

BY AIR MAIL  
AIR LETTER  
PAR AVION AEROGRAMME



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Dearest Patricia.

Did I say thank you for a card I had some time ago from you, in which you said you might be coming here this year?

It would be lovely to see you and John again. But I hope you'll be back in Oz when I'm there. Did I tell you I am retiring from work on 31/3/78. Soon after I'm off to see my far flung friends and relatives in Oz and US. I plan to be away about 9 months, 5 in Aust + 4 in Arizona

As you know, I have some very dear relatives, who have written lovely welcoming letters asking me to stay as long as I can - for which I am very grateful, and certainly intend to do. However - being by nature a bit of a recluse the thought of being a good guest for so long is a bit daunting, so I'm asking you and one or two other old friends, if you happen to know people who have country cottages who might let me use them for a few days. I will probably be in Melb Oct. Nov. As I live very simply, mostly on tea & toast, I hope I wouldn't be any trouble, and would be very happy to do any work needed in the garden. As I said I am quite used to being on my own, in fact, at times, I rather need it.

The builders are still working on my flat here, but when it is finished I will have a spare room to offer, so maybe we could arrange reciprocal hospitality for the future.

My young nephew David Colville is staying with me at the moment and brought me your kind greetings, for which I thank you.

We have had lots of fun, including opera at Covent Garden 4 nights running last week. I am a bit numb with it but it was lovely. He is a very amiable companion

and we had lots to talk about, including family problems. He refers to his parents as "your sister and her husband" -- !

I shall be spending most of April in Majorca, and he hopes to spend a few days from his tightly packed itinerary to join me to ~~a few days~~ <sup>some</sup> relaxation.

I hope all goes well with the young Boyds, and you and John

Much love to you, dear Patricia  
John B.

P.S. I'd love to see Arthur, Yvonne if they are in Australia.

SENDER'S NAME AND ADDRESS (PLEASE SHOW YOUR POSTCODE)

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