CAROLA SCHAEFFER - BERNSTEIN

1936 - 1939

Berlin-Halensee.
Kurfürstendamm 103.
Jan. 13th, 36.

Rec'd
1-21-36

Dearest Totty,

Please forgive me my long silence. But when I got your last kind letter from March 13rd, I was not at all well, and I had to struggle with that miserable condition of health during the whole of summer and autumn, so that I had to leave many things undone and had to neglect my correspondence. Now I am much better again, but I only slowly get through all the letters I have to answer. I wanted so much to write to you at least for your birthday, or for X mas or the New Year - but it is the middle of January before I could carry out my good ~~intention~~ resolution. That will not say, that I have not very often thought of you.

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especially where I read in the paper of the bad accident, two of your sons had in October. What a mercy, that only one of them was hurt and not dangerously, so that I hope he is quite all right again. One of Bennett's boys had a bad accident too, as I heard from her. I wrote to her, when I got her address from you, she answered me at once and I heard from her several times since. It is so nice to take up the old connection of friendship with her. Poor thing, that she lost her husband so soon after the war. And it is very hard for her to have lost her mother last summer, to give up her London home in order to live with her aunt, who is — as it seems — no easy companion but has to be looked after. And Bennett being ill herself a good deal. She had too much trouble and sorrow, poor dear. —

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My American man still sends me paper-cuttings about you now and then, and I am sure, he is not extraordinary in what he says, as I hear exactly the same from my little Bavarian friend, Mary Betty Fitts. She wrote to me, that you are so beloved by your people - she thinks like Königin Luise! I do like to hear such things! Mary Betty is so extremely happy, that she may visit you. Of course I did not tell her before I had your answer that she might, and then she had just returned from New York to her home near Kansas City and has not been there or in Washington since. But she just wrote to me a short time ago, that she is invited to go to New York in January and might go to Washington. She hoped to be able to carry out this plan, which would only be possible if her mother was better, who has been very ill. Perhaps

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Miss Felts has been to see you in the mean-
time. I enclose some critics, which she-
sent me, perhaps it will interest you to
know something about her.

The snapshot I enclose shows you my
two daughters and Bettinas little boy.
We had a lovely time together in Tiegenberg
last summer, where we stayed together
for about 2 months — and in September
I stayed at Hamburg with Bettina (she
lives there) for a fortnight. At the end
of November her [illegible] little boy [illegible]
[illegible] and we are all very happy.

We have only Vera left staying with
us now. Gerd, our youngest boy (he is
18) left home for good on the 2nd of
January. He will enter the army on
the 1st of April, and so he had to go
through his "abiturium" in December
— instead of March — in order to be able
to go to the "Arbeitsdienst" for 3 months.
They have to do hard work there, but

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he likes it very much.

I saw your military attaché and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. Huest) shortly before they left Berlin. I wonder whether you have seen them since they returned to America.

The world has not become more peaceful in the course of last year. It was rather interesting to observe how the war between Italy and Abessinia was prepared and was sure to come, while the League of Nations made all efforts to prevent it. I wonder whether they really thought they could? My opinion is, that the League of Nations is an institution, that cannot have success, because it is against all laws of God and nature. It will never do, that one country (as England [illegible]) — as

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mighty as it may be – may think herself better and wiser – than other people – and believes to have a right – whether alone or in connection with other nations – to criticise and judge others and their doings. Just as well as no man is better or worse than another – no nation is better or worse than another. They all have their good sides and merits as well as their faults. I love England and the English people, I have good friends among them, but they have on the whole got a too high opinion of themselves, sometimes in a rather naïve way, which is a great advantage for them, especially in political life. The weapon of the League of Nations are sanctions. But are they not in

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fact another form of war ?. Those who have experienced their effect, - know that sanctions can be nearly as bad and cruel as war, and even more cruel in some ways, as - when they are applicated in a rigorous way - people die slowly, or great harm is done to their life and health for years and years. Let us hope that the Abessynian war soon comes to an end and will not spread in other directions.

It is so kind of you to ask me, whether I would like to have your book. It is up to the moment ?. Of course I should like very much to have it, to be able to read it right through. It also will give me such a

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good impression of American life. And would it perhaps be possible for you to send me a ~~number~~ copy of the November number of the U.S.A. National Geographical Society's magazine? I hope it is not a too impudent wish of mine. Please only send it, if you can get it without any difficulty. A friend of our deceased son Horst, who lives in Mexico, who still writes to me sometimes, told me in his last letter that he has taken part when very interesting excavations were made in Tabasco, Peten and Quintana Roo - Yucatan district, of which very fine photos were in the Nov. number of this magazine. He cannot obtain a copy of it himself now, in order to send it to me, as he is living in a very lonely place, many days travel from the next town. And I do not know where I could obtain it here. But please only send it, if you can get it easily. I do hope you will not let me wait for an answer as I did you this time! - Much love from yours affec'ly

Carola Schäffer Bernstein.

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January 28, 1936

Dear Carola:

I haven't yet succeeded in seeing Miss Felts because I was away when she came to Washington. I do not know just when I will be able to see her in New York, although I will try to do so before very long.

It was very nice to hear from you but I was distressed that you had been ill for such a long time and I do hope that now you are quite yourself again and will keep well right along.

The kodaks of the children are very nice. Having only one child left at home must make you feel very lonely. I had a nice visit from Bennett's son - not the one who had his arm broken, but the second boy - and the nephew of Leonie Gifford. They were only over here for two weeks but I saw a great deal of them and they are such nice boys. I wish Bennett could have come with them but she seems quite delicate. I hope that she will be better as time goes on.

Europe does seem to be less peaceful than it was and I only hope that war can be localized and that no other nations will become involved. I do not know that it is England's fault any more than it is the fault of any other country, but it does seem to be perfectly ridiculous that intelligent human beings cannot sit around a table and satisfy their needs. I know nations have to have raw material, and that some places need more workers and others are over-populated, but why this cannot be arranged in a business-like way I cannot understand. It would cost

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far less to pay for what is wanted than it does to pay for ammunition or to have one generation practically wiped out, to say nothing of the cost that deprivations at home leave us in the way of depleted populations. Sanctions may be as bad as war, but if they would stop war quickly, I would agree that it was advisable to use them. A brief period of war is better than a long period such as most wars bring us. Of course this country still feels very much detached from the rest of the world because of its size and distance, but that will not last forever. I would like to see some sane methods for settling these difficulties adopted.

