

in the wild state. As soon as the winter is breaking in, she is going asleep, deeply retiring into shell, shutting it by means of a lid. Indifferent against warm days in winter *Helix* is sleeping on until about midst of April; when the true spring has come she is awaking. I am always happy to study in Natural history. It is a solace in critical times. Let us hope times will improve this year and we wish 1921 will bring you always good health and good luck. With kindest regards of us all,

very sincerely yours  
Rudolph Blaschka

rec'd  
Feb. 14, 1921.  
Jan 5 1921

Hösterwitz m. Dresden Jan. 23.  
1921.

Dear Mr. Deane,

It was very pleasant to learn from your kind greeting card that you are well. As I had failed to receive a word from you since a long time I had feared you might be ill. We are all well now, in our curious winter.

Winter commenced already by midst of October by freezing all flowers thoroughly to death and brought lots of snow and ice until a week before Christmas. After this we got spring-like weather deceiving the poor little buds. The catkins of *Corylus avellana* were in dusting condition by midst of January, over a month too early.

The warm weather was welcome to all households as less of the precious fuel is needed, but winter ought to be winter and as soon as the Fata Morgana will be over the unavoidable reaction will come soon enough. Curious, how variously the animal-world is reacting on the abnormal temperature. Last week, hive-bees came to our windows taking the warm sunbeams of January for spring. Spiders however remained indifferently asleep in their winter-webs. In April 1914 I found, for the second time in my life, a sinistorse specimen of the shell-snail *Helix pomatia* in our garden, then two years old, that we keep since that time alive in a room. Normal dextorse specimens are everywhere common, but I had vainly tried to get another

living specimen of the exceedingly rare left-wound form. I liked to solve by the pair the burning question whether the sinistrorsity of this species is a constant form or merely an individual abnormality, a sport of nature. A conchologist has stated the latter as the descendants of a sinistorse pair of *Helix pomatia* he kept were all normally dextorse. This assertion was doubted by other investigators, as in a related species, *Helix aspersa*, sinistorse pairs always produce sinistorse descendants. In the Berlin Natural History Weekly they asked for information, but the object is too rare. These snails are genuine Hermaphrodites, but a pair is needed as they alternate in sex. I am sorry I couldn't get a second one. Now our captive snail in the warm room is following the season exactly at



Blaschka, Rudolf. 1921. "Blaschka, Rudolf Jan. 23, 1921." *Rudolf Blaschka letters to Walter Deane*

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