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Lilian Swann Saarinen's Diary, 1935-1936 October

Extracted on Apr-16-2024 10:39:32

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FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1936
192nd Day 174 Days to come
cont.

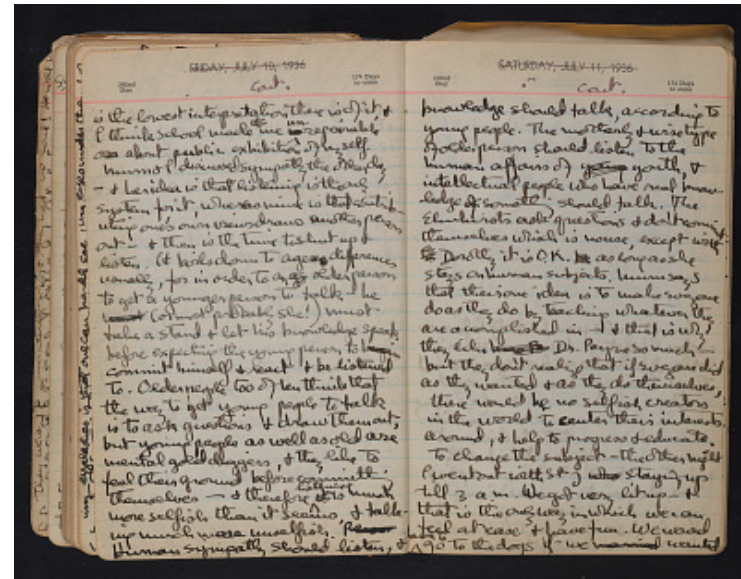
is the lowest interpretation there is of it, & I think school made me unrepairable on about public exhibition of myself.

Mum & I discussed sympathy the other day - & her idea is that listening is the only system for it, whereas mine is that contributing one's own views draws another person out - & then is the time to shut up & listen. It boils down to age differences usually, for in order to an older person to get a younger person to talk - he must take a stand & let his knowledge speak before expecting the young person to begin commit himself & react & be listened to. Older people too often think that the way to get young people to talk is to ask questions & draw them out, but young people as well as old are mental gold diggers, & they like to feel their ground before committing themselves - & therefore listening it is much more selfish than it seems, & talking much more unselfish. Person Human sympathy should listen, &

SATURDAY, JULY 11, 1936
193rd Day 173 Days to come
cont.

knowledge should talk, according to young people. The motherly & wise type of older person should listen to the human affairs of young youth, & intellectual people who have real knowledge of something should talk. The Elmhursts ask questions & don't commit themselves which is worse, except with Dorothy it is OK. but as long as she stays on human subjects. Mum says that their one idea is to make everyone do as they do by teaching whatever they are accomplished in - & that is why they like Mrs Pa Dr. Payne so much - but they don't realize that if everyone did as they wanted & as they do themselves, there would be no selfish creators in the world to center their interests around, & help to progress & educate.

To change the subject - the other night I went out with St J who staying up till 3 a.m. We got very lit up - & that is the only way in which we can feel at ease & have fun. We would have to go to the dogs if - we married wanted



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