

Poste Restante
Bourganeuf - Cray

M. KNOEDLER & CO. LTD.
RECEIVED
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15 octobre 1940

Dear Mr Henschel

ANS'D.

I take this opportunity, of Mrs Carstairs returning to the U.S.A., to confirm you my letter of September 12th, by air mail, it may be that the letter never reached. So I may repeat, that before I had to leave Paris, I did all what was possible, and see that all the stock, books etc... were in safety, either in safe or in a lorry one Mr Ducey had taken at the Lloyds, and since I managed to get news, that all at the office is in order.

Mrs Carstairs will let you know of all the difficulties we have to correspond with or from Paris, but Miss Raymond's, who is at the office, managed to write different letters, she had made a general report of things, for me to try and forward to you, but up to the present date have not received any, and I wonder now, if this letter has not been lost or destroyed, I would have been so pleased to have this report and to forward it by air mail to you, so as to try and keep you au courant of the office. There is one thing Miss Raymond's wrote to me about, that is, she had the visit of an inspector of Police, they are sent by the "Occupants" to trace the Jews, they wanted to know if the name of Knoedler a firm was Catholique, so after the answer that the Knoedler family was Catholique, and that the administrator (Mr Ducey) is a protestant, and that the President is an American citizen, living in New York, and coming every year for about 6 months, the inspector understood very well the situation, as Mr Ducey or I cannot return to Paris for the present, neither any foreigners

So I wrote to Miss Raymondin, as Mr Poland Balaj is in Paris, to see with him what could be done, as regards any little trouble she could have with the Authority, and that no "Fondé de pouvoir" or administrateur are there for the present, to see with Mr Poland a "avocat conseil" say Maurice Petit, who constituted the Société Anonyme, he may help us, for different answers, and if necessary to certify that the firm MRC is no Jewish firm, as he knows the family so well and has a legal authority towards the government, certainly by his advice, the office would not get into any little troubles, and all the stock etc... safe, until the return of Mr Dawey as administrateur Délégué or as administrateur. Before leaving Paris Mr Dawey had the cash taken out of the bank, and took with him, with the cheques books, the little amount we had, so Miss Raymondin is left with no cash to pay for little different bills there are, as Rent, taxes et menus little things, for the rent, we had a reduction of 50%, but we have to pay for the quarters (Termes) of April, July and October, would it be possible to send a little cash, through Mr Balaj (Lyon) or by the American Consul in Paris, I should think that 30 or 40000 francs would keep the office going for some time, and see that the place and stock are safe. I have no news of Mr Dawey, since a telegram I received early in August from London, I have taken the chance of sending different letters but up to the present date have no reply, it is very hard in the present times to be without any news, and away from Lucerne -

I have now been in this little place for 3 months

and cannot go to any other place, and from time to time I am able to get news from Miss Raymond's and from my Wife & Baby, who I am happy to say are quiet well, but very hard to be separated, they have all what is needed, in small quantities, but quite enough to keep on, and I don't see yet the day of returning home. I also have good news of Mr Charles, who at present is in Cannes, and in very good health, comfortable at the Carlton, after a cure at Aix-les-Bains. Different dealers like Mr Hessel, Georges Bernheim (whose son Roger Bernheim is at present a prisoner of War), Mr Baeris are also in the South. May I call upon you, Dear Mr Henschel, for a help. I have tried since in this place to find something to do, but it is a small place, and out of farmers there is no other business. I am now getting very short of money, and I am now afraid that in a short time I will be in a very big need, with the winter coming in. I am wondering what I can do. I had to leave to my Wife & Baby the most I could of of the little cash I had in advance, as I wrote in my letter of Sept 12, would you be so kind to let me have an advance of \$100 that I think would keep me on for 3/4 months, awaiting my return to normal life, and the advance could then be reimbursed. Would it be possible to send through Mr Balaj(dyon) and if possible by cable, I thank you so much in advance for this big help, that I am in real need of -

I hope to be able to send you, as soon as I will

receive, news of Miss Reymond's -

I sincerely hope that Mrs Henschel, Mrs Chelmenowski
and yourself are in perfect health, also
Miss Jansen, and would you kindly
remember me

I remain dear Sir

Yours very Sincerely

Ellen Ratcliff