



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON, SW1

15 . 8 . 70.

To Wal M' Shee
Fisherman Extraordinary
Island of Linn

WE DO NOT LIKE TO AWAKEN
FAR FROM THE FRINGE OF THE SEA
WE WHO LIVE ON SMALL ISLANDS.

WE LIKE TO RISE UP EARLY
QUICK IN THE AGILE MORNINGS
AND WALK OUT ONLY A LITTLE WAY
TO LOOK UPON THE WATER,
TO KNOW IT IS SWAYING NEAR TO US
WITH SONGS AND TIDES AND ENDLESS BOATWAYS
AND UNULATE PATTERNS AND MOODS

WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO SAUNTER BESIDE IT
SLOW PAVED IN BRONZING SUNLIGHT
BARE ARMED, BARE FOOT, BARE HEADED
AND TO STOOP DOWN BY THE SHALLOWS
SIFTING THE RANDOM WATER
BETWEEN ASSAYING FINGERS
LIKE FARMERS DO WITH SOIL
AND TO THINK OF TURQUOISE MACKEREL
TURNING WITH CONSUMMATE GRACE
SLEEK AND DECOROUS,
AND ELEGANT IN HIGH BLUE CHAMBERS

WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO WALK OUT INTO IT
TO WORK IN IT
DIVE AND SWIM AND PLAY IN IT
TO ROW AND SAIL AND PILOT
OVER ITS SANDLES HIGHWAYS
AND TO HEAR
ITS CALLS AND MURMURS
WHEREVER WE MAY BE

ALL WHO HAVE LIVED UPON SMALL ISLANDS
WANT TO SLEEP AND AWAKEN
CLOSE TO THE FRINGE OF THE SEA.

Yours as ever
Dick B.

Thanks for the fishing