

*Copy of letter received*

Hosterwitz b. Dresden, January 18, 1920.

FEB 19 1920

Dear friend Professor Dr. Goodale,

Your good letters of December 21 and 25, have safely reached me, and we learned with delight this renewed proof of your friendship. They came so right as a sunbeam at a time when apprehension was upon us, the good prospects to future and the wonderful surprise by the noble christmas gift, the draft for 9256 Marks. Please accept warmest thanks for this friendly act. So far as friends of the Museum were contributing to it please assure them of my gratefulness. We feel no more abandoned, this gives much relief in these gloomy days. We heard with sincere sympathy what you communicated us of yourself, your sons and grandchildren. The blessing of God was upon you all, that you could see your grandsons return sound and safely. As to ourselves I am very sorry that the pleasure of these days was saddened by apprehension at my mother's state of health. On Wednesday she met with a serious accident by falling in the house, hitting her head on the stone-floor owing to a sudden fit. The doctor hopes the concussion of brain is only slight, but he fears the possibility of apoplectic consequences in her high age, as the senile Arteriosclerosis is much advanced with her. My wife and I nurse her with utmost care to alleviate her pains and she is surrounded with every comfort possible, as she was always, with the best that the presion of the abominable war has permitted. During 5 years we were dependent as to everything of daily life from the state and communal offices what they portioned out. Free sale was strictly prohibited and limiting tickets were set on all victuals, except some vegetables, (as well as on soap, clothes, shoes etc.). The bread was an indigestible composition of rye milled at 94 percent with full bran, potatoes, turnips, vetches and other substitutes of unknown kind ordered by strict government prescription. Only since autumn we have pure grain-bread of rye and barley, wheat-baking only against medical attest for patients. We think with horror of the period 1917 - 18 when the general food was turnips as the potatoes were awfully scarce. Milk we only get since two years at the Doctor's attest 1/4 Litre a day for my mother. Meat is only once in a week about 1/3 of a pound the person. Butter was the rarest object portioned in homoeopathic doses of 1/8 to 1/10 pound, now free from Denmark at 30 to 32 Marks a pound. The farmers were strictly bound to deliver all their products to the state but they smuggled a good deal and sold it privately at rising fancy-prices. I also made use of this. As about here the scarcity was terrible I had to go 2 hours by rail and 6 to 8 hours walking to visit a recommended farmer. I was glad to return with half a pound of butter, some eggs and other victuals, with tired limbs, happy to have got safely through the government's watches on stations and roads, who unrelentingly confiscated everything acquired without tickets. I did not spare expense and trouble to prevent starving from us all, after the principle, that fortune may be gained again, but health and life never. If my funded income, then a little more than half of my former American revenue was not sufficient, I mobilized capital. This could be all calmly endured. But the money-eating insanity of the present days is the worst that ever could be considered possible. The experiment with the now effective taxes and the great confiscation, the so-called distress-sacrifice is a dangerous matter. After all we shall only keep one third of the income for the expense of life. The only question is now: will these sacrifices prevent the bankruptcy of Germany? Well, this time demands, not to lose courage and to start work again. I am grateful you are giving me so good prospects as to work in Invertebrata for Harvard University. You shall not be disappointed as I am yet the old idealist. I am rejoiced at getting young again in this work. At first however I shall carry out what I said about the finishing of the plants. To make this possible I ordered a larger quantity of fire-wood on purpose to heat my workroom.

(over)



The other day I was very much pleased to receive a letter from Mr. Deane and I shall reply next time. With renewed sincere thanks for all the goodness given to us by your letters I send kindest greetings and best wishes to you and Mrs. Goodale, in which my wife and my mother join me, and please, remember us also to Mr. Francis and your whole family.

Very sincerely yours

Rudolph Blaschka



Blaschka, Rudolf. 1920. "Blaschka, Rudolf Jan. 18, 1920 [to G.L. Goodale]."  
*Rudolf Blaschka letters to Walter Deane*

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