

SOME LETTERS
OF
HUGO AND IDA SEILERN

Translated from the French
by their grandson
Josselyn Hennessy
with
explanatory background
and
historical notes
on the
Zaluski, Seilern, Hennessy and Mather families



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DEDICATION TO COUNT CHARLES SEILERN AND ASPANG

My dear Chappie,

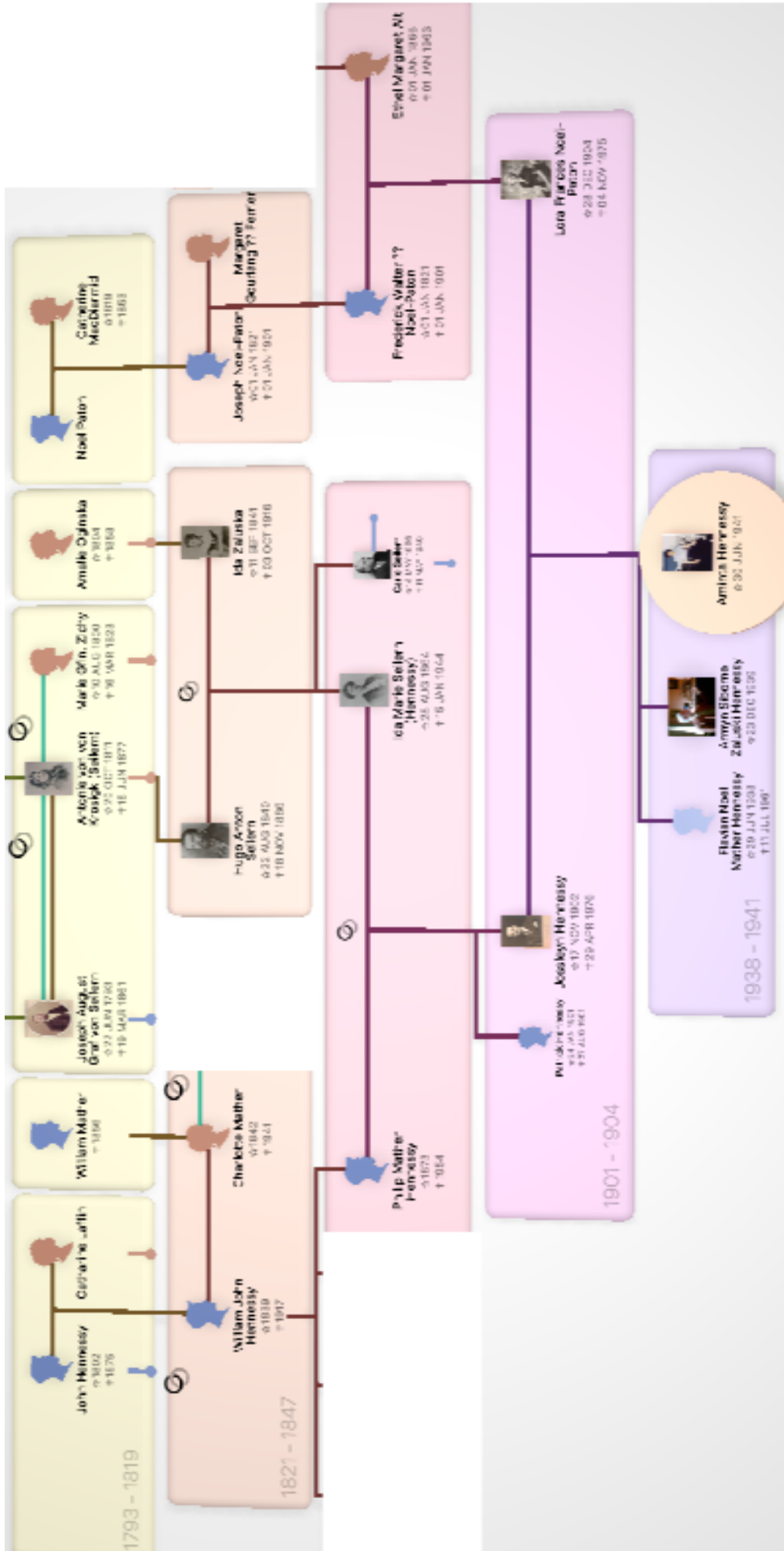
It is with real pleasure that I placed it on record that it was on your initiative that I undertook (a) to translate some time ago some letters of our grandfather Hugo Seilern, and now this second batch, and (b) to provide some background notes about the lives of our grandparents.

It gives me pleasure because I rejoiced that you share my interests in our Seilern and Zaluski ancestors, and I hope that these translations and notes may help to keep that interest alive in your children and mine. It would be sad if families with such long and interesting traditions behind them as the Zaluskis, Seilerns, Hennessy's and Mathers drifted apart and became strangers to each other.

You will be familiar with most of what I have sketched in under the heading A Who's Who of Some Zaluski, Seilern, Hennessy and Mather Personalities, but I wanted to place it on record, because I am not sure that our children, and their children, are conscious of these facts, and I hope that my notes may kindle their interest in their ancestors and collateral relations.

I am at present writing a study of these four families and I hope that I live long enough to complete it, because the more deeply that I delve into the documents of the past the more am I impressed with the remarkable contributions to the histories of their respective countries that your and my Zaluski, Seilern, Hennessy and Mather forbears made.

Ever your affectionate cousin,



A WHO'S WHO OF SOME ZALUSKI, SEILERN,
HENNESSY AND MATHER PERSONALITIES

COUNT CHARLES ZALUSKI (1794-1846) served for some years in the Russian diplomatic service. After his marriage appointed Marshall of the Nobility of the District of Upita, Lithuania (where he had a property). Asked to take the lead in his District in the Polish insurrection of 1831, he consented, despite his belief that it had no chance of success, rather than becoming a "Quisling." Exiled by the Czar. 1831-36 in Memel (Prussia), U.K., and France. Allowed by the Austrian emperor to return to his estate at Iwonicz in Galicia (Austrian Poland). Devoting himself to the promotion of Iwonicz bad. He married in 1826. Died 1846.

PRINCESS AMELIE OGINSKA, born 1804, died 1858 in Ischia. Devoted wife and mother of eleven children, including:

MICHEL ZALUSKI, eldest son, officer in the Austrian army (Ficquelments' Dragoons), born 1827, died 19.... Grandfather of Bogdan (Still living).

EMMA ZALUSKA, born 1831 in Memel. Married Teofile Ostaszewski in 1849. Lived at Wzdow.

CHARLES ZALUSKI, born 1834. Served in Austrian diplomatic corps. Ambassador in Teheran and Tokio. Debt commissioner in Egypt in the time of Lord Cromer. A gifted amateur composer and pianist. Died 19.. ?

IDA ZALUSKA. Tenth child. Born 11/9/1841. Through the introduction of her brother, Charles, met Hugo, Count Seilern, whom she married on the 10/10/1863 in Vienna. She died in 3/10/1916. Married **HUGO SEILERN.** Born Grinzing, Vienna, 22/8/1840, son of Joseph Seilern (1793- 1861) and his second wife Antonie Krosigk (born 20/10/1811, married J.S. 20/6/1830, died 15/6/1877). Hugo married Ida Zaluska the 10/10/1863 and died on the 18/11/1886.

CHILDREN AND DESCENDANTS OF HUGO AND IDA SEILERN:

Ida (Idela) Amelie Lucie, born Seilern in Vienna 29/8/1864, married Philip Mather Hennessy (1873- 1954) on the 15/1/1900, died at Taunton, England, 15/1/1945. She was a pianist of distinction and delicacy of touch and feeling, reminiscent on the piano of Kreisler playing his Couperin- Kreisler pieces. Just as her father bore with fortitude, dignity, patience, loyalty and affection the difficulties of being married to Ida Zaluska, so her daughter displayed the same qualities in coping with the difficulties of being married to Philip Hennessy. In Charles Zaluski's letter to Ida Seilern dated May 4th, 1873, Charles urges his sister to accommodate herself to her marriage with Hugo and win the respect of her husband and her in-laws by displaying dignity and forbearance, but whereas Ida Seilern never achieved this, her daughter Ida Hennessy did. I never heard my father and mother exchange across word and whenever they met, they found limitless topics of conversation enjoyed each other's company. Their first baby, Patrick, died in infancy. Their second son is:

Jocelyn Hennessy, born London 17/11/1902. Educated: Charterhouse and New College, Oxford. Hons B.A. in History. Diploma with distinction in Political Science and Economics. M.A. (Oxon). Assistant correspondent of Reuter's news agency, Paris, (1931- 35). Chief Paris correspondent of the News Chronicle (1935- 37). 1936 created Chevalier of the Legion of Honour by the President of The Republic with the citation: "For the greatest services rendered to the cause of Franco-British understanding." Director of public Relations to the Government

of India 1937-45. 1937-41 in India. 1942-45 sent to inaugurate the Government of India Information Services in the U.S.A. and Canada. 1946-48 Chief Correspondent of The Sunday Times in India and Pakistan, covering the transfer of power to independent India. 1948-53, Partner in a British business in Calcutta. Returned to the U.K. in 1953, since when engaged in broadcasting and writing, mainly on economic problems. Author of many books and pamphlets. Married Oct. 26, 1932, Lora Frances, daughter of the late Frederick Noel-Paton of Edinburgh, son of Sir Noel-Paton, sometime Queen's Limner for Scotland. Her brother is Lord Ferrier.

Children of Lora and Jossleyn Hennessy:

Flavian Noel-Mather, born June 1937 in London. Became a career officer in the R.A.F., killed in a flying accident on active service over Kuwait in July 1961.

Armyn Sieborn Zaluski, born Dec. 1940 in New Delhi. Schoolmaster.

