

2009.176 preliminary translations

Letter page 1: illegible for me.

Letter page 2:

Dear children: You can imagine our pleasure on receiving your first letter from New York. I had reckoned we might be able to get news from today onward, but that we received it already yesterday was an extra special joy – Meanwhile you have received our letters. It is very quiet with us, but above all we are happy that you have been able to make the initial moves toward a new occupation. You my dear Gert, don't be too impatient, something will turn up for you. That [Kalenz ??] are so good to you is very reassuring for us. We are often together with K., at least once a week. I also see to it that here or there I take an odd errand off Mrs K hands. It is good dear Ilschen that you first acquaint yourself a little with N.Y. Gert will see what is best for you. If to begin with the living quarters are free, things will work out. Tuesday I will send the 10 - for June to K.'s address; the first you meanwhile are likely to have received. Father only gets his passport in the next days, and then he will do it right away
How are Gerhart and Ursel? How is it in her job? Two days ago we had a letter from [??] Hild [?] . She wrote that her son Peter the [5 words ??] When they heard he was from Breslau , they asked after us; he enthused only of Ilse. I enclose the address for her, she is already 6 months in N Y. ; perhaps it is somewhere near you. I don't know about that.

So far as we are concerned you need not worry; we are well. Write of every detail to us ; we are interested in everything. Franzel is doing well in school; on top of that he has private lessons in English, [one word ?] the school cost only 15 [unclear to me} ?] there. Everything, everything good and heartfelt greetings from you Mother. Many hearty greeting to you and Ursel and Gerhart .

Letter on page 3 cannot decipher writing:

Letter on page 5 and 6: Breslau 30. 7. 38.[mss date].

Dear children! This time we received your letters already on Wednesday. You can imagine how pleased we were. Since then you dear Ilse have been with Gert. It really is very nice of Mrs Lilo[?] that she let you take leave. How does Gert look? Many thanks for the pictures that greatly pleased us. You dear Ilschen look very good ,and also Jimmy is a good looking boy. God be thanked that you were so lucky. Meanwhile Fritz Schaal will have arrived, and he will tell you everything in great detail. He is of course very happy that he finally has got to this point. Yesterday Mrs. Kofner[?] called me and reported the the safe arrival of her husband. He was very disappointed that you dear Gert could not wait for him. I told him that it probably was because that you could not get leave, and now dear Gert you must decide how you explain things, but father and I think that he is well disposed toward you.

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I called Dr.[?] Nath [?] immediately on getting your letter, and he has probably already given you the mixed [?] instructions. Regarding what you dear Gert have written to us about your plans for the future I most heartily wish that it will all come to pass as you wish and in a way that you think it will be best for you both.

As for Franzel's eventual coming [?? 3 words uncertain], we spoke about this extensively with Fritz Sch. He will tell you the details. Many thanks for your loving and brotherly caring,. It is very reassuring that you interest yourself so much in Franzel's future [?] We are unfortunately not in a position to give/ send [??] him to Berlin [? Makes no sense??? I cannot read writing adequately] As for the "Lift" business we are still involved with it and have made progress by a little step. Fritz will also tell you about this . The card with the address we have meanwhile held back.

We have not found a different raincoat to the one sent . We hope soon to be able to send all the things.

Written in margin:

[Concerning the chess set, I will try to send it. Should I find white socks, we will send them along. Everything good to you and hearty greetings , your Mother.

Letter page 10 [out of sequence; half way down page on page 10; followed by page 9, left side of page.]

Dear Children:

You can imagine our pleasure when your lovely letter arrived already on Wednesday. Write to us as often as you can; your letters are always longingly anticipated. I cannot imagine why you have not received our letter punctually. Meanwhile you have had news from us. I am glad dear Ilse you are well situated. As for you dear Gert, I plead that you wait patiently for a position;[page 9 continues on left side of page]

you are protected from need by Ile's earnings . Don't fret yourself if you have not passed the examination ; next time it will go better. Take care of your health. You must first get used to the climate. You will achieve your goal, whether sooner or a bit later, is of no importance given your youth. Just now Dr, [?] Rohler was with us. He told us that he intends to leave here on the 5.7. As he said he had written directly to you , which is the right thing. ---Were you dear Solen [?] in New Jersey over Saturday, that would be good, since it is surely cooler there. Rothler said that he would be in New Jersey since he has a job there. He also explained his plans to us, which thank goodness are very fortunate ones.

