

14 Aug. '52.

8. Anstey Lane 1

Altamount Rd.

Bombay 26.

My dear Decker.

This is just a hurried line to say that many is in survey the picture and work have done so by now. I want there several lines. The difficulty was that no company would accept the risk of deterioration to light while under process. There is absolutely no deterioration during the photography of the picture and the refusal was absurd. No no company would agree I finally gave order to insure without that risk as it is no risk at all. Now the

work will be taken in hand  
and I will correct the  
proofs before they are finalized  
Unfortunately with the new set of  
'many' managed by Tatas, the  
block makers are Express block  
too who are erratic. I'll  
do my best. They will not  
do the work elsewhere as they have  
arrangements with the Express people.  
I'll be very strict about the  
proofs. I'm rushing off to  
Poona and will write again  
on my return. Revert you  
letter & photo safely and will  
arrange with Mulh when I'm not yet  
been able to meet. We do love for  
us both to Switzerland & see  
Yours affectionately  
Kant.

8. Anstey Lane  
Off Altamount Rd.  
Bombai.

20. Feb '53

My dear Jerika.

We were very happy to receive your letter — of "just a line"  
(I counted the lines — 58 lines — excluding the postscript)

I hope you will always write to me a line — (whether they be many lines or a few lines).

Karl has been busy since we last met. Going (for a trip visits) with a lawyer up + down from Bombay to Poona + then to Raikot. + from the last visit brought back a bad throat.

It is less sore since yesterday. He had a very cold spell but it vanished abruptly one day. + the temp: rose very rapidly. Since yesterday it has become less oppressive.

I will speak to our Cook to be on the  
look out for a Cook - but he - beams for you

You say you will be back here in  
May - he might be in Mahabaleswar then.  
Karl has so far made up his  
mind to take no work such as which  
might upset a holiday. He needs  
rest - & change very much.

I was laid up with  
another severe attack of pain in the back  
during the cold weather. This time for  
over ten days. + I stayed in bed the  
better part of the day. + took  
complete rest - which also made  
me read the book on houses - which  
Frank Moraes gave me to review.

Remember your lunch hours at the Taj, when  
Frank was there. + he mentioned a  
book? The film. Our Lady of Fatima  
is lovely I am told + Karl + I will  
be going to see it in a couple of  
days. The Theatre is completely booked  
up till Sunday.

Then we have to see 'Jhousiki Rani'  
 Have you seen it? I am told it's good.  
 (I'll stop for a while - for lunch.)  
 It's 12.10 P.m. now.

The Meal was Mōri-Jall + Rice + plain  
 fried fish - + Cabbage.  
 all without Masala - but then the  
 bit of achar was hot.

D.R. D. & Pili called to see us  
 some time back (the time I had to back-ache)  
 soon after that they invited us  
 to dinner, but which we were unable  
 to accept owing to a previous engagement  
 so now we are invited on the 24<sup>th</sup>.  
 Tuesday. I wonder what company  
 he will have there. Pili was looking  
 well the way they had called.

I ride every morning again.  
 I have not been to Poona, but Kaul  
 said that the trees are growing well.  
 If a fairy suddenly appeared

+ if she asked what I wished to have - I'd say  
"Make all the trees grow big overnight please"

Jehandis Sabanal's exhibition  
of paintings - The Opening by Our Chief Justice  
Mr. Chapla - is on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> February

There is no other news  
Our love to you + Svetoslav.

Yr Affectionately  
Mshin

Do write at your leisure

12 Apr. 53

Anstey Lodge  
8. Anstey Lane  
Off. Altamont Rd.  
Bombay. 26.

My dear Devika. I received both your letters - the second one of 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar. received here on the 26<sup>th</sup>. + I forgot the date of the first one, to which also I wrote a reply, many days ago.

In your letter (2<sup>nd</sup>) you say that you wrote me a letter etc etc - but you do not mention that you have received mine.

It bore the same address as this one. I have 'reptd a.d.' this one to make sure you receive it.

