleasant chat. Janet has an older sister and brother-in-law in Peebles but I don't know their name. My younger Peebles friend, Mrs Leslie, who lives in Frankscroft area, over the bridge, became a granny last January. Other visitors were from Wigtownshire, Inverness, Stockton-on-Tees and Switzerland, none known to you. I think the Inverness one said that Andrew Stanners had retired. His three children are all away from home. Winnie Stafford's brother-in-law, Mr Macpherson, died of cancer in July. Winnie had been thinking of moving to Inverness before that, so as to be within reach of her sister in Nairn and her Glasgow brother, when he was at his holiday home in Aviemore. Now I believe Winnie and her sister are trying out living together for 6 months in a rented house, I think in Inverness, before finally plunging into a link-up.

John Hunter turns up thrice a year to see how I am getting on. He expects to be at H.-W. U. to retirement age. His elder boy left home and is assisting a hotel manager in London, the younger is on computer studies at Stirling University. Douglas Anderson's wife, Joan, arrived at the door in July in Ph.D. regalia, having graduated in social sciences. After she got a B.A., first class hon. through the Open Univ. she held a research associateship and then a fellowship in the Nursing Studies Unit at E.U., whereby she did the research leading to the Ph.D. At 58 and with 4 children behind her she has done very well. I have not got this year's news from Jim Headridge and I expect I gave you last year's, as I wrote on 5/1/91. The younger daughter should have graduated as a dentist now and be married to a solicitor. Peter was doing food science at Nottingham. So the Headridge family nest is also empty.

This past week, following the death of our warden's mother, I became the second oldest person in the building – a doubtful distinction. The oldest is 94. I am not yet contemplating moving to a residential or a nursing home as I still get around the house well enough. Walking outside is precarious and I always take a stick, however short the distance I go. At my age, one does not go up the hill again, but remorselessly downhill. I tire very readily and have had no car runs, other than 3 short ones, twice to see an optician at Morningside and once to visit my widowed 81 year old former research student in a sheltered flat near Marchmont. She has just become a great granny! Evelyn Hay took me for one of the trips.

I look forward as usual to hearing news of Jetty and the family, as well as of yourself. Has Jetty continued her art studies?

Best wishes to all of you for Christmas and 1992.

Yours as ever.

Chrissie Miller

**Letter no. 9**

11 December 1992

14 John Ker Court  
42 Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN

Dear Jim,

I have been refreshing my memory by reading your long interesting epistle dated 28/12/91. There is a lot to be said for the use of a computer, but it is too late in the day for me to start. I still have my Underwood portable typewriter which I bought in 1926, with a view to typing a D.Sc. thesis in due course. I duly trained to type properly and did a great deal of typing for the teaching lab on it. Unfortunately the open machine was knocked off a small table a dozen years ago and full repair was found to be impossible. I use it occasionally when I want a copy of something, but certain letters are not recorded well, if at all, and I must watch all the time what is being recorded. So it is a tiresome business. About a dozen of my correspondents use up-to-date methods – Jim Headridge, John Knox .....[sic].

It struck me the other day that you and Miriam are in the final year of study. You did very well in 2<sup>nd</sup> year, and no doubt did ditto in 3<sup>rd</sup> year. It is wonderful how you have kept up the pace. Will there be any opportunity for you to make use of your degree after you graduate? Maybe you will be more concerned about seeing Miriam in a job. Did Michael get his diploma in food technology and then start on another course? Things seem to be done differently in Holland. I hope Frans has not been hit by the recession which seems to have hit all countries. All seems to be gloom and doom just now. One of my friends has three granddaughters, graduates in their early twenties, hunting for jobs, after losing others. John Knox's second son was made redundant and used his redundancy payment to take some training that led him to getting another job before the money ran out. The times are difficult for young people.

Evelyn Hay was here in August and told me about your class reunion scheduled for 21/9/93. The response has been excellent, only 4 possibles being missing from the list of acceptances. The names of Rosemary Macaulay, Messrs Ebbut[t], Rashbrook and Reid were missing. Dr Rashbrook settled in USA, and I think Dr Reid is in Ireland. Evelyn told me that you and Jetty are to be there, so I am wondering if that means that you will be spending part of your holiday in Peebles area, in which case I hope you will manage to squeeze in a visit here. I have been sent an invitation to take part, but have regretfully declined as I could not stand up to the strain of meeting a company of people. I have had no major upset, but the various disabilities that are my lot increase slowly all the time, making me more decrepit and reducing strength. The excitement of a reunion is not for a person who will be bordering on 94. I do not know if Prof. Campbell (90 on 29/8/93) will be going. He seems to be well enough but his wife is not, and they live very quietly in Aberdour. Mrs McDowell (Dr Percival) will decide about the event next July. She will be 87 in January but managed trips to France and Central Europe during 1992 – a real warrior. The best bet would seem to be Dr Beevers. I don't know if I mentioned a year ago that his wife died 2 years or so ago, after 30 years of mental trouble. Dr Beevers remarried at the age of 83 on 29/6/91. The lady is a grandparent, as he is, but

doubtless a bit younger. He was here in July to collect something from me for K.B. and brought a wedding album for me to see! He is very fit, loves car-driving and has been touring around quite a bit. Poor man, he needs some happiness in his last years. Douglas Anderson is due to retire, under tenure, next year, presumably on 30/9/93. I have not seen him or his wife this year. He had been given the job of assessing the cost of training a student.

