

Feb. 1974

Firth Lodge,
Sandy Lane
Northwood Middx.

29.5.42.

My dearest Mother,

Thank you for your letter
of the 27th, which I got this morning.
I have dictated a reply to Stuart G.
to-day and shall sign it to-morrow.

I am glad to hear Christopher has
written to you. He seems to have got
a more complicated form of clarinet and
says he is getting on well with it. Quite
why he decided to learn to play the
clarinet is not very clear, though I
think he expects to fill a vacancy in
the orchestra when one of the seniors leaves;

Also, he likes blowing.

Last night was the 30th Wilbur Wright lecture, given by Lord Brabazon, formerly Col. Moore-Brabazon. He gave a characteristic lecture, and there was a good audience. The vote of thanks to the lecturer was proposed by Sir Roy Fedden, and I recorded the vote of thanks in a short speech well received.

After the lecture we had the Council Dinner, which despite the war, was a brilliant occasion. The meal itself was simple but very well done. We had three Ambassadors,

more than ever before — The Duke of Alba, Baron Cartier de Marchienne, and M^r Winant, representatives respectively of Spain, Belgium, & the U.S.A.. The Baron was on my right at dinner. He is an Edwardian relic, with a flowing moustache & cravat. Brab. made a most effective speech after dinner and so did M^r Winant.

At the Council meeting before the lecture I was, to my very great surprise, elected a Vice-President of the Society, the other being a M^r Relf of whom you may not have heard but who is very well-known in astronomical

circles. The new President is Mr Gouge,
the chief engineer of Stott's.

It is raining hard this (Friday)
evening. The weather has been pretty
poor lately.

We are so glad to hear that
Hildred is better. Give her our love.
I hope Edith is well. Our love to
her, too.

Don't tire yourself,

Your own loving son

Harold

2000.435

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