

Verbundkatalog Kalliope

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The St. Anthony

WORLD'S LARGEST COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED HOTEL

San Antonio Texas

am 7. Feber im Jahre des Unheils
1943.

*[auch nicht ohne
heißeres "hallo!"]*

Maedchen,- dass wir doch nun endlich einen erfahre-
nen Oberbefehlshaber in Afrika den unsern nennen,
einen, dem die lahmen Briten sich glaeubig unter-
ordnen muessen, da er ihnen und uns so schluessig
bewiesen, was eine Harke ist und wie man dieselbe
verschimmeln laesst! Ich werde taeglich glueckli-
cher!

Anbei mein Markenbeweis fuer Mr. Oliver; zeigt
er nicht, a), dass man mir unertraeglich mitspielt,
b.) dass ich mir denn doch nicht alles - wenngleich
das allermeiste - bieten lasse, und c.) dass eine
Maschine, die so blasse Durchschlaege fertigt, null
und nichtig ist und dass man sie wegschuetten muss?
Mein Radio ist auch nicht, what it used to be und
ich war veranlasst, mir ein anderes zu mieten, eigens
um Herrnpapa zuzuhoren, heut nachmittag. Dass dann,
komplett zur U_nzeit, First Lieutenant Molders
(Moellers?) indroppte, vorgebend, D_ich zu kennen,
und das K_avierkonzert versauend, war verbitternd,
wie das Ganze. Ciano, so scheint es, trifft alle Vorbe

*[nicht direkt "das Ganze"! Aber doch ~~das~~ das
verschiedenste!]*



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reitungen, zu unserm Empfang; war auch hoechste Eisenbahn, da doch wir unsererseits Geld und gute Worte schon so lange fuer ihn bereit halten. Dafuer hat wenigstens mein Houghton Mifflin mir sehr gluehend zugesagt, womit meine ~~AKKUEEN~~ norwegischen Aktien steilkurvig zu klettern beginnen. Hier ist es warm und huebsch und unbeschreiblich ueberfuellt; vor allen Kinos stehen die Herrn soldaten Wache, - in Schlangen, denen nicht beizukommen ist und in den Restaurants geht es sowohl drunter, als, vor allem auch, drueber, so dass es ~~um~~ die Nahrungszufuhr ~~nur~~ nur knapp mittelpraechtig bestellt ist.

Weisst Du, was Thomas Paine seinerzeit an Jefferson schrieb und worauf ich morgen im Galopp herumzureiten gedenke? ER schrieb, wie folgt:

"Everything done as an expedient grows worse every day; and in proportion as the mind ~~is~~ grows up to the full standard of sight, it dis-



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claims the expedient. America had nearly been
ruined by expediency ~~HHHHH~~ in the first stages
of the Revolution and perhaps would have been
so, had not common sense broken the charm and
the Declaration of Independence sent it into
banishment!"

Common sense her, in rauhen Mengen
und grosser Eile, wenn ich bitten darf, und bit-
ten wird man schliesslich noch duerfen? Auch um
Antwort, Nachricht, und briefliche Mitteilung sei
hiemit gebeten. Einen armen lecturer in schwulen
Verruf bringen, auf seinen Platten rumspielen
un ihn mit seinen Todfeinden in die Loge laden,
ist ~~ganz~~ sicher nicht genug. ^{Auch} ~~was~~ gedacht will
seiner werden!

Sei immerhin geherzt!

Bestenfalls

E.

(schlimmstenfalls auch!)

Erika



Mann

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San Antonio Texas

February 7th, 1943

Mr. John Q. Oliver
Transportation Manager
W. Colston Leigh
521 Fifth Avenue
New York City
N. Y.

Dear Mr. Oliver:

This is to protest - gently, but firmly. why?:

1.) When I called your office on February 1. to inquire when I would have to leave New York for my San Antonio-engagement, I was told that I would have to depart on February 4th, at 5.50 p.m. I didn't conceal, either my amazement, or my disappointment. In fact, I asked your assistant to check up and make quite sure that no other way could be found to get me here in time. I said that I had important matters to attend to in the evening of February 4th and the morning of the 5th; that I couldn't get myself to believe that it should take 3 days and 3 nights to travel from New York to Texas, when one could journey from the East to California during the same period of time. I added that it "hurt" me a great deal to be forced to leave so surprisingly early.

Nothing doing! I was assured that, whether I believed it or not, - and whether I liked it, or not; my departure on February 4th was imperative; and, of course, I yielded.

Now, to my mind, an error involving a whole day (24 hours!) shouldn't ever occur at an office whose sole job it is to excel in the reading of time tables. ~~However~~, if and when some office



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have been begged to check up, and told that a mistake must have been made, their blundering is all the more regrettable.

I arrived here on February 6th, at 7 p.m. - two full days ahead of time. Moreover, I arrived on a Saturday night, when this city is quite uninhabitable, overcrowded with soldiers on weekend-leave, so, that no hole can be found anywhere for anybody not holding a reservation. Needless to say, I didn't hold any such thing. And, had it not been for the fact that the owner of the St. Anthony whom I know well, personally, evacuated his own suite for me, I should have slept in the Park.

2.) According to your itinerary I am to leave San Antonio on February 8th, at 11. p.m: I am to change trains at 6. 15 a.m. on February 9th, to arrive in Dallas at 1.30 pm. An uncomfortable and lengthy trip indeed! But there are three through-trains which bridge the distance between here and Dallas in not quite 8 hours, whereas the vehicles you'd have me use, claim 14 hours - plus 2 hours waiting-time at the Houston-station. Obviously, I shall take one of the direct trains, and return your tickets herewith.

stand you know me well enough- I believe - to realize that I'm not in the habit of picking rows about nothing. Yet, all this is going a bit too far, even for my modest taste, and I wish you to understand that you will have to be somewhat more careful in the future. I fully appreciate your difficulties at this particular time. They are my difficulties as well, and I am quite prepared to meet them, as long as you aren't making things unnecessarily hard for me. On this trip you've been doing precisely that; ~~that~~ I earnestly hope that your itineraries will be reliable from now on.

Enclosed, please, find statement of my expenses.

As ever yours cordially