

GLENDINNING, MCLEISH & CO., INC.

MANUFACTURERS AND IMPORTERS OF
HANDKERCHIEFS AND LINENS
10 WEST 33RD STREET
New York

December 24, 1941.

TO DENNIS McALISTAIR RITCHIE:

Herewith is my little remembrance for Christmas. It is the celebration of your very first Christmas and I have taken the opportunity of creating for you a stake in the welfare of the United States. You are a full fledged citizen of the United States with an ancestry rooted back in Ireland -- an ancestry, too, that had to leave Ireland because things were tough and hard, nothing of the soft, smooth stuff you were born into, though I do not envy you that.

This little Christmas gift is a dividend to you for that sunshiny smile of yours -- a smile that warms my heart and makes me think you are going to radiate sunshine all around you as you grow up into a man. I have noted with great satisfaction your mental alacrity and also your keenness of vision. I think with the proper developments of these you are going to develop a great career for yourself. I feel, too, that from the way you gurgle and gloop, and sometimes drool, you are going to have a lot to say as soon as you can find the power of expression. As far as the drooling end of it is concerned, when folks in future years say to you - "Wipe off your chin", don't you pay any attention to them because if you say the right words, properly salivated, you will still make a grand impression on some folks.

I am thinking that as soon as you find the powers of expression and your vocal cords are functioning correctly, you will have lots to say and you can tell it all to me. I will be a very eager listener.

I have written to Washington for the Roosevelt White Paper, which will tell us of the cause of the war between ourselves and Japan. I hope I get same for you so that when you grow up you will have as one of your earliest presentations a true recital of why we still have to fight to maintain that freedom and independence which we grown-ups all love so dearly and for which we are willing to surrender all we have so that we may preserve it for boys like you, and so that in the future years your feelings won't be lacerated when you think of how the people that are responsible for your existence muffed their stuff and permitted a recurrence of such blackguardism and banditry as the world is afflicted with today.

There are a lot of big words in this, Dennis, but I know in a very short time you will be able to master them all and probably be able to use them with telling effect..

My best wishes to you, on this, your first Christmas.

Your old Granpap.

Alexander Glendinning Ritchie

Remember Dennis has for