

03/04/1990,

Dear David, Have I replied to your letter of a few weeks ago? I'm seized with dreadful doubt about this. I've just thought of it and find myself in a (...). I'm sorry, David, but these things have been happening to me a little too often lately and I'm beginning to worry. If I have, please forgive this repetition. The course of this confusion has partly to do with personal worries (of all sorts) which seem to absorb all my mental energies, especially over the past few months, with illness in the family and other things. Your letter came as a very pleasant surprise to me and I enjoyed very much the things you've sent me. This discomfiture of those young hotheads is of course something that people of our generation might regard with some satisfaction, but on the other hand... Well for one thing, I'd like to refer you to "The Renunciation" Book of Epigrams, 174, for another. I'm fearful of capitalism running amok. Quite frankly, I'd rather have very little and be educated enough to enjoy Bach than live by commercial jingles and spend my days and nights desiring ways of exploiting the system (my fellow creatures) for profit. I think it a great pity that socialism should have taken that forbidding form. I've been predicting its collapse since the middle seventies and my criticism has earned me the title of "reactionary" and "cryptofascist" among the faithful-young hotheads mainly - for my arguments(?). So you are off on a tour of Europe. How nice. I hope you'll both enjoy it. You'll probably find many changes in Greece (33 years is a long time!) but the museums will be open, except for certain days-times of the week. It's best to check on these things before each excursion. The buses are alright but it's far more convenient by car. What worries me is the prolonged drought. They are predicting a disastrous summer. I am astounded to hear that you can "now read Homer with some fluency". I wish I could say the same myself! Good luck, David. Modern Greek shouldn't prove difficult at all after this preparation. As for Ptolemy's epigram, I can see your point. Thanks for the poems too. I liked them. Though they are cast in a mould and realised through a style that I don't find congenial. Keep the good work up. I think it's this that keeps people like us sane. I used to enjoy our conversations at St. Lucia. I hope that we may see each other again. I've just finished a little book of satires and am in the middle of another "Serious" collection. I have no plans after that, but have plenty of worries to keep me going. My love to both of you Dimitris (I mean your good and patient wife of course?). P.S. Please give my regards to Ken Goodwin and P. Edwards.