

Mr. Gobhai
Street Interview

First of all, the thing that occurs to me is the {B} skyscraper that's against {B} Liggett's somehow, not like New York too much. . . That's a nice clean advertising sign – Ward's {SI} – nothing glaring about it like the usual neons. They should have more one-way streets like {T} this, with parking {SF} meters on both sides. . . The street on the right is kind of weird for shapes and sizes, the {C} heights of the buildings. There's very old Boston and there's very new Boston on the {C} right, with {B + SI} Kakas and ___ just above it.

Arthur Murray's {SI} sign is not what I expected it to be — it's much better. . . The {P} hat this accordion player is wearing is not something you see in Boston too often. (accordion playing with jingling of bells in the background)

I think this is one of the streets I'd more or less go for {C} because it isn't stamped – like certain streets you can say "Oh, that's where all the record shops are", etc. or the business establishments. . . The church looks {B} extremely good across. This building behind on the right looks nice with the big {B} terrace. I think more buildings should have these little gardens, even if they are crowded or on crowded roads.

They ought to do something about the taxi's in {T} this town. You see this one, the way it has stopped in the middle of the road to pick up a fare.

Boylston St. is the type that is extremely good for {T} big cities. There should be more of these crowded one-way streets, only one-way. The trouble with Boylston St. is that if you want to go in the opposite direction you've got to know Boston.

One thing that has always puzzled me is why churches trouble to advertise in a city like Boston. (How do you mean advertise?) In the newspapers, and glaring neon signs sometimes.

Shouldn't these streets be dug up{?} at nighttime or something? . . They have an odd habit of covering up parking meters and not allowing any parking when they're doing something to the meters. That's very silly because it violates the whole idea of the meters. Meters, after all, are to facilitate {SF} parking and not to let people down too much.

Another very odd street, especially on the right {C} hand side. Somehow this one appeals more than the other one. Perhaps it's because it's got much more of {F} the old flavor than the new, and the contrasts aren't too sharp. On the other street we had big modern buildings contrasted against very old buildings, for instance. Here on the right they are all uniform. the big box-like affair on {B} the right still is a little disconcerting. The Ritz-Carleton, yes.

I like shops like the ones on the {B} left. (Any particular reason?) They're not very glaring, and still they don't have too many pretensions from where I stand. . . I've never really noticed this street before {phrase underlined}; I like it very much. . . . I think it might be a good idea if Boston developed pavement awnings, stretching quite a distance out. I wonder if it's practical, what with the weather, snow and rain. It might be a good idea, Maybe more of the places like the Hotel {B} Brunswick have got, sort of sidewalk cafes.

These cellar places – {B} they've done an awful lot with them. They should do more I think especially in a crammed city they could be developed much more. These seem to be pretty developed on the right, but in general I mean.

This is the sort of place I meant as a {B} contrast to those glaring-sort of places. (sports) It really isn't any fun to go in and shop in some places. Even Brooks inside I expected to be a little better; I don't know why.

That's an odd-looking building. (on {B} corner of Commonwealth and Berkeley, tall one) . . . a nice looking dressing gown. . . Why the {B} United States flag on Brooks Bros.?

For an alleyway the road isn't too bad but the {misc} rubbish certainly is. It's {SP} the sort of place one expects things to be thrown away. the buildings are {C} remarkably good for an alleyway of this sort. Of course, in the evening it will have its show of junk. . . It's funny how the kind of rubbish changes in different localities -- it may be industrial rubbish, or it may be housewife-ish rubbish. . . I don't see what they're going to do to this place. It seems to have been lying like this for quite some time; nobody seems to carry it on or have torn down much of the brick work for some time.

. . . . I think a big metropolis like Boston should develop a new system of {SF} fire escapes. This would be a little hard to use I should think. . . . I imagine this set of buildings, some of them residential overlooking the park, must be quite {C} expensive. I can imagine having a nice view out of the window. I should think it would be little strange in Boston except maybe across the Charles or a little of Beacon Hill. It looks sort of {N} dreary right now though because there is no snow. The trees, {N} especially. The Christmas {SF} decorations look so out-of-place without any snow, like empty vessels. Just an afternoon of snow like we had the other day changes the whole scene. Boston looks like quite a city.

I think Boston should have more coffee shops, not restaurants like {B} Hayes-Bickford's or Waldorf over here, but quieter places where just coffee and maybe pastries or small sandwiches are sold. . . . See what I mean by its being completely {SP} barren. Especially when they put the reindeer – look across the field to that other {N} field, the trees and stuff without all that white. I was going to say lonely at first. This saves it from total {P} barrenness. (Children skating on the ice) I think this is laid out pretty well. Are these the gardens or the Commons? Much better than a huge big common with nothing at all but --- This looks excellent from here, Looking at that {B} church, {B} John Hancock behind and a little to the right, the lit office buildings which are curious – they're sort of inbetween as far as Boston goes – and those huge big {C} ceilings, I like those. See the ones I mean, in that brilliant _____ . Even the neons don't look so bad now in the total picture. But it's nothing compared to that street in New York with all the churches {phrase underlined}. (Fifth, no signs) I think that's a good idea; some streets over here should do that.