Aminta Lucy, born June 1941 in Simla. Emigrated to Australia in 1964, where became qualified as a commercial pilot.

Children of Hugo and Ida Seilern:

KARL JOSEPH ("CARLO") SEILERN, born 14/5/1866, married Antoinette Woerishoffer 10/2/1898, died 11/5/1940. His wife Nettie died at Frensham Place, Farnham, Surrey, on 22/9/1901 and is buried in Farnham.

Children of Carlo and Nettie:-

1. Carl Hugo ("Chappie") born 23/3/1899.
2. Oswald, born 20/8/1900, died?
3. Antoine, born 17/9/ 1901, died ...?

THE HENNESSYS

John Hennessy, great-grandfather of Josselyn; descendant of a long line of country gentlemen, lived at Thomastown, Co. Kilkenny, Ireland. Took no part in the Young Ireland rising in 1848 but sheltered an O'Brien rebel. A warrant having been issued, he fled to the U.S.A., where he was joined in 1849 by his wife Catherine (née Laffin) and her sons Michael (1833-1892) and William John, (1839-1917). John Hennessy was comfortably off and managed to transfer much of his wealth to the U.S.A., where to the regret of his grand-children, he spent most of it in aiding the Irish cause. (they did not regret the cause but the money) His son Michael (1833 1892) joined the staff of the New York Times on the day of its foundation in 1851 and rose to be its Financial Editor. Killed in a street accident in New York. Left children but I have lost touch with their descendants.

William John (1839-1917) Educated in New York. Became a successful artist. Married Charlotte Mather (1842-1941). W. J.H. Returned to Europe in 1870 and lived many years in Normandy before settling in Sussex. Their children were:

Kathleen born 1871. Died 1892.

Philip Mather born 1873. Died 1954 married Ida Seilern

Moya born 1875. Died 1941 or 1942. Married Viscount Leon de Jantzé.

Elinor born 1844. Died 1958. Married Paul, Fourth Lord of Methuen.

THE MATHERS

trace their descendants from the reverend Richard Mather (1596-1669), a Puritan divine who emigrated in 1635 from Lancashire to Boston, where he and his son Increase (1639-1723), and his grandson Cotton (1662-1715) were influential members of the theocracy which ruled the state of Massachusetts throughout the 17th century. Their names are famous in American colonial history and the family made big contributions to American public life both before and after independence.

Between 1688 and 1692, Increase Mather played the leading part in negotiating, first, with James II and after his abdication, with William III, a new Charter for the state of Massachusetts. These were the years where Johann Friedrich Adam, first Count Seilern, was active in the Imperial diplomatic service and as Chancellor to Leopold I (1658-1705). Although it is unlikely that the two men ever met, it is possible that they knew of each other, because both were negotiating with the top people of their day.

Charles I of England (1625-1649) was the uncle of Karl Ludwig, Elector of the Palatinate (1649-1680), who sent J.F.A.S. To the Neckarschule and to the universities of Padua and Orleans, and made him his personal secretary in 1665 when J.F.A.S. was 20 years old. Karl Ludwig had spent the years 1640 to 1649 in London, where he met his first cousin, James, who became James II. Another uncle of Karl Ludwig was Frederick-Henry of Nassau, Stadholder and Captain General of the Netherlands, who was grandfather of William of Orange, who became William III of England.

So if Increase Mather who negotiated with James II, William III, and their ministers, and if Johan Friedrich Adam who was “invented” by their cousin Karl Ludwig, neither met nor heard of each other, it was a pretty near miss.

BACKGROUND TO THE LETTERS OF HUGO AND IDA SEILERN

Before looking through this selection of letters, I suggest that the reader should read the notes prefacing the translation of my first collection, "some letters of Hugo Seilern," because they will explain much of the background of this second collection.

HUGO'S FINANCES.

According to my mother Ida Hennessy (née Seilern), her mother (née Zaluska) inherited 50,000 gulden from her mother, Amelie Zaluska (nee Oginska). According to my mother, Hugo gambled away the whole of this dot.

Hugo's letter dated Weimar, Sept. 20, 1873, accuses his mother of having taken over his property and of doling him out a limited allowance and Charles Zaluski's letter dated Vienna, May 4, 1873, reports Hugo's mother as warning her daughter-in-law that "debts" provided no excuse, legal or other, for leaving a husband. From this, it seems that Hugo's mother had perhaps taken charge of his finances and made him an allowance possibly in order to pay off his debts and regularise his financial position, possibly in order to prevent him from incurring fresh debts. In 1873, Hugo was 33 years old.

Hugo's letter to his daughter, dated Munich, June 3, 1885, shows that at least by the age of 45, he had familiarised himself with business accountancy and was working hard and enthusiastically in promoting his own industrial enterprise, so that he redeemed his youthful follies. It was tragic that he died the next year, just when he seemed all set for financial success.

HUGO'S VIEWS ON IDA'S HEALTH.

I cannot help wondering if some passages of H.S's letter dated Baden, June 26th, 1872, urging Ida to trace the causes of her symptoms were not hints that much of her ill-health was neurotic in origin and based not on realities but on fantasies. "Go back to the causes of your suffering and formulate them without bitterness or passion... Perhaps you are making a mistake or exaggerating..."

DIFFICULTIES OF TRANSLATION.

All these letters were written in French, a language in which formal politeness is usual and natural, but which sounds stilted and unnatural in English.

I have allowed myself latitude in trying to translate these letters into language as near as possible to what sounds natural in English, but I have, I hope, not carried this to excess, because these letters were not written by English speaking correspondents and I did not want to try to turn them into English characters. So, when a phrase strikes you as stilted, remember that it sounded natural and human in the original.

THOU AND YOU.

English, unlike French and German, does not distinguish between Tu and Vous. The pain of those of Hugo's letters in which he addressed his wife with extreme frigidity as Vous and Madam is therefore lost in English.

HUGO'S RELATIONS WITH HIS WIFE.

Hugo Seilern emerges from these letters as a man of nobility of character and sensitivity of feeling. His wife accused him of affairs with other women. It seems, however, from these letters that she refused to have sexual relations with him from a relatively early date, probably 1869 (after six years of marriage) when she had a miscarriage, giving birth to stillborn twins. She was also ill and in bed with various unspecified maladies for weeks or months at a stretch throughout her life (see, e.g. her letter to Carlo dated Nice, April 20, 1910). It would therefore seem to me to be not in the least surprising if Hugo did console himself elsewhere from time to time. He was a normal man.

On the other hand, all his letters reveal what a romantically minded observer would call his deep and unswerving love, loyalty, patience, and affectionate consideration for his wife, but what a psychiatrist might perhaps call his obsession for her. To write a letter such as that dated Vienna, Nov. 1, 1873, overflowing with affection in which Hugo thanks Ida for having assigned him a bedroom giving onto her drawing room" because I shall be able to talk to you at all hours (of the day bien entendu)" might suggest that Hugo suffered from a psychological need to punish himself with this woman. A marriage, after all, should be a partnership to which each party makes his or her own contribution. Hugo

contributed patience, affection, interest, consideration and concern for the welfare of his children, but it is difficult (on the evidence of the letters surviving and of Ida Hennessy 's autobiography) to point to anything except complaints, reproaches, scenes, tears, and ill-health, largely it seems of a malade imaginaire, that Ida Zaluska contributed in return.

CAUSES OF IDA'S NEUROSES.

One can only speculate on the causes of Ida Zaluska's neuroses. She was the 10th of 11 children. She was in her fifth year when her father died, so she lacked an all-important factor in a child's life - the influence and example of an affectionate and understanding father. Her mother Amelie emerges from her letters in my possession as a remarkable an unusual woman: a devoted wife and mother, but apparently possessive and domineering, and a "battle-axe." She was a real partner to her husband in the management of the property and business at Iwonicz and carried it on single-handed for several years after his death - a tremendous responsibility, especially for a woman with 11 children.

The eleventh child was Ida 's younger sister, Fanny, the baby of the family – her eldest brother, Michel, was 16 when she was born - and was probably made much of by all the others. According to my mother, the maid who looked after the youngest children disliked Ida and favoured Fanny, and this may have given either a sense of injustice or persecution.

When Ida was 15 years old, the Countess Bromirska, a distant cousin of the Zaluskis, asked Amelie Zaluska to allow her to adopt one of her daughters and her choice fell on Ida. The Countess was wealthy and childless, and presumably Amelie, a widow, anxious about the financial future of her many children, was glad thus to be rid of responsibility for Ida. On the other hand, Amelie's willingness to hand her over may have confirmed Ida in her conviction that she was unwanted. Ida lived with the Countess Bromirska for two years of increasing tension and then left her to return home to her mother.

SUMMARISED CONTENTS OF LETTERS

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Lubien. 1/2/1868.

Hugo Seilern and Ida Seilern had now been married over five years but had no settled home.

Hugo is keen to set up a home for his wife and himself on the estate of a friend in Poland. As nothing came of this, Ida perhaps vetoed the idea.

19

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Fragment of a letter dated Wednesday morning.

(1) you no longer trust me... (2) the wrongly suspected

Mademoiselle.

21

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN, 16/ 5/1870.

Hugo takes the children out in Ida Seilern's absence. Carlo's birthday cake.

23

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Baden-Baden 26/6/1872.

A formal letter... Advice on health... Trace the causes of your symptoms.

26

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Baden-Baden, 9/7/1872.

An appeal to I. S's heart... More advice on health... Cold saltwater foot baths for the children.

29

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Baden-Baden, 21/8/1872.

Written the day before his birthday. Please for I.S.'s love... "Do not visit my mother, who intrigues against me, and does not give me the income which is mine." 30

HUGO SEILERN TO CHARLES ZALUSKI.

Baden, 26/8/1872.

