

Hösterwitz b. Dresden March 29. 1909.

Dear Mr. Deane,

Months have passed since Mrs. Deane's and your very kind Christmas-cards and letters of January have reached us and I am late in returning our warmest thanks for your kindness. The delay was owing to the awfully anxious hard time that was upon us this winter. In January we both fell sick with a curious cough, without having caught cold, and while I got better, it developed with my mother into a complicated Broncho-Pneumony, very dangerous to her life in her high age. Happily she has now recovered and she could enjoy this week for the first time again the breathing of fresh spring-air in our garden. I am most happy at this and I also hope her strength will return on summer. We are very distressed to hear some days ago by Prof. Goodale that you also have been seriously ill this winter, and we hope that you have now entirely recovered. It is a very unnecessary matter, such torments, but who could be protected



against the treacherous attack of illness!  
Our winter was unusually long and hard  
and the vegetation is very much behind.  
The meadows opposite to us have scarcely  
a greenish hue, and only the development of  
the *Corylus*- and *Cornus mascula*- blossoms  
announces the near spring. There are yet  
lots of snow in the mountains and the nights  
are yet very cool, but our old friends *Turdus*  
*musicus* and the black *Merula* sing uncon-  
cernedly their songs of spring and love.

You probably have been much amused in  
America at the farces of policy in old Europe.  
The fidgeting about war and peace in our news-  
papers was quite disgusting during the last weeks.  
Most of the people here expect a war within  
some years, often with absolute certainty.  
I can't believe it since we see how modern the  
old word has got nowadays: *Parturiunt*  
*montes, nascetur ridiculus mus!* We shall  
never get good and quiet times again in Europe  
unless the states stop arming in which they  
so crazily vie at present. Otherwise we all run  
into bankruptcy. You are right in your letter,



it was interesting to see how nature had united the jealous nations by the Messina catastrophe. Perhaps nature will cure sometime everything. By the way, we also have had earthquakes here in Hosterwitz and other places about Dresden this winter, in December and January. The second one came at night by two shocks that raised us out of sleep when the bed was shaking and everything trembled. This, combined with the subterranean thunder makes a curious feeling also if no damage has been done. We have a kind of Calabria in the South West corner of Saxony.

Now, the pleasant season is before us, and we hope and wish to hear, that you feel again perfectly well and that you both enjoy your beautiful summer. My mother joins me in kindest greetings and best wishes to Mrs. Deane and yourself.

Very sincerely yours

R. Blaschka



Blaschka, Rudolf. 1909. "Blaschka, Rudolf Mar. 29, 1909." *Rudolf Blaschka letters to Walter Deane*

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