

920 E. University
Bloomington
In 47401

December 1, 1991

Dear Sarah Dreher,

I'm a volunteer at Aquarius Books, a feminist bookstore here in Bloomington. I get a chance to read a lot of books and have just finished reading the collection of your plays. I was very moved by your work and especially by "Hollandia '45". I was born in England and grew up during the Second World War - my father served in Burma and was killed there - so I felt a particularly strong connection with the women in this play. In fact, the play was an education for me. It was a piece of my herstory that I had never heard.

A group of women, sponsored by Aquarius Books/WomynSpace, has recently started a "Herstory project". There are two parts to the project. First, we want to inform ourselves of our "official" herstory and second, we want to remember and collect the herstory of the women in this community through a journal writing project and oral herstories.

As a part of learning about our "official" herstory, I would like to arrange a reading of part of "Hollandia '45". At the moment neither our resources nor our space would allow for anything more ambitious than this, although I would hope to see the play fully produced in its entirety somewhere, someday! I am writing to you to ask permission to do this and to ask you what sort of arrangements we need to make with you - for instance, what would be the royalty costs and do we buy scripts from you or duplicate the play directly from the book? We would be presenting the reading in a small room, off the bookstore, which is part of WomynSpace and would ask for donations, not more than \$3.00 a person, to go towards supporting the continuing existence of WomynSpace. I wouldn't expect more than twenty or so women. The space serves several purposes: part of it is a lending library and part of it is a place for women to go and sit quietly - eat lunch, write in their journals - and also to rent for meetings. At the moment the space is not self-supporting and is subsidized by the bookstore.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

SARAH DREHER
21 VALLEY VIEW DR.
AMHERST, MA 01002
Monday, January 20, 1992

Antonia Matthews
920 E. University
Bloomington, IN 47401

Dear Antonia,

I'm really sorry it's taken me so long to respond to your letter. Suffice it to say things are sometimes a little confusing around here when I'm working on new stuff, and the holidays come along and mess everything up. To make a long story short, I just unearthed your letter today — and I had planned to answer it immediately when I got it. So you see how it is.

Anyway, of course it would be fine for you to arrange a reading of parts of "Hollandia '45" for the Herstory Project, and I hope it's a great success and makes lots of money. If there's anything I can do to help out, please let me know. We need to keep institutions like Aquarius Books/WomynSpace going.

My graduate school roommate at Purdue spent the Second World War in England. Her parents were Jewish refugees from Russia, and they left her there while they tried to gain entrance to the U.S. or Canada. (They ultimately did live in Canada, since the US had such an appalling attitude toward Jewish refugees.) She spent the time in one of the away-from-the-city placements so many English children went to (I can't remember the name of them, if they had one.)

I'll be coming out to Bloomington in June as part of the Women's Festival (am doing a workshop on mystery writing — the approach being still a mystery to me). My theater group will be there, too, performing 8x10 Glossy. It isn't in the Lesbian Stages book but is in the anthology Places, Please! in case you're curious. Anyway, maybe we can meet then. In a world full of 25-year olds, it's always a treat to meet another adult. (Don't tell the 25-year olds I said that. They are so touchy.)

Fondly,

Sarah Dreher