

No. 5/a.

Janos Pongracz

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Budapest, Hungary

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Dear son,

I don't even need to tell you how much joy you gave me when I received your letter from Cape Town and the reassuring content of the letter. To be honest I was a bit concerned about you traveling third class because of the political situation of the last few weeks and also the weather. I thought it would be very difficult for you to travel at that level. But I'm so happy now to know that everything went alright. I assume that your further journeys will be a little bit more comfortable, unless the heat will bother you or will cause discomfit.

I hope that next time your letter will be much more detailed. I'm going to repeat myself and also what your mum wrote to you that we are really really interested in every detail of your journey, but saying that, write as much as you have time for and as you have the mood for. You don't need to worry that we are going to be make a big fuss at home when we receive your letter, not like the N[andors] when they received the letter from Gyuri. We know that you don't really like this sort of attention, although I need to say that when they received a letter from Gyuri we gained a lot of information on details.

We assume you will be very busy when you arrive because you need to get in touch with all those people you collected referral letters to. I strongly encourage you to visit that Hungarian man for whom I sent you the recommendation letter from my friend Dr. Malony. I can't remember now the name of that man or the address. It is clear that he is a very lucky and clever man because during the short time he has been there, he has bought a house and become a well-established man and so that means that you probably could learn from him regarding how he did that in this very short time.

As you read in mum's letter everything is alright with us here at home. The talented and skillful diplomacy that Hungary is managing so far is priceless, and as a result of that, is staying out of the war. Hopefully this strategy will be successful in the future.

We are well and we don't have financial problems at all. Our tenants at Attila Street are well and they are paying on time. My workshop is also okay, although it's not the best, it's not flourishing, but everyone is paying and it brings something to the kitchen. Recently I've sent you a paper which shows you that the stock exchange is getting better in the last few days. I could still bear the tax and other expenses without selling these papers.

A few weeks ago I was in a constant struggle with Istvan. First he was complaining that it was too hot and there was no snow, and then I was angry because of the very cold weather and the huge snows. I think by today we have all made peace.

The town is full of snow but the roads were cleared enough and the transport is great so we can easily go about without any disturbance from the snow. The temperature at noon was zero but the sun is out and there are a few blue spots on the sky. It is a very beautiful view, especially when I see

the Danube, which has ice on the surface. And the water birds are visiting the Danube and it's just such a beautiful view to see.

We still haven't heard anything from Metallo. Only Kalmar is doing some great talking on your behalf. Dr. Gross, who is at the Nandors', and Kalmar can't stop talking about how nice you were.

Kisses darling son a million times.

Dear Bok,

Happy new year! Thank you so much for the book and the gloves that you sent as a Christmas present. I received them from Aunt Ilonka [de Balogh]. Your skis work really well. I use your shoes to put them on so I don't need to adjust them. All your club mates are sending the regards. I saw Pali Magaziner skiing. I'm still not really good in the deep snow. Finally the coal break is here, which I have been waiting for for eight years, and finally we can go and ski for the whole day. We haven't had this much snow for as long as I can remember. I had a chat with Viran Amal Juditt. He was at Voloc and Buci said that she has a very good job. God bless you.

Istvan