I am sending you copies of all the books which I have written, and also the books which my daughter has written for children. Not that I think you will find them of interest, but perhaps some of your grandchildren might like them as they grow older. I will try to get you the National Geographic for November and send it at the same time.

Politics are complicated over here primarily because it is an election year, but, whichever way things go after next November, we will settle down to four years of a fairly steady policy.

With much love to you, I am

Affectionately,

Mrs. Carola Schaffer Bernstein
Kurfurstendam 103
Berlin, Germany

S:DD

Books sent off Dec 6th

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

The Division of International Mails says there is no provision for taking care of duty in advance in this country, and the question of whether duty would have to be paid could not be determined until they are received and examined in Germany by the German officials.

The only way to avoid having Mrs. Bernstein pay the duty (if any) would be to send the books through the State Department in care of the American Ambassador.

We have to pay duty on articles sent here from foreign countries as gifts, but we don't know what the German law may be.

Mr Magee —

Can we send three State Dept or is that an imposition when it — isn't official?

Sent through the American Ambassador 2/17/36. (6 books)

[illegible]

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5

Mr Magee –

Mrs R wants to send all these books to her friend
Mrs Bernstein
in Germany

Will she have to pay duty if they are sent as a gift

~~Supt Int mails~~
Dev. Int Postal Service
John E Lamiell

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

April 30, 1935

KANSAS CITY TIMES

IN CONCERT TONIGHT.

Miss Mary Betty Felts tonight will play her first public piano recital since her return from studies in Europe. She is the granddaughter of the late Dr. B. E. Dawson, who practiced medicine many years in Kansas City. Several members of her family are physicians and she took a pre-medical course at the University of Wisconsin, but gave up the idea of becoming a doctor in favor of music. She took her B. A. degree at Park college and is also a graduate of the Kansas City Conservatory. Mrs. Katherine Bredouw-McCartney is managing the sale of tickets for her concert tonight at the Center, 1600 Linwood boulevard.

MUSIC

Mary Betty Felts Creates Marked Impression in Her Piano Recital at the Center, Where Expressions of Pleasure and Some Surprise Greet Her Performance.

A MISSOURI girl who needed no winged helmet to make her resemble a figure out of Wagnerian music drama won a complete triumph last night in her first piano recital since her return from studies abroad. The audience that nearly filled the Center auditorium gave Mary Betty Felts a deserved ovation, but earned no encores thereby.

Nature was in a generous mood when she topped Mary Betty's fine musical gifts with a keyboard-conquering physique. Her strong and supple hands recall the now legendary hands of Adele Aus der Ohe, whose Bethoven and Liszt were among the pianistic marvels of the early years of this century.

There is in the playing of Miss Felts a marked virility rare in a woman of met with not too frequently in the playing of men. Power and speed are hers to command, also color and control. Chopin, three of whose etudes were included in her program, would have given much for such dynamic force.

The Beethoven Sonata had breadth and dignity of style; it was technically clean and sure and conveyed an unusual sense of proportion. Schumann's Etudes Symphoniques, at the outset almost too forceful, developed interesting contrasts, with occasional delicacy and tenderness. In the final variation there were charming effects in the interplay of themes, as well as some exceptionally fine phrasing.

She was happiest of all in her Schubert group, playing two of the "Moments Musical" and two of the Impromptus. There were songs of triumph all through and each was sung like a paean. By that time the pianist's mood was glowing and it apparently was easy to make the keyboard sing. Doubtless, she will be the better for further guidance from Arthur Schnabel with whom she studied in Germany. She should go far, for there is in her mental and physical endownment an unusual vitality combined with musicianship that is unfolding rapidly and brilliantly.

In the audience were many members of the Mu Phi Epsilon who generously gave her a scholarship when she went to Europe a few years ago, also Dr. John Thompson who taught her at the Conservatory, and Richard Canterbury, from whom she received her first "no-kin" lessons, following those her mother gave her as a child. That was when Mary Betty lived with her parents on a farm four miles from Odessa. The little girl rode a skittish horse into town every Friday for her lesson with Mr. Canterbury who made a weekly trip from Higginsville to meet his Odessa class.

M. K. P.

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Gerd v. Schäffer
as „Hitler Junge".

1935.

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Bettina v. Schenk with
her son Harald (3 years
old) and Wna v. Schäffer.

Liegenberg
July 1935.

LEHNSTEIN

100

January 13, 1937

Dearest Carola:

I have given a friend of mine, Mrs. Ewan C. MacVeagh, a letter of introduction to you. She goes once a year to Berlin with her husband, who has business there, and is very anxious to see something of real German people. I felt sure that you would be glad to know her, as she is really a very sweet and intelligent woman. She is younger than I am and I do not know her very well, though I know all of her family.

It was nice to get your letter written on the 13th of December, and I think it was good of you to write when you had so much anxiety.

I was so sorry to hear of the death of Nelly's husband. She sent me a notice. I think not having any children makes it particularly hard for her. I am glad she is to be near you.

I loved the picture of little Harald. He looks well now and I hope he will continue to be so.

I am sorry my nephew did not go to see you. I do not know whether he even went to Berlin at all. I haven't seen him this autumn. He entered Harvard and has been quite busy and I have not had a chance to talk with him.

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It isn't my youngest son, but my next to the youngest who will be married in June. His fiancee is a very sweet girl and I think they will be happy together.

Bennett has been ill and so has Leonie, so I am afraid that is why you haven't heard from her. Her son wrote me that she was better. I always feel that both she and Leonie have not enough to do to keep them from having one illness after another.

Every good wish that this year may be happier than the last.

