

Letter from Arthur to Mary Prior, 1, July, 1954¹

23 Vernon Terrace

Hillsborough

Thurs. 1/7/54.

Darling,

I enclose (a) a communication that came for you today; and (b) my letter to Jack Smart.²

We got a wire from Andy³ today saying that he had the Wellington senior registrarship, and would be starting on July 12. So I sent him a Congratulations wire from the 4 of us.

Also got Ivo's⁴ reply to my cable – an affirmative – and have informed Goodell. So that clears that up.

Have just marked a Stage II Logic test I sprung on them a couple of weeks ago – will be able to hand it back to them tomorrow. Martin's not done so badly at his lessons today, and is taking more kindly to them. Ann has a bit of a cold in her nose. But temp's not particularly high (under 99).

I was busy about town this morning, and with the kids this afternoon (it being Miss B's afternoon off).⁵

This is the scrappiest of scrappy letters, but at least I've been giving you some decent enclosures.

Heaps and heaps of love

- Skig.

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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 5. The letter is written on standard unheaded writing paper. The letter was written while Mary was hospitalised with tuberculosis.

² Editor's note: This is a reference to Arthur's letter to Smart, B5 from 30. June 1954. Mary Prior had studied an MA in Philosophy a few years earlier and showed a lot of interest in the philosophical questions Arthur Prior worked with.

³ Editors' note: Andy is Mary's brother Andrew Cameron Howitt Wilkinson (1923-1999). He graduated in Medicine from Otago University and later worked as a general practitioner. When Mary first contracted tuberculosis it was first diagnosed as pneumonia about which Andrew was strongly sceptical and was very persistent in getting the diagnosis corrected.

⁴ Editors' note: Ivo Thomas (1912-1976), born Herbert Christopher Thomas. He entered the Order of Preachers and did philosophical studies 1936-1938. He became professor of Philosophy at Hawkesyard Priory. He received the Dominican highest and most distinguished degree, that of Master of Sacred Theology. He wrote a dissertation on The Logic of Kilwardby. (Otto Bird, In Memoriam. Ivo Thomas. Notre Dame Journal of Formal Logic, vol. 18, nr. 2, 1977, s. 193). He and Arthur wrote many letters to each other kept in the Bodleian Library Oxford.

⁵ Editors' note: This is a reference to Miss Brown, the second nurse who took care of Martin and Ann in 1954, when Mary was hospitalised.