

Tuesday, February 17

Dear Thelma,

I went to Florida under a malevolent cloud which poured rain down on my van all the way to Orlando as I drove through miles and miles and miles of sodden drear. Finally, in Miami, I did find the sun and balmy weather. The show was off this year - due no doubt to the ailing economy of the nation - but I did well enough, much better than most, though I think that we will cut out some of the far-flung shows like Miami, Chicago, New York, until people become less nervous about the economy and start spending money again. Some of the dealers didn't make one sale and that was very depressing.

I again stayed with my friends the Cambers, which was very pleasant. Diane is the director of the Bass Museum in Miami and she is very good about introducing me to people and making me feel at home. I also had dinner one night with Jeffrey Selznick (David's son) and his friend, a lovely English lady named Enid. Jeff and his brother are making a tv documentary about the making of *Gone With The Wind*. To thank them for the dinner I am sending them a hardback of Confederacy which they are both eager to read. It is amazing. Everywhere I went people were still talking about the book as if it had just been published.

I can't wait to see the documentation of you as the Queen Mother of Clones (you will remember that I was one of the first, long ago, to point out your similarity, albeit with more class and beauty, to the Queen Mother of England!).

And I am looking forward to the ceremony on the 27th! But I will talk to you before then.

I hope the little box from Florida arrived, and arrived in good shape.

Much love,

Joel