Any understanding with Ida Seilern depends not on the mediation of a third party, or on an appeal to her reason, but to her answer to my question "Do you love me? Do you believe in my love?" 33

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Paris, 24/3/1873.

H.S. Addresses I.S. As "Madame" and Vous. He seems to have received a letter from her informing him that she no longer wishes to have conjugal relations with him. He asks her not to go to Galicia or to Naples. He is busy with his music in Paris. 35

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Paris, April 1873.

He reproaches I.S. for egoism and ingratitude and insists that she had agreed that he should take Carlo back on May 15. He refers to Charles Zaluski's "clumsy" mediation in the previous year. He requests I.S. not to go to Galicia nor to live in Naples. He explains that without qualifications or "influence" it is not easy to get a permanent job as she seems to think. ... 39

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Incomplete. No date.

I.S. Refuses a ring sent as a pledge of H. S's love..

45

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Weimar, Sept. 20, 1873.

Why does your heart not listen to mine? I warned you against Galicia and Naples (see Paris, 24/3/1873). However I am in no position to give advice or undertake responsibilities: my mother has taken my property and only gives me an allowance as she thinks fit.

46

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO HIS SISTER IDA SEILERN.

Vienna, May 4, 1873.

Reports to Ida on the attitudes of Hugo and his mother towards her. Hugo and his mother on the best of terms. The Dowager Countess Seilern says Hugo is now a reformed character. She wants her daughter-in-law to return and to keep up the appearances. She threatens that if Ida insists on a separate life, the Seilerns will go to court and secure a judicial separation with custody of the children to Hugo. Charles's Z. advises Ida to make the best of a difficult situation, return, and win the family's respect by her charm and dignity ...

49

IDA HENNESSY TO "CHAPPIE" SEILERN.

Writing in the 1940s from Taunton, Ida Hennessy commented on the foregoing letter and revealed her own assessment of the characters of her mother and father, and her Uncle Charles's attitude towards her mother.

52

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Vienna, Oct. 17, 1873.

Apparently I.S. accepted C.Z's advice, for all is now sweetness and light between her, Hugo and his mother, although his mother still keeps tight control of the purse strings. Hugo's postscript says that the doctor is still dosing him with quinine: this might be the aftermath of the malaria referred to in Hugo's letter from Weimar of 31/8/1873 (which is not in this folder, but in the first).

53

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Vienna, Nov. 1, 1873.

All sunshine. Complete reverse of letter dated Sept. 20, 1873.

Maman, Hugo and Ida all reconciled. ...

55

HUGO SEILERN TO HIS DAUGHTER IDELA (now aged 21).

Munich, June 3, 1885.

Refers to the oil wells being drilled near Targowiska. Gives an enthusiastic account of his workshop in Munich and his hopes of a flourishing business. He could not know that he would be dead within 17 months of writing this optimistic letter.

57

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO MICHEL, HIS ELDEST BROTHER,

Vienna, Oct. 27, 1875.

Refers to some trouble into which their brother eve has got himself, but C.Z. has managed to avoid publicity.

C.E. urges Michel not to include him in a biographical dictionary to which M. has been invited to send details of the family... Everyone knows how to acquire the immortal fame of this kind of reference book on contemporaries!

61

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO MICHELLE ZALUSKI.

Naples, deck. 27, 1875.

Chatty family news.

63

IDA SEILERN APPARENTLY TO HER BROTHER CHARLES ZALUSKI.

Nice, January 10, 1910.

This letter shows Ida cell earn characteristically full of self-pity and reproaching everyone else including her own son for failing to atone for his father's injustice toward her!

I do not understand the sentence you have the great good fortune to have the time to devote to your children. Charles Zaluski was a bachelor does this refer to his nephews and nieces?

POSTSCRIPT.

Judging by the ink and note paper this could be a PS to the previous letter. Refers to Zaluski family quarrels and lawsuits over inheritance. I suspect much ill-informed gossip in this letter.

64

IDA SEILERN TO HER SON CARLO.

Written on morning note paper from nice, April 20, 1910.

This letter contains a fascinating description of our grandmothers of varicose veins, liver, gout, intestines (subject to neurosis sick!), vegetarian regime (which includes a little white meat and light farren Asia's food), great anaemia, and congestion of the tips of her lungs- otherwise, she says, she is in pretty good shape.

68

IDA SEILERN PROBABLY TO CARLO.

Part of an incomplete letter without date but like the previous one on mourning note paper- for whom was she in mourning in 1910?

Ida refers to Carlo's financial difficulties, tells him not to fret himself with self-reproaches, he is young enough to mend his fences and get himself a new wife.

69

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO IDA SEILERN.

Naples, January the 5th, 1913.

Charles report that his tact has LED Mrs voice suffer to write off a sum of money that she had lent either sell an. CS edge regrets Carlo's lack of tact with his mother-in-law in connection with his engagement to Ilse Olden (whom he married in November of the same year).

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THE LETTERS

HUGO SEILERN TO HIS WIFE IDA SEILERN. (Written on KB monographed notepaper.)
Lubien (via lamb bag), 1st of February (?), 1868.

My very dear Ida,

In vain I await a letter from you to tell me where you are and where to address you. Yet I have many- and indeed important- things to tell you. I will therefore take a chance and send this to Biarritz, and I will write again on the same subject as soon as I know your address.

The question at issue is our next home.

The Baron de Brennitti (?), with whom I have formed a sincere and frank friendship, had on several occasions urged me to visit him in his house at Lubien (Poland) and to see whether I would like the countryside, and he had urged me to make a home there. He has several properties and several country houses, of which one is at Humic (?). None are completely furnished or arranged. He offers me this establishment in so friendly a way that I have discussed the possibility at length with the family, who all advised me to take advantage of the lucky chance of acquiring a pleasant and attractive home. In order, however, to retain my independence, I said that I would take up 50 arpents¹ of land as soon as I had your views about all of this. The house could not be more comfortable or nicer. I risk absolutely nothing, because with 50 arpents of land one can never make a loss of any importance, especially because along with the land I should have the cottage and a fine garden. Michel and Lena² and Emma and Téofile³ seriously urges me to do this deal with the kind BR.... (?), and I should frankly be happy if you agreed with this plan. I will wait 10 or 12 days for your reply, after which I shall have to begin to organise everything for our next day. I think that you could leave Biarritz at the

¹ an old French unit of area equal to about one acre (0.4 hectare) 50 arpents would be 20 hectares.

² Michel Zaluski and his wife Helen Brzostowska.

³ Emma Zaluska and her husband Teofile Ostassowski.

beginning of October and come direct to Leopold. I go from here to Vienna to talk to my mother and to ask her to send me my furniture, kitchen equipment, etc. etc.

I await with the greatest impatience detailed news of you and my dear children. I hope that you all arrived safely and that you yourself are well advanced in your cure. I embrace you with all my heart and I commend myself to your own good heart-

Your Hugo.

NOTE: there are at least two Lubiens in Poland, neither of them anywhere near Lemberg (Lvov) on the map. I can neither identify this Lubien, nor read the barons name.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

Torn letter dated Wednesday morning.

My very dear and much-loved little wife,

I should have so many things to tell you, because my heart is heavy indeed and crushed - everything that I tell you ought to be, it seems to me, the most beautiful of poetry, because my heart overflows with love and tender concern for you. How my heart would bleed if it did not long to soothe your troubles or at least share them. But you no longer have confidence in me, you feel the lack of my support, and that upsets you because you have not yet unlearned to love me and your heart instinctively feels this void - this lack of something on which to lean.

May your confidence in me return one day - then I will look after your happiness.

I send you (with this? Letter torn) a letter from my mother. I would be very grateful if you would postpone replying until we have been able to agree and definitely complete our plans. We could do that next Friday when you come here with Idela⁴ by the 9 o'clock train. Idetchka would have her lesson with Berta (?) and in the evening we would go to the Philharmonica.

I think that's in mid-June you could leave with one of the children for some spa, perhaps in Switzerland and that we should decide at once to spend next winter(?) in Naples.

You would certainly be able to find a maid in Switzerland because I doubt that it will be possible to keep Mademoiselle. I suspect that she is in love, if nothing worse ----- she was plainly scared when I told her about your telegram and asked me if it was absolutely necessary to leave the next day... said that she still had things to buy in town etc.... It is a bit steep and strikes me as suspicious. I think she has enough time to get ready and do her shopping. Her appearance would, for that matter, perfectly explained her

⁴ The daughter of. Hugo and Aida, Silent, Christened. Ida, Was called Itchen by her grandmother, Amelie, "Ideczka" (pronounced phonetically in English Idetchka) by her mother and Polish family., and Idela by her father. Ideczka means little Ida".

tendency to debauchery.* She is, besides, slow and her manners are poor. It is only right to add that she is full of goodwill and as obliging as possible... also that I am not accusing her... I only suspect but that in itself is too much! What do you think, my darling? In any case we can keep her until you leave... We will talk about this again... Don't let us rush anything.

Princess Frasso (?) was here yesterday. I also met her in Toledo at the moment when one of her horses crashed. She was alone in the carriage and horribly frightened. I was able to offer to squire her through the closely packed crowd, which had gathered round the poor horse, which could not get up. Fortunately, neither horse nor carriage were damaged. The Princess asked me to send you her most affectionate greetings and reckons on coming to see you on Friday.

*Footnote: This is the strong word he uses, but I suggest that had he be writing in English, he might have said "her tendency to go out on the spree"

I've just this minute found out why Mademoiselle is so fussed: it is the arrival of the Russian family from Naples, and she is worried because of the clothes and a trunk which she still has in Russia.... Perhaps I can retract and make an amende honorable!

