

A folded and sealed note. The outside reads:

To: Mr. Peter Dresden, Dresden Manor

From: Mr. Horace Chesterton, Stagford

The inside reads:

Dear Mr. Dresden,

Thank you again for your visit to my office the other week. I'm sorry that I missed you today; your new bride tells me that you're away on business, and was (naturally!) reluctant to let me wander about the estate in your absence. So please accept these short notes as a down payment on a longer conversation once you return.

First: I've returned the original architectural plans from your grandfather's remodel of Dresden Manor sixty years ago; I've made copies and will work from those. I'm quite confident that I can find a few ways to brighten up "the old pile," as you call it, for your new bride.

Without a closer inspection (which I was denied today), I can't say why your grandfather chose to brick up those archways in the basement. However, per your specific question, I think it unlikely that there is any more of the old abbey behind that wall. By all reports, your grandfather was as eager of a local historian as I am. I can't imagine that he would have blocked off a historically interesting area without a very good reason; and I can't imagine what that would have been.

Regarding your library, once again, I must defer until we are able to meet at your home. Based on the titles that you mentioned to me and the... strange circumstances surrounding your mother's death (may she rest in peace), I understand your desire to be rid of the collection. I'm confident that I can find buyers, but as for the actual value, that will have to wait until I can study the collection more closely.

Please get in touch as soon as you return from your travels. I am eager to begin work on both of these projects.

*Respectfully,
Horace Chesterton, Engineer
Stagford*