I had a short message from Winnie Stafford who managed to sell her house in Edinburgh early in the year and bought another in Inverness, where she is happily settled and within reach of her widowed sister in Nairn. Her address is – [deleted].

Mrs Ritchie was here from Peebles in mid-October, accompanied by our younger friend, Dr Betty MacBean. They insisted on bringing a picnic lunch with them. Both had had surgery in June and had recovered splendidly. I enjoyed their visit very much. John Hunter turns up three times a year and continues at the rapidly expanding Heriot-Watt University, all of which is now at Riccarton Campus, Currie. His younger boy continues at Stirling University. Visitors from outwith Edinburgh also came from Aberdeen (Dr Chalmers), Inverness, Stockton-on-Tees, Zurich and Canberra, all being older than you are.

You inquired about George Charalambous who was still going strong, with no desire to give up work until he has to. His son has a string of letters after his name and is an attorney. He is married to a doctor and they have a daughter and a son. George's daughter married a business man who was posted to Tokyo for 3 years.

I read of the death in Stirling of Dr Frank B. Anderson (hons. '54) who had MS, a horrible trouble. Another '54 man, Robin Ferrier, has been in Edinburgh this year for study, and staying in the retirement flat belonging to his mother, who has lost her memory and is now in a nursing home. He returns to New Zealand on 9 January. The 1954 class, whose reunion I attended in 1979, is to have another in 1994.

I am sorry your mother has persisted in criticising the way in which you and Jetty have brought up your family. Although I may sympathise with her view, I cannot condone continued interference that could wreck a marriage. Your allegiance is to Jetty. Your mother misses a lot by not maintaining a happy relationship with you all.

I hope you are all in good health, and I look forward to having a news bulletin in due course – no rush.

Best wishes for a happy family reunion at Christmas.

May 1993 bring much success

Yours as ever

Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 10**

17 August 1993

14 John Ker Court  
Polwarth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN

Dear Jim,

I am sorry to get such sad news from you – presumably your mother's death was reported in the "Evening News" which I do not get because I have "The Scotsman". You should cultivate your young sister's friendship which may help to blot out the unhappiness of the past. Don't bother yourself about not visiting me in January for I'd never have expected a visit under the circumstances.

It amazes me that young people in the Netherlands spend so long a time on their studies before seeking a steady job. With Europe in such a turmoil, it cannot be easy to decide where best to look for a suitable opening. When I was young I'd have liked to go to London, had Edinburgh failed me. After the war, however, I was less attracted to it.

Congrats to Miriam on achieving her goal at Leyden. A couple of years ago I expected father and daughter to graduate at the same time. Have you managed to do all you wanted during the past session and do you embark on the final year in the autumn?

I am glad that Frans is well settled down and that Michael is well on the way towards seeking a job. You and Jetty should get peace to enjoy your pension yourselves!

Evelyn Hay was here in late June and showed me the list of people going to the reunion, so I knew you would be missing. I was very disappointed as I had particularly hoped to see you and Jetty again. The Headridges will try to see me, as they will be staying with Jim's sister. The Aspinalls, the Manners-s, and Dr Beevers will be at the gathering, with Douglas Anderson showing the party around Chem. Dept. in the afternoon. I understand that Prof. Manners has invited the folk to his home thereafter. A dinner follows in the evening. There are several people I'd have liked to see, but I cannot cope with them all at once. In any case my minimal hearing is a major disadvantage. The "girls" have undertaken to let me know all about it!

In case you no longer get "Chem. In Britain" I enclose a reprint of a biographical article commissioned by R.S.C., and written by Dr R.A. Chalmers. He was restricted to 2500 words but said he could have done with 5000. Delving in the past last year, trying to help him, nearly killed me. In 1991, I had thrown out much that would have helped.

I have had numerous visitors, spread out over a period, but have been nowhere myself, feeling safer staying put.

All good wishes to Jetty and yourself and the family.

Yours as ever

Chrissie Miller

## Letter no 11

13 December 1994

14 John Ker Court  
Polworth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN

Dear Jim,

You are very forgiving, sending me your letter of 21 Nov. and a card of greetings while I have not written to you for 16 months. So I owe you thanks as well for your epistle of 31/12/93. I hope you and Jetty keep clear of flu bugs this year for you had a rather serious illness a year ago. The reason for my failure to communicate earlier is that 1994 has not favoured me. A week before Xmas '93 I had a sudden sharp gastric upset that put paid to my festive season and caused me to cancel visits from friends who usually come at that time. Afterwards all I wanted to do was sit and yawn my head off. I stopped walking outside after a narrow escape from overbalancing backwards on the roadway. However, my blood pressure was OK when the doctor paid her annual visit in May. I asked her about deterioration in my vision which she attributed to muscular degeneration for which nothing can be done, and perhaps cataract. Reading and writing are difficult in poor daylight and artificial light. The present day inks and prints don't suit me at all. Next, aged muscles and joints and worn lumbar vertebrae cause pain and difficulty in walking. Old age is of course the culprit. In July I had shingles on a leg, from sole of foot to groin, then in August I capsized 4 times through loss of balance, one fall landing me flat on my back in the kitchen. The difficulty in getting up was considerable – I was unhurt.