I have not seen the Professor. Look after yourself and don't grieve. You know that I love you.... A woman never makes a mistake in the long run on that point. The future can therefore only bring us always nearer together. I embrace you with all my heart, as well as our good, dear and charming children.

Ever your devoted Hughchen.

P.S. Don't be scandalised, my very dear little wife, by the state of the envelope of my mother's letter. I only took the seals off to enclose it more easily. Had did not dream of reading a word. I send you this (letter torn) by the post and I telegraph because Madame (?) Monsieur de (?) cannot leave today as she (?) he (?) has too important things on hand.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

May 16, 1870.

Dear Ida!

We have at last had news of you.

I would have liked to have a few words of detail to know how you arrived, if Fanny came to meet you, how you spent your first day, etc. etc. etc., but you will not have much time and I'll await your return so that you can tell me all that yourself.

After you had left, the good children could hardly dry their little eyes and compose their anxious little faces. However, the soup began to recall them to themselves, and soon the frolicsome little creatures were laughing and joking, just as we like so much to see and hear them. At 5 o'clock I ordered a basket (picnic?) And the three of us set out in glorious weather. How cheerful and happy the poor children were to run with Papa along the paths, which meant that each fear, each prayer, cause new emotions, and provoked important questions. We covered 20 kms via Liscor on the hill sides. I naturally had to explain several times to either that Mama could not return tomorrow but would probably be back next week. I left it to her to explain all that to Charlot who seemed to understand it all out of respect for his learned sister. The next morning, we went to the park and into town, and busily admired the dolls and the wealth of California. Yesterday was our good Charlot's birthday⁵ so I had a cake with 5 candles, of which 4 were white, and one bigger green one in the middle, which created a big sensation and is likely to be a long remembered birthday. Today Charlot and I are going to choose a horse. The good children really are charming. I enjoy hearing them alive and about all day as I enjoy the gentle and musical twittering of the little birds in the sky, who send you into a pleasant reverie with their pure voices... And into the bargain, they are in excellent health, thanks no doubt to the care, conscientious and

⁵ on May 14., 1870, Charlot must have been four years old and his sister five years and nine months.

affectionate, of Mademoiselle. We can congratulate ourselves on having found this young woman. Always calm and kind, she looks after the children with constant care and yet knows how to keep them as disciplined and punctual as we want them to be.

Now about your belongings. I kept your trunk until today, i.e. 24 hours, because the Baroness de Pontalba leaves for Paris at midday and is kindly going to take it with her. Send for it tomorrow at her house at 41 Faubourg St. Honoré and don't forget to pay her a visit to thank her for her kindness. You will have received Noemi's first letter. I had given her several addresses which might be of use to you. Madame Patintl (?) will certainly be glad to see you. A letter for you from Maman has been put on my bedside table and thinking it was for me I opened it. Forgive me, dear Ida. You will find it re-stuck down in your hat box.

How goes the Behr (?) family. Try to find for Ida the book that Madame Zamoiska had.

They are extremely nice to me in Pau. Every day up to now I've had two invitations to dinner and for the evenings at the Princesses, Ramsays, Miltonbegers, Melettas. People ask after you a lot but I can only give them very inadequate news. Adieu, dear Ida, profit by your stay as much as possible. Try to see and hear all that is good and interesting in Paris.

all yours,
Hugo.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

June 26, 1872

Hugo addresses his wife as vous and Madame. According to Ida Hennessy 's autobiography, her mother was seriously ill for several months in 1871-72.

Baden-Baden (grand Duchy of Baden). Eichstrasse 3.

I acknowledge receipt, Madame, of your last letter of the 17th, which reached me through Fanny ⁶

I deplore above all that your health continues to leave so much to be desired, and I seriously wonder if those who look after you and who advise you, if indeed, you yourself realise the cause of your illness. For it is clear that to cure something one must go back to the cause and get rid of that first, then only can one attack the effects in their small details and repair any damage etc.

The air of the mountains might strengthen you if it were not too bracing and too full of oxygen. As for a light hydrotherapeutical cure. I can express no opinion in the absence of further details. In short, I distrust hydrotherapy in your case and in order to be reassured I should like the advice, opinion, and judgement of the doctor who looks after you. The most important thing in my view is to get accurately your temperature which is in exact relation to the vitality of your nervous system, and which also indicates absolutely the highest degree of reaction of which your body is capable.

A doctor who fails to make these observations, and who does not base his treatment on such facts, will do you more harm than good and make your illness incurable. He will be acting in the dark... And then the action of cold water is so effective and direct on the nervous system that one must know how to adapt it and to proportion it by an almost inspired quick look over, backed by long and learned experience.

You'll easily understand how all this worries and preoccupies me.... for I hope that you will be ready to believe at least in the great solicitude that I feel for you, and in my keen desire to see you completely cured and return to health.

⁶ Footnote: Probably Ida 's younger sister, youngest child of Charles and Amelie Zaluski. She married count Zelenski and had one daughter Rose, who married Perponcher, who had estates in Silesia, which I visited with my parents as a small child

I feel this so strongly that I would like to look after you myself and watch over your doctor's treatment with absolute devotion.

However, that, unfortunately, cannot be and what's the good of mere words when what is wanted above all are actions.

So reassure me on all this and write to me with the trust and frankness which alone could satisfy my interest in you. I have certainly not the right to reproach you, or even to point out the cold and indifferent tone which characterises your letters.... But it is also impossible for you to guess that my heart suffers from your coldness and indifference, which from my point of view are unjust.

Well, anyway, all that matters is that you look after yourself and get well again. Just one more word on what I said at the beginning of this letter: go back to the causes of your sufferings and formulate them without bitterness or passion but with trust and frankness. Perhaps you are making a mistake or are exaggerating, if so, so much the better for you.... Once the causes are mastered, the effects will soon disappear.

Embrace our dear children for me, and do so in the way you used to, because I could not embrace them more tenderly. Remind Idetchka of the promise she gave me in her last letter to write to me again soon.

I have found in another public auction in Paris a coral necklace, going so cheap that I bought it for the dear little kitten. I'll send it to her when I get a chance. When I took my pen to write today I had intended to rebut several rumours which have reached my ears. A propos of the children, I've done nothing, because I attached no importance to these rumours. I seize the occasion to reassure you completely about my intentions.* While I have the greatest interest in the education of the children, I assure you that I will always respect you as a devoted and indispensable mother and that I shall always choose the mode of education which will separate you from neither of the children. By doing so I shall lose the children's love for me, but I shall I hope win your happiness (?) And your gratitude.

I shake your hand and commend myself to your kind remembrances⁷.

All yours,

Hugo.

* Footnote: there had been suggestions that Hugo would seek either to take one or both of the children away from their mother, or that he would send them to schools of which she would disapprove.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

B. Baden. July 9, 1872.

I do not want to let the 10th of July go by without an appeal to your heart,** or without myself often you all the devotion an affection in my heart.

May the memory of your saintly mother*** inspire you with forgiveness and generosity, may it bring back to your noble heart that trust and sacrifice with which it once overflowed.

May the memory of the great virtues of their grandmother of saintly memory fill the hearts, still so pure, of our dear children and always be a Talisman for them.

I heard from Charles (probably Zaluski) that Reichenau's cure was undoubtedly doing you good and that you are fully on the road to recovery. I don't need to tell you how happy this has made me. Be, however, really prudent and bleed yourself conscientiously. Hydrotherapy requires much patience, perseverance, and faith, and then it brings great compensations... One feels oneself coming alive again in each fibre, all the physical faculties gain in vitality and the mental effort is always most helpful.

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You could probably perhaps give light douches to Charles who always used to suffer a little from his liver. I'm afraid that the child may be subject to the fevers of growth leading to atrophy of the liver.

⁷ This looks awkward in English. But the French is extremely formal and polite.

Here is another small piece of health advice: make the children take pretty frequently, even every evening, a foot bath of cold, salt water, afterwards rubbing their feet with a big flannel or an English brush.* A two-fold benefit follows: first, it keeps the feet in good condition and preserves them from the various consequences of shoes, walking, temperature, humidity, etc etc.; secondly, it cleans and opens the pores of the skin; lastly, it promotes the circulation of the blood and in winter especially warms the feet far better than anything else. It is an excellent habit to inculcate in children.

Upon which, I embrace both you and the dear children with all my heart.

All yours,

Hugo.

*What's that?

FROM HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

B. Baden, Aug. 21, 1872. (Aug. 22 was Hugo .S's birthday.)

Before replying directly to your good letter of the 17th, may I thank you with all my heart for your good wishes for the 22nd.

I know them to be true and sincere and I therefore regard them as a good augury. They will bring me happiness.

By this time you will, I hope, have received my two letters of the 19th and 18th and my little parcel of the 17th. In these two letters I have set forth all my heart's thoughts and hopes.

Today, now that you insist that I make a decision, I can only repeat what I said before: I love you, dear Ida, with all my heart and can find my happiness only in you; my happiness is in your possession. If you yourself still love me, if love banishes from your heart all distrust and discouragement, then take the hand which I loyally stretch out to you. Listen to your heart and take it with confidence.

Let it not be because of the opinions or the advice of some member of the family, let it not be any feeling of self-sacrifice or of reason, which urges you to forgive the past and entrust your future to me... I accept your heart only as my judge... It is a cry from your heart that I want to catch.

If, however, you don't feel strong enough to live with me, if, alas, you no longer love me, I hope that you will always regard me as a most sincere and devoted friend, and that you will be good enough to let me know the place which suits you the best for your permanent home.

I hope that you will not grieve me by accepting my mother's invitation to go to Vienna. I cannot possibly approve of this plan, and even more my duty and conscience are absolutely opposed to it.