Affectionately, SO

Frau Carola Schaeffer Bernstein
Kurfurstendamm 103
Berlin-Halensee
Germany

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Berlin-Halensee
Kurfürstendamm 103.
Dec. 13th 1936.

Dearest Toffy!

Again a long time lies between June 27th, when you wrote to me last — Thank you so much for your dear letter — and to-day. It is always the same: I meant to write to you long ago, but again there were so many other things to be done first and a large correspondence — but you may believe me, that I thought of you very, very often. The last months must have been a straining and exciting time for you and although, from all I heard I never doubted that your husband would be elected as president again, I was so glad when I heard he was and I send you my sincerest congratulations. I know that a great many voices have been given for the sake of the part you take in your husbands work. I am sure you will take up your great work with even more endeavour, zeal and joyfulness, having before you the time for a new 4 years-plan — certainly it would have been hard for you and the President, if the government of your country had been taken from you, because surely four years must

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even a shorter time, when they are parted than while they lie before you, especially when you want to realize big plans.

I also read in the paper, that your youngest son is going to be married. The fiancée looks so very charming. I hope she will be a very good daughter to you.

We had a very sad summer, first of all because of the death of my dear brother-in-law Kellys husband. It is especially hard for her, as she has no children and to her husband with whom she was very happy, was the centre of her life. However she is very brave and there are so many people who want her help, she thinks more of others than of herself - all this, as well as her gay and friendly character will help her to bear her loss. She lived in Breslau for the last 2 years and has taken a little flat here in Berlin now, so that we can see each other often. She means to spend the greatest part of the year in Liegenberg if possible. I am very glad to have her here before the beginning of the winter, for she would have been very lonely in Breslau where she had no any nearer friends. Our dear old governess Fraulein Kellermann is staying with her since the death

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of her husband.

Having not had any recreation during spring and summer, Bettina asked me to stay with her and little Harald at Bad Tölz in the Bavarian mountains for some weeks in September and we had a most lovely time there together. Bettina went there because Harald should stay in the mountain-air for 2 months before the beginning of the winter, after he had been so ill in spring and had to often to do with his throat. He was in terrific good form in Tölz and looked to well — I enclose a little snapshot, which I took and from which you see, that he does not look delicate — but they hardly came back to Hamburg, he again had to do with his throat and had fever. Hamburg has an abominable climate for children of his constitution and also Bettina cannot stand it very well however the likes to live there and they must live there. And November has been terrible this year, so rainy and always wet and nasty weather, so that there were many illnesses, influenza and so on, also here in Berlin. Now they are all well again in Hamburg and I do hope they will stay so, as we intend to go

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there for a few days at Christmas. I should love to be with the grandchildren in those days, you know Christmas is the festival in Germany, where we want to be with our family, where one likes to have all children and grandchildren around one - it is the festival of the children. Arnold cannot come from London this year but Vera and Gerd will come with us to Hambourg. Christmas-eve we will spend here, so that we can have Nelly with us and also my mother-in-law, who is nearly 92 now.

Gerd is still in Rathenow. He has the first rather difficult months of his military service behind him and will go to the "Kriegsschule" at the beginning of January. It would be nice if he came to Potsdam, which is so near from here.

I am sorry, that your nephew J. Parrish Roosevelt, of whom you told me that he would perhaps come to Berlin, has not been here. I thought, that perhaps he would come for the Olympiade. However I understand, that young people are not very keen on paying visits to "old ladies". And if he was here during the Olympiade I know he had no time to look me up. Arnold was here with an English friend and

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many other young people came and went — it was a pity, Nuse was not here during the time, but she was at Ziegenberg for 3 months, the lovely country life, although she was very lonely there, this year but she did not want to leave Ziegenberg earlier for the sake of the Olympiade. There was so much going on in those days and many interesting things to see besides the marvellous performances, of which I also saw several — the whole organisation and traffic and to see interested me so much.

I am glad to hear from you that our farm representatives made such a good impression at the meeting of the Associated Country Women, and also that you say, that you are of the same opinion as I am, that we must try to carry on mutual understanding. For this those meetings are good opportunities. So much good will is at work to bring about connections between the different nations. It gets clearer and clearer I think, that it is not a fight between the nations, but between the two different points of view in the world: Bolshevism and Nationalism (in its good meaning) — Christ and

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Antichrist. The poor people in Spain, what have they to go through and other countries (and perhaps we all), what will they have to suffer, if the world does not realize, that Bolshevism is a wicked thing? Of course money is a good thing, as you say, if it is in the right hands, who use it to do good with it. But it is a wicked thing, where people cannot get enough of it. It was always like that in the world and I am afraid it will always be like that. And I am sure, that behind all the terrible quarrels under which the world is suffering now more than at any other time stands the armament industry, which stirs the quarrels, in order to profit from it.

I also think, it is not right to draw in the own shell, as many countries like to do now. We depend too much from one another. But the difficulty is, that there is often a lack of good will to understand one another. Each nation thinks that its own way is the best, criti-

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cies the other and is afraid to give up too much of its own rights.

In this time full of worries the resignment of the King of Great Britain is very deplorable, and hardly to understand, if it only were because of a woman. I do hope, it will have no bad consequences for the British Empire nor for the whole world.

It is a very long time since I heard from Bennett. I am afraid, she is in a very miserable state still, poor dear. If one only could help her.

Now I send you my very best wishes for you and your whole family for a happy Christmas and New Year.

Much love

from Carola

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

100

March 4, 1937

Dearest Carola:

It was nice to get your letter, but I was very sorry to hear that you had sinus trouble, for that is what we call what you have had. It certainly is trying and we find here that a warm climate is usually the best cure.

I am glad to be able to tell you that Bennett seems to have discovered what has been the trouble all these years which gave her such bad headaches. Something was wrong with her spine. You are right that the disposition she has has always made whatever troubles came to her much harder, but I hope both she and Leonie will come through these difficult times and be able to enjoy better health during the balance of their lives. The boys are perfectly delightful. Both of them have been over here and I enjoyed having them very much indeed. It is a long time since I have seen Bennett. The last time was when I took the two boys to Europe in 1929.

