

Dearest Juliettchen!

We have been separated for almost half a year, and fear sometimes creeps over me, that we might become estranged and our memory pictures might fade. Granted, you have guarded against it as much as possible by your industrious writing and drawing, but I know that one cannot express by writing all and everything, especially not the most intimate and secret. Unless, of course, one is specially talented in this direction and and is making a real effort. Therefore I am yearning often to be with you, to be able to talk face to face. This yearning will probably not be stilled in the near future, may I say : I hope not! since it is surely better for you to stay away for a while, from the now very different Vienna. It wouldn't give you any opportunity for development or further education, no matter how painful the separation from Mutti and all of us might be for you. On the other hand, we, at least, can be spiritually and intellectually close, as long as we know very much about each other, especially of the everyday life, as it runs on. Let me do the start. I'm an old, from his work separated pensioner, who is leading a leisurely existence, much like a cow lying in the pasture, chewing her cud, who shakes her head when the flies are getting too pesty, in my case - the newspaper contents, starts to shake the head, scratching the skin while deliberating whether to change location, but finally stays in the old spot.

The specific parts of the cud-chewing are as follows:

Most of the time, around 7:30 am, a delicious coffee is being brewed by me for Mutti and me and sometimes Ellen. Then the newspaper is fetched and the mail being anxiously awaited, it arrives around 9-9:30. Then, depending on joy or disappointment, the toiletries. Two, three times a week, meals are being cooked, and four times, warmed over from the day before. Sundays are almost always spent out of the house. After lunch, often one or two solitaires, a little nap, then a book and frequently a trip to Dornbach to Lill, where the garden is now most beautiful but in danger to be sold due to tax laws, which in turn one wants to assist in it so much the more in order to say a spiritual farewell. I have read some very good books from Mia's library. In addition, Heimito Doderer has written a very good novel, which I have already read twice and which Boni also likes very much. I read some French and started to throw myself into learning English, but have neglected it lately, maybe because I discovered, that studying by myself, I have adopted a bad pronunciation. I have not found a suitable teacher as yet, Mutti will help me find one, she has already tried out two without success.

In a way, Mutti is leading a life, similar to mine, but the flies are bothering her much much more than me. Her anticipation of mail is much higher and she is racking her brain over your and Suserl's future. She is also very diligent in her English studies, she is getting much pleasure out of it and is making good progress. Since Gusti is comfortable in New York, and intensively working on our trip, something might crystalize if we have enough patience. It would surely bring relief to Mutti. I hope very much, dear little darling, that you are fine, am looking forward to early news and hug and greet you fervently as your old Ogros!. Best wishes to Mrs. Alice, Gretli and the club members.

(Hasterlik, Maria):

My dearest child. Now I am waiting and waiting and waiting for a letter from you and still, none is coming. Why? Is anything the matter or so much to do or just too lazy to write? Something could and should arrive by now, the promise was: once a week. It is already pretty hot and uncomfortable here. Ogros!'s birthday is June 21st, please don't forget. Do you have enough clothing? Have you been swimming already? What about the tub (boat) of Gretli's uncle (Emil) have you been on such a Rhein (river) trip yet? Your news are being missed, I don't know anymore what is going on in Schaffhausen. What is Alice doing, except toiling? Do you sometimes get her angry or are you good girls? And you, as a whole? So, Juliettchen, be good and write immediately, as soon as you get this letter, this time, and as an exception, I am really angry.

Good bye Mousy, you still are one, many kisses to all, your Mutti

The "Phillip" (teeth) will have to be pulled on Saturday, am very perturbed already.