

Moravia Ostrava 25/5/1939

Dear Frau Riggi,

Thank you very much for your lovely card. I was delighted to have a sign of life from you again. How often in these sad spring days have I thought of the happy time three years ago. Our beloved Gisa! Good fortune protected her from all the worries and troubles of our lives.

I'm glad we have a few fine photos from that time, with you dear Frau Riggi facing life so glad and happy, and Gisa with such a happy face sitting in contentment on our terrace. This is yet another memory that makes our lovely home so dear to me.

And now we are about to leave this paradise in which we have been so happy. I had not thought that it would be so terribly difficult for me. I took myself to be unsentimental. And now for weeks I have been saying goodbye. This year the magnolia flowered for us for the last time, then it was the pear tree that took its leave of me in a mass of blossom, the lilacs bloomed more richly than ever before; as a last farewell, if I have time and it doesn't rain, I wander through my little garden stroking the foliage, taking leave as if from a beloved friend whom I shall never see again.

It breaks my heart! Fortunately I have little time. We don't in fact yet know when we can get away from here, let alone when we reach Palestine, as we don't yet have a certificate. We will probably first visit Franz in London, so that we can spend the waiting period with the children. I'm delighted, especially over our grandchild, over Murli. Also, it will be a great joy for me to see Lucie and Hans. Only, I worry that all this travelling here and there will be too much for my dear old husband. So on his account I would almost rather we could go direct to the children in Palestine. You will surely know that Sandor and Frida are also there. They are living in a boarding house until their shipping container arrives, when they will take an apartment. Fraulein Grünhut is still in Abbazia. Hopefully she will soon be able to join Frida. Both of them are unhappy to be parted.

We get very contented letters from my sister Ernestine in the U.S.A., but longing for her European children and brothers and sisters breaks out in every letter. Lene and her husband are remaining here for the moment, while her sons are here. The Schnops are very happy in their new native land, and our children likewise, but they worry about us.

My husband is a philosopher, and bears the fate of having to emigrate in

old age with astonishing calm and serenity. He is in good health, and insists on taking on his share of everything. We have an aim, that for the few years that are allowed or imposed, we should be with our children and grandchild. And we want to rebuild a proper home, so that the children have a parents' home again; even if it is very modest and will be small, it will be filled with love.

Now, dear Frau Riggi, I've written you a long letter. I've started chatting, just as if we were sitting together again as we did that time in May.

And now I send you heartfelt greetings from me and my husband, and I hope you will write to me sometime about yourself and your life. May you be able to be happy and contented.

*Your Adele Böhm*