You were kind to be interested in the floods in this country when you have so many things at home to worry about. As a matter of fact, whatever happens to us here has such gigantic proportions, because our rivers are so large and everything is on such a big scale. Some day, through a long-time program, I hope we can keep people from suffering as they have suffered this past winter.

It has been a curious winter, with very little cold and snow in the east and a great deal in the west.

Every country is fortunate, however, not to be going through what Spain is going through. We are doing our best to keep our own nationals out, except as help may go to the unfortunate sufferers through the Red Cross.

I did hear from your friend, Mary Betty Felts, but have heard nothing for some time and I do not know whether she is in the east or not.

Every now and then some of the old Allenwood girls turn up, but I haven't seen any very lately.

Every now and then some of the old Allenswood girls turn up, but I haven't seen any very lately.

Our social season is pretty well over here, which is always a relief, and I am starting off on a lecture trip which will take me for a few days into the State of Texas, where Elliott and his wife now live. Later in the spring I hope to fly to Seattle where my daughter and her husband and children are now living. Our distances are so great in this country it is rather hard to keep in touch with one's children when they depart to very distant places.

We celebrated John's twenty-first birthday last Sunday. He is the youngest and

will not actually be twenty-one until the 21st of March, but we will not be together at that time, so it seemed wiser to celebrate it when we could have the family party.

Franklin, Jr., our next older boy, is again back in college and we hope will graduate in June. He will be married to Ethel DuPont the 30th of June.

I have now given you all the family news and hope this will find you well and happy.

Affectionately,

SO

Frau Carola von Schaeffer BERNSTEIN
Berlin

Berlin-Halensee
Kurfürstendamm 103.
Febr. 16th 1937.

Dearest Totty,

Thank you so much for your dear letter from Jan. 14th. I shall be so pleased to see Mrs. Mac Teagh here. It will be so nice for me to speak to somebody, who has seen you not long ago. I am glad, Mrs. Mac Teagh has not come yet, as I have been sitting at home the last 4 weeks and had to stay in bed for a fortnight with a very silly "Stirnhöhlen catarrh" (inflamation in the caves over and underneath the eyes) but it is much better now and I hope to be allright again in a few days.

Poor Bennett that she is always ill. Hers is a very hard fate, that she lost so soon those she loved most. I remember how she suffered from the death of her father, when she was a girl and years had passed since her father

had died. I think it is in her character that if she cares for someone, her feelings are very strong and true ones, and consequently she suffers more than many others do when she looses one of those she loves most. As far as I know, she must have been very happy with her husband. And now, although Connie Gifford seems to have been a great comfort to her during all these years, it must be a rather miserable life since both of them are ill alternately or together. And to have to look after an old aunt besides, who seems to be weak-minded from age (I don't know, whether one can say this in English) must be a very difficult task, the more so as English mothers see so very little of their sons, as soon as they go to a boarding school and then go to the university, or enter the army - young people always bring life in the house. Of course it is the fate of parents to see their children "fly from the nest" when they are grown up - it must be so - but this is not so perceptible for those who stand in the middle of public and society life and have many tasks which bring them in contact with other people, than for those who have to lead a very retired life. When did you see Bennetts

last? Have you ever been to Europe since the war?

We went to Hamburg for a few days at X mas with Wua and Gerd and had a very nice time with Bettina and her family. I enclose a snapshot of the 2 boys. don't they look very jolly! Harald again was ill in January, Bettina is again in the Bavarian mountains with him now, where they have snow and sun and I hope, it will do them good. Do tell me more of your children and grandchildren, when you write to me again. don't you miss the children of your daughter dreadfully, after having had them near you for so long?

With greatest sympathy we read of the most awful flood-catastrophe in your country. There seems to be more woe and sorrow in the world than ever — not only caused through the mighty forces of nature, but also through men themselves, who destroy one another and so many works of culture and art besides created in hundreds of years. Poor Spain! If only they succeed to get the Bolshewics out of their country. This is a very important question for the whole world. But

it will take some time until the civilized world recognises, that Bolshevism is a poison, not a form of government or a "Weltanschauung" and until all countries stand up against it together and try to get that poison out of the world.

Our son Arnold – who is still in London – has gone to Switzerland for some weeks for skiing and he probably will come to Berlin on his way back for a few days, as he has business here. He could n't come at Christmas.

Have you heard anything of Mary Betty Felts? I have not heard from her for a very long time, in fact I think since she wrote me that most enthusiastical letter after having seen you.

I often see another Allenswood pupil now, Gräfin Schlieffen, née Quistorp. She was n't there with you, as she is about 6 or 7 years younger than we are. But perhaps you remember your sister Emmy v. Quistorp, which you probably have known as she was in Allenswood, when Nelly was there. And last summer I met quite by chance another Allenswood "girl": I think she was from Bruxelles and married a german medecin, but I forget her girl's name. She also was there much later than we. – Now good bye for to-day, dear Totty.

Much love from Tours after by Carola.

100
BERNSTEIN

File
ans

Berlin-Halensee
Kurfürstendamm 103
July 11th 1937

C. S.

Dearest Totty,

I read in the paper that you intend to go on a trip to Italy and Austria. Would n't it be possible to pass through Germany on your way back and visit us in Ziegenberg? I am going there for about 2 months the day after to-morrow. Nelly is there since April. We would both be so pleased to see you, if it were only for a few days. If you want to stay incognito I promise you that nobody need know anything of your being in Germany. Ziegenberg is a tiny village where nobody would recognise you from pictures or so and the few people in our household (we lead a very simple country life there) would be told that you are an English school friend of mine and need not know your name. The next railway-station to Ziegenberg is Bad Nauheim (10 Km distance) where you could get a taxi or motor-car, as we have none ourselves to fetch you. Or if you prefer to fly, you could fly to Frankfort, from where it is about an hour's drive by motor car to Ziegenberg (40 Km). Do think of this plan, please. It would be so nice to see you again after all these years and to talk of old times — and of new ones too! My address there is: Schloss Ziegenberg über Butzbach Oberhessen

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

I have still to thank you for your letter from March 4th. I am sorry that your friend of whom you told me in your letter before, has not been to see me. Probably she had no time. That is always so, when people come to Berlin.

