

Dear Miss Swann, it is almost a year since for me piracy has ceased to exist, and since property has been reduced to the barest necessities, that is to say to things all important and which, at the same time, do not really matter since one cannot feel any personal attachment towards them. Under such conditions, to receive a parcel with flowers - a parcel in a camp is in itself something most exciting - is nothing less than a little feast. When I was a boy, I could never understand how mother could derive any pleasure from receiving a new frock or an umbrella at X-mas. Frocks or umbrellas, I thought, were things you had to have anyhow, whereas festive occasions should not be defiled by ordinary and everyday things, but should be reserved for luxury gifts. Of course, I have gone a long way since these boyhood concepts, and during the years of exile I have trained myself deliberately to become largely independent from worldly possessions. I have still retained, however, and perhaps even increased, my appreciation for the beautiful un-necessities of life. I hope you will forgive this autobiographical confession. It is meant as a background in order to give the proper emphasis to the expression of my sincerest gratitude for your kind Easter present. - I wonder whether I may trouble you with a request. There are two books which I would rather need for the purposes of my work, 'The Pocket Oxford Dictionary' and Fowler's 'Modern English Usage'. At present, I am unable to pay the full price for these books but I might be able to afford to buy them secondhand. Could you possibly try to find them for me? If really cheap the 'Concise Oxf. Dictionary' would do as well, but the editions should not be too old, else they would probably be of little use to me (I am a journalist!). Thanking you again, with all good wishes, yours sincerely, Paul C. Trent

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MAIL
NO POSTAGE REQUIRED

Miss Ruth H. Swann, No. 7 Internment Camp,
Elizabeth Farm House,
Granville,
N.S.W.

Sender: Paul L. FENT, 54952, 7 Camp,
Eastern Command, P.O. Box,
45 Rosemount St., Sydney