I telephoned Dr. Nathan and spoke to him with you in mind. [?] : the other matter was settled. Prinz sen [?] from Strehlen are moving here on the 1.7. to the Entenberg road to Elli C. The Dr. is probably on the way to the USA. It was not easy. [No continuity; page ends.]

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Breslau 5, 8. 38. [Page 11]

Dear Children! This time we received your dear letter already on Wednesday. The mail is always a joyous day for us; and this time especially so, since you were able to write the letter together. In the meantime Fritz has arrived in New York and I assume that he has already talked to you dear Gert. He will report about us in detail since we spoke to him just shortly before his departure. I have lots of time now that father no longer has the administration of Goethe Str.

Yesterday Vera Ste [?] was at court and Tuesday will be the church wedding. So everything [?] . I gave her your letter. M. Sh. Is working at the Gymnasium and Vera with Deul [?] , so [“geht die Karre einigermassen.”]so things are working out more or less [?] . [End of page....and no more]

Breslau 27.[8. 38 [page 15 and 16]

Dear Children! This week we had no letter from you ... [but because] your lovely letter from G.S. M. was already here on Saturday and we had two letters from you last week. Meanwhile you dear Ilschen were with Gert, and I hope that you had two lovely days. When are you due to return to New York? And what about dear Gert? With us everything goes the same old regular way and our joy are your letters.

[Following info.about whereabouts of friends and relatives obviously very unclear since names are illegible to me. Apologies!]

Vera [??] spoke to Ethel G in Berlin; she [?] with relatives[?] brought the surprising news that Esther also should be in Berlin. Esther has not spoken with Vera. Ethel said that they will all stay in Berlin till October and then will go to Paris. Contrary to this Mr. [??] Tells us that Selly [?] asked about Est. at Heb [?] and was told that she was no longer in Berlin.

We still have more inquiries concerning your belongings, but there is some progress even if slow; those that take their belongings with them are dealt with first. This week [??] are finally going to London to their son.

We are often together with [?], especially father. since it is now raining a lot here and you father helps pass the old man's time. Kob[??] have little inclination to do that since their emigration is progressing with such difficulty. They were both for a week in Berlin. The financial citizen's guarantee [??] from T [?] was insufficient, and on account of this they wrote him a night letter . Last Sunday evening and Sunday the Schwarzkopfs were here; they are nice people; they complain about too much work, we could well do with some.

Grandma was very pleased with your congratulations that arrived punctually. Otherwise she has a lot of annoyances as formerly. We have received no reply to a letter we wrote to you dear parents; they also may know nothing definite. Kate Pr often calls up; have you already spoken to Fritz? I wish you everything good and send you hearty greetings . Your Mother

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Letter 17:

Breslau 13. 2. 39

Gittler, Breslau
Viktoriastr. 118.

Dear Ilse, dear Gert:

To begin with I want to thank you for your lovely and valuable birthday present . I thought you would not give me anything, since now you need every dollar. But then when the book came my pleasure was twice as great. And as for the title, we read something about "Blueberries. But we will decipher the book this year and write to you what I think of it.

My friend Posner was at the Consulate. He did not learn anything special after a ten minutes discourse except that according to the schedule of the Consulate I would be due to come over in January 1941 The consul himself declared that I would be with you at the end of this year or beginning of next year.

I am so glad that you already have a spacious place to live. Yesterday Vera Ruben informed us that you are the only physician and so on; but she would not say, who had told her. Arons knew nothing. I imagine that one of your students wrote here about it.

