

Letter from Mary to Arthur Prior, undated¹

My darling,

Your letters are such a joy to me. I have one with me, at least, always.

I can't say I'm not enjoying freedom from dishes and a chance to swot properly – but as a holiday only. For I get very lonely without you.

I swot about 6-7 hours only a day. I find I just can't take any more. Just now I'm busy {2} making a précis of Broad on McT² – the recommended sections. I am rather at a loss about whether there really are props. or not – and if there are or are not what it ties up with. I have also to delve into The Correspondence Theory of Truth, and I think next I'll tackle Negation and such like.

I feel I really know something at least about Extension, Intension, Definition, Analytic and Synthetic Props, anyway, and could do something bright on them. I'm wanting to deal with the Idealist Controversies just now – Excl. Middle, Exist[ential] Import, Relations etc.

I am now doing nothing but Logic. I find it the thing one needs to sit at most.

Last night I dined w. Aunty Floris³ at her hotel, and then we went to "The Late George Apley." Quite entertaining, but more cd. have been done with it.

Kisses and Love

Polly Hedgehog

P.T.O

Your cheque to Cameron's came back the otherday [sic]. You didn't sign it. So, do pay their bill and apologise while in Timaru.

¹ Editors' note: This letter has been edited by Martin Prior, Peter Øhrstrøm and David Jakobsen. It is part of the Martin Prior Collection, presently kept at Aalborg University folder B, item 1-4. The letter is written on standard unheaded writing paper. Furthermore, the letters B1, item 1 to 4 was enclosed in an envelope (perhaps by Mary) postmarked 15th October 1947. The envelope is from Canterbury University College and addressed to Timaru where Mary's parents lived, while Mary was in Christchurch for her philosophy studies. It is quite likely that Prior would have visited them and picked up the letters from her parents. See also B1 items 1, 2 and 3.

² Editors' note: Mary is most likely referring to Broad, C.D., 1933/1938. *An Examination of McTaggart's Philosophy* (two volumes), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

³ Editors' note: Floris Wilkinson (née Ryan), who married Mary's paternal grandfather, Howitt Key Wilkinson, was born in Lincolnshire and came out to New Zealand with his brother Frank. Starting as a tea-taster he rose in the ranks to become a major partner in Rattray's, a chain retail business.