

**Letter 43 Hugo, Dora Received 2/3/39**

Dear Ruth,

First of all we confirm receipt of your last letter whose content we are very pleased about. That you opened the parcel with the stamps does not matter, however please do take good care of it.

This letter is written in a peculiar kind of mood. I don't know whether to laugh or cry, but because you know me you will also know that the tears of joy and also the tears of sorrow will both be held back, even though there are enough reasons for both. But I don't want to keep you in suspense – a few days ago we got a permit, for myself, mother and Kurt and with that the prospect of all being together again in the foreseeable future.

All of us? No, not all of us. Unfortunately it's going downhill with Grandma Flintenstein. Wednesday she had seizures again, and it was so bad that Mother had to call me and we had to take her into the Pözl clinic. From there she was taken to the "Steinhof" yesterday.

Can you imagine what all this means to Mother. How much Mother cries now and what she looks like. Added to which Grandma Flintenstein believes that your letters don't come from you and that you are not alive any longer. Please dear Ruth, maybe it is possible for you to get photographed. Write a separate little letter to Grandma, enclose it into the letter to us, but on a separate sheet of paper and enclose a photo of yourself.

Dear Ruth, yesterday we sent a parcel to you – the three belts, for Margaret, Barbara and yourself, I have made these myself, even the buckles. I have learned this now. Hopefully you will get pleasure from them. Please send my sincerest regards to the 2 girls and everyone else. Unfortunately the letter from your dear foster mother – which you had told us about – has not arrived yet. We have heard from Aunti Hansi that your foster father has sent a letter to her. Probably Uncle Ernst has written back to him. I blame myself that I have not yet written to your foster parents, am planning though to do it today.

Now dear Ruth, I will end my letter with many greeting and kisses

Your Father

across the left side of page1 : Susi, Ilse and Trixi all have been waiting for an answer. Susi has been a few times to ask. Please write to them. Why have you have not yet added greetings to Markus in the letter to us?

top right of page:

P.S. You can send greetings to Markus, Ilse, Fanny and Trixi as an appendix when writing to us. Daddy

My dear, dear child!

This time it's our turn to ask you not to be angry with us because of the delay in answering your kind letter. As you will see from the words of your dear father the reason is a very sad one. We had to put the poor, dear grandmother into an institution. How that makes me feel, you can imagine, dear Ruth. Where we should have reason to be joyful with the news of our departure. But sadly, sadly, the condition of Grandma is such that it would break my heart to think that I should leave and she would stay behind with total strangers. Since your departure things have got far worse in general. She cares about you and because she misses you so much she has been crying day and night and it has totally ruined her health. I have now a lot to sort out and a lot of effort and it is taking its toll on my nerves. Finally we have sent you the parcel, hopefully it will arrive unscathed. You will be amazed and at the same time very pleased about the belts which dear daddy has made for you three so lovingly. Also the three bags are for you. Enjoy the boiled sweets, I have sent more this time so that your dear foster parents can also enjoy some.

In the insertion I put 2 letters, one from Richard, and one from Dolfi, his first

across the left edge on page 2:

letter has suffered a sad fate. Richard's letter is a bit crazy but do not worry about it. Many greetings and kisses from your unhappy Mummy

top right on page 2 :

Dear Ruth, do not write anything in the letter about the departure, only onto a separate piece of paper, because I want to show the letter to Grandma, and she must not know anything about it yet. So please remember this.