

[Hungarian portion of later dated 9 March 1940]

Dear son,

Yesterday morning, Aunt Irma [Nandor] called us and told us that Gyuri [Nandor] sent her a letter about your joint visit to the beach, so I assumed that the airmail didn't bring us anything because there wasn't nothing interesting to say but I was extremely surprised when in the afternoon the postman brought your letter and what a letter! A lot of very interesting content.

I highly approve of your "Powellisation" [Janos Pongracz' name change to John Powell]. Hopefully none of the Pongracz elders will turn in their graves and Piczu [Istvan Pongracz] will get used to it.

I really like the fact that you want to learn more, but I wouldn't like you to have too much weight on your shoulders. You will run around all day and then in the evening you will need to study and then I know you are doing one or two sports as well. Don't you think it will be too much? The truth is that you lived your life this way here as well, but I assume that your studies in Australia will be much harder and will take much more of your time than the ones at home did.

I am especially happy for you that you have a salary in the first months after your arrival in Australia, and it's not because it proves your higher self - I never doubted that you are so great - but it seems like Australia is really the place that others described, so it's really a good place to be. I don't think that there would be any other country in Europe nowadays which would welcome foreign migrants like yourself in the way they did. I am really looking forward to seeing the improvements it all brings.

As you wished I'm sending two books to you, Shibley and Douglas. I've sent them by regular post. And I also sent the Yellow Book [French Yellow Book, a published collection of diplomatic documents] and if they all arrive safely then I will be able to send you more books.

I don't need the marriage certificate because I can get as many copies of that as I want. Please send back the other certificate if you are sure you don't need it because it is extremely costly and difficult to get. It's no trouble to have two copies of it. But before you send that back, if I can recommend you at least go to the embassy or consulate and take those certificates, only because if you decide to visit us it will help you. Maybe you can also request to have your certificates assessed in the way that Gyuri [Nandor] has.

Your article is very interesting. How did you get to the newspaper? Did they pay you? Do you have the possibility of working for this newspaper in the future or could it be ongoing work for you? Can I have notes of the inventors?

I totally agree with your mum regarding to Piczu. Although we have a few troubles with him, I still see that he is eventually going to be a grown man. It is very important for him to raise his sense of self and therefore I really support your mum's proposal to you that you could write some kind letters to him.

It happened today that his teacher Mr. Polgari didn't mark his essay. The subject is Hungarian, but he wrote a note saying that it was a very nice description of a trip. Unexpectedly Istvan's private tutor went to Mr. Polgari regarding another matter and of course Polgari mentioned this essay to Dr. Molnar and he expressed his suspicions about the origin of this essay and whether Piczu was able to write an essay like that or if he was copying from somewhere, but Dr. Molnar said that Piczu had really been to that place. It is in the Kárpátalja [Zakarpattia, now western Ukraine] and Mr. Polgari

promised that he will ask Piczu and he will make sure that it is his essay. Of course, the kiddo is very happy and it's so hard for him to stay calm and not jump out of his skin because of this.

Kisses,

Dad