

No. 6

Janos Pongracz
6 Vermezo St. District II
Budapest, Hungary

3 February 1940

Dear son,

We are calculating the time and it seems like you should be arriving in New Zealand on the 24th. We are hoping that you will send us a letter by air which should be here within a week, and we are also hoping that a week later we will hear from you from S[ydney]. We are very much looking forward to hearing from you.

No news at home. The last few weeks was all about Piczu [Istvan Pongracz]. He went skiing, he also went to the Matyas ball and he got his mid-year marks, so we were busy with all the things that he's doing.

The winter was so strong this year. The amount of snow we had is unheard of, which gave Piczu the chance to do what he loves to do, which is skiing. So first of all at Christmas he went to Kárpátalja [Zakarpattia, now western Ukraine] but then he went skiing to Dobogókő [north of Budapest] and at the end he had five days coal break so that means that he could ski more. Basically we don't really see him. He leaves very early in the morning and he gets home at 6pm and it happens that we are not at home then, we are out of the house having dinner somewhere. But Piczu really enjoys this sort of lifestyle. I can also tell you that he is behaving very well, he gets home at 6pm, he has afternoon tea and within half an hour he packs his things and he goes to his private tutor and he gets home from the private tutor at 9pm.

Yesterday was the school ball which was really special because he had a tuxedo which we had fitted for him. Of course, Piczu was against it, but at the end he was very happy that he looked like an adult in this beautiful tuxedo. He got home from the ball at six o'clock in the morning and at 9am he was ready to go to the Svab mountain.

His midterm marks included for four twos [a low mark]. One of them was mathematics unfortunately. Piczu is actually very satisfied with this result and to be honest I am as well, especially when his private teacher says that he will pass the exams.

The landlord luckily keeps us warm. If we don't have the northern wind it is very pleasant in our home, but we hear that others are freezing because of the lack of coal. Even in the best houses it happens that they don't have coal. They are still predicting very cold weather. Our health is fine despite the cold weather. All three of us are well.

I don't have else important to say unless I want to write everything down before your mother does. I just want to strongly remind you one more time that please don't forget your uncle Aurel [Sir Aurel Stein]. If you haven't written to him please write to him urgently and soon with details about your travels and your arrival. In one of his letters he was basically saying that he has to keep his wealth together because of the relatives and he firmly said that you have a duty to him, so please don't forget to fulfill your duties with Uncle Aurel.

Lots of kisses, thousands of kisses dear son.

Dad