

Dresden - Freital - 2
Ob. Dresdner Str. 77
~~May~~ June 3, 1937

Dear Friend,

I received your letter and was certainly glad to get it. Very pleased to hear from you the more as your long letter demonstrated a certain conformity and correspondence of interests. But maybe before I go on I had better introduce myself. You already know my name and found it interesting. Do you mean my Christian or my family name to strike you as queer? My Christian name at least is very common and popular in this country and my parents have named me after our greatest poet Wolfgang V. Goethe. I am 18 years old, tall, blond hair, wear a pair of norm spectacles on my freckled face. I will send you a snapshot of myself later on. I attend the Wettiner Gymnasium at Dresden my last year. Gymnasium here is not a locality for physical training, but a part of school corresponding to you high schools but with much emphasize laid on the old languages. So I learn Latin, Greek, and even Hebrew. I am chiefly interested in languages and literature, so I have learned in addition English and French. I am a little interested in the branches of mathematics, physics a.s.o. I was very surprised to find a pen friend knowing Latin, for I did not suspect girls like these to be found very frequently, neither in your nor in this country. How long have you been learning this wonderful language. For myself, since more than seven years. Besides, I could not find out the meaning of the number I after the subjects of English and Latin in your Letter. But back to my discription! I live in Freital, a nearby suburb of Dresden. Dresden was about 650,000 ind. And is one of the biggest towns in Germany and a famous art town. I will send you a few pamphlets of Dresden so that you get an idea of what it looks like. My father has a store for manufactured goods and ladies modes here in Freital. You can go to Freital to Dresden by train and train within a quarter of or half an hour. I do so two times at least day for day since 8 years. I have a sister who is about two years younger than myself. That will do of myself.

I would like to help you in your hobby of collecting flowers. When out next time I will try to find some flowers I suppose unknown in America, press them and send them over.

You wrote you were fond of music and books. So am I. I do not know what branch of music you are interested in. I play piano very intensively. I am just working at Bee the Moonlight Sonata by Beethoven, op. 27. Perhaps you know it. Here in Dresden we have an Opera House of the highest standard that ay easily be ranged among the first stages of Europe. All its artistic and technical staff has been in London at the Royal Opera, Covent Garden some months ago and there in Dresden Opera Company has produced some operas by Wagner, Mozart, and Strauss. It meant a great triumph for this institute. You can imagine I frequent the Opera very often. My favourite composers are Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss. Just last week the annual meeting of the International European Composers Association took place at Dresden. Series and extract from contemporary music were presented and Dresden was visited by artists, experts, and composers from many countries of Europe.

For the books, I spend a great deal of my leisure time with reading modern German, Nordic (Scandinavian), and English poets. I must confess I have not yet occupied myself with American literature too much. It was only Jack London whom I have eagerly read when still a young boy. My favorite poet is the Norwegian ???? Hannsun. Is he known in your country? Besides, the story of Hobart you are just reading and speaking of has been translated into German.

I must pay you my tribute because of your life ambition. You have chosen a difficult and hard service for the course of Christianity. When having finished school next Easter and undergone two years of military service I wish to study evangelic lutheric theology. You see, a queer conformity of interests and ambitions does turn out after all! So I think we will have no difficulty of getting very good pen pages together and I hope you will find me an interesting correspondent.

But perhaps I had now better close for this time. I add two cards with my signature for you autograph collection. So I say so-long hoping to hear from you soon.

Your friend

Wolfgang May