

Letter from J.J.C. Smart to A.N. Prior, February 28, 1955¹

28.2.55

Dear Arthur

Congratulations on the John Locke lectureship. That is very good news (though not all that surprising). You will do them a lot of good, and no doubt shake some of them out of complacency, besides teaching them some formal logic.

I don't know of anyone who'd be able to teach logic in the way you'd like. Maybe you'll have to get Miss Q-B² back! I must seriously consider the possibility of coming over to see you in May. (For various reasons I doubt if I'd be able to get around in August.) But I must try to see you before you go. Fortunately airmail to Oxford doesn't take much longer than airmail to Christchurch. I don't anticipate going until 1957 (or the very end of 1956) as Gilbert is due out here in '56 and I'd want to be on the spot then. So you and I might be on different sides of the world for 2 years or nearly so.

Jack

¹ Editor's note: The letter is in the Prior archive box 3 at the Bodleian Library in Oxford and has been transcribed and commented by David Jakobsen and Martin Prior.

² Editor's note: Martin Prior notes that Miss Q-B is Gillian Quentin-Baxter, who would later be married to Jonathan Bennett, an earlier student of Prior.