I have had a wearing time with doctors, community and surgery nurses, occupational- and physio-therapists and a social worker coming along, mainly, I think because I stated that it might be desirable for me to move into a residential home where full care is available on the premises. The idea now, however, is to provide full care in the community. I have no relatives to call on in emergency and do not think I could cope with or bear having a succession of women coming in throughout the day, should I become fully incapacitated. At the moment, the social worker says I have neither reached nursing home status nor extra-care residential home ditto. My chief concern of course is to make any drastic change before I am much older and while I still have my wits. Waiting lists are lengthy and I need some months here to sort out my belongings and dispose of what cannot accompany me. I have seen 2 homes. Our warden thinks I should apply for residence and carry on here for a bit, awaiting developments. It is not easy to cope with the Christmas hustle.

Visitors have been fewer because I did not manage to invite sundry people, but others invite themselves or just turn up. Evelyn Hay came in February to show me the photos she took in Antarctica a month or two earlier. She is a great traveller and also has many voluntary ploys in the city. John Hunter and another former researcher, Ian McLennan, turn up at longish intervals to see how I am faring. Both were good sons to an aged widowed mother. The Peebles pair, Dr Ritchie's widow and Dr Betty MacBean, arrived unexpectedly on about the only good day in October, bringing a picnic lunch with them! I have acquired new visitors from Balerno – R. Frank Neale (hon. 1955) and his wife. Do you recall him? He is organising

a reunion of his class in 1995. This year the 1954 and 1959 classes celebrated. Dr Beevers (86) represented the oldies at the former and was accompanied by Dr Anderson. No staff were involved with the 1959 class, one of whose members from USA paid me a visit. Ian Jamieson gave me some information about the other one. I was present at their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is nice that you are in touch with some of your old pals. Through Jack Wilshire (1949) I heard that David Reid should have been retired by now but had been asked to stay on in S. Africa.

I had a letter from Prof. R. J. Magee who retired from La Trobe in Melbourne and is now much involved with the university in Malaysia. His elder son is an Australian diplomat, first secretary in Singapore, and the younger has collected a D. Phil. at Oxford and got a post in the university of Australia. Dr Rossotti retired in February. His son is a schoolmaster and his daughter, bursar at a London school. The postman has just brought the sad news of George Charalambous's death, from heart problems, on 10 November. I had a letter from him in August, notifying me of the death of a 1937 correspondent, with whose son he had become very friendly. George and his wife had had a month in Greece and he attended a conference there. I have now lost 3 correspondents this year, as my second girl researcher (1933-36) died in February. Prof. Campbell keeps well but uses a stick now when walking outside. His wife is in poor shape and was in hospital for tests, etc. She may now be at home again. Neil got another grandson this year, first child of his younger son, Hamish, aged 44.

I marvel at the variety of subjects you have studied in recent years, look forward to hearing news of your graduation next year. What will the next move be? Nothing surprises me nowadays where young people are concerned. Miriam seems to be very enterprising. I believe Sydney is a lovely city – at least Jack Wilshire raves about it and he met his wife there! He has still not got his D.Sc. thesis ready for presentation to E.U. Frans and Yvonne appear to be well established now. As Michael's visits home have become fewer, I take it that he has become more independent. Jetty has had a busy time helping with flats for her family in addition to redecorating in the family home, which seems to be very popular for meals!!

Congratulations on the issue of your patent which must have been a pleasant surprise, giving you a feeling of satisfaction.

I hope you and Jetty have a happy festive season, together with the family, and that 1995 will see you capped again and Miriam and Michael fitted out with jobs.

Kindest regards to all of you

Yours as ever,

Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 12.**

19 July 1995

14 John Court  
Polworth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
Scotland

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your attractive card with its note-worthy message. Please accept my hearty congratulations on your great achievement after your years of toil and determination. It is wonderful that you can face a few more years of grind. What letters does the recent degree add to your name? Jetty and the family will be very proud of you. A lady here did a Ph.D. in nursing studies at E.U., after she retired from the Royal College of Nursing.

I hope you are all well and flourishing. Did Miriam return home at Xmas, as expected, and take up residence in her own flat? Douglas Anderson's youngest daughter, a nurse, went to Sydney in Sept. 1994 and worked in a hospital for 3 months, the first part of a 1-year round the world working holiday. The middle daughter got a Ph.D. at Newcastle, and the oldest is doing haematology in London. Unfortunately the son ran into trouble early last November. I do not know how it affected him, but it was of a recurring nature. Eventually it was related to the thyroid gland. He was still not fully recovered in May.