I am so glad, that Bennett seems to be a little better now, at least she wrote to me and told me so in April. I hope you enjoyed your lecture trip and your visits to your different children. Perhaps you had them all together at your son's Franklin's wedding.

Bettinas two little boys will also come to Siegenberg next week, and I am looking forward to staying with them for some time, as I see them rather seldom.

Please forgive when I only send you these few lines to-day, but I have still got a lot to do before my departure. I am looking forward to see you soon! It would be so lovely if it were possible!

Much love from your old friend

Carola

I read a very interesting article in a German newspaper today. Im Amerika Roosevelts.

Bernstein

Fr. Schaeffer

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

February 14, 1938

1 C D
Bernstein

Dearest Carola:

How nice of you to send me the newspaper picture of Franklin and Ethel from your paper. They had a most delightful time abroad and so did my mother-in-law.

There is no law in this country which would prevent my going to any foreign country, but it would be rather difficult and custom has more or less made it a habit that neither a President nor his wife shall go very far from our native land during the President's term of office. We both have been to Canada and my husband went to the South American Conference, but Europe would be a little more difficult because they would probably feel that even a relative must have a certain amount of official attention which would make visiting or traveling very uncomfortable for me.

I am so glad you had such a happy time in Ziegenberg last summer. My husband says it is not far from Mannheim and that in his youth he used to walk past an old ruined castle bearing that name. Is that anywhere near your property?

How wonderful for your husband to have kept his mother until her ninety-third year and to have had her still in possession of all her faculties. It is sad to have holidays such as Christmas clouded by memories of sorrow, but in this case I should think she must have been fairly content to go and, as you say it was peaceful, your husband must have been fairly reconciled.

That was a horrible airplane accident in which so many of the family of Hesse were killed, and the story which you tell is extremely interesting.

ORIGINAL RETAINED FOR PRESERVATION

I haven't had Miss Felts play at the White House because Mr. Junge, who arranges all the concerts, feels she was not quite up to the standard which he tries to preserve. I have told him that I really want her and to try again now that she has given concerts. I am happy that she is going to be married.

"Bennett" still seems to be in poor health but I had a long letter from Leonie Gifford who sounds much more cheerful and practically recovered. I hope "Bennett" will also be well again soon. She has two such fine boys and I feel she could have a pleasant life if she were well.

Our youngest son, John, will be married in June to a very attractive young girl, and I think they are well suited to each other. Anna was not well before Christmas so I flew out to the West Coast to be with her for a few days.

We are having our usual ups and downs that come to every Administration during the Congressional Session, but my husband feels that things are going fairly well.

With all good wishes to you and yours,

I am

Affectionately,

Frau Carola Schaeffer Bernstein
Kurfurstendamm 103
Berlin-Halensee
Germany

S:DD

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Dearest Carola -

How nice of you to send me the newspaper picture of Franklin & Ethel from your paper. They had a most delightful time abroad & so did my mother in law.

There is no law in this country which would prevent my going to any foreign country but it would be very difficult & custom has more or less made it a habit that neither a Pres nor his wife shall go very far from our native land during the Pres's term of office. We both have been to Canada & my husband went to the S. Amer. conference but Europe would be a little more difficult because they would probably feel that even a relation must have a certain amount of official attention which would make

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

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We are having our usual ups + downs that come to every one during the long period but my husband feels that things are going fairly well.

With all good wishes to you + yours

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ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Berlin-Halensee
Kurfürstendamm 103.
Jan. 31st 38.

Rec'd 2-14-38

Dearest Totty,

Again a long time has passed since I got your last nice letter. Thank you ever so much for it. Of course it was very silly of me, believing the news of your travelling in Europe, as I know that you may not leave your country as long as your husband is in office. But I thought, it might be possible that this law had been altered. So I must patiently wait for a future time to see you again.

Your letter reached me in Riegenberg, where I stayed for 3 months last summer and had a lovely time. As I understand you also spent a good deal of your time in summer at your old home on the Hudson? Nelly was in Riegenberg from April

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until November, my two grandsons stayed with us for 2 months, Bettina and her husband also came for a fortnight, Arnold came over from London for a few days and my husband and Gerd, our youngest son, came end of September for their holidays. It is a very good thing to have such a place, where the whole family can meet and have a holiday together.

From October until Christmas we had a very nice American girl staying with us, who has been here before studying social institutions, Miss Emily Hammond from Baltimore. I think it was about 4 years ago, when I made her acquaintance she also stayed for some time with us then. She is travelling all over Europe now, to study welfare work and social institutions in the different co
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different countries. I think she will return here, before going back to America, perhaps you will see her some day. She is a cousin of the Polkes (Frank Polk), whom you know well, as she tells me.

I hope your sons enjoyed their trips to Europe. I found such a nice and jolly picture of your son Franklin and his young wife in a paper and enclose it here.

We had a sad Christmas time this year through the death of my mother-in-law, who died on the 26th of December, one day before her 93rd birthday. However we must be grateful that she had not to suffer for a long time. She caught cold a fortnight before Christmas, but it was not very bad, only a bronchitis, which she seemed to overcome. She had been fairly fresh for her age and mentally absolutely clear to the last. Only 3 or

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

4 days before Christmas we had to take a nurse for her, because her condition got worse. Although she suffered from lack of breath the last few days, her end was like the dying out of a light and was so peaceful. The funeral was in Darmstadt, where she was born and had lived all her life until we had brought her here in a home four years ago. She was buried, as she had wished it, in the grave of her husband, who had been wounded near Gravelotte in August 1870 and died a few weeks later on their third Wedding-day! So she had been a widow for more than 67 years and my husband was her only child. So of course mother and son were very nearly connected and my husband suffers very much from this loss although — or perhaps just because — he had her longer than most people have their mother. I had the impression that her death was somehow connected