You can inform my mother that I am absolutely decided about this. I regret that I cannot do so myself, seeing that my mother has taken care to conceal her real intentions towards me and has stooped to intrigues against my happiness and that of my children. It is, therefore, to be assumed that I am unaware of her proposition.

For the rest, in all this I wish to be, and to remain, wholly independent of all influence and advice. I am responsible to my own conscience and heart alone, and the sole appeal that I make is to your heart!

How wonderful it would be if you would only listen to your heart. I would propose to you to come to establish yourself here in Baden towards the end of September. Baden is a charming town. The juries close for good in October an society here will therefore be the more distinguished, select, and agreeable.

In addition, the educational facilities are incredible here - for Charlot the excellent university of Strasbourg is one hour away, and then 14 hours to Paris, 4 hours to Frankfurt, 2 hours from Switzerland. You can't be more centrally situated.

Well, I don't want to build castles in Spain and give myself over to pipe dreams!

I await your reply impatiently and commend myself to a good heart.

I embrace my good and charming children and will write to them soon. I've just received their charming letter. Greetings to all and to you, dear Ida, who are all my happiness and my future.

Hugo

HUGO SEILERN TO HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, CHARLES ZALUSKI

through whom he originally met his wife.

Baden Baden, Aug. 26, 1872.

Very dear friend!

It is my fault that our correspondence has languished a little in recent days.

I've been keeping up a pretty brisk correspondence with Ida and without wishing to make any mysteries with you, I did not think that the moment had yet come to bring you up to date on our exchanges.

Rightly or wrongly, I can only put one question to Ida: Do you love me and do believe in my love?

Any understanding, any future, in my view, depends on the answer.

I should not accept with the same confidence and enthusiasm a reconciliation which was the consequence either of my pure and simple reasoning, or of the advice of some other member of the family.

I feel so independent in my love and in my anxiety for my little family that I am not ready to accept anyone's intervention, whoever it may be. A reconciliation with Ida depends solely upon her - upon her heart! As for my mother, I wish to know nothing at all about all the intrigues that she has hatched against my happiness. Neither her character nor her judgement inspire any confidence in me. I shall therefore follow my own convictions in everything that I decide.

My confidence in

you, excellent friend, my great and deep gratitude towards my brother-in-law will, I hope, have enabled you to realise that you are the exception and that not only will I always accept with pleasure your advice and help but that I count on it, too, and invite it.

I am very annoyed not to be able to find my Reihn (?). I miss it very much at this moment chiefly because of the orchestration, which he (?) explains so admirably. Haven't you found a big case in unpainted wood, like this drawing, with two locks? Reihn (?) with whole collection of French and German authors must be inside it - unless I left it at Idzdoio with Emma, but I don't think so. If you have a chance to talk with a professional musician, please ask him if it is customary to write for horns in the key of F and if horns in D are really out of fashion. And what is the role of the ophicleide laid in a big German orchestra? I've often seen them used in French scores to replace the bass trombone. (Here translation of two lines in German is needed.)

I am very encouraged by the interest that people take in me. Johann Strauss and Brahms like to play with me and are so far kind as to be willing seriously to study my scores and to correct here and there my imperfections. Next week Strauss will play my Fantaisie Valse which I've just finished for a big orchestra.

If it were to interest you, I could send you a copy.

Your colleague the Chevalier de Pfensterschmidt (?) asked me to send you his best compliments. (Here translation of two lines in German wanted.) I amused myself by mystifying and scaring him by telling him that I thought you had very gloomy ideas about politics. He thinks highly of your judgement and your gifts. I leave you to imagine how comic were the shocks I gave to this man's intelligence which is both second rate and narrow. That does not prevent him from being a charming person, a perfect gentleman, and full of attentions to his fellow-countrymen. I embrace you (?)

(Letter apparently either unsigned or incomplete.)

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

H.S. addresses her formally as Vous and Madame.

Paris, March 24, 1873.

I acknowledge receipt of your last letter of March 21. Its reserved and cold tone has pained me greatly, I must admit. But at least I can thank you for your frankness and honesty and for the dignified and delicate way in which you notify me of the kind of relations that you wish to maintain with me henceforth.

My concern for you and my affection have been too deep for me to be able to modify them and I take the opportunity to assure you once again of my disinterested devotion.

Having thoroughly established this point, let us turn without delay to one which should always serve to keep us in agreement: the education of our children.

It is not necessary to repeat what I have said so often, i.e., that I have absolute and complete confidence in your devotion and in your motherly heart in all that concerns the day to day tasks of looking after the children's welfare, and in all that love and instinct can do in education - all that could not be entrusted better to anyone else.

Education has, however, a practical side: it is an art and a science. To develop the faculties of the mind, to be able to adapt to the duties of the world and of society, one must examine these questions in their causes and effects, just like the doctor who wishes to conserve and develop a man's physical faculties.

Here love and instinct, devotion, and common sense are no longer enough, by which I mean that you will necessarily need advice and even guidance to get satisfactory results.

The theory so widespread among most parents that "There is no need for our children to grow up into extraordinary beings, providing that they

grow up decent and responsible citizens, i.e., honest and useful” seems to me hateful, monstrously wrong and useless.

You will, perhaps rightly, tell me that even though you agree that you need advice, you have no confidence in mine, and that in any case our separation would make it difficult to give.

Such an argument would, however, be unrealistic. My rights as a father will, I hope, be as sacred to you as they are to me. All that is needed is that we should agree on how we understand them and here I feel specially obliged to speak frankly. I will therefore not conceal from you that I have gathered from your letter that you mean to spend your summer in Galicia and then return once more to Naples and that this decision upsets me enormously. I have no right to oppose your trip to Galicia, even though it would displease me more than anything else. You might think this to be just a matter of my touchiness, which would certainly not help us to agree.

As for your return to Naples. I hope that you will readily grasp my reasons against it. Above all it becomes ever more urgent that Charlot should be educated in one fixed centre. I do not like the idea of a boarding school for him. I would like him to go to a day school, eating and sleeping in the house of his father or his mother. You, I am sure, would not wish any more than I to see the children educated in a country as primitive and backward as Naples. I have no prejudices about nationalities or bias about modes of education, but it does not follow that I wish to make Italians of the children, still less Neapolitans. Besides, I consider Naples to have a sorry, debilitating and weakening climate, especially for delicate constitutions. The customs and civilization of its inhabitants amply prove this. Finally, the distance which would separate me from the children would be far too great to enable me to fulfil my duties conscientiously and to keep close watch on their studies and progress. It is above all in solving that problem that I hope you will be good enough to help me. I certainly do not wish to oppose you in anything and I stick to my resolve to leave the children to you and do all I can to ensure you as quiet and happy a life as possible. But, you, on your side, Madame, will, I am sure, make small concession to the father of your children. And in this connection, I am anxious

that you should consult no one else but me; experience has amply demonstrated that a third party has never been a good counsellor in a marriage and has only made understanding more difficult and complicated.

I await your reply in order the better to adapt my ideas to yours. Moreover, Charlot's day schooling would begin in the autumn after the holidays, so that we have plenty of time⁸.

My limited means do not allow me to make any ambitious plans and for the moment I think of staying in Paris. I am renting an unfurnished lap by the year and reckon on setting myself up little by little as my purse allows.

I am very busy and hard at work - to write music is not usually regarded as a serious even respectable occupation among those who derive their principles and ideas from the conventions of aristocratic Europe - the number of such persons is, for that matter, fortunately extremely small and they have neither authority nor influence in social and political life. Here, in Paris, we composers constitute a close and united company: the Duke of Massa, the Marquis d'Ivry, count Castillon, etc., all in the front rank of musicians, whose works are publicly played at the Conservatoire⁹ and by the greatest artists (like Rubenstein etc.)**

I am lucky in that a composition of mine for orchestra is to be performed next Sunday, the 30th, before a most brilliant audience. That's why I am very busy with rehearsals and so on.

I embrace the dear and good children and beg you to accept all my gratitude and devotion.

⁸ Carlo was exactly 7 years old in May, 1873.

⁹ there were two brothers: (1) Anton - 1830-1894, a friend of Liszt, both a composer and executant who spent most of his time in Russia where he founded the St. Petersburg Conservatoire, and (2) Nicholas - 1835- 1881, who died in Paris. Although he composed a few virtuoso pieces, he was essentially an executant. He founded the Moscow Conservatoire. The Rubenstein led the cosmopolitan as opposed to the nationalist-revival school of music in Russia.

(Signed) Seilern.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Paris, April 1873.

I was about to write to you, dear Ida when I received your letter of April 4. I begin by thanking you for your 16 pages, written with so much devotion, even at the cost of your sleep, and I can't find words for the emotion and admiration that they have produced in me.

Before replying, however, to the various questions that you raise, let me return for a moment to the feelings which prompted me a while ago to take up my pen. I have been deeply wounded and hurt in these recent days and I even told Maman about it in my letter of April 3.

I do not know whether, or rather I doubt that the reasons for my grief can interest you. On the other hand, I don't suppose you'll be indifferent to the actual point of what I have to complain about, and I feel it part of my duty towards you to repeat it.

I have, then, being hurt to see you dispose of my existence and my future with - if I may say so - a complete egoism and an ingratitude which are unworthy of you. I can at a pinch put up with the egoism, because that is the fundamental basis of feminine human nature and the secret of feminine charm. The feelings of a woman spring from her egoism: love, with all its devotion and self-sacrifices is the result. Thus, without egoism, a woman has no love to give (don't protest! It is not I who says this - it is just psychology).

Your ingratitude, however, hurts me more. You know very well, dear Ida, that we agreed that I should take Charlot back on May 15, 1873. I

have your signed letter before my eyes. May 15 approaches. What have I done?