David Thow was due to retire early in the year on his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday and was pleased at the prospect. John Hunter retired and then took on part time work at H.W. – U. His wife's health is poor and it is useful for him to have more time at home. He is a competent cook and I have sampled some of his products – shortbread, plumduff, marmalade. Would Jetty let you have a shot? Neil Campbell stated in a letter that he makes an unsurpassable scrambled egg! His wife is in poor health and life is difficult for them.

Several people think I should hang on here as long as I can reasonably manage. I visited another extra-care home near here in May, and put my name on the waiting list. The longer I stay here, adding to my age, the more I wonder if I should make for a nursing home rather than an extra-care one, where qualified nursing care is not available on the premises.

My vision has deteriorated significantly and cataract is now apparent in my seeing eye, adding to the many problems. However, blood pressure is still OK and I hurple about the house.

Evelyn Hay was here last week and is going to take me to see a nursing home in Blackford area next month.

Has Jetty got all her redecoration done? She had a busy time last year helping the family with their flats. Please convey my greetings to her.

Very best wishes to you all

Happy Memories!

Chrissie Miller

Page 1 of this letter is written on the inside of a greetings card with a water-colour of yellow roses by Naomi Barlow. Copyright Simon Elvin. Pages 2 and 3 are on a separate sheet of stationery.

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**Letter no. 13**

26 January 1996

14 John Ker Court  
Polworth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
Scotland

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for the kind card of greetings from Jetty & yourself and, especially, your annual news bulletin in which you have taken the trouble to answer at length some questions I put to you. Acquiring a Doctorandus has been quite a feat, with 6 years of study and so many extra classes. No doubt you will work as hard on the Ph.D. project, which will be of considerable value to the Dutch. Evelyn Hay enrolled at E.U. in October for a course in the History of Art (non-graduating) and is enjoying it very much

I don't understand why Miriam bought and furnished a flat before she went to Australia, when she seems to prefer living in the family home and where she must be welcome. I hope she gets some return from those who are given the use of it. When I was young, it was taken for granted that son and daughters stayed with parents until they married or got jobs in other places.

It is nice that Jetty had the pleasure of a visitor as keen as herself on bridge. Did she ever try chess?

I see that I wrote in July, so you know I was doing something about eye problems. Friends suggested that I should go private and get an earlier opinion, so I did this and was examined on 21 August at Moray Place. Cataract was the main source of trouble in my left eye and its removal would be simple. After due consideration I had the operation in Murrayfield Hospital on 11 October and got home on the 14<sup>th</sup>. The implant of a new lens was successful but I was troubled with a deep haze. I could only read words with letters ½" high in heavy black lines. At first the surgeon thought it was serious, and I was going to have the accident-damaged eye freed of its cataract (a more difficult operation than the first), but he visited me here and found that the haze could be removed by laser treatment, which was given on 30 October. Clearance was good, to my great relief. I was aware, however, of a slight variable haze that has not disappeared. At a check-up before Xmas, I was told that age-degeneration is responsible. So that is that. It was decided that the other eye, which has potentially better vision, should be left alone. While vision is much improved, I still have some bother with reading and writing, especially in artificial light. Black print and black ink are best. I found your latest typescript difficult to read, in spite of your new ribbon. The ps [postscript] in your own writing I read quite well, as I did also your typescript of 21/11/94. When writing I am not seeing clearly what I am doing, as inks in the pens tend to be blue or grey. Felt tipped pens give depth of colour but are messy. Also pressure required in using them is so slight that I cannot control them properly in my arthritic bent fingers. A pen for calligraphy has been suggested. Presumably things will work out in time.

It was a pantomime getting to and from consulting rooms and hospitals but kind friends helped me out and acted as my secretaries, writing down what all the various people were asking or telling me, for my hearing is so very bad.

I could not possibly cope with all the usual Xmas letter writing and am trying to do something about it now, although I am still completely “wabbit” [ i.e. exhausted].

In August, Evelyn Hay took me to see St Raphael’s Nursing Home which is opposite her flat in the Grange. I had begun to think that, at my age (96), it might be wiser to move in due course to a place where full nursing care would be available at all times should I ever need it. At any rate I put my name on the waiting list. I could not cope immediately with a removal.

To add to life’s joy an intruder entered my flat in August, the entrance door having been left unlocked by my home help after shopping. She was alerted by hearing a slight click and found a man in my bedroom. He said he was looking for somebody and went away. Nothing was missing.

Prof. Campbell’s wife’s health has deteriorated and she went into a nursing home again to give Neil a rest. He had been feeling the strain as she had become more immobile, but is not enjoying life at home alone. What will eventually emerge I know not. Dr Beevers is in trouble too, with his second wife in hospital, suffering from manic depression, Lady Hirst died in October, a fortnight after her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Great grandchildren are the order of the day. Dr Percival (Mrs McDowell) got 4 in the space of 8 months; Dr Beevers reported 3. Hans Ehrlich became a grandpa last Feb, and he will retire in April. Jim Headridge now has 2 granddaughters, and a grandson was expected early this month. I have heard nil about Andrew Stanners, as our mutual friend is in a residential home and unable to write because of Parkinson’s disease. Winnie Stafford is very happy in Inverness.

