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The Illustrated Weekly of India

Bombay

10.10.53

My dear Svatoslav & Devika,

Karji arrived with the most excellent
articles — I told him they looked even fresher than he did! —
for which very many thanks. I read them at a dinner party last
night and the guests unanimously enthused over them.

I am now settled back at routine again — back at
the treadmill, as it were! I was so despondent at having to
return to Bombay — where I have never been really happy for
a day — that I had a sudden urge in Rome, when I
realised I had a £20 traveller's cheque left & £18 (all but)
in sterling, and got off the plane & spent an enchanting
week in the Eternal City. The weather was sunny &
I had a marked sense of euphoria & wished I could stay
on there indefinitely instead of catching the Bombay plane a
week later. Radanajet Singh (Cultural Attache at the
Indian Embassy in Rome) was very kind to me and
introduced me to many artists & authors — including
Professor Venturi, the art critic, who arranged the Picasso
exhibition in Rome. I also met Tucci & Carlo Levi.
Dr. Sincero & his wife were most hospitable, & I had
friends at both the British & Indian embassies. Jean
Bajpai (her husband, the Bombay Governor's brother, is
Commercial Attache in Rome) had a party to me

I hope to spend Christmas with Maria Elvira in the jungle.
He has married a Swedish girl.

about to place W. below K. & P. & T.

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godmoed

She is a lovely person & quite beautiful. I met her first in London in 1848. I did not care for Maria Bayly, the Townsends son, who is just nothing - he seemed to me conceited and not a person of much talent.

I had a really most enjoyable holiday - 2 weeks in Paris with my brother & 3 weeks in Denmark & Sweden. In London I did a good deal of theatre going & saw "Princess Ida" at the Festival Ballet with the original Roerich decors.

The only blennish^{to the throat} was a rupture throat I got in Stockholm. It got better but returned after I was back in Bombay a week. It has yielded to penicillin but it's at one time suspected mumps! - as I have still a slight glandular complication which Dr. Wingarten is treating. If this clears up, I shall be fighting fit!

My friends the Hackneys (he is 101) are retiring next week & are going to Kuala for a year. My house for the house where the Rahons were (Rae Cottage?) for Rs 50 a month, which seems to me a great bargain. I recall its corners & its willow trees - a lovely spot.

Raman did a good job, I feel, on the "Weekly" in my absence, but he was inclined to overdo the art & literary aspects & a good many readers have complained. I have prepared some good issues for all types of readers, though it is difficult to satisfy all tastes. When are you coming to Bombay? Love, Shreem



Roma
Basilica di S. Pietro
Basilique de St. Pierre.
St. Peter's Church.
St. Peterskirche.

Piazza Esdra

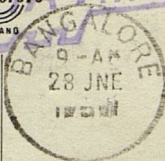
Rome 22.6.54

Questo è uguale
Paradiso! - cielo
blù e molto

felice -

Con amore

Shaur



M. & M. Moench;

% Indian Bank

Condominium

Bangalore

India