Being aware that I have failed in my obligations to you, that I have not known how to ensure your happiness - and that (I can say it with my hand on my conscience) chiefly from my lack of education and experience: I thought myself obliged to offer you amends. I have begun by sounding your feelings towards me and all my recent letters reveal my sincere desire that you should accept the hand, strong in my affection for you, that I stretch without ulterior motives out to you.

Charles's mediations of last year - a bit clumsy and over-subtle - have not put me off at all, and I find myself high and dry again, as before, with the same good humour and naivety.

In addition to that, I had intended another compensation, which is also the greatest sacrifice of which I am capable - I refer to my promise and intention to leave you the two children - a promise which I gave without even referring to my rights.

Do you really think me such a Bohemian and so unnatural as to abandon my children without turning a hair? Can I be happy far from the darlings, who no longer even know their father, and who instead of learning to love him learn quite simply to forget him? I appreciate, and have always appreciated, your noble-minded and loyal efforts to keep the thought of me alive in our children, but I also know that love in general is kept alive mostly by cherishing it, and in children in their earliest years, love is largely founded on habit.

You will now understand what an effect your various arguments produced in me and how distressed I am to hear you talk of lack of scruple in what I have done which (you say) proves that I make such a habit of ignoring your needs, wishes, feelings, etc. that I never take them into account in what I say or plan.

You would, I suppose, had preferred that I should write you very politely in a few words: "I have the honour to warn you, Madame, that I shall come to take Charlot on May 15 at such or such a place"? In my love for the dear children and in my desperate loneliness, I would certainly have preferred that myself.

You will consequently understand how badly you have misinterpreted my letters and what, in contrast, was the real state of heart and mind in which I wrote them.

As to my confidence (your first point) in your general system of education, in your noble efforts, and your perfect devotion, I have always said the same things and shown the same admiration and satisfaction-

I did not think I would upset you by telling you that a mother does well to turn to a man for advice, above all to the children's father. If you had read that passage more attentively, with the eyes of your heart, you would certainly have guessed what was at the back of my mind, my secret longing, which ----- but I don't need to go over all that again.

As to your trip to Galicia and your return to Naples, I felt that I had the right to tell you what I thought as frankly as possible. Your stay in Galicia displeased me last year and displeased me still more this year. I hasten to add that my reasons do not in the least reflect on your family, all of whom I respect and several of whom I have come to love. My reasons are quite other: half based on reason, half on instinct. However, the state of your finances and your personal inclinations took you there. I have, moreover, neither the right nor the power to oppose you and even if I had, I would not do so.

As to your stay in Naples, you say (1) that your health and Idetchka's need its climate; that is a matter of personal opinion and I bow to yours, while remaining convinced that you are mistaken. (2) You allege economy. If these two journeys could have been excluded from your budget, you'd be absolutely right, but the cost of these journeys is much greater than

the alleged expensiveness of a country which is less hot and which offers you and the children undoubted physical and social advantages.

My plans for Charlot's education naturally depend on your views and excellent advice. There are two countries which, in my view, provide the best education for boys: Germany and England. We should choose together and our love for our children will be sure to guide us to the right decision. But don't you believe it to be essential that a child should think and speak the language in which he will have to do his lessons with an ease which he can only acquire by living in the country itself, and for which one or two years are not too much to acclimatise him?

To learn German and English in Naples is a totally different matter. Add to these two languages French, Polish, Italian, and even Neapolitan, and think of the muddle created in these young heads. They will have a colloquial knowledge of all these languages and be able to think in none, besides at their age one does not study languages grammatically. A child learns simply by memory, which he develops inordinately without realising it, and do realise, dear Ida, that too much memorization, learning by rote, harms the imagination, systematically kills it and ends by making the individual dull, routine, and unimaginative. The entire Latin race suffers from just that.

If only I could talk to you for whole days on this and many other subjects I. I think we should get to understand each other well enough and that it would be the children who would benefit by this the most - do believe me. But since that is impossible, at least be good enough no longer to misinterpret my words and my intentions so unkindly and do believe that you will always have in me the most devoted and grateful friend.

There remains one last question which you mentioned in your letter - but I'm pressed for time just now and will come back to it when next I write. Today I will only tell you that if I could ensure your happiness and put it on a secure basis by taking up some profession, I would willingly abandon the exclusive study of music in favour of some full-time occupation. But in my actual position, music is everything to me, happiness, consolation,

compensation. As you seem to think. Jobs at 150 francs a month in small offices, clerical copying jobs, small journalists, agencies etc, would be easy to get, but must I forget myself self-respect, position, tastes, habits and social relations to plunge into a world of republicans and partisans of the Paris commune? Would you yourself like such a status for the husband whose name you bear?

All other jobs, more conspicuous or distinguished are, unfortunately, either accessible only to those with friends in high places or to those in position favoured by chance, such as shareholders in railways or banks, or chief clerks of commercial courts - you get these jobs by luck or knowing the right people.

A propos! Do you see the Bontes(?)? If so, give them my most affectionate remembrances. What has become of my books? My magnificent edition of Lavater is with them. At least take with you what seems worth taking.

I see the Sobanskis here pretty often. They send you most cordial greetings. We plan next week to tour all the restaurants in Paris- a rather amusing excursion as a study of Parisian habits, which I've already done several times with pleasure and profit. Prince N. Giedroye(?) has just come in to see me. He lives here and asked me to send you his greetings. I leave you now, dear Ida, commending myself to your kindly remembrances and to your excellent heart. I embrace both our good children tenderly.

Ever yours, Hugo.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Incomplete. No date.

your health... you mistrust my constancy and fear new emotions!! Why not confide in me all your qualms, your moments of weakness? You wish to remain free for another 7 to 8 months, you tell me at the end of your letter. Why then do you write on your second page: "... to see me happy in the way I would myself choose (which you've corrected from 'I myself choose')" - At the bottom of the same page: "Your honesty brings back in me a little of my faith and of my confidence"... (The words a little and of were obviously added in afterwards.)

We have been talking in riddles for more than three months. Charles has strongly encouraged me along the way that he knew was the way of my heart... What more can I say to you, prove to you, offer you?

As to the ring, dear Ida, I will never consent to your proposal even though I adore our charming Idetchka. In sending it to you, I can find it a secret to it, which you have not wished to guess. Don't fear that because of that you would be placing yourself under an obligation to me if you accept it; you would simply be making me happy. If, however, you are absolutely determined to refuse my small gift, kindly return me the ring as your final answer.

I embrace our dear children with all my heart and beg you to accept from me all that is most devoted and affectionate.

Hugo.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

Weimar, Sept. 20, 1873.

My good and darling Ida,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 16th.

Need I tell you that it has saddened my heart profoundly and that I need to reflect most deeply over our situation if I am not to despair entirely of our future and our happiness. My last letters have been unable to persuade you in the least... even my feelings seemed to you to be out of harmony with yours, and to make no sense to you. But these same letters were so overflowing with my love for you, with my desire to know you to be happy and myself to be happy through you. How far apart your heart must be from mine to remain indifferent to my appeal. Independence of opinions and principles but at the time harmony and mutual help are, I believe, the foundation for married happiness... Is it really you, dear angel, you whom I have known so poetic in love, so convinced of the need for each to identify with the other, is it really you who writes the things' you do? Your heart would be entirely adrift from mine, stricken by a tragic love, if you cannot answer differently from the way you do to my pleas.

Alas! Love is clairvoyant. It was in May that my heart had an instinctive foreboding of what would inevitably happen if you spent the summer in Galicia. Re-read my letter, if you have not torn it up, and see if I was mistaken.... It is at the same time a consolation... Your last letter was written after a sleepless night, in the shadow of the great misfortunes which have not ceased to overtake your family – poor Teofile dying, poor Emma - that devoted wife - in danger of her life, poor Marie overwhelmed by domestic worries, poor Michel struggling against the disasters of the weather and the wickedness of man... What a heart-rending picture! And you, dear Angel, yourself ill and your nerves on edge, at the mercy of an over-stimulated imagination, our much-loved Lolo ill - finally that terrible hurricane on top of

everything - all inevitably contributed to the depression which undermines your strength of body and mind.

Once more I tell you how I wish that I could act now as my heart dictates: a loving heart does not deceive itself: what you need is a settled home, a domestic fireside, a comfortable private life, quiet and routine - and that as soon as possible. Italy's good climate could certainly do you good, but it will only be when we have a settled home that you will recover your health, and that your good heart, so tortured and restless, will recover its poetry and youth.

As a matter of fact, I believe that the place and the climate of little importance. What you suffer from are your nerves. Once your nervous system has been calmed and rested (got into equilibrium) or will go well, like an enchantment.

Although I am the head of the family, I'm not entitled to give my opinion: I lack the means, my education and my mother's unfortunate prejudices, suspicious and restless character, make it impossible for me to create a home for you. Then, again, in present circumstances, I am satisfied with the status quo. I have, for nearly four years, had just enough money not to die of hunger. My mother has arbitrarily taken over property, which is supposedly mine, and thinks she has the right to give me or to withhold the money from me according to the whim of the moments and the day. As long as this is so I cannot be held responsible for any financial problem, or for any project, which calls for arithmetic, money, or a budget... What's more, my poor mother does not shrink from terminological inexactitude to attain any end about which she has made up her mind. Thus, I have asked her for 50 thalers as an advance on my income for October, because I had unforeseen expenses (as you can see from my accounts which I enclose). I did not even mention you and your finances^{10*} With a stranger, I would call that an act of treachery. As for the budget for which you ask me, you forget that, thanks to my mother's arrangements, I do not control the least thing, Fanny certainly does not ask for

¹⁰ Presumably she refused, though the letter does not say so.

her 900(?) francs as crudely as I gathered from your letter. She helped me in the past in Paris when I was in difficulties. I accepted then (and do not regret it today) with the very clear understanding that if circumstances did not allow me to repay her on the due date, she would be good enough to wait a second year. I have a letter from ***** confirming this. I proved my goodwill toward her by placing my watch chain at her disposal. There is nothing more that I can do for the moment.