I have spoken to my cook re: the 'senior cook' you want to engage. He said he would certainly look out for me. But meantime I discussed the capacities of a butler I had, whom I asked

to go, because I felt a bit annoyed with him. His pay was R45/- with food, Shoby, + پرزوریت اندر. He used to occasionally borrow money from me - as he said he had spent money when he got married. I never cut it - but after a while I stopped giving it to him - so he had to take a advance salaries. Which also مش تونس I did not cut from his salaries. Well Karl got a bit fed up with this habit when he got to know of it. Then he <sup>passed</sup> told me that he wished to go on a boat as his uncle was dead - he had a chance of getting that job. + that his pay would be much more than here - + then I asked him to go altogether. as he constantly had to attend the P.O. Office. He evidently did not get into that vacancy. but was rejected I mean passed unfit in the Medical Examination for sea-voyages.



Ever since then he has remained without a job - as he could not get what he wanted & did not want what came his way. (That is what the cook had informed me)

I have thought of this man for you for some time. I do miss him some times. As, his work is very punctual, extremely clean & methodical; & nothing ever missed in whatever he had the charge of.

He called twice during the time my present busier was on leave thinking I might engage him.

I know he can cook. but how well or bad I do not know. He can prepare puddings etc. he says. (He was here the other day) I asked him (through my cook) if he could take up the job of beano-cook combined. He said he would like to.

I told him, it would be 2000 your & that he would have to travel with you. to which he said that he has

travelled a good deal (while with a Mr. Pzdas  
 (pilot)  
 + he does not mind travelling - In fact  
 likes it. Karl seems not to like  
 my idea in recommending him to you -  
 for just this one reason. That  
 he will not give up the habit of asking  
 for pay in advance. I do not think he  
 will do this now. + he seemed really  
 willing to stay with you. He knows  
 you + you know him too. He is the  
 man I had for 3½ years before  
 the present chap. He is that dark-  
 rather-pleasant faced man.  
 Now what do you say.  
 would you like to try him?  
 He was thoroughly honest +  
 trustworthy - + worked exceedingly  
 well for us. I told him that I  
 would write to you about him.

In the 3 1/2 years not once did I  
 have to tell him to clean up his  
 pants or crockery or silverware  
 or the fire: <sup>Why they was kept</sup>  
 tip-top without supervision.

Bombay is very warm indeed.  
 Kent is well but busy & it looks  
 a good deal doubtful whether we  
 could go out of Bombay (to Malibundha)  
 for the winter. as he has some  
 care on his head. Court closes on the  
 17<sup>th</sup> though.

I had a fall off a horse,  
 a pretty severe "bang". But I am  
 alright now. We have sent the  
 horses back to Poona as it is very  
 hot here to ride.

You will be back  
 in Bombay in May? & you may find  
 us in Bombay also in May this  
 year - most probably. & we will  
 meet quite often. I hope.

all the Champa trees  
 in en-questen & back Compoent & the

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Next door neighbour's garden were in  
full bloom — & it is still lovely to  
look out of the windows of our rooms,  
especially, the porch-room & entrance  
hall windows. The orange, Magenta  
& purple beampineas & the chambrass  
make a lovely sight still.

Well — bye-bye. This has  
been a very long letter. (too much later  
(about the second

Hope this will find you both well.

Love from us both.

Yours Mshu

PS

I just asked Karl if he wished to  
say something to you — where up I  
had to read out your letter to him.  
Now — this is what he dictates.  
— He flew to Delhi the other day  
(3<sup>rd</sup> April) for a meeting called to  
approve the Constitution of the

Academy of Arts, which is being started, on lines similar to that of Music + Dancing + Drama.

He saw the set of 80 Raginis which had been purchased by the National Museum, and says they are very fine + similar to the Bihari Miniatures which belong to the Dharmal Dhar + which N.C. Mehta published in his book.

