

Mississippi State University

Scholars Junction

R.L. Hoxie and Vinnie Ream Correspondence
Collection

Lincolnia Manuscripts Collections

1-26-1870

Letter, Vinnie Ream to Mrs. Nealy, January 26, 1870

Vinnie Reams

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsjunction.msstate.edu/fvw-manuscripts-hoxie>

Recommended Citation

Letter, Vinnie Ream to Mrs. Nealy, January 26, 1870, R. L. Hoxie collection, Frank and Virginia Williams Collection of Lincolnia, Mississippi State University Libraries.

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the Lincolnia Manuscripts Collections at Scholars Junction. It has been accepted for inclusion in R.L. Hoxie and Vinnie Ream Correspondence Collection by an authorized administrator of Scholars Junction. For more information, please contact scholcomm@msstate.libanswers.com.

Lambert

Studio - 45 - Via di San Basilio

Rome - Jan 26th 1870

My Dear Mrs ~~Stacy~~

Your very kind and graceful letter reached me promptly in my Italian home, where as you say I am surrounded by scenes full of classic memory - ruins rich with prosy-romance and tragic history - On every side the wrecks of stately grandeur - the crumbling monuments of fallen conquerors - the story of dead Empires - Among them all, my heart turns fondly to our beautiful American - fresh and bright and splendid in her youthfulness.

(19) - 1870 - Rome - Lambert

loneliness. So great a contrast
to this Country of the Past, I
could not have realized
without actual presence here,
where the climbing ivy and
crumbling walls - the very wind
among the cypresses, all tell
the mournful history of a
Nation humbled in the dust.

It was with great pleasure I
read your kind words - I
thank you for the generous
sympathy you feel for me
in my beautiful study
of art. I trust to bring back
with me to my native land

With great regard - Annie Dean

such work as my friends will
be proud of - I am sure you
would be delighted with the
progress I am making with
the Lincoln statue, and it
has been most gratifying
to me, that the model which
I made in America has been
highly approved of, by such
men as Mr Story and Mr
Healy - They are my near
neighbors, and my good
friends - Mr Healy's studio
is in the same building
with mine, and he could
not be kinder to me, than

he is - I am going to make
a bust of him, and bring
it back with me to America.

I shall be greatly pleased to
hear from you often, and hope
you will not forget the verses
which you have promised. Such
a tribute from you, will be
very highly appreciated by
me - Write to me of yourself,
and your surroundings, and
in return I may be able to
write to you of Rome - of the
Council of something inter-
esting. I will tell you in
my next more of my studio

and works. The model for the
Lincoln statue - the bust of Gustave
Dore, and the likeness of Father
Hyacinthe, seem to attract a
great deal of attention. I have
also in my studio a bust
of Mrs Genl Fremont which I
made in Paris, and a likeness
of the great German painter
Kaulbach, which I modeled
in his studio in Munich. I
have a very large photograph
of Mr. Lincoln, surrounded
by a wreath of Roman Cypress,
and the large American
flag, (bless it!) festooned over

it, and I have two French flags
crossed over the Doie bust, and
the picture which he presented
to me - so you can have some idea
how my studio looks - I have four
kind friends here on every side who
keep my rooms supplied with a pro-
fusion of exquisite flowers, and
frequently on starlight nights like
these we are awakened by a sweet
Italian serenade - the serenades
brought here, and stationed under
our window, by some Americans,
almost always - My good parents are
great comfort and happiness to me, and
I am so thankful to have them with
me -

I enclose you a few leaves gathered
in the Coliseum, and will collect some
from places of interest, to take to you
when I return -

Please present me very kindly to Mr. O'Connell
and his family, and also to the members
of your own household -
I will hope to hear from you soon,
and that every happiness may be yours -
With great regard -
Cecilia Reay

Studio- 45 Via di San Basilio
Rome- Jan 26th 1870

My Dear Mrs Nealy

Your very kind and graceful letter reached me promptly in my Italian home, where as you say I am surrounded by scenes full of classic memory- ruins rich with poesy, romance and tragic history. On every side the wrecks of stately grandeur- the crumbling monuments of fallen conquerors- the story of dead empires- Among them all, my heart turns fondly to our beautiful America- fresh and bright and splendid in her youthful loveliness. So great a contrast to this Country of the Past, I could not have realized without actual presence here, where the climbing ivy and crumbling wall- the very wind among the cypresses, all tell the mournful history of a Nation humbled in the dust.

It was with great pleasure I read your kind words- I thank you for the generous sympathy you feel for me in my beautiful study of art. I trust to bring back with me to my Native Land such work as my friends will be proud of- I am sure you would be delighted with the progress I am making with the Lincoln statue, and it has been most gratifying to me, that the model which I made in America has been highly approved of, by such men as Mr. Story and Mr. Healy- They are my near neighbors, and my good friends- Mr Healy's studio is in the same building with mine, and he could not be kinder to me, than he is- I am going to make a bust of him, and bring it back with me to America-

I shall be greatly pleased to hear from you often, and hope you will not forget the verses which you have promised- Such a tribute from you, will be very highly appreciated by me- Write to me of yourself, and your surroundings, and in return I may be able to write to you of Rome- of the Council- of something interesting- I will tell you in my next more of my studio and works- The model for the Lincoln Statue- the bust of Gustave Doré, and the likeness of Father Hyacinthe, seem to attract a great deal of attention- I have also in my studio a bust of Mrs Genl Fremont which I made in Paris, and a likeness of the great German painter Kaulbach, which I modeled in his studio in Munich- I have a very large photograph of Mr. Lincoln, surrounded by a wreath of Roman cypress, and the large American Flag, (bless it!) festooned over it, and I have two French flags crossed over the Doré bust, and the picture which he presented to me- so you can have some idea of how my studio looks- I have found kind friends here on every side who keep my rooms supplied with a profusion of exquisite flowers, and very frequently on star light nights like these, we are awakened by a sweet Italian serenade- the serenaders brought here, and stationed under our window, by some Americans, almost always- My good Parents are a great comfort and happiness to me, and I am so thankful to have them with me-

I enclose you a few leaves gathered in the Coliseum, and will collect some from places of interest, to take to you when I return-

Please present me very kindly to Mr Orth and his family, and also to the members of your own household-

I will hope to hear from you soon, and that every happiness may be yours- With great regard-

Vinnie Ream