What is possible for me personally to do to help you to cope with these exigencies...

(Letter incomplete.)

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO IDA SEILERN.

Vienna. Hotel Munsch, May 4, 1872 (?)
1873 (?)
1875 (?)

My very dear Ida.

This is to tell you that I have arrived in Vienna and to put you au courant with the situation. Let me begin by making it clear that I wish neither to influence you, nor, still less, to prejudice your decisions. When talking to Hugo and his mother I am maintained complete reserve as far as you are concerned. I assume only that you would like to be informed through me and to know what my impressions are. I found Hugo on the best of terms with his mother. This good understanding would have given me keen satisfaction if it had not seemed to me based on putting on you alone all the responsibility for whatever lies ahead. It is therefore important that I should warn you of the attitude that I found in those with whom your lot and that of your children is indissolubly linked.

Your mother-in-law imagines things as much as her son and that is what makes their feelings so unstable and undependable. The wrongs that Hugo does are forgiven. That's all right. But they're also forgotten, which is not

at all fair." Debts," the Countess said to me, citing many examples," cannot be a cause for a judicial separation between husband and wife. Wives have shared a lot of husbands exiled or imprisoned for debt. Hugo has calmed down, become gentle, easy and pleasant to deal with. The family dotes on him, and he gives all his evenings to the family! Ida should come and set up near us, in a small flat separated by several floors from Hugo. Little Charles should be sent to a school master who is already bringing up several children of good family and gives them recognised Austrian courses. Charlot is now old enough to begin them.

On your behalf I asked for a little breathing space (?), a separate existence essential for your health. The Countess lost all patience and replied that if you insisted on a complete separation, the court would have to decide the fate of the children, and I don't know what else. In short, she intends, if you do not fall in with her latest plan, that you will be placed in the wrong. Nevertheless, she seems to me animated by really good and affectionate intentions, providing she is allowed to arrange matters. Frankly, this is perhaps what it would be wise to do; it would avoid big embarrassments and the disadvantages of your isolated situation. The countess wants to preserve appearances but would leave you free to lead your private life. You would have the two children with you. Dear Ida, I realised that all these ideas are only expedients and that you will always have to put up with unpleasantness is, poor little girl! But let us not take life tragically: gentleness, patience, and self-denial always end by achieving respect- and I have noticed this respect for you in the countess and in Hugo- while at the same time giving one of the greatest boons: inner serenity.

As for Hugo the only aim of the friendship that I've always had for him is to cultivate in him those better feelings on which your security depends and, I do not yet despair, a happier future for you. That's the pure and simple truth! Draw from it whatever conclusions you think fitting. I have taken, and shall take, nothing on myself, I repeat, and I have established such frank relations with the family that I would not shrink from telling the countess and Hugo all that is in my heart. I will do so if an opportunity presents itself, at

least with Hugo, and he had better first bind himself to the mast of his ship, like Ulysses, because my heart is in laden with storms.

At the same time, I must admit that our meeting was entirely friendly. He reproached me good humbly enough for having so exaggerated his illness as to make his family think he had lost his senses.

He and his mother are also annoyed with you for the disturbing telegrams that you sent Loudon and Fanny but when all was said and done, I could not discover, apart from that, any other causes for reproach against you. Dear Ida, I am much consoled to think that in the midst of so much suffering, physical and spiritual, that is all they can make up against you!

Darling and charming sister, with a little goodwill you will easily and by entirely winning over people as changeable and as light-hearted as Hugo and his family, and if you don't raise them to the level of true love and saintly affection, you could at least reign over them by your grace and your charm.

I don't know how long I'll stay in Vienna. I will write you again if I have any new impressions to give you. Right to your mother-in-law rather than to me and may our adorable mother inspire you.

Charles.

IDA HENNESSY TO "CHAPPIE" SEILERN.

Writing in the 1940s from Taunton, Ida Hennessy commented on the foregoing letter and revealed her own assessment of the characters of her mother and father, and her Uncle Charles is attitude towards her mother: -

Uncle Charles letters are admirable! So well written and so logical. If he had the pluck to tell his sister that she had the situation in her hand, that she had the power to make life tolerable at least if not pleasant and happy. She always thought herself to be a victim, a martyr. It was certainly not a Christian attitude, but so many people do not see that to practise religion is not at all sufficient; to live like a Christian is the essential. My father had no religion at all but, with the exception of his gambling and other weaknesses

due to the abnormal circumstances of his married, sad life, he was more of a Christian than his wife.

Prof Schron and his family were great friends of ours.

The Prof. saved my mother's life.

In 1879 - I was at school then at Nice - my mother brought an action against my father in Paris, in order to get a separation. The judge asked my father if he had something to reproach to his wife; he replied "nothing." That was almost sublime. Her faults were, so to say, intangible, they were in her attitude, in her touchiness; she appeared blameless to the world and even to her brother, though he had some idea of her touchiness and of the mistake she made regarding her husband and his mother.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN

Vienna, October 17, 1873.

My very dear and good little wife,

You have already arrived in Naples, I imagine, in your charming little flat! I hope that your journey went smoothly, that you looked after your health, and that you arrived as fresh, sweet, and charming as you left. My thoughts and best wishes have never left you. Your wire from Bozen naturally made me very happy and reassured. According to what it was here, the weather must have been good for your long journey.

Your landlord wrote to you at Maman's address, as Countess Seilern, so she opened the letter. It seems that some English people want to rent your flat for Frs. 300 a month. At that price, and indeed in any case, keep it. You like it. It must be pretty and elegant, and in addition you planned it... Enjoy it yourself, especially as they ought to pay you as much, if not more. I send this to Maman to reassure her, because she wanted to wire you at once to Naples, etc.

Have you taken back the old cook? Should I bring with me the little groom's costume? It takes little space and since I have it, it may as well be kept.

Here I am all alone with Maman, who is kind and affectionate. I go out with her sometimes to the exhibition, and up to now we have spent every evening at home. You know she keeps the (theatre) boxes for sub-letting.

I can't say that I'm bored, because I have much to do, but since you left, I'm mostly depressed and disinclined to go out. I missed that little woman more than she is ready to believe. I hope soon to have a detailed letter from you. I would also like Idetchka to write to me, because I imagine you'll have too much to do in your home to have time to write to me at length.

I've written to Fanny that she'll have her Fracs. 500 at the beginning of November. Mama is sending them to Paul¹¹,* who will send them to Fanny. I have borrowed 50 florins from Biehal to have a few florins in my pocket. I spend very little, but it's impossible to be without a sou. Paul will repay Biehal, seeing that Maman is sending 600 florins.

I embrace you, dear and much-loved little wife, and I embrace a thousand times my good children and commend myself to your good remembrance.

You're all devoted,

Hughchen.

P.S. the doctor still doses me with quinine three times a day. My spleen is still very swollen, and the doctor wants me to stay on quinine for another fortnight and then, as soon as I can, cold baths.

Farewell, darling Angel, my adored wife. Think of me and love me a little... I love you so much. My regards to your family. Write soon without hurrying yourself too much. I embrace you a million times as I do my dear children.

Hughchen.

HUGO SEILERN TO IDA SEILERN.

Vienna, November 1, 1873.

Dear and charming little wife!

I have received your good letter of October 27 which reassures me a little about your health. I was very worried, and I still fear the fatigue that you inflict on yourself in arranging the flat. Look after yourself, dear Angel, and never forget that the happiness of the three* of us depends absolutely on your health and your well-being. I declare

¹¹ Probably Hugo's younger brother Paul Anton (28/6/1842 -)

myself happy and satisfied with everything in advance and I am delighted that my bedroom gives on to your drawing room, because I shall be able to see you from my room and talk to you at all hours (of the day bien entendu). Don't give yourself too much trouble, dear little wife, and don't tire yourself!

I urgently begged Maman to send you the money at once and I think she sent it yesterday; she is very kind and loves us all sincerely. I spend my time very pleasantly with her, that is to say as pleasantly as is possible far from you and my dear children.

Maman will have written you that Liszt has been here and that I saw and heard a lot of him and was much in his company. He repeatedly invited me to go to Pest where his fiftieth jubilee year is being celebrated on the 8th and 9th of this month. Maman herself urges me to go and offers to pay the journey. My heart is against this and tells me to go to Naples. Reason, however, advises me to accept the invitation. All Liszt's admirers, whom I have seen now at the Countess Dohnhof (?), and Liszt himself, would be upset if I left two days before the celebrations. I therefore think I would do well to go to Pest, especially as Maman is kind enough to pay my fare. I leave on the 8th and will be back on the 10th and on the 11th, I leave for Naples, stopping off for 24 hours in Rome, because Liszt has asked me to do several things for him there and given me a small parcel for Princess Witt and for Prince Terne (?). I therefore expect to be in Naples on the 15th or 16th. In any case, I'll send you a wire from Rome.

I will carry out your commissions conscientiously, will bring you your dressing gown, etc. etc. Maman is seeing about the tea herself, the eiderdown, etc. Try to keep Schron till I come. This is not the moment for a doctor to quit his post, although you tell me that the epidemic is nearly over. If he had to leave, however, ask him for a substitute who would come to see you regularly and be always within call. You will get this letter on the 4th. If you wish me to come at once, send me a wire and I give up Pest and Liszt to leave at once. In any case write to me to give me, I hope, the best news of yourself and the children. I will write you one of these days. At this moment I'm in a hurry. I embrace you and the children a million times.

Hughchen.

*Footnote. Why not Four?

HUGO SEILERN TO IDELA.

(His daughter, then aged 21.)