I received fantastic things for the birthday. To begin with from the parents a Prestocycle, a sports bicycle, the frame and the transmission with a chain a racing bicycle, but it is not differentiated by anything external. I do not need to pedal much and yet travel very speedily. Your bicycle, dear Gert, I hand over as a trade-in and get 40,00 RM for it. Then I received [indoor/house? shoes ; they cost 8,00 RM . Then, a pair of swim shoes, a wonderful pocket knife, a Universal dictionary from Langenscheidt, German – English, English – German in one. Furthermore I got an adding machine. When we play Romme, I no longer need to add up. Furthermore I received 2 batteries for a torch and one reading-lamp light bulb, one box of cigarettes (20 pieces) and a wonderful cigarette box from Rudi. It is made of wood and tilts up for opening. Then I received from Fink, Arons and Abelmann boxes of chocolates and a tie and handkerchiefs.

Many greetings from your

Brother

And brother-in-law. Franz.

Letter 21:

Single last sheet (signed) letter. Rest of letter not located.

Yesterday I spoke with Mrs. Roehler[?] in the street. She is preoccupied with preparation for moving and sends greetings.

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Just now Klara Poniner[?] has left; her son-in-law will probably also leave soon.. We now have very hot weather and have had it for a considerably long time. Yesterday Aunt Grete and Karla came by. They were in Stetin for a half day. She send greetings and would be very happy to hear something of you directly. Mr. Oswelt [?] called yesterday after [.....?]; he was surprised not to have had any direct news from you. Otherwise one day is like the next and there is nothing to report. Everything good and hearty greetings, your Mother.

Page 22:

Breslau 19.2.39.

Dear Ilse, dear Gert!

It is with great pleasure that I hear dear Gert that you are giving so many classes. I constantly have to tell Miss Mister-Griffiths about you and Ilse. When she chats with us in the last part of the lesson, she is constantly in such a state of enthusiasm about your talents. She tells us the same thing at every lesson, that you during the Tuesday circle placed yourself at the little table by the window equipped with a notebook and joined in. And under her wise guidance you practically became a perfect English man. Your special talents above all your industriousness, attentiveness. Constantly she repeats your wise statement, the more you ask me to do and teach me, the more I appreciate your class. Each time she asks me whether you appreciate her sufficiently. With your talents you would be able to earn a great deal, she said, but by means of her lessons you would be able to earn enormously. She had taken the medical expression out of her books and dictated them to you. It was only because of you that I am able to take lesson with her, for otherwise she would like a shot (one of her favorite expressions) have declined to take me on. Furthermore she said she knew that you would become a teacher over there. She did not want to tell this to you in case she insulted you. For she did not know how much you would [want to?] earn and she always felt that you wanted to practice. I could write to you at length about her. She continues about you ceaselessly and when I have listened to her stories attentively for 10-15 minutes, I merely seek to find a way to turn her off.

Furthermore, I want to congratulate you for your car. Hopefully we will[end of page; follow up pages not found]

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Letter 24:

Breslau 26. 2. 39

Dear Children!

This week we had no letter from you, and so we are still waiting to hear whether meanwhile you have made any progress. Your dear parents have also not been in touch and so we assume that they are still in Munich.

This week Mrs. Frink[?] has also been to Berlin to say goodbye to her children. -- Dinstag with his family is going to middle America. I assume that she will be returning today or tomorrow.

Father met Dr. Schein [?] two days ago, he said that he is thinking of departing beginning [?]. Kaete Pr. is going to England into a domestic position, but she has not said goodbye to us. Perhaps she will still come.

Letter 26

n.d.

Dear Ilse, dear Gert:

Once again I want to thank you that you are making it a possibility to obtain entrance permission for Cuba. We have great difficulty here because we must first settle everything with the tax offices. Tomorrow we are traveling to Schoenborn, since we must obtain proof from an employee—([wonder?] Ellfriede, I don't know if you can still remember her)=—that she paid citizen taxes. We hope inspite of the [? ? ? ?] to be able to emigrate.

I personally have taken all measures to enable me to able to stay there I eat only 3 meals and consequently have an average weight of 21/2 Kilo. Also I eat very little meat I therefore hope that you will be satisfied with me. Our room is empty because the carpenter has fetched the furniture.. Mother wants me to go with her to Kallmann, so here's hoping to see you soon, yours Francis

Page 37 and 38:

n.d. beginning missing.

