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Dear Mary,

As I said when you rang on Monday night, I was about to write to you. However, our delayed journey back plus some other 'spanners', conspired to prevent me!

It was very pleasant to see you again & my only regret was that we didn't have an opportunity to have a proper chat. When I agreed to do the recording, I had no idea that it would take so long but I certainly don't regret doing it. There were a couple of items which occurred to me afterwards.

(A) Return to Elstree: Post war, I did a Film & a T.V. series there. The Film was "So Little Time" with Maria Schell, produced by Aubrey Baring & directed by Bob Bennett. 10 years later (1962) I was asked by the B.B.C. to produce the 2nd half of the 2nd series of "The 3rd Man" starring Michael Rennie. Irving Asher had done numbers 1 - 13 in Hollywood & was set to come back to U.K. to complete the series but at the last minute decided not to. There was a Canadian character named Vernon Burns who was the network Rep: but the Script Editor, to me the most important factor in a T.V. series, was Donald Wilson, whom I knew well from B.I.P. days. It wasn't a very inspired series, I recall that Rennie had an A.P. credit, but the money was quite good.

(B) My struggles with Sam Spiegel a.k.a. S.P. Eagle. He was by far the most colorful & amazing character I ever encountered in my career. Due to his turbulent times in USA & divers global hotspots, he delighted in getting into a corner & having to fight his way out! I guess he had a certain charm but it was reserved for dames, as he was a great womaniser. We had a somewhat ancient Lewis (All Quiet on t w f) as Director. The original Director was Edmund Goulding, whom I met at Heathrow & he regaled me with stories of how he'd been a butcher's boy in Walton-on-Thames. Unfortunately, he went up to Warwick Castle to spend the week-end with the Earl, an old buddy from Hollywood & went on a bender. Sam ignominiously fired him...

→ milestones

I was in a somewhat unique position as Sam couldn't fire me as U.A. wouldn't allow him to sign any cheques & I was the main signatory! Sam was wont to disappear to the South of France with some bird & as a rule, things went fairly well as I got on O.K. with Milestone. As soon as Sam resurfaced, he'd stir things up & then try & sort things. Half-way through, the Star, Patrice Munsell, announced that she was pregnant but Sam couldn't blame me she had her husband handy. We spent 10 days in R.O.H. Covent Garden & used to meet members of the "Geneieve Unit for drinks at the Nag's Head. Each side stated that IT was the worst Film they'd ever worked on. We made a bet & I won easily. 'MELBA' as far as I can ascertain, was so awful that it's never been show on T.V. Ah well, at least U.A. asked me back later to do "Gentlemen marry Brunettes" (another Box Office pippin) with Bob Basler as Producer. He was an extremely nice & cultured man!

Enough of this waffle....

Yours
J. Medley

* I don't think
I've spelt it right.