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

with the terrible aeroplane-accident of the hereditary granddukes of Hesse and his family. She got these news in the moment, when she had not been quite well and was here in Berlin in the hospital for a few days. She was so distressed over the tragic fate of this charming family - she had well known the old Granddukes who just had died 5 weeks before the accident and who was exactly as old as my husband, so that they had often been together as children and my husband was his "Flügeladjutant" when we married, and she had also known his parents - that this sorrow took very much on her nerves, ~~that~~ ~~she~~ and did n't get back her forces as she had used to otherwise. We all were deeply impressed of this fearful accident. A whole beautiful and happy family destroyed

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

in one moment. But it was provoking fate, to fly over the Channel at this time of the year, they had been warned from all sides and the young duchess was expecting a baby. It is strange how sometimes a word – in this case spoken by a child – is fulfilled years after. When the last granduke (who died last October) was five years old his little brother died and he said to his mother, princess Alice, : « I do not want to die quite alone, when I die you must all come with me! » (Princess Alice wrote about it to her mother the Queen of England and this letter has been published with others of hers after her death) And now nearly the whole family of the child who spoke these words about 64 years ago, followed him in death five weeks after his own. —

Our son Arnold was here at X mas

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He will now stay in London only for another 2 months and then get a position at Siemens' here in Berlin. Gerd has, in the meantime become lieutenant and will have to go to his regiment next week. Hitherto he has gone through a course, quite near from Berlin, so that he could come home every week-end. But it is good for young people of that age – he is 20 now – when they have to live further away from home and stand on their own feet.

A few days ago I had a letter from Mary Betty Telts, of whom I had not heard anything for nearly 2 years. Her letter sounds very happy. In February she is going to marry "The most wonderful man in all the world" as she writes! A writer, Van Ms. She seems to be a bit disappointed, that she has not been asked yet to

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

play in the White House, as you had promised her to speak to Mr. Junge about it, who arranges the musicals in the White House and who told her, that he had not heard anything about it from you. But Miss Tilt tells not to believe him.

I sometimes hear from Bennett, but I am sorry, that her health is still so very bad, poor thing.

I hope to hear from you again before too long.

Much love from yours affly

Paola Schäffer Bernstein.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

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June 12, 1938

My dear Carola: Bernstein

I have just received the announcement of your son's engagement to Fraulein Leonie Zollner. I hope that you are very happy and that they will have a long and happy life together.

Cordially yours,

MEINE VERLOBUNG MIT FRÄULEIN LEONIE ZÖLLNER, TOCHTER DES HERRN FRIEDRICH ZÖLLNER UND SEINER GEMAHLIN MARIA, GEB. ODENDALL, BEEHRE ICH MICH ANZUZEIGEN.

ARNOLD FREIHERR SCHÄFFER V. BERNSTEIN

BERLIN, IM JUNI 1938
KURFÜRSTENDAMM 103

SONNTAG DEN 5. JUNI

, Berlin XW 7.

Cath
6/12/38

DIE VERLOBUNG IHRER TOCHTER LEONIE

MIT ARNOLD FREIHERRN SCHÄFFER V. BERNSTEIN

BEEHREN SICH ANZUZEIGEN

FRIEDRICH ZÖLLNER UND FRAU MARIA

GEB. ODENDALL

KÖLN, IM JUNI 1938

SEDANSTRASSE 35

EMPFANG PFINGST

August 3, 1938

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Dear Carola:

I am giving this note of introduction to a friend of mine, Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes, who expects to be in Germany for some time. I know you will enjoy meeting her.

Affectionately,

Frau Carola Schaeffer Bernstein
Kurfurstendamm 103
Berlin-Halensee
Germany

S:DD

August 3, 1938

My dear Mrs. Keyes:

I am enclosing a letter of introduction to Frau Carola Schaeffer Bernstein and I hope you will have a chance to stay with her. As I told you I have not seen her since I knew her in school, but judging from her letters I am sure you will find her a most interesting person. I know your book will be fine and hope that you will get a good rest as well as material for the book.

Affectionately,

Mrs. Frances Parkinson Keyes
Pine Grove Farm
North Haverhill, N.H.

S:DD

July 28 –
1938 –

PINE GROVE FARM
NORTH HAVERHILL, N. H.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt.

I can't tell you how much I enjoyed my luncheon with you! and as for my faithful old housekeeper, who has stood by me through thick and thin, it will be her most treasured memory until her dying day! You have added another very kind deed to the many with which your recording angel must be really occupied –

I have purposely delayed writing you until I could tell

2) for something definite about my plans: I have now arranged to sail on the "Batory" of the Gdynia - american line - the line we discussed - on August 10th - an old friend who lives in this vicinity, Jean Darling, is going with me, and as she has had some experience, both with secretarial work and in driving a car, she can relieve my mind about these details - and many others - I shall go direct to Danzig, and from there into the country in East Prussia; then on to

Berlin - I should like immensely to have a letter to your friend there of whom you told me, for if I could stay for a time at her house, and learn something of her experiences and impressions, this would be invaluable to me - I believe I have an interesting piece of work ahead of me, and I hope "The Great Tradition" will be a bigger and better book than "Paris Without." I really believe it can do something towards awakening a sense of the benefits of a democracy.

We had a beautiful drive home, reaching here, after an hour's stop for supper in Rutland, at eleven o'clock. So it was an easy run as well as a delightful one. Here I am engulfed with responsibilities, which have some difficult and tragic aspects; but on the whole I feel hopeful about their outcome - I shall be here until sailing time; then my general address in Germany will be care of the American Embassy, though I will keep Sumner Welles informed in detail as to my movements. With affectionate regards always, Faithfully yours, Frances Parkinson Keyes

October 13, 1938

Dearest Carola:

I was glad to get your letter and so sorry to hear you have had such a bad time with your finger and that you have also been worried about Arnold and his fiancee. It is hard when our young people have troubles of this kind but it is so much better to discover before you get married that you do not get on than afterwards.

I was so sorry to hear of your great anxiety over Nera. What a terrible experience to have had her ill for such a long time. Anything of the nature of an infection is always terrifying. I am glad the summer did her so much good and that she got well so fast. My Jimmy did have a serious operation but he is well on the road to recovery and at present is in Southern California on a ranch.

