

6, York Road, New Delhi, 27th March 1953.

Deirka on dear

Your card came like a whiff of mountain air. It had all the freshness and purity of cool rarified air wafted from deodar tree tops!

Thank you for remembering us in your exclusive retreat.

I am happy you are away from heat, from dust and from stress and strain of city life. To create or contribute something worthwhile in the realm of fine arts, it is essential to have quiet and peaceful surroundings.

I am most interested to hear of Sveteslav's new paintings. Why can't we see some soon?

Ratan has been unwell for over 3 weeks and I had a very anxious time. He is much better now and has resumed work.

Do write now and again. Hope to see you soon once this wretched hot weather is over.

Yours ever,

Shrimati Devika Rani Sveteslav, "Crookety", Kalimpong, via Siliguri, W.Bengal.



6, York Road, New Delhi, 21st May 1953.

Deinke un dear

I have just heard from Sharda that you are here and I hasten to write and apologise for my unpardonable silence.

I received your charming letter and the darling little wastepaper basket. It was so sweet of you to have sent it and it was very "naughty" of my not to have acknowledged it for all these days. But honestly, Devika, the heat and duststorms and the speed at which one has to function here leaves very little energy for anything else.

I had organized a Students' Camp in one of the villages nearby and for a little over a fortnight all my time was given to that work.

Now that you are here we shall meet and I can explain things personally. I will call you up. soon.

With love,

Yours Exg

Shrimati Devika Rani Svetaslav, Maiden's Hotel, Delhi.