I would like to have known more about Silversteins. What sort of business does Mr. S. have? Do they know Gert? What dear Ilse are your relations with the little daughter. You can write in greater detail, we are interested in everything.

Meanwhile Mr. Kallor [?] has returned; he seems to have had considerable success. Kall. Here are often together with Weigerts [?] the son has recently engaged himself, but there was no party because the father of the bride suddently had to leave on a trip. They will postpone the party; assuming they will not emigrate meanwhile.

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Have you dear Gert received the notebook? I also sent you the coat. Do you want anything else or you dear Ilschen If so, please write. I nearly forgot to answer your question dear Ilse. I am entirely satisfied with the condition [?] I go next week to Dr. Koebler and evything is O.K.

We received your letter yesterday from Leoschuetz [?] Father and mother are well. You stay well; write often and in detail, hearty greetings Mother.

Letter 39 and 40

n.d. Breslau.

Beginning missing:

It is more important that it brings you as much luck.

Truth to tell, I am glad that Illselein stayed in the job . She lives there without anxiety free and happily, ha wonderful meals, her own room, is served with everything --- whether Ilse likes to live in his fashion I do not know . Above all I imagine given American circumstances, the empty big distances, and Gert will also be very busy ----so, one way or another it is more convenient for Ilse. Apart from this you dear Gert as you demonstrated in Oberglogau may make gold out of bad luck/pitch [?] You may end up in a poor place , which the country practice may well be, It may take up all your time but on account of your talents to get on with simple people and you ability to help them in spite of unfortunate circumstances you may end up a rich man. Quite apart from the fact that America is the land of “endless opportunity” and your reputation won’t be confined to one province.

That’s all for today. I hope that Gert has already decided on a particular place , and I hope that everything good will come of it. All the best from your brother and brother-in-law. Franz

Page 43 and page 44.

Letter begins on page 44.

Dear Children: We have received your two letters. Many thanks that you write so often and in such detail. As you can imagine our thoughts are always with you. I just come from Kallmann’s and they have read the letter to me. Mrs K. writes very nicely about you two. She also writes tht Dr.K. esteems you greatly Gert. She also writes that your job dear Ilschen is not far from the home of K. so that you cn see Gert quickly. I hope that the carriage in which you must carry the boy is not too heavy Please dear Gert write to me about that. Mrs K writes that the boy is lame, then he can probably not move at all . That would be terrible. You dear Ilschen only wrote tht he had something with his legs . Please dear Ilschen if this means that [it] [moving him is heavy, take less money. But being here I know nothing ad you must not be offended if I write about this. I do know however that it is good that you dear Ilschen found a job so quickly, and work does not harm; on the contrary, you know well that I like to work ; but you must not lift things that are heavy . Please write soon about this.

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I don't know dear Gert whether you have taken on too much when you decided to take the language exam so quickly. The dialect and everything else must be very difficult. Don't be distressed dear Gert if things don't turn out well.

The planned matter regarding the small place seems to have fallen through but something else will show up. The book you asked for I today will send off to your address c/o Kallman. The 10 RM for June went off last week to K. On Tuesday father will send 10 RM to Ilse's new address. By that time he will have his requested passport.

Dear Gert, will you be catering for yourself? Keep up eating well, for working and not eating will not do. It would be good if the food would be served to you.

Page 43 [continuation of letter from p. 44]

As often as possible we are together with K. Dr. K is once more in good health. We will of course on the 3,7. be with Kallmanns upstairs and acknowledge that the doctor [?] is so nice to you. As soon as is possible I will add the coat. After a few days when you had left we wrote to the parents to say how pleased we are that they will be here over the [Himmelsfahrttage:] and they should write to us when we may expect them. But father wrote to us that they only intended to come should you still have been here.

Otherwise we have heard nothing from Leoschuetz. There is nothing to report about us. Please write a lot and truthfully, and you dear Ilschen answer my questions. Everything good and hearty greetings..... your mother.

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