I am glad your boys liked Bennett's boys. We liked them so much when they came over here. Bennett seems to be better again and I hope she will improve from now on.

I agree with you that nobody wants war and except perhaps for a few individuals nobody profits from war. The problems of peace are only complicated by an effort to settle them by force, and I think on the whole the people of the world are ready to talk things over honestly and settle them by compromise.

My best wishes to you and yours. I wish that some of my friends had seen you as I would have had news of you, but I can well imagine that you haven't had much time for greeting strangers this year.

Much love,

Mrs. von Schaffer-Bernstein
Ziegenberg
Butzbach-Oberhessen, Germany

T:DD

Schloss Ziegenberg
über Butzbach
Oberhessen
27. 9. 38.

Ackd 10.13.38

My dear Totty,

I should have written to you long ago and to have thanked you for your letter from February 14th and for your kind wishes to Arnold's engagement. But these last months were filled with all sorts of difficulties, illness and so on, that I could not find time for writing letters.

But now in these days, where one does not know what the next day will bring and where the political sky is full of dark clouds, I must just send you a line to tell you how very sorry I am, that I missed two visitors, who wanted to bring me greetings from you. I should have so much liked to see them and to have had direct news from you through them. As I was absent from Berlin, your friend, Mrs. Keyes got my address here and we arranged her coming to see me here at Ziegenberg. We already had fixed the day, about 10 days ago, when the political situation got more serious and her friends advised her as she told me in a letter, to cross the border at once. It was such a pity! And she would have got safely out of Germany a few days later just as well.

The second letter came from Mr. Pickett only a few days ago, who also had tried to see me in Berlin and then went on to Vienna, Basle Geneva and suggested, whether I could meet him at Innsbruck yesterday! But that was impossible. It is a rather long journey from here for European circumstances and I would not have reached him there any more neither. I was extremely sorry to hear from him, that

your son James has been severely ill after an operation. I do hope, he is well again now. I only know too well this anxiety when a child is so ill and had to go through it too this year.

After quite a small operation – the professor said, she would be at home again in 8 or 10 days – Vera got a very bad "septis" on the 9th day and had to stay in the hospital for 10½ weeks! The heart was badly affected, the illness was very painful and for weeks it was very severe. But thanks God, she overcame it and end of May we came here with her and she recovered astonishingly quickly. I also sent her to a professor to Nauheim (which is quite near from here) who made all possible "Untersuchungen" that the modern science has in such case. Her heart was found absolutely in order again, the only must be a bit careful during some months not to overstrain herself.

We then had some lovely weeks here in Zieger. berg. Bettina also spent 4 weeks with us here and her 2 boys stayed for 3 months. In the middle of July I went to Berlin just for a few days as I thought. I hardly got there when I got a very bad blood-poisoning at my right middle finger through a thorn which I had got in to it in the wood. The finger had to be cut in its whole length and I had to stay in the hospital for nearly a fortnight and after that I had to go to the hospital every 2nd day to have it bandaged and could only return here at the beginning of September. It still is not quite well yet, but I must be glad to have the finger still, although I am afraid it will remain stiff and crooked. But it very easily could have got much worse. During these weeks my thoughts were very much taken up with another thing: there were growing difficulties between Arnold and his fiancée, who is

a roman catholic, but had promised Arnold to get become protestant. The wedding was to be at the beginning of September. And the nearer the day came the more difficulties she made, also her character showed in a way, that it was a great disappointment to Arnold, who had known and loved her for 4 years. So he at first postponed the wedding and now he dissolved the engagement. I am very glad he did, as they never would have been happy together. He had seen too little of her in all those years, as she lived in Cologne, where he had made her acquaintance, when he lived there for some time. But he afterwards lived in London for 3 ½ years. He there made the acquaintance of Bennett and her boys, who must be charming fellows. Arnold has seen a good deal of John during the last weeks he was in London. It was a pity they did not know each other sooner. It was not possible as Bennett was so often ill and could not receive Arnold therefore. Gerd also spent a fortnight holiday in London in February and saw Bennett and her boys, whom my boys liked very much - the mother as well as the sons!

I just see in your letter from February, that your husband remembers Ziegenberg from his youth, when he was in Mannheim. It was not just a ruined castle, only in a very bad state when my father bought it in 1897. I was then a child. But think how funny: by old papers, which were here in the house, we found out, that my husband is a descendant of the former proprietors a Fürstenstein. Dicke zum Fürstenstein. We all love this place dearly - it is our „Heimat" and it is so good to

in the country
have such a place where the family can meet
and feel at home together. I enclose a view
of our house and the little village at its foot.

It is so good of you to want Mrs Tilts play
in the White House. I could quite imagine that
she was not quite up to the standard of concerts
given there and that it is difficult to take someone
who is not quite fit. But I suppose she has improved
since I heard her. I have not had of her news
since she is married. That was in February.

And now I do hope, that the dark clouds of
which I spoke in the beginning of this letter
will pass. Nobody wants a war. But there are
always bad forces at work in the world, which
want to provoke it. May it be prevented. We
have such glorious, sunny autumn days
just now, so full of peace and quietness in
our little valley, that one can hardly imagine,
that there is so much sorrow and fighting
going on in the world and we all can be
involved in it in a short time. May God
beware us!

With all good wishes for your soon recovering
and much love to you

Yours affectionately

Carola Schäffer.

Harald v. Bernhard
v. Schenk
(Bethmessons)
Ziegelberg
1938

Schloß
Ziegenberg
über Butebach
(Oberhessen)

100

September 6, 1939

Dear Carola:

Your last letter, written on August 19, has just come to me and I realize even more how terribly sad you are, for evidently Arnold had meant a great deal to both you and his father. Anything as sudden as his illness seems to have been is a doubly hard blow.

I cannot say that I feel the present situation had a parallel in 1914. All of us, of course, are appalled at plunging the European continent into war, but I do not think there is any bitterness toward the German people in this country. There is an inability to understand how people of spirit can be terrified by one man and his storm troops to the point of countenancing the kind of horrors which seem to have come on in Germany, not only where the Jews are concerned, but as in the case of the Catholics and some of the liberal German protestants.

