

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

L 247 Stone 73

ESSEX, SS.

SALEM JAIL AND HOUSE OF CORRECTION

1-4-65

BOX 647

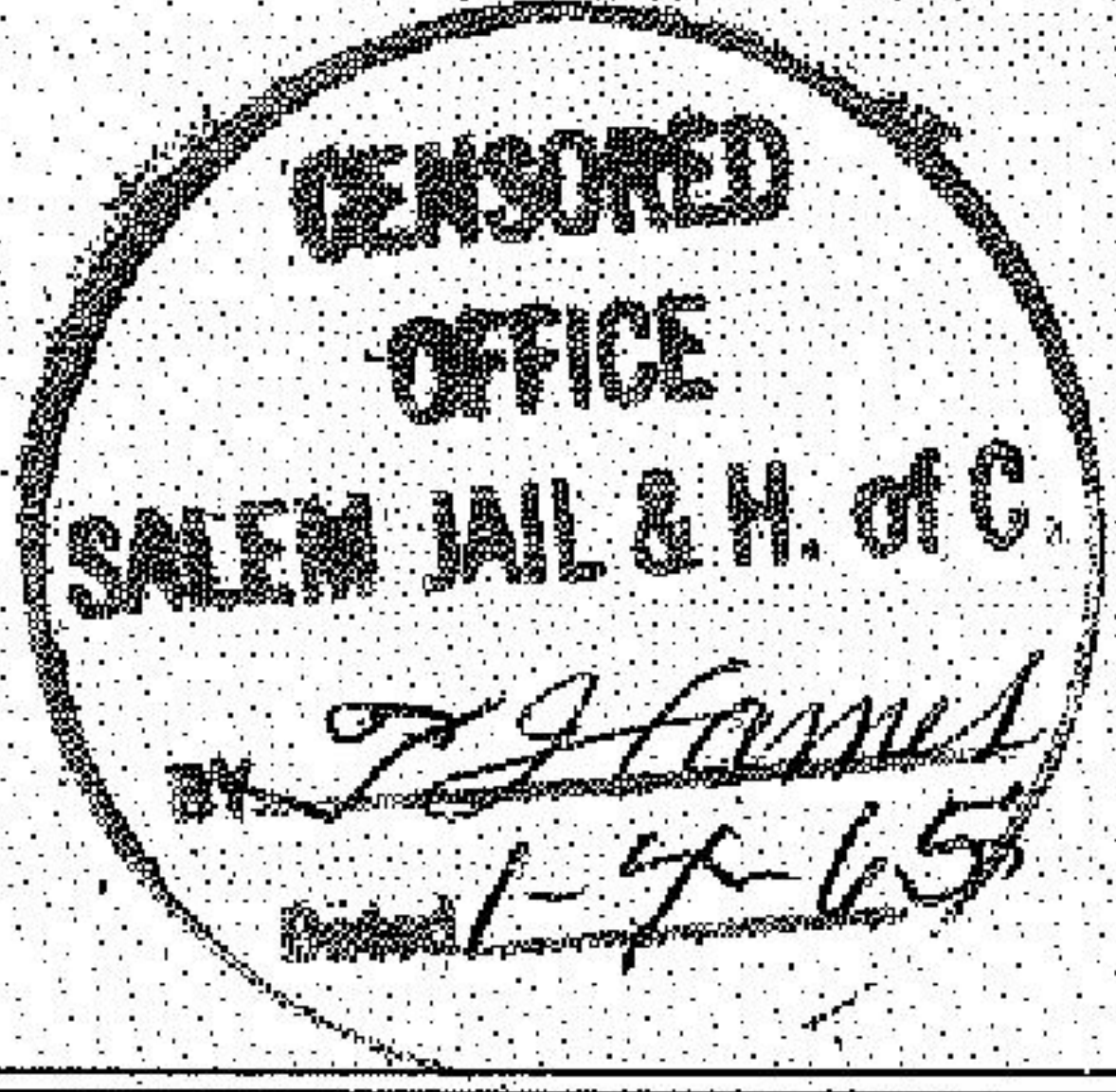
SALEM, MASS.

From: Elliot H. Stone

To: R. M. Straus, Ph.D.; Professor & Chairman;

Street: Dept. Behavioral Science; University of Kentucky;

City or Town: Lexington State: Kentucky



Inmates of this institution, of good deportment, of good deportment, may receive visits from relatives once each week only. Visitors allowed daily from 2 to 3 P.M. Sundays 2 to 4 P.M. Inmates writing to their friends, and persons corresponding with inmates must observe the following directions, viz: Write plain English and confine yourself strictly to family and business matters, do not underline, put but one line of writing on each ruled line. Fruit, except bananas, may be left at the office for the inmates but no other food will be allowed except on Holidays. All correspondence must go through the Master's hands.

Those awaiting trial may receive visits, also food as the keeper may direct.

Dear Bob: Received your letter today, concerning your latest manuscript, & reading of applications for research grant awards. Most of my reactions of later years have, what might be termed, a literary reference. For instance when I hear of your scientific investigations, I recall the plights of the greatest of hard-core in my favorite concrete which is are mentioned those lines: "Wishing one like to him, and such in hope; Featured like him, like him with friends possessed; Desiring this man's art & that man's scope." With special attention to the last line.

What started out many years ago, scribbling a bit of verse as a means of practicing shorthand has led to the memorizing & retention of a great bit of the world's best poetry, epigrams & prose excerpts. Neither my own wild folly, drunkenness & cynicism can take these things from me. It is a magic which clothes even prison walls with tapestry & fills the narrowest cell with music; & a sleepless, asthmatic night conversing with the best minds of the ages. Schizophrenia, escapism, compensation, sublimation?