



John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library

Columbia Point Boston, Massachusetts 02125

February 8, 1993

Dear Friend of the Hemingway Collection:

We are pleased to announce several openings in the Hemingway Collection since our last bulletin of January 18, 1992.

1) **Letters from Mary.** In September 1992, 87 letters from Mary Hemingway to Ernest were opened. The range of dates for these letters, from 1945 to 1961, takes in almost the entirety of their courtship and marriage. These letters balance and complement the letters from Ernest to Mary which were opened last year.

Many of the letters date from the early and middle 1950s when Mary was dealing with the increasingly poor health of first her father and then her mother. In addition, a large number of the letters are Mary's occasionally bewildered responses to conflicting and confused communications from Ernest while he was on his "dangerous summer" trip to Spain in 1960. The opening also includes a letter dated April 25, 1961, in which Mary writes to Ernest's sister Ursula disclosing his admission to the Mayo Clinic and summarizing his various physical and psychological problems.

These letters were acquired along with the bulk of the collection in the 1970s; their opening is part of the effort to make available for research all of the correspondence between Ernest and Mary, which was closed during Mary's lifetime.

2) **Letters from Ernest to Nancy Hayward Keith.** Known as "Slim" to her friends, Nancy Hayward Keith was a Hollywood habitué and the confidant of artists as diverse as Truman Capote and Howard Hawks, to whom she was married in the early 1940s. Her friendship with Ernest Hemingway began when she accompanied Hawks on his trip to Key West to negotiate the film rights for *To Have and Have Not*. As Hawks' unofficial consultant and his model for the lead female role, Keith was heavily involved in Lauren Bacall's success in that film, Bacall's first. Keith's relationship with Hemingway became of enormous practical benefit to him in the early 1950s when her second husband, theatre and film impresario Leland Hayward, helped arrange the *Life* magazine publication of *The Old Man and the Sea* and later bought film rights to the book, eventually producing the movie.

These letters cover the years 1946-1959; three of the letters are from Hemingway to Leland Hayward and three of them are jointly addressed by the Hemingways to the Haywards. The remaining 38 are personal letters from Hemingway to "Slimsky," as he usually called her. Warm and genial in tone, these letters show a relaxed side to Ernest Hemingway and provide an interesting contrast with the often emotionally fraught correspondence between him and Mary. The letters to "Slim" are a bequest of the estate of Lady Nancy Keith.

3) **1924 Publication Notes for Short Stories.** In the fall of 1924 Hemingway jotted on the back of a packet of bullfight postcards some notes about the status of various short story submissions. The packet came to the Hemingway Collection in a file with other unused postcards that

Hemingway had collected over the years. All the postcards were cataloged together in a single entry, but only recently were the notes noticed and recognized for what they are. In short, although these notes were never lost, they were never quite found either. They illustrate the question of detail that always besets a collection of the size and richness of the Hemingway Collection. Despite being a just few short lines, these notes add specific facts to our knowledge of Hemingway's life during his years in Paris, and they have convinced Hemingway scholar Paul Smith to revise his opinion on Hemingway's publication strategy in his early career. The notes will receive their own cross-reference entry in the next addendum to the catalog.

Public Programs

*Beginning in 1993 there will be an annual reception and lecture at the John F. Kennedy Library to honor the winner of the **Hemingway Foundation Prize**. The Hemingway Foundation Prize is administered by PEN and is awarded for the best first work of fiction published during the previous year. The 1992 prize will be awarded at the John F. Kennedy Library on June 2, 1993. For further information, please call Megan Desnoyers at (617) 929-4540, or write her at the library.*

*Megan Desnoyers will deliver a paper on the **Hemingway Collection** at the May 28-30 meeting of the American Literature Association in Baltimore.*

*The **Ernest Hemingway Foundation of Oak Park** will hold a conference on July 17-21. Stephen Plotkin will represent the Ernest Hemingway Collection at the conference and will present a paper on materials in the collection that relate to Ernest Hemingway's early years.*