Kaul says he found internal evidence that the set belongs to Sansar Chand's time and therefore he feels more than ever justified in attributing the Bihari set to Kangra as he has already done in the text of his book.

The book is still making little or no progress at the printers - (though I hear vehement conversations on the phone every now + then)

The little book on the 'Laut' Ragmala which was being published in England by the Royal Society of India + Pakistan + for which

Kul wrote the chapter on the  
provenance — date has arrived  
in Bombay.

Please do not buy  
a copy when you come to B'ham  
as Kul has kept one as a  
small present for you + Svetoslav.

It is neatly produced  
with six small colour plates  
+ the rest in monochrome.

Recently Kul has reviewed  
Archer's brochure on Kaupra  
painting — in Marq. but the  
no. is not yet out.

Love — Ashu

8.15 AM.

7

29-X-53.

37. Koregnon Park  
Poona. 1

My dear Derika.

3114 011 211X - 1113 111 - Please मीळ करा  
दो ग्राथ आडेको

I received your letter ages ago. in Bombay - on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, while we were stepping into the car to come to Poona.

We came up for the long week-end & I have stayed on. since Karl goes back every Monday arriving on Friday for the week-ends. Poona has been (uptill 2 or 3 days ago.) very pleasant.

I had to stay on, as a couple of servants' "Kholis" are being built. But I stayed on

on one condition, that Karl would  
 come up every Friday. He too  
 loves to be here after his work in  
 Bombay.

The house is now quite  
 finished except <sup>for</sup> a few things here  
 & there & <sup>the</sup> one extra room upstairs  
 which will be built by & by.  
 I have been wanting to  
 write to you for many days. I  
 think of you often. ("I must write  
 to Devika")

but somehow I just would not sit  
 down to it. The thing is, to  
 you I like to write a long, chatty,  
 letter. Not, like to other people  
 whom I write the usual thanks  
 & "how are you"

I'll be in Poona  
 till the 15<sup>th</sup> of November, after  
 spending the 13<sup>th</sup> day of the month



with my mother. It is her birthday.

This house feels pleasant enough, as it's simple & not crowded with furniture etc - so it is easy to keep clean. But until the trees grew up, it feels very open, (after the monsoon season is over) in the bright sun.

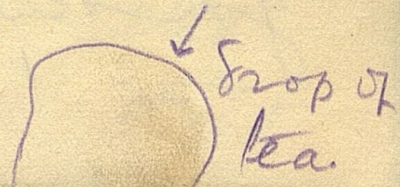
We have planted many trees but I am afraid Karl has been very obstinate where 'silver oaks' are concerned. He has far too many of them & one bunch absolutely in the wrong place. One day I lost my patience & said to him (most sarcastically) that he had blundered with some of the trees. I said, "You think you know everything about trees & gardens etc. I knew a bit too, so I am not much impressed

with your style of gardening." 3)

I'll let him play about for a while + during the stay here next monsoon season ("God willing") I will begin to plan a few things. (But kaul can make trees "grow up" well.)

Ghumanmal is in Poona for a holiday + change after his operation (at Dr Baliga's). His wife died some months ago; but was before his operation.

He sent me some 'lapad' + one day, some sag + roti. + another day, some  $\text{३९}$  + 'Masala chapati'. His  $\text{३९}$  had herbs in it with plenty of salt. I liked it. Today being Thursday, it's a busy day - to finish doing up a few things (to finish off for Friday, the sabab's arrival day.)



Drop of tea.

Tomorrow we have a small  
dinner party at home. Just the  
family, & I am going to arrange  
flowers in the evening - so I'll  
have a busy time before I go  
to fetch Karl-Poo. at the station

The Deccan Queen comes in  
punctually <sup>at 8 PM</sup> with much show  
& quite a ~~to~~ the platform, almost  
empty now that the racing season  
is over.

