

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

Mann, Klaus

o.O., 1945-05-24

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Bavaria, 24 May, 1945

Dear Uncle Heinrich,

I am writing this in a rush, just to confirm and repeat what I cabled the other day: that I have seen Goschi and Mimi in Prague.

Goschi is all right. She has lost a good deal of weight, which makes her rather more attractive. Of course, she has been having a pretty terrible time during the six years of Nazi occupation -- being a racial "Mischling" and, which is worse, your daughter. In the beginning she was put in jail, but she didn't have to stay there long. When she was free again, her main trouble was that ^{she} ~~now~~ couldn't get any job on account of her "outcast" status. But, as I said before, there is no reason to worry about her, as far as her health and mental wellbeing are concerned.

Mimi's case is much graver. She has spent the past three or four years at a terrible place called Theresienstadt, near Prague -- a kind of concentration camp or rather, some sort of restricted, Gestapo-controlled ghetto city. She must have suffered a lot and has lost all her old pep and self-assurance. I could hardly recognize her at first. Some kind of nervous stroke has paralyzed one of her legs and arms -- affecting also her face, half of which is constantly twisted. Her hair has

turned all grey, and she has become very thin -- having lived on starvation rations for a number of years. She is really in a sad condition. Yet the fact that she has survived is miraculous in itself, and under Goschi's care her health may soon improve.

Now, as for the practical side, there are of course plenty of problems and difficulties. Mimi and Goschi are completely penniless and have no resources. During the years of Mimi's absence, Goschi made her living through the sale of furniture, jewels, pictures, clothes, and so forth. (Your books and papers, however, have remained untouched.) Now they are lacking not only in cash but also in other necessities, especially clothes. I have left some money with them, but that won't last long. Mimi is very worried. Her immediate suggestion sounds reasonable enough. She begs you to write a note to Professor Dr. NEJEDLY, Minister for Education in the new Czech Government, asking him to make your Russian royalties available to your daughter. There may be other ways of handling this matter -- through Washington, or through direct contact with Moscow --; a good lawyer, for instance Mielein, should be able to furnish you with all the necessary advice. Speaking of Mielein, I'll ask her to fix up a pretty package for the two poor women -- some good things to eat and wear for them --, which may prove even more helpful and welcome than any check could be.

The address is: MARIE MANNOVA, UL. PETRA ASPELTA 25, PRAHA XV. I am sure you can write to them -- if necessary through the Czech Legation. But don't write in German! It's an unpopular language.

That's all. Congratulations on the happy survival of your child and your former wife.

Faithfully, KLAUS

Saveria, 24 May, 1945

Dear Uncle Heinrich,

I am writing this in a rush, just to confirm and repeat what I cabled the other day: that I have seen Goschi and Mimi in Prague.

Goschi is all right. She has lost a good deal of weight, which makes her rather more attractive. Of course, she has been having a pretty terrible time during the six years of Nazi occupation -- being a racial "Mischling" and, which is worse, your daughter. In the beginning she was put in jail, but she didn't have to stay there long. When she was free again, her main trouble was that ~~she~~ ^{she} couldn't get any job on account of her "outcast" status. But, as I said before, there is no reason to worry about her, as far as her health and mental wellbeing are concerned.

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