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THE ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY OF INDIA

PROPRIETORS: BENNETT, COLEMAN & CO., LIMITED.
ALLIED PUBLICATIONS

The Times of India
The Evening News of India
The Sunday News of India

BOMBAY

16th February, 1953.

My dear Devika,

Many thanks for your letter and card from Kalimpong. I'll forward the card to Barbara. Her address is : First Floor Flat, Breach Candy House, Warden Road, Bombay. I have just returned from a long week-end with her and Charles, at Bhandar Dara, Lake Arthur Hill. The Trocmes came too, along with Hawkins and Shirin and Jehangir Sabavala, and we had a most delightful time climbing and swimming. The water was cold and velvet. Many thanks for your card from Banaras, a place I ^{have} ~~had~~ always wanted to visit.

Dr.R.M.Nebesky de Wojkowitz called in the other day. He had some good colour pictures, and I hope to use one as a cover. I found him a very pleasant person, and I hope to hear from him again when he gets to Holland.

Please give my love to Svetoslav, and excuse this hasty letter. On my return I found an enormous mail awaiting, which had to be dealt with.

With much love,

Sham

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BOMBAY

10th March, 1953.

My dear Devika,

Thank you for your most delightful picture of the "Trader from Tibet", very charming indeed.

I gave an introduction to an Indian author called Govind Desani, who told me he was likely to go to Kalimpong, and I suggested that he should look you both up. You will find him a sensitive type and rather charming, though, like most Indian authors who come back from England and find themselves lost in India, he is very discontented. He is going to a Vihara in Colombo. He has been at Sarnath for about six months. I knew him in London.

Under the present arrangements I shall be here in May and shall look forward to seeing you both. The Italian boat I was due to sail has been put off to the end of May owing to a strike in Trieste.

I am glad to hear that Svetoslav is painting again industriously and will look forward to seeing some of his latest work.

I went to a reception for Sir Alexander Korda and found him a most genial and charming person. Chandulal Shah made a shockingly bad speech. He is, in my opinion, a disgrace to the Indian film industry. Hiten Chaudhry asked me to go to a party out at Juhu where all the stars were meeting Korda, but I had a dinner engagement and could not make it.

Please excuse this hasty letter. I am snowed under with proofs and callers!

Love to you both,

Sham

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BOMBAY

7th April, 1953.

My dear Devika,

Very glad to get your newsy letter of the 6th of April and the charming photograph. I shall look forward to seeing you both early in May. I shall still be here, as I have now cancelled my trip by Lloyd Triestino, and will be flying on the 2nd of June.

I saw one of Svetoslav's pictures in Walter's office this morning. I do not remember which letter of yours I showed him or what it was about.

Clare's death was very sad. She was a very delightful person, and as you say, she was almost part of Bombay. I went to her funeral and was glad to see a good many film stars there, including Kamini Kaushal. Dewan Sharar was most moved and cried openly as did Simon Pereira, who has now joined the "Times of India" in her place.

~~The~~ Pat and Jean Trocme, whom you met at lunch at the Taj, are thinking of going to Kulu. I told them that I would write to you and ask you whether they could go up to your bungalow at Nagarfor a couple of days. Would this be all right? I have told them that I thought that the Tysons are back at Katrain, but I am not sure if this is the case. I feel they would prefer the atmosphere of the Tysons to that of the Banons at Manali, and I shall recommend that they go up to Koti and the Rohtang Pass.

It has been very hot in Bombay, but it suits me and has cured my bronchitis!

Please excuse this hasty scrawl, as I am just off to a Rotary meeting.

With love to you both,

Shann

The Illustrated Weekly of India

Bombay

28th October 1953

My dear Devika,

Many thanks for your newsy letter. I am glad to hear you are coming to Bombay in December - it should be cooler then. At present it is intensely hot; last night was a real scorcher, due to a sudden & very deep rise in the humidity. Kishore Sahu & his very nice wife invited me out to Chembur to dinner to meet Sabu and his American wife. Although we sat in the garden, the heat was extreme, and Sabu & his wife never turned up! Basha Nathur was there. She is pleasant & intelligent, as is Sheila Ramani. Kishore Sahu has always been very genial but I do not know how good or bad he is as an actor - I saw him only once - in Paul Ziss' "Zoljela", & he was quite impressive though rather hammy in his overacting. It is a pity you will not be here by next full moon (Nov 21st), as I am having a Film Party, & hope to entertain Kamini Kaushal & her husband, Sumit P & Dwan Sharan, the Kishore Sahus with Sabu & his wife, & someone has promised to bring Leela Chitris, who has been ill.

I have just received the new "Times of India" Annual - it is exceptionally good this year. Saturday's picture has reproduced well. I note what you say about the "Weekly" during my absence. I thought Raman did a fair job with lay-outs & proofing, but he has

Plum exp. this stuffy letter - I am asking
intercepted into
pages and
calls!

The Illustrated Weekly of India
Bombay

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got to learn discrimination & selectivity - He does not know
how to choose an effective cover, and none of the features he
took had no reader interest at all. As far as his art
criticism goes, he is a sort of barking dog of pain for
George West & Sheila Owen - & he comes out occasionally
with ludicrously bad English. His discipline was just
& good & there was no trouble in that quarter, but he went
in for nepotism (I forgot to warn him against it!) and
used a good deal of mediocre material because it came
from his Delhi friends, but nepotism, I find, is rampant
in this land.