Very best wishes to you & Jetty and all the family, for good healthy, happiness & prosperity in 1996.

Yours as ever

Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 14**

14 John Ker Court  
Polworth Gardens  
Edinburgh EH11 1LN  
Scotland  
18 November 1996

Dear Jim,

It was nice to receive your unexpected letter in July, and to know you were all in reasonable shape after months of unpleasant weather. On the whole, Edinburgh fares better than many other places, in that the sun shines more and rainfall is less. As I am never out, I escape weather trials.

Jetty and Miriam seem to be very good pals, with similar interests. In my young days, neither daughters nor sons moved out of the family home as early as they do nowadays. I do wonder why Miriam bought a flat! Her friends are lucky.

Your research is obviously a great source of pleasure and interest. There is always a thrill when one discovers something unexpected. I got my thrills when I studied family history after I retired. Had I been mobile I'd have been in the Register House and the libraries a lot.

Evelyn Hay got through her course of History of Fine Art at E.U. and enjoyed it so much that she elected to continue her studies for a second year. She is a non-graduating student.

I had a ppc from Jim and Anne Headridge who were touring in Galloway again. It is a very attractive part of Scotland. A 1939 graduate, who married a farmer, invited me to her home in Wigtownshire 25 years ago and took me to all the historical places.

I hear nil about the Stanners family as our mutual friend in Inverness cannot write because of Parkinson's disease. I expect you will have heard of the deaths of Marjory and Neil Campbell. That of Marjory was to be expected at any time, as her health deteriorated and she had to go into a nursing home 19 months ago, when Neil ceased to be able to cope with her immobility. Neil last wrote in May and was at two functions in Edinburgh during that month. However, he had a fall in June that caused an abscess on a leg. An operation had to be performed on 20 July, on which day Marjory died suddenly. Neil then had bronchial pneumonia and died on the 24<sup>th</sup>. I was quite shattered. I had known him well since 1924, and Marjory since 1932. He was nearing his 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday, she was 86.

Two 1952 graduates have died, L. A. Gibb and W.B. Fordyce.

I have been constantly tired this year. My eye never feels comfortable and there are lots of bothers with vision, although I suppose I am better without the cataract. Incidentally, I can read your writing very well, but not your typescript. I do not get on very well in artificial light and have had to cut down a lot on reading and writing. Severe stiffness and pain have made everything very difficult and I am endeavouring to make a move from here.

I am having major hearing problems which make communication difficult. The doctor is making arrangements for me to be taken to the Hearing Clinic for assessment, etc.

Last year I eventually sent off the last Xmas letter required, on 31 March '96! I am afraid I won't manage to accomplish much at all in this year's hassle. The tinnitus is very exhausting.

This is my mediocre letter for you for 1996. I hope that you and Jetty and all the family will enjoy the Dutch Xmas festivities in due course.

All the best from Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 15**

28 November 1998

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH9 2HG

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your letters of last December, May and July, and the picture of the cottages near Clovenfords. I never knew them, however, as my only link with that area was that my father's cashier at Hawick hied from there, and his sister, a primary teacher, took me to school on my first day, when she introduced me to another little girl, 4 hours older, who was my chief friend until she died shortly after our 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays.

It was good to know that you were all well. Your balance trouble will stem from ear problems, as does mine. Before I left K.B. I found it necessary to use the handrail when coming downstairs.

I was pleased to know that Miriam and Michael have got permanent jobs. Are both able to retain their present flats? The news of your brother's honour must have been a big thrill for the Ward clan. He has obviously spent a lot of time, preparing a worthwhile speech. Has he any other duties throughout the year of his wardenship of Neidpath Castle?

I suppose the Nijmegen [sic; a sports event] will now be past history. Like you, I do not fancy marathon walking. Miriam seems to be a lively active person like her mother. Incidentally, have you got a move on with that thesis? Evelyn Hay, who lives across the road from me, is hard at it on a heavy third year course in the history of art at EU. She, however, is not working for a degree, although she sits exams.

For me, 1998 has been an even worse trial than 1997. In January I got word of the availability of a room at St Raphael's the day after I had another overbalance, knocking a hip, arm and head. After a few days, I was taken by wheelchair taxi to see it, and although it was not 100% ideal, thought I had better take it. By becoming a resident I'd have a much better chance of getting another more desirable room. For a last survivor, and a person of my age in a dilapidated state, cleaning out the flat and reducing my belongings to one-room size was a major programme and I did not come here until mid-June. I could not have gone off to this place at once and stage-managed events at the flat from here. So it was an expensive business paying nursing home fees for nothing as it were. My room was temporarily let for one month only. The flat was not fully cleaned until August, after which it was sold and reoccupied on 13 October. Our warden at J.K.C. gave me invaluable assistance.

