



## Collection Information:

**Item:** Correspondence with *Saturday Evening Post*, February 5, 1920 - November 26, 1920.

**Collection:** Lewis, Sinclair, 1885-1951. Sinclair Lewis Correspondence.

## Copyright Notice:

This material may be protected by copyright law (U.S. Code, Title 17). Researchers are liable for any infringement. For more information, visit [www.mnhs.org/copyright](http://www.mnhs.org/copyright).

February 5th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

Just what we are thinking  
of. but you see the out to Chicago  
There's a good reason to get the  
metropolis from the old days.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.  
L.

Digitally enhanced image of previous page by Minnesota Historical Society for readability.  
Text: "Just what are we thinking of, but why ship the car to Minneapolis?  
There's a good road to that thriving metropolis from my front door"

February 6th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

Just what we are thinking  
of, but why ship the car to Minneapolis?  
There's a good road to that thriving  
metropolis from my front door.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis,  
L.

Washington  
February 5

My dear Lorimer:

I get you. I'd wondered if I couldn't maybe make the trip and still keep the article free from press-agentry, but it would probably be impossible. I'll lay off'n them. Doesn't it suggest a good trip for Mrs. Lorimer and you for next summer though? Ship the car to Minneapolis, then drive to Winnipeg, Calgary, Banff, Glacier Park, Flathead Lake, Spokane, Seattle, Portland, with maybe the Yellowstone on a loop from Flathead.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post.

February 27th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

Not to put too fine a  
point on it, what in Hell are you  
doing?

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.  
L.

Washington,  
Saturday, February 28.

*File*

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia.

My dear Lorimer:

Yes sir! Yes sir! Here insert symbol for meek and snappy salute. As a matter of fact I have all this past week been working on what I hope will prove a humorous spiel for the Post, and it will be mailed to you about day after tomorrow. And immediately after it I shall do a story, now fully planned, of office politics and desk intrigues.

I have -- until I quit for a time to write the above mentioned -- been doing nothing but the long novel, which gets longer and lugubriouiser and more highbrow every time I touch ribbon to paper. After the above two tales, I'll go back to it for a time. But aside from it and work for the Post I haven't planned to do anything in the world. I hope that all next summer -- I believe your crop of MSS falls off then -- I shall be doing Post things.

I don't believe you'll even want to read the novel. It's as planless, in a magazine sense, as Clayhanger. But the only way I can get even with the highbrow part of me is to fall on one of these and beat it up every-so-often. It's quite like cocaine.

I hope you'll like the new MS. when it comes to you early next week and I am yours obsequiously, or more or less obsequiously anyway ---

*Siclan Lewis*

*file*

1814 Sixteenth Street, N.W.,  
Washington, D.C.,  
March 2, 1920. *W*

My dear Lorimer:

Here she is -- the alleged humorous article. I have already made my plan for the office story, so I shall start writing that today. And I think there will be a third one before I go back to the novel.

Sincerely yours,

*Swiclan Lewis*

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

March 4th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

I don't want to seem unduly flattering, but I really didn't think you had it in you to write so punk a piece as this. By the law of averages, the story on which you are working should be the best thing that you have ever sent us.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.

L.

*File*

1814 Sixteenth Street, NW.,  
Washington, D.C.,  
March 8, 1920.

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia.

My dear Lorimer:

Cheers! Here is the  
second story -- the tale of a salesman  
and his boss, which I hope -----

Sincerely yours,

*Sinclair Lewis*

March 15th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

We are coming back. In May I  
See if you have moved rapidly up the  
line from your point of departure. Check  
by the Treasurer tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.  
L.

Digitally enhanced image of previous page by Minnesota Historical Society for readability.

March 15th, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

We are coming back. In May I  
see if you have moved rapidly up the  
line from your point of departure. Check  
by the Treasurer tomorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis.  
L.

*Will*

1614 Sixteenth St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.,  
March 17, 1920.

My dear Lorimer:

Awfully glad you liked Way  
I See It better. Now I'm going to hurry  
through the rest of the work on the long lu-  
gubrious book-novel as fast as I can, and  
the second it is done, I shall be on the  
job with stories I hope you will like. I'd  
take a longer lay-off and do some more  
shorts now, but I must have the book done  
for publication in early fall. I know now  
that it has no interest for serial.

I have a number of short stories and one  
three-part story planned already, and just  
as soon as this other job is done, I'll be  
after them.

Please DON'T take the trouble to answer  
this.

Sincerely yours,

*Sinclair Lewis*

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia.

May 27, 1920.

My dear Lewis:

What are you doing for your country in the way of short stories? And more particularly how soon is one coming this way?

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
W/M

Washington,  
Sunday.

Dear Miss Neall:

Won't you please talk with my very good friend, Henry Hoyt, who brings this, about covers for the Post? What he really ought to be doing, though, is writing stories. He is a lazy devil with a great deal of talent, and ever since he got out of the army, he hasn't done a thing but set\*. Make him quit settin' and do something. But if them miracles are beyond the power even of the haughty possessor of a Dutch stone chateau, please look at the covers, anyway, if you have time.

Sincerely yours,

*Sinclair Lewis*

Miss Adelaide Neall,  
The Saturday Evening Post.

~~\*~~

He says I am a  
2-cm dash liar.

Washington, D. C.  
May 25, 1920.