I am very hardworked & have some good issues coming.
- a Human Issue on 13th December which has included a lot
of spadework. My life is one long "demon'd grind" (in the
Dickensian term!) & I often have to write copy at 1^{am} after
parties as the printer has to have it ~~next~~ just thing in the morning.
With routine, administration, etc, it's a very heavy job, and I've
decided to cut out many parties, especially the buffet type where
one stands around talking to various members on his name card
before, and is not likely to meet again! Burning the candle at
both ends is now beyond my capacities! Did I tell you that the
Hackneys of 101 (retiring soon) have got Nabon's old house
at Nanali for Rs 50 a month for a year! Sendy them & wish I
could get up there to do some creative writing in idyllic
surroundings. Stalk & Ceylon would also be conducive to inspiration!
I hope you are both fit & flourishing, Love Shaun

INDIAN POSTS AND

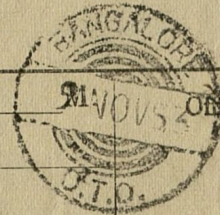
TELEGRAPHS DEPARTMENT.

5

B. ^{Class} } Code _____
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To 13/60

0 NH BOMBAY J 9 27 DEVIKA RANI ROERICH

CARE INDIAN BANK CANTONMENT BANGALORE

= RAGHAVAN ARRIVED WITH DELIGHTFUL DIVALI ARTICHOSES

STOP VERY MANY THANKS STOP LOVE AND NEW YEAR

GREETINGS = SHAUN

N.B.—The name of the Sender, if telegraphed, should be written after, but separated from the text.
 Navabharat Printers & Traders, Madras-1—Ptg./B. Books/53/14—60,500 Books.

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BOMBAY

13th August, 1954.

My dear *Devika,*

Very many thanks for yours of the 11th of August. Is it telepathy that made you send me the avocados? Because I was dining the other night with some people from Burmah-Shell and they had most delicious avocados, one of my favourite fruits, and I asked them from where they got them, and they said Bangalore. I then mentally said to myself "I wish Devika would send me some of these"!!

I was only away in Europe for eight days, but enjoyed the brief trip very much. The Air-India International Super Constellation was extremely comfortable and everyone was very nice.

We have had 106 inches of rain since the middle of June, which has broken all records for 75 years. In fact we have hardly seen the sun for the past month. Fortunately there are now sunny spells between the showers, and on occasions the mellow light is really beautiful.

Last night Roshan and Sharouk came to dinner and were asking after you. Roshan is leaving "Marg", and I am sure they will miss her.

I am pretty fit and have no signs of bronchitis in spite of the dampness of the monsoon. Verrier Elwin has been here for a week and I have seen quite a lot of him. He returns to Shillong tomorrow.

My brother Shamus passed through last month on his way to Penang where he is posted as Regional Director of the British Council. I had a party of 16 people at the Taj to meet him, including Krishna Hutheesing and Raja, the Talyarkhans and Malati Srivastava. He looked very well. I have since heard from him from Penang, where he has settled down very happily.

I look forward greatly to the avocados and artichokes.

With much love to you both,

Yours,

Shamun

TRADE

MARK

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Filmfare

BOMBAY

14th January, 1959.

R. dea Devika,

Many thanks for yours of the 9th January. J.C. asked me one day how Svetoslav's name is spelt and I thought he was ^{on} to you about the "Filmfare" business. I do not ^{know} when the function itself will be, as J.C. is going to the U.S.A. in mid-February for a time. I am certainly glad that it will be the last "Filmfare" occasion that I am expected to grace. Actually I have deliberately avoided the last two! It is all too tawdry and tinselly for me.

I am glad to hear that Svetoslav has been painting a great deal and agree with you that he must have an exhibition in the not too distant future, as he is the most outstanding portraitist in India.

I was interested to hear that you have been to Tirupati. Perhaps next year I may get there when I stay with friends in Madras. I also want to see Mahabalipuram.

It is very good of you to mention about the double coloured bougainvillaeas, but my time is so short here that it is hardly worth sending them now and to send them to Ceylon, where they would be even more welcome, would be much too difficult, as the Colombo Customs make a fuss of letting in plants and flowers. Nevertheless when I get down in mid-April

I intend to take a few of my favourite roots, wrapped up in moss, in an overcoat pocket and I trust that they will last out the brief journey by air and car.

Next year, too, I should certainly like to visit Kulu again. Since I saw a colour film on Nepal at the Himalayan Club here a few weeks ago, I have been very keen to go to Khatmandu and see Dhaulagiri and Macche Puchhare. The Military Attache at the British Embassy there, Colonel Jimmy Roberts, is a very old friend of mine. It will be nice if I could make it during his term of service.

My brother arrives in April from Malaya and will be staying with me for a day or two. Is there any chance of your being in town on April 1st and 2nd? He goes on to Persia where he will fulfil his dream and visit Ispahan, Shiraz and Persepolis. I shall be flying to Rome to stay with Aubrey Menen at the end of May. Barbara and Charles are having a farewell visit to Delhi at the end of the month and it is possible that I may be there at the same ^{time} as they are, as I go to Calcutta on the 1st and will be coming back via Delhi.

Last night Raj Kapoor entertained me to dinner at his studio cottage in Chembur and we saw his film "Boot Polish" (1953). I had not seen it before and thought it simple and charming. Raj could not have been nicer. He looks handsome and in good shape — not gross and dissipated as he looked some years ago. The food was excellent though its heat — plus the whisky flowing! — did not do my stomach any good!

No more news.

Much love to you both,

Sham