I started here in style by having two falls from which I could not arise, but broke no bones. However, in the course of feeling the sore bits, I was stunned by feeling a hard marble-size lump in a breast. To cut a long story short, I have added breast cancer to my bothers and am being treated daily with a drug, tamoxifen, which hinders growth and has few side effects. I was re-examined after 6 weeks (doctor satisfied) and, after three months more, go for a further check on 9 December. At present I have virtually no pain and try to keep my mind off the subject. My eyesight bothers me a lot and nothing can be done, but friends considerably younger than I am are in a worse state. I don't see pale ink.

Six weeks after I came here, I got the chance of moving to a much nicer room and took it, despite the nuisance of another upheaval. There have been several snags, but I am getting things sorted out gradually, if slowly. This concern was a highly regarded hospital, run by Roman Catholics, which was taken over by Viewpoint Housing Association, who have many sheltered housing developments and extra-care homes in the city, and wanted a nursing home for people in their other homes to go to when full nursing care became necessary. Viewpoint is considered to have maintained the standard of care. It is a non-profit making concern, which I like, and I was able to furnish with my own belongings. The change was essential, if drastic, but I make the best of it, communication being the biggest problem and source of stress. Staff are kind and helpful and I get on well with them. Evelyn is invaluable to me, as she lives so near me, and does sundry jobs for me. There are several others I can call on when a need arises, for I cannot go anywhere myself.

There have been several deaths of ex-K.B. people this month. David Thow, Rosemary's brother and my last researcher, died of a brain tumour, and David Kidd, hon.'51, died at the age of 68. I have lost a dear friend, Christine Cameron, ex-Newtonmore, who taught in Kingussie along with Andrew Stanners. She however was 88. Another was a graduate of 1941.

Dr Beevers was a visitor in July, His 60 years' association with K.B. and his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday were celebrated at a gathering in K.B. in May, to which I got an invitation! Needless to say, I was not there.

Elizabeth Percival (Mrs McDowell) wrote last Xmas and went to France with her husband as usual in January, but afterwards fell ill and died in April, aged 91. I heard that Mr Sheddon was not very well, but not what is wrong. He will be about 86. Dr & Mrs Chalmers looked in on their way to Reading to see their son and daughter-in-law, granddaughter and grandson. He had completed editing a 7-language chemistry reference book, which involved Russian, Chinese and Japanese. He is 78 and thinks this is his final effort. The Headridges had a lovely holiday in Tenerife in early spring, and have taken a great liking for Galloway and Wigtownshire area where they rent a holiday cottage. A letter has just come in from Prof. R.J.Magee, who moved a year or so ago to Canberra from Melbourne in order to be near his younger son. Recently his son was offered a lectureship at St Mary's College in London and is now there, while the elder son, who was a diplomat in Singapore, has now moved to a new post based on Melbourne!

Reading today's Scotsman, I have had a great shock. Douglas Anderson has died, following a short illness, on 26 November. He was 73 early in the month. I have been puzzled about not being able to contact his wife on the phone lately. I have no clue as to what has gone wrong. All was well in September and their youngest daughter was engaged.

I hope you and Jetty and the family will have a pleasant happy Christmas, followed by a good New Year.

Kindest regards

Yours as ever/ Chrissie Miller

**Letter no. 16**

17 June 1999

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH9 2HG

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your kind message on an interesting Dutch picture card. When I saw your writing on the envelope, I thought you would be announcing that you had presented your thesis and would be acquiring a Dutch doctorate!! You had dug up 500 year old letters last time you wrote. I hope the end of your labour is in sight. I also hope that you and Jetty and the children had no serious health problems during the very variable winter weather. Is your balance better?

Xmas is rather too much for me, but I survived. I had a very nice letter from Andrew Stanners, inspired by yours to him, in which you had mentioned Christine Cameron's death. He sent me a detailed account of all that had happened to Christine during her last year. As Christine could not write to me latterly, I did not fully know all that had happened to her, until then. She had half a dozen cousins, one of whom in particular did a great deal for her. I was very surprised to read in "The Scotsman" that Christine left over £ 2,300,000 in her will.

Did I mention Douglas Anderson's death on 26 November? I was shocked when I read of it on 28 November, and my last letter to you was dated about that time. He saw his doctor about pains in his back in Sept. and was given medication for an ulcer. When the pains did not depart, he saw a consultant and went into R.I.E. in mid-November for tests. Stomach cancer, too advanced for treatment, was found and he was gone in 10 days. It was a heavy blow for his wife, Joan, coming only 18 months after the tragic death of their only son. Joan has still not been here to tell me more, as she broke her ankle on New Year's Day, while walking on the Braid Hills with a daughter and her dogs. The youngest daughter, a clinical nurse, was married in April, so that brought some pleasure to them. The oldest girl will graduate M.D. at E.U. next month and has been living at home through the critical periods.

A year ago yesterday, I arrived here. I am not unhappy, but would not choose my present sort of life. However, I accept that there is no other solution for a person of my age and disabilities, who has no near relatives.