You know Devika how  
that I spend (for the last three or  
four years)  
a lot of time staying at home  
& gazing away at trees &  
plants. I feel less inclined  
to cut flowers for vases.  
I have hardly any flowers  
in the garden except, Camellias, &

Gotas (Mixed gold - lovely by orange + yellow + "single" yellows)

+ some Hollyhocks round about the beds next to my room.

Now these Hollyhocks I feel are nervous + wishing I would not cut them for vases. The way they have been bending away from a window, or out uncomfortable corners + then in some places

Quite upright where there is no hindrance. I can see how much they are striving to exist in comfort

+ so I don't think I'll cut them for ~~tomorrow~~ although they could make quite a show-piece in a very big white vase, against the Cream wall.

My room at the moment has not any soft touch, in colour or pictures or flowers,

but I intend to bring some of  
 the Kashmiri things I have in the  
 way of bed covers, Cushion Covers  
 etc. + change the pelmets of the  
 Curtains. The floor of the  
 whole house has been done in  
 2x2 squares in greenish light  
 grey Kota stone. very  
 soothing + cool to the eye.

Carpets look good. + so  
 I shall "smuggle" one or two  
 pieces from Bombay. The  
 ones here are too tribal in  
 a coarse way. Good colours,  
 but not for my bed room.  
 Gives a very strict look to  
 the room.

I have been talking  
 too much. + so I'll say  
 bye-bye to the present.

Here is something I am

telling you + svetoslav - it is  
entirely between us; + not to be  
repeated - but I am quite put  
out + angry too - about it.

N.C.M. came over in Bombay  
some time ago + took the first  
few pages of Karl's book (which  
is being printed now) "to read" he  
said - as he had "asked" the  
Times to let him review the book.  
The pages were not returned  
for many days (but we got them  
eventually)

Then the other day  
I believe he said to Karl I  
am going to write about  
Basholi printing. + then "may  
I have the other pages of your  
book to read." I suspect  
he will snatch things out of Karl's  
papers here + there + so I told

Karl, with to hand over any  
 more of his writings, before  
 the book is out. I have also  
 asked K to tell the printers  
 "strictly" not to hand over anything  
 to him or others. & for once  
 K. listened & said he would  
 do so. I think Karl has  
 his suspicions too, but kept  
 it to himself. This sort  
 of thing annoys me "immensely".

When Karl comes tomorrow  
 I'll tell him that I have  
 written this to you.

I wonder if I have guessed  
 right about W's intentions  
 or is it my imagination only.

I have had this off my mind by  
 telling you at least. I feel better.

Our love to Pa & Ma.

Affectly, Fannie.

Please send me 1 packet of  
 "very nice" almond butter - rose or  
 Chumbeli = forgive my asking  
 you for them.

I think I have made up - with  
 these rules, for my delay in replying  
 to your kind letter. Do not punish  
 me - write soon. Jo.



8. Amstey Lane <sup>13</sup>  
Altamount Rd.

16-2-54.

Bombay. 26.

My dear Devika + Svetoslav.

Karl arrived  
to say — I went to fetch  
him + when he produced  
the basket of fruit  
I said — "Very good, but  
remembered the fruit"  
+ then he said, it was  
Svetoslav who had  
taken all the trouble  
of bringing the fruit  
+ — delivering it personally

2.

It was really awfully  
sweet of you both.  
+ My many thanks.

I went to the  
Bombay Central at 6 AM  
because the driver said  
he had <sup>already</sup> inquired re: the  
arrival of the Frontier Mail  
+ I need not telephone.

When I arrived at  
the station things looked  
very empty on the platform  
No. 5 - so I asked the  
driver to inquire, while I sat  
in the car. He came back  
to report that the S. Mail

was coming on to the other  
 platform; + having a  
 Jag with me, I said he  
 should go along + wait for  
 the train + I should remain  
 in the car. Well, in  
 came the Shaurashtra Mail.

Then I got down + read  
 the time table. It was  
 8.40. I had arrived  
 2 1/2 hours too soon.  
 I returned home  
 + then went back, a little  
 after eight.