I say this with knowledge, because I have actually seen many of the people who have reached this country from concentration camps. I realize quite well that there may be a need for curtailing the ascendancy of the Jewish people, but it seems to me it might have been done in a more humane way by a ruler who had intelligence and decency.

The radio makes a tremendous difference because one can actually hear these leaders make speeches, and I listened, knowing enough German, to Mr. Hitler's speech to the Reichstag. He never mentioned that there was a God whom we are supposed to have, nor did he

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

show the slightest sympathy for the people whom he had plunged into war. There was a certain triumphant note through the whole of it which was never heard from the leaders of other nations.

You are wrong if you think the people of this country hate Germany. That is not so, but they do hate Hitler and Nazism because of the evidences that have been placed before them. I do not think either France or England was anxious for war and I think that was shown by the fact that their first planes dropped no bombs but propaganda leaflets. They could easily have killed women and children in the same way that women and children have been killed in Warsaw and other Polish cities.

You who believe in God must find it very difficult to follow a man who apparently thinks he is as great as any god. I hope that we are not facing another four years of struggle and I hope that our country will not have to go to war, but no country can exist free and unoppressed while a man like Hitler remains in power.

I shall be thinking of you and yours with great sympathy until these horrors are passed.

Affectionately,

SO

Frau Carola Schaffer
Ziegenberg
uber Butzbach
Oberhessen
Germany

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Schloss Hegenberg
über Buchach
Oberhessen
August 19th 39.

My dear Tolly,
Thank you so much for your kind sympathy in our deep grief. I would have written to you sooner but I did not feel very well, when we came here end of May and the moment I got better I had the misfortune to break my arm, just slipping on the floor in the room. Although it was the left one, I was very much hindered in everything. It happened nearly 7 weeks ago and is not quite alright yet, as it was broken in several places. However: what are such pains against those which one has to suffer at the loss of a second so loving and so hopeful son as Arnold was? It is as if we had lost

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

our dear Horst for the second time, as Arnold had always tried to supply his brother's place as well as he could. We had had so little of him yet, his having been away from home for nearly 8 years, during which time we have seen very little of him. Having returned to Berlin for good in spring 1938 and after he had got over the difficulties of his silly engagement, we had such a perfectly happy winter together. We had so many common interests, also his father enjoyed it so much to be able to speak about so many things with a son who had seen something of the world and of life, we all harmonized so well, as I think is very seldom as the young generation generally looks at things from a different point of view and especially fathers and sons so often cannot quite understand each other. In short: it was a perfect life — probably too

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prospect for this world to last long.

It all came so suddenly. Arnold had been for a skiing holiday and came back on Easter Monday radiant the picture of health and joy of life, full of plans for the future and for his work. A fortnight later he went to the dentist's first for the yearly control he did not feel the least pain. The dentist found some pus under one of the back teeth (wisdom tooth we call it) and he extirpated the tooth. Immediately after the extraction he had terrible pains the whole mouth and the glands got swollen, so that he could not swallow nor hardly speak and the fever rose from hour to hour. It was a terrible night. Early next morning he was brought to the hospital in treatment of a specialist, who was of the same opinion as the dentist — a very good dentist, whom we have already for more than 30 years. That it was an abscess, which might be cut in one or 2 days. After 2 days the mouth and throat were so swollen, that

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

Arnold was in danger to be suffocated and the professor had to make a cut in the air-tube. He then saw that it was n't an abscess but a spreading "phlegmone". He hoped that he had been able to stop it. But on the forth day another operation was necessary. Yet there was no possibility to save our dear boy's life, although also a blood-transfusion was made. He died 4 days exactly after the extraction of the tooth.

Whether there has been made a mistake by the doctors or what else was the cause of this sudden destruction of a young life — I do not know. It is like an accident. It must have been God's will to take us this second son, or else He would not have let it occur. But it is hard to bear, — very, very hard, dear Totty. Yet we must try to stick to the conviction: "We know, that to those who love God, all things are for their best."

There is so much sorrow and distress

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

...in the world just now, so much rumour of a coming war, - more than in July 1914. But the whole constellation, the hate against our country is very similar to then. Why did we have the great war and have seen that no good has come out of it for any country, if we do not succeed in coming to better conditions between the different nations without a war? And if there will be a war, it will be the same as it has been with regard to the question, who has been guilty of it - and will be said, that it is only Germany's fault, because meanings have always differed and will always differ about what is an offensive and what is a defensive war.

Besides it will never do to interfere in the affairs and belongings of another country, and especially not

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

in those of another continent, as no nation can understand another entirely. No nation is better than another and none is worse than another. None has the right to judge over another, or to try and punish it for doings, it himself dislikes. The democracies would like to do this with Germany and I ask myself how this is consistent with real democracy which wants to guarantee to everybody his own free will. There is so much good will on all sides, but again and again it is destroyed or turned in its contrary by evil forces. There was much good will and noble aims in Wilsons 14 points in 1918. But what has become of them? And when Wilson saw it, how cruelly did he suffer until his death, without being able to help or settle things so as he had meant it. What a fate! How terrible if a similar drama would occur for the second time and be a

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shock to the whole world, instead of giving it real peace, as all people wish it.

When one has gone through such heartbreaking experiences as I just have, one looks on all things from a wider point of view. This is why I can speak to you so openly about these things and that I am sure, you feel that it is from true friendship which can bridge different points of view, that enables me to speak to openly. The good in the world can only be furthered by love and love and friendship belong together and last forever -- while all that comes from hate cannot lead to anything good. Unfortunately and strangely it sometimes is very difficult to distinguish motives of love and of hate. There is a great deal of hatred in your country against us — comprehensible hating — but do try not to listen to it only, even

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION

if you think it is love that makes you bitter. But do try to understand the other side too.

I do hope that peace will be maintained and fostered soon and that some day it will be possible for us to see each other and speak to each other about all these things.

Much love from your old friend

Carola.

ORIGINAL RETIRED FOR PRESERVATION