I had my third check-up at the Western General Hospital in mid-April, when the oncologist was pleased that the drug given me is acting positively. The next date for examination is 15 Sept. I am more bothered about my eyesight. A nasty haze makes reading, writing and sundry jobs more difficult. Advanced age is the likely culprit.

Evelyn Hay is valuable to me, as she lives so near, but there are a few others who help as well. Evelyn has completed her 3-year course on the History of Art and has had a week's holiday on a Greek island. Early next year she may do an Open University course!

How is Miriam getting on in her permanent job and in her flat? You and Jetty must feel life quiet with all the children away on their own, unless they turn up for mum's cooking at intervals!

I read of the death of Jim Headridge's sister, who had cancer and lived near here.

The summer visiting season seems to have started for me. Last week I had two couples without prior notice, one from S. Wales, the other from Stockton-on-Tees.

All good wishes to you and Jetty and family

Happy memories of the past

Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 17**

6 December 1999  
[without address]

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your letter of 9 November. I enjoyed meeting you again very much, and seeing Elizabeth, the baby sister of whom you spoke in the fifties! How time flies.

You had a busy time at Peebles with the High School celebrations and the family reunion. No doubt you will recall it all with happiness in the future. I doubt if any of my school contemporaries are alive. All my special pals are gone. You were very conscientious regarding your thesis, taking the opportunity to visit E.U. Library in order to hunt for further information. I think you should get on with the final writing up now.

A letter has come in from Jim Headridge. He and Anne celebrated their ruby wedding last March. They have 4 grandchildren, 2 boys and 2 girls. Their son was married this year. Jim bought a small flat in Gatehouse-of-Fleet for holiday use and they all love it and the area. Jim's sister who live in Grange Loan, died of cancer in April. Her husband has moved to Jersey to be near his daughter and her family.

Evelyn Hay is driving her car again, but her wrist is still painful. I enclose with my Xmas greetings two photographs, one of which includes Evelyn with Drs Bob and Grace Chalmers.

Today you will, I suppose, be having your Dutch celebration, with a full family gathering. I hope Miriam is pleased with her job and her flat, and that Frans and Michael are doing well. Jetty should have a quieter life with no family at home.

Best wishes to you and Jetty and the kids!

Kindest regards

from

Chrissie Miller

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**Letter no. 18**

22 May 2000

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH9 2HG

Dear Jim,

I had been thinking about you recently, and your p.p.c. turned up on Monday – many thanks. It is good to know that you are well on the way to completing and submitting your thesis for autumn graduation. Are you using your computer to produce it? I bought my typewriter in 1926, typed my D.Sc. thesis in 1929, and wasted only a couple of sheets of thesis paper in the process. That effort pleased me almost as much as doing the chemical research. Good luck!

As you don't mention any illness or bothers within the family, I take it that you and Jetty and the family are all reasonably well, in spite of a lot of very erratic winter weather.

I have still not recovered fully from the upheavals of the last few years, which really drained me. However, I was pleased to have another reassuring report from the oncologist, at the Western General Hospital in April. Bar accidents, I shall (This was paper supposed to be decorated with an artistic water colour!<sup>1</sup>) have 6-monthly reviews henceforth. My blood pressure is O.K. and my eyes are healthy. However, vision has deteriorated quite a bit and I have quite a bad haze making jobs difficult, especially in artificial light. Advanced age is given as the cause and nil can be done about it. Some younger friends have worse vision. I am thankful I have not a centenary birthday to contend with this year.

Evelyn Hay has been very busy since February with an Open University course on 'arty' subjects. It lasts 9 months, involves 17 ½ hrs. work per week. There are 8 tutorials, and 7 essays will be required. She is not contemplating a degree.

I don't know if I mentioned that Margaret Adams (née Liddle) called last year. She and her husband have a lot of 'arty' interests. Their New Year was blighted by the death at 3 weeks of a baby girl, born to one of their twin daughters, in an emergency operation that could have taken the mother's life. Fortunately she recovered.

Myra and Howieson Rennie (1955 & '54) turned up in March. They were planning to be in Italy for a month from 11 May. Another hoping to go there was Winnie Stafford. Frank Neale (1955) blew in in February. He and his wife have a grandson and a granddaughter to entertain him.

Mail has been descending on me in quantity recently. I have a couple from Stockton-on-Tees tomorrow, and another from New Zealand in June. Prof. and Mrs Magee could possibly appear from Melbourne. Their younger son is a lecturer in St Mary's University College, London.

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<sup>1</sup> Referring to the notepaper on which there is a pale watercolour signed TM '89 along the lower edge.

Are Jetty and Miriam still going on shopping trips? I hope Miriam is well established in her job and liking it. You and Jetty should look for some entertainment now in your children's homes.

Best Wishes to all of you for a happy summer.

from

Chrissie Miller.