Miss Adelaide W. Neall,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Independence Square,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Miss Neall:

I wonder if the Post will be so good as to <sup>restore</sup> ~~return~~ my dramatic  
and other rights on my story, "The Willow Walk", published  
in the Post a couple of years ago.

I have been spending all winter and spring working like the  
devil on a long--and probably lamentable--novel, which is not  
suited at all to serial publication, but I have almost fin-  
ished it now and ~~expect~~ in a short time I shall ~~be~~ again ~~be~~  
writing stories which I hope the Post will like.

Yours sincerely,

Sinclair Lewis

8-10-18  
SL/md

Sure I got a  
secretary ..... for  
one day!

June 1st, 1920

Dear Mr. Lewis:

I enclose the reassignment of  
rights in your story The Willow Walk.

That is good news about your  
soon getting to work on some stories for the  
Post. We could use quite a few these days.

Why did the secretary stay only  
one day?

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
N/W

Washington,

~~May 8~~

June 8 —

Dear Mr. Williams:

Thank you for your letter. I shall finish this cursed novel, on which I have been working steadily since last November, in about three weeks more. (It's for book-form, and it'll be out in September.) Then, at last, I shall take off a week, and be right back on the job with short stories, so that I hope mos' earnest that in less than six weeks you will see a story from me, and that they will come along regularly all through the summer and fall. The Lord being kind, I have no entanglements with other magazines; and I have a number of plots in mind which I hope you-all are going to like.

Sincerely yours,

*Sinclair Lewis*

Churchill Williams, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post.

June 9, 1920.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Mighty glad to know that before  
long we shall be having some stories from you.

Here's luck and thank you for your  
letter of June 8th.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
W/M

September 10, 1920.

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Along in June you wrote us that you were about finishing your novel and that in about six weeks we would see some stories from you. My highest powered glasses have disclosed nothing on the horizon in the shape of a Sinclair Lewis manuscript. Has it been sidetracked or is it just about leaving the starting point? Send me a bulletin won't you?

Sincerely,

*man*  
c/o Harcourt, Brace and Howe,  
One West 47th Street,  
New York City.

September 13, 1920.

Harold G. B. B. B.  
THIRTY FIRST STREET  
BY FIFTH AVENUE  
NEW YORK

Dear Mr. Williams:

*now*  
Yes, I have not only been working for some time on a Post story -- a three-part love story -- but I have almost finished it, and shall have it in to you very soon indeed.

Just returned from Maine where I fished a little and worked a good deal, and as I don't know just where we'll be, I'll give the address above.

Thank you very much for remembering me, and believe me, as ever,

Sincerely yours,

*Sinclair Lewis*

September 14, 1920.

Dear Lewis:

Glad to know that the  
three part story is almost finished  
and that we will see it soon. Hope  
you had better luck with your fishing  
in Maine than I had on my vacation.

Sincerely yours,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
W/M

*Handwritten scribbles*



NEW RICHMOND HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

*Handwritten signature*

The Editors  
The Saturday Evening Post.

Gentlemen:

May I ask you to be so good  
as to forward any mail which may be ad-  
dressed to me care of the Post from  
now on, till further notice, to

General Delivery,  
St. Augustine, Florida

as I shall leave Washington on Thursday.

Sincerely,

*Sinclair Lewis*

Harcourt, Brace & Howe,  
One West 47th Street,  
New York City.

Dear Mr. Williams:

That three-part story of which I wrote you is coming out longer than I expected -- four parts or possibly even five, hence the delay in its appearance. I hope Mr. Lorimer and you are going to like it when it comes. I'm writing this not at all because I picture you as sitting sadly wringing your hands and waiting for the thing but to assure you that, after the long siege of writing the long novel (very much like infant paralysis in its general symptoms) I really am back on the job! Please don't trouble to answer this note.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

October 4, 1920

Dear Mr. Lewis:

We'll be ready to read that expanding story as soon as you have it ready. Good luck to you on the topsy job.

Yours very truly,

*Lewis*

Mr. Sinclair ~~Lewis~~  
W-H

1639 Nineteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.,  
November 22, 1920.

George H. Lorimer, Esq.,  
The Saturday Evening Post,  
Philadelphia.

Dear Lorimer:

Enclosed, a short story, "A Matter of Business."  
(4 or 5 part)

For weeks I fussed with a long story about a business woman with two suitors. I couldn't get the last part to go right at all, and I finally saw that I was wasting time.

I have turned it over to my wife, who has written some fiction under her name of Grace Hegger, and who was for several years on Vogue and other magazines. Naturally, she has the point of view of the girl in business better than I could have, and I hope she will make a good story of it. She is changing it a good deal, and will sign it.

Meantime I'm back at short stories, with the enclosed as the first result, and another to come immediately.

Sincerely yours,

Sinclair Lewis

November 26, 1920

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Mr. Lorimer read your story, "A Matter of Business", but was obliged to leave the office rather earlier than usual and does not wish to write you about it. Frankly it disappointed him. As a story, he does not feel, that it attains the first grade. We are sorry to hear it back and we will be hoping for quite a different result with the next one by you.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
Enclosure-"A Matter of Business"  
W-200

November 26, 1920

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Mr. Lorimer read your story, "A Matter of Business", but was obliged to leave the office rather earlier than usual and asked me to write you about it. Frankly it disappointed him, and as a story, he does not feel, that it quite made the Post grade. We are sorry to send it back and we will be hoping for quite a different result with the next one by you.

Yours very truly,

Mr. Sinclair Lewis  
Enclosure-"A Matter of Business"  
W-MCC