Bombay became  
 very hot after you left

but since yesterday it is  
a little less hot.

Karl said you would  
be in Delhi for a few  
more days. +20 I have  
sent this letter to Delhi.

My thanks again +  
love to you both.

Mehri

13<sup>th</sup> May '54

8. Anster Lane  
Altamont Rd.  
Bombay. 26.

My Dear Devika

I hope this finds you + Svetoslav well & happy.

I received your kind letter of 6<sup>th</sup> May last week & your prayers are being heard as Karl's stomach trouble is disappearing bit by bit. It is still there though.

I must say that for once he is really cheerful with his diet.

A month or more ago - I was worried "out of my wits".

We are leaving Bombay on Saturday (15<sup>th</sup>) for Poona on our way to Mirval. We will stay in Poona for a day or two to consult Dr. Coia - (who has taken X-rays & other tests last time & has said there were no ulcers or any other disorder except this acid trouble). He was asked to eat a more

balanced diet, + no smoking,  
 leave alone "excessive" smoking.  
 But I am afraid Kal  
 has been very careless, all along  
 re food + sweet drinks, glass after  
 glass "with his meals". But now, the Gen  
 has been very careful, + these cars at  
 Thana Daily (from home at 9.30 am + back  
 (not before 6.30 pm)  
 has been a strain also.

We are but  
 simple Dicky to be in M'war.

We have no telephone in  
 M'war: as my mother now won't have  
 it, as there is no all night service.

But we will be happy to  
 have you stay with us for a  
 couple of days <sup>at least</sup> if you + L. like  
 to come to M'war.

But coming  
 up for the day, will be much too  
 hot a journey. We will be  
 in Rome by the 12<sup>th</sup> of June or  
 earlier - Why do you ask break

the business on your way to Bangalore &  
 stay with us in Poona. By then the  
 "heat" in Poona will have disappeared.  
 What do you say to that?

What you write about a needle  
 in anatomy.

We were thinking of going  
 to England & Europe after a year  
 or so - but now that is not possible  
 as, my 'Sasooji' has this heart  
 trouble we do not like to go  
 far, out of India.

We get some good  
 Mangos here now. Do you not get  
 them in Kalimpong? by air? could they  
 be sent?

At the moment Karl is  
 out in the porch-room with visitors.  
 3 men. One of them is Rudy Wulfsberg.  
 I wonder if it's 'hpl' talk  
 or not talk.

The time is 9.20 pm.  
 I am not having any dinner, but a loaf

4

glass of Chocolate Icecream.  
4 of us. We have it every night.

We two + the two 'Joegies'.  
Karl eats some honey + bread  
they eat that too. It agrees with  
Judy (the golden fawn) but not with  
Jackie (Tappoochai)

Karl has just come into this  
room - the visitors have left.

The talk was very "legal" + with  
artists. It is all about a picture  
by the Paris - returned artist Akbar  
Padumai, who - according to the police  
exhibited an obscene picture  
at the Jehan Art Gallery. He is  
being prosecuted + the artists are all  
getting together to fight the matter  
- out on principle - so they come  
to Karl too for legal advice.

Dinner is amusee. So I'll hark  
for a bit

7.10 Am. (14.5.54) The 'hark' was for many hours.  
After dinner / settle, side



accounts etc - upto date as we are leaving tomorrow.

The flat is looking rather barren & cold as the curtains are removed & washed & put away.

The carpets rolled up. The hamel went a bit further two days ago. Did not bother about fresh flowers & then he heard a bit of my mind. (I've you would be surprised, what I am like when I am angry, really angry, I do not shout or scold him, but the servant knows he just cannot get away with things.)

Karl's Thana cases were abated over yesterday. You have no idea what a relief it is to me; to know that he will not have to rush for a bullet. Run dress & a hurried stand up breakfast, to leave at 9.30 for camp.

Well I'll stop now. This is a very long letter. My M'war address is "KENILWORTH" MAHABLESHWAR. Our love to the both. Yrs Melvin