

Hotel Louvois

Square Louvois, Paris

19th May 1953.

Dear Mrs Roerich.

Here I am in Paris. I came here on the spur of the moment from Switzerland & just managed to get a room in this small hotel for 2 weeks. I arrived last week on the 15th. Paris is absolutely full & not a room to be had in any of the hotels for some time. If all works out well I shall stay here 3 or 4 weeks & then go back again to Zurich for 10 days or so to see how my father is progressing. Switzerland is so central & I have decided that during my tour of Europe I shall go back to Zurich every 4 or 5 weeks to see how my mother & father are getting on at the Clinic.

Paris is a lovely city. I am here all on my own. Travelling alone is very great fun but it has its disadvantages too & sometimes I wish friends like you were with me also. Today I visited Fontaine Bleue. En route there we dropped in at the artist's colony of Barbizon & the barn which was once Millet's home. They cater very much for tourists there & had, ^{on sale,} paintings & etchings by the artists in that locality. The pictures were all pleasant but nothing outstanding or individual.

I had a delightful 3 weeks in Switzerland staying with the Deschallheuses who have a lovely home in Cham by the lake of Zug. It is about

half an hour drive from Zurich. When not sightseeing, I used to go in almost daily to Zurich by train or car to see Daddy & Mother & then return to Cham again in the evening. I arrived in Switzerland when all the fruit trees were in blossom & the countryside truly looked beautiful especially with its rich green grass in contrast & the wonderfully preserved forest reserves of each little village. Everything is so neat, clean & organized & the Swiss, I believe, really have the highest standard of living that I have seen so far in Europe. I hear the Scandinavian countries are the same. I went to see some of the houses of the factory labourers in Lausanne because they are the poorest type of households one could expect to see in that town. I found that these houses were what the middle class or fairly well-to-do people of other European countries would live in. Also, I have never seen any other people work so hard as the Swiss. Even the big business people have very long hours regularly.

While in Switzerland, I visited Lausanne, Berne, Geneva, Lugarno & other places nearabout Cham. Once Adrienne Deschulthes & I did a wonderful motor trip going first to Lichtenstein - round the Boden Lake to Stein am Rhein where the walls of the houses have all kinds of quaint paintings on the outside - then on to see the Rhine Falls & returning to Zurich & Cham via a part of Germany. Distances are so short & the motor roads so good that travelling by car is

to the well. Do write sometimes. My address always is St. Andreas, Cham (Chug) Switzerland
from where my letters are forwarded to me - wherever I am. We have not met our friend the Raja
Sahib (A.T.A.) so far in Zurich. Much love to you both, yours affectionately Tashi.

very easy & such fun when working out on maps where
to go. Our entry into Germany was made on the spur of
the moment as we motored near the frontier & saw
the sign posts! At Lichtenstein we lunched with
the Prince & Princess there & their relatives. The Princess &
her husband are charming persons & their little castle
so picturesquely set against the mountains reminded me
so much of our Bhutanese Dzongs - both the exterior
courtyard & walls & the inside of the castle.

As you know I stayed a few days in
Rome. It was the first European city I had
visited & by way of introduction to the West I
could not have asked for anything nicer than
Rome. The first day or two I felt a bit lost
being on my own & not knowing anyone. But
immediately after that, I loved it. Fivoli & Villa
Adriana were wonderful. I regret to say that I did
not meet any Italian Counts with fast cars. In Calcutta,
before I left, I met one (whom you probably knew) who
worked in the Italian Consul's office but unfortunately (!)
he was not the type you mentioned with fast cars.
However, in Switzerland, I have met at parties countless
numbers of princes, archdukes, counts & barons to make
up for the lack of them in Rome. Some of them are
awfully charming & interesting & it is remarkable how quite a
few of them have lost everything during the last war & still
maintain their dignity. Others of them again are quite a degenerate
crowd I believe & one of the chief Hapsburg fellows we met often
locks up ladies in cupboards to punish them in a joking way! Please
don't say this to other people. I only tell you because you would be
amused after warning me about Italian counts. Hope you are