

15/1/56

Coombe Bissett  
Salisbury

5656

My dear Pippa

I must send you a word of thanks for the lovely little Cuyfs lady - which still cheers us on our dining room fireplace. Besides her particular personal charms I have always keenly felt those of her portrayer. He always seems to me to be a man of gold, and for some reason the only one of the Dutch to have something of Italian grace without being in the least Italianate. In some book here I read that he was a brewer, but can the beer have been as good as the pictures? I don't think a proper account of him exists: strange that the modern picture books don't give him an innings. Well, it was most heartening to have her as a messenger from you at Christmas. I do hope you are well + were not too beset by family cares to enjoy some cheerful moments of rest. I hate to ask anything that is going to give cost

you an additional effort, & yet I long  
to know how you are & if possible, for  
a little extra family news. - Oliver, for  
instance? I am at present completely out  
of touch and have no immediate prospect  
of coming to London. Possibly the nearest  
source of news would be Harnsray, (which  
I haven't visited for years) and as soon as  
the last reverberations of Christmas have died down  
I mean to make an expedition there. Valentine  
has 2 more days at home: the girls were both  
here. So we were fortunately surrounded  
with all the proper attributes of the festive season.  
My hands are not worse than they have  
been for many months, and provided that I  
go regularly twice a week to the doctor for an  
injection I am able to work a little every  
day

With much love  
yrs affectionately  
Henry

HENRY LAMB



Miss Pippa Strachey  
51 Gordon Square  
London W.C.

5056