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**Letter no. 19**

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH9 2HG  
19 Sept. 2000

Dear Jim,

Many thanks to you all for sending me such a unique, intriguing birthday card for my 101<sup>st</sup> year. This year I did not have an organised party, but I knew that Dr and Mrs Chalmers of Aberdeen were coming at 2.30 p.m. on the 29<sup>th</sup> of August. Shortly before they came, 3 locals blew in. Our average age was over 80. Staff brought tea, sandwiches and a birthday cake (5 candles not 101) to my room. Evelyn Hay and a few other locals came deliberately before the 29<sup>th</sup>, which saved me from the strain of coping with too many people at a time. Evelyn recently had a wire removed from the elbow she broke last year, and then 9 clasps. She is due to complete an Open University course on the "History of Art" next month with an examination.

Last month I thought your letter would be about your thesis, although you did mention Sept./Oct. in vgMay.

The belated mention of my 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in the recent issue of E.U.s magazine EDIT resulted in 4 graduates, 1938, 1942, 1944 and 1949, sending me congratulatory messages through E.U. Directory!

On 2 June, the two organisers of the 1950 hon.s.class reunion called to tell me all about the celebration of their 50 years. I got a handsome card with the signatures of those present, along with a photograph and biographical notes. I have never lost touch with one of the organisers, Dr Rab Telfer, ex I.C.I. Billingham, C.B.E., LLD (Teesside).

I hope all goes well in the family and that the 'children' provide some hospitality for their parents in their flats, instead of the other way round! Is Miriam well settled in her job now?

I go to hospital on 4 Oct. for my 6 monthly check. This year I have been bothered with the side-effect on the stomach of a painkiller I have taken daily for 4 years. There is no peace in old age!

Very best wishes to all of you

from

Chrissie Miller.

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**Letter no. 20**

18 February 2001

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH9 2HG  
Scotland

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your letter of 11 February with notice of the date of the public examination and defence of your thesis. What a time you have to wait for an assessment. I don't envy you the long wait until 9 May, but no doubt you will cope with the situation when it arises. It has been a lengthy business. Have you planned your next move? It is significant that the Profs. on both sides of the Atlantic are pressing you to publish your work. I regret to state that I am unable to help you in connection with your finding a publisher. Nor do I know anything about Edinburgh University Press.

I am glad to know that you and Jetty are in reasonable shape, and cheery at the thought of spring, after all the miseries of the winter. Did Miriam return exhausted from her trip to Nepal? She seems to enjoy travel, like her mother. You have not mentioned the Christmas "opening" of Frans's house!

You will be sorry to know that Dr Beevers died at home in mid January, aged 92  $\frac{2}{3}$ . Apparently he had been going downhill for several months. I last saw him when he visited me here, shortly after my arrival.

Evelyn Hay had a month in Australia and New Zealand over the festive season, visiting relatives and friends. Before that, she was taking a 9 week course on computer studies, before buying a computer outfit. I feel terribly ignorant, now that so many friends are using them.

I was thankful when the festive season was over. I had numerous visitors, while striving to get letters written. Then in January I had a minor spate of visitors and letters, associated to a great extent with people I knew 50-60 years ago!

On January 4<sup>th</sup> I fell in my room after 10 p.m. and took 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs, struggling over the floor, to reach a floor level emergency button. No bones were broken, but an elbow got a bash, and a wheel on my trolley hit me under an arm. I duly recovered, but do not like the hiatus hernia! Such are the joys ? of advanced age.

All good wishes to you and Jetty and the kids, and kindest regards  
from

Chrissie Miller

**Letter no. 21**

10 June 2001

St Raphael's  
6 South Oswald Road  
Edinburgh EH 9 2HG  
Scotland

Dear Jim,

Many thanks for your brief note and the woodcut received on 17 April. I duly thought of you on 9 May and wished you well, At last I have your letter of 26 May, announcing your triumph at the public examination. Accept my hearty congratulations on the award of a well-merited D. Lit., for you certainly worked hard and consistently to achieve your goal. The events of 9 May were really remarkable, involving all the family as well as yourself. Jetty and the family will be very proud of you. It is nice to have a video tape of the main event of the day. You should send short details of your award to 'Development and Alumni Services, The University of Edinburgh, Old College, South Bridge, ... EH8 0LN', for publication in E.U.'s magazine, EDIT, under 'World Service.' You will have the issue I am looking at – Winter 2000.

Have you got any ideas yet about publishing your work? I was sorry I could not help.

Last time I wrote seemed to be 18 February, the date of my second fall, when I afterwards found that my left shoulder had had quite a bash. The arms and shoulders have not been improved by my efforts and I take longer than ever to do simple jobs. The cancer is still under control and blood pressure is OK, but poorer vision and increased general stiffness are a trial. However, so many friends in their eighties are falling to bits, that I cannot expect to fare better at 101!

Evelyn Hay has now had the courses of instruction on the use of her computer and also has painting class every Saturday at the Botanic Gardens. She cancelled her intended Open University course. The husband of her friend, Rosemary Thow, is in very poor health and Evelyn tries to help her a bit.

Recently I had visits from Myra and Howieson Rennie and Prof. Colin Steel (hons. '55) from U.S.A., as well as from others (locals) not known to you.

I don't seem to be able to prevent myself going upwards as I write, and my pen is too fine, so I'll stop.

With kindest regards and good wishes to all of you

from

Chrissie Miller