

Mr Robert Bre

18 August 79

Dear Mr Bre,

I find your letters a most interesting insight into the work of translation. I had never imagined the problems you have.

p15 Sir Kenneth Clark was then Director of the National Gallery, and he moved some 3,000 priceless paintings from the Gallery in London to an underground chamber in a quarry in Wales, to save them from the bombing. He is now Lord Clark, and recently became world-famous for his BBC television series 'Civilisation'. Col. Terry's reference to 'young' Kenneth Clark is therefore a small joke.

p23 Churchill's famous line was spoken in the House of Commons, but he quotes it in his History of the Second World War, volume 2, chapter 16, the last paragraph.

p23 The Glad Rag Ball is an annual dance given by one of the London colleges - I think it is the London School of Economics - at which everyone wears eccentric clothes.

p58 The arch of Euston Station was the main entrance, I believe. The station has since been demolished and rebuilt, but the old arch remains as an architectural landmark.

p71 The XX-Committee of MI5 was the committee which controlled double agents. The two Xs mean 'double-cross'. As you probably know, to trick someone who is trying to trick you is called a double-cross. So the double-cross committee was called the XX-Committee. However, XX is also the latin numeral 20, so in speech the committee was called the 'Twenty Committee'.

No need to keep all your questions to the end. Write to me whenever you have accumulated six or twelve.

Yours,

Ken Follett.