Munich, June 3, 1885.

My good and charming Idela,

Thank you for your good letter of May 31, which gave me great pleasure by reassuring me on your health and that of Maman. Now that you have so courageously done your tiresome cure, you will very quickly recover your balance, and you will feel infinitely more at home in the middle of your kind and amiable family, free to go out of doors in such bracing air, and - something pretty important and pleasant at the same time - looking well after the good results (?) Of your cure, freed, let us hope, for good from these congestion 's.

The news about Targowiska that you give me and especially about the work being carried out by a Canadian on your aunt's land is happily also splendid.

I hope with all my heart that good fortune will at last take a hand in the affairs of your courageous and kind aunt, and that it will compel the land to yield the treasures that has hitherto hidden so obstinately.

The share of the profits going to your aunt seems fair and advantageous, providing that overhead expenses have been established on a regular and commercial basis, because I presume that your aunt's profits are calculated on the net proceeds of the enterprise. In general, I distrust these sorts of arrangements and I should have preferred your aunt to receive a royalty per ton of oil coming out of the wells. The most honest businessman has a thousand ways of increasing the total of the overheads, and thus increasing his share by decreasing that of others, and with a touch of bad faith the finest enterprise will bring nothing to the sleeping partners, except a lawsuit with all the bothers that follow. I speak absolutely theoretically because I know nothing of the arrangements that your aunt has made, and I am therefore in no position to offer advice. It is only my serious anxiety to know that your aunt's interests have been looked after and that makes me refer in general terms to these kinds of arrangements.

You would be surprised indeed, my darling, if you could see today the establishment that I have founded here. It is a regular factory, which has far outgrown the modest framework that I envisaged at the beginning. But the imperative need to cut the

overheads to the minimum in order that the cost price should allow us to launch our products on the market at sale prices equally modest and reduced, obliged us considerably to increase the number of our machines and tools, so that we have today a unit which enables us to work to order, i.e., we have a mechanised workshop, which makes us independent on our initial products (?) If the subsequent demand for them does not reach the level of our expectations. All our apparatuses are precision-machines, so that we can carry out very complicated and fine work and be assured of a discriminating clientele. We still naturally continue to manufacture our apparatuses is and our rulers (?) which are really splendid and give us hopes of great success. We employ twenty workmen and two foremen, and we shall shortly have to raise the number of windows in our workshop from four to six.

Not least the whole thing is solidly and seriously based, and, with a bit of luck, we could make pretty good profits, which would really be only right because we work hard and with the courage that deserves success.

The English affair takes up a lot of my time. I got orders last week to go to Budapest as soon as I've completed the documents to be submitted to the Hungarian Minister of Commerce. I will meet my friend Maurice Lafone in Pest, who is to help me in the negotiations.

From there I have to go to Dresden and Berlin, and I confess that I am very nervous about this mission, because the affairs to be settled in Berlin are so tricky and so vitally important that the responsibility weighs on me heavily. Well, I must just do what I can, whatever comes along. Kind Professor Haltzendorf, who sends his kind regards to Maman, has greatly helped me with excellent advice and has given me an introduction in Berlin to one of his friends the Tustigrath von Makover(?), who is a great authority on these industrial problems, which are often so ticklish.

I think of leaving Munich Friday or Saturday next and will stop off in Vienna from 6 a.m. till 3 p.m. and will be in Pest by 8 p.m. the same day. This new assignment will certainly keep me away from Munich for two or three weeks, but I'm only half pleased about that, because my presence here is unfortunately more important than I should like. My colleague, while very loyal, intelligent, skilful and active, lacks the over-all ability to cope with the exigencies and unexpected emergencies of industrial life. He tends to lose

his presence of mind, either by taking too rosy a view or by becoming too quickly and unnecessarily discouraged.

You'll realise, my darling, that with such obligations and tasks, I have little free time, so I see absolutely no one except the Hesses (?) and the Brucks, with whom I dine and spend the evenings pretty often They all send both of you their warmest greetings.

And with that, I must leave you, my good little Idetchka. Enjoy to the full your lovely holiday, get strong and well, and don't forget your piano and harmony, for which steady daily practise is better than intermittent and exhausting bouts. I have ordered M. Mayer to send Maman a dumb piano (small model) by express. By that I rob you, my good little girl, of any excuse for not practising, which anyway you would not have wanted to avoid, because I know how hard working and serious you are about your musical studies.

A thousand affectionate greetings to Maman, your aunt, and the family. I embrace you with all my heart.

Your devoted father.

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO MICHEL ZALUSKI.

Vienna. Hotel Munch, 27/ 10/ 75.

Very dear Michel,

Your letter of the 23rd does not mention your departure from Iwonicz, so I send you these few lines there, with the enclosure from our good Emma, who has already given me the latest news, telling me that she is coming here for the fourth of November. The doctors will say whether it is Naples or Meran which should be our niece's winter residence, whose health incidentally was excellent at Relow*. I sent Emma's last letter on to Ida, so that she could get ready for the possibility of having us, because in that case I will accompany Emma on her journey to Italy, providing that the Ministry does not keep me here. As for the affair of Yves I have known about it since my return to Vienna and if I've not mentioned it to you, it was solely in order not to spread about a demand which may be only blackmail, but which could do further harm to our brothers' reputation. While asking you therefore to mention it to no one, I think I can reassure you by telling you that I have seen the public Prosecutor and the advocate, M. Nenda (?) and that the

affair will get no publicity. Moreover, the advocate is still waiting for the plaintiff to communicate with him. I myself await Yves' explanations.

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* Footnote. I'm not sure whether this property in Lithuania was Retow or Relow

I pass on to a less painful topic, the invitation which your confidential letter of the 21st brings me concerning the publication of the Warzbach dictionary of biography. Frankly, my dear Michel, I don't see why I should cut a figure in the wake of our illustrious ancestors. If fate has a more brilliant career in store for me, it will be mentioned in the dictionaries of biography without my having to supply the material. You may object that such voluminous compilations are not often reprinted. Well, I prefer, with Cato* that people should be surprised not to find me mentioned than to make myself ridiculous by having them astonished to find me in it. To continue the family line, it is enough to insert the present head, seizing the occasion to spread a few ideas useful to suffering humanity about the prosperity of the spa at Iwonicz. Anything that could be said about me would be dictated by childish vanity! And as the public will perhaps suspect that it is to the indulgent affection of an elder brother that this platitudinous in enumeration of decorations, or harmless musical or literary attempts, would be attributable, they would rightly accuse me of fatuity and foolishness. Toys and hobbies are not titles to immortality, and everyone knows how to acquire the "immortal fame" of this kind of reference book on contemporaries! Only the dead have a right to be remembered by the living. Devote serious work to the memory of our ancestors. That is part of history, a history full of noble examples. Cite yourself as the last link in this chain of men, all of whom deserved well of their country and of literature, and do not tarnish the pure splendour of their fame by the petty vanity of adding in the few baubles that are stuck onto the honourable and stainless name borne by your devoted and affectionate brother,

Charles.

* Footnote. Marcus Porcius Cato (232-147 B.C.) Who prided himself on his rugged simplicity.

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO MICHEL ZALUSKI.

Naples, Chiatamone 5, Dec. 27, 1875.

My very dear Michel,

I am conscious that I am very late in offering my New Year's greetings, and good wishes for your happiness, that of Lena and your dear children.

You will have learned from Emma the chief incidents of our journey. It went smoothly, despite the cold which accompanied us from the Italian frontier all the way to Rome. Here it is agreeably warm, and we only wait until Marie, who has not been very well the last few days, should recover to embark for Sochin(?). Emma reckons to make only a short stay there this time and plans to spend several weeks there later, if circumstances allow. For the moment we take advantage of Ida 's hospitality to lead a family life with her. In Rome I saw the Lieutenant Grand Master... And I'm even in correspondence with him about certain services to be rendered to the order. If I succeed, your personal wishes will be realised. In any case, we will agree on how to share the expenses of the Chancellery and taxes for several years. But I hope for even better. At the same time, I repeat

(Letter incomplete.)

IDA SEILERN TO CHARLES ZALUSKI.

Note by J.H.: - The reference is to Ifield Park and to Ida Hennessy's financial difficulties require explanation:

When Ida married Philip Hennessy, Nettie Seilern (wife of Ida 's brother Carlo) promised Ida an allowance of £800 a year for life. This was then a substantial sum. On the strengths of this, Ida bought Ifield Park (13 bedrooms, three living rooms, conservatory, coach house, and 25 acres of land with a home farm) for £2,500 on a mortgage. Nettie's promise had not been made the subject of a legal arrangement, and when she died at Frensham Place (near Farnham, Surrey) aged 26 years on the 22/ 9/1901, Carlo loyally recognised his moral obligation to continue Nettie's allowance to his sister, but he had

great difficulty in managing his own finances. He reduced Ida 's allowance to £500 and being himself frequently hard pressed he paid it irregularly, which made it impossible for Ida to organise a regular budget for herself.

Nice, 10/ 1/ 1910. Hotel Longchamps.

My dear Charles,

I hastened to reply to your letter of the 7th because I see that you are greatly depressed. I was sorry to write you while I had fever, because I realised that it must have been incoherent. Ida is, thank God, still the owner of Ifield Park for several more months, which she will perhaps have the chance of selling under better conditions, and in any case, she is enjoying a little mental and physical let-up. "Time is money, but time is also life." * She needs to recuperate her strength, because at present she suffers from frequent sick headaches. As for what I said about the nephews, I hastened to tell you that it was (two words illegible, possibly in Polish) and that perhaps I let myself go too far in the indignation of a moment of mental and physical suffering. Moreover, it is always unwise to speak of something without dealing with all its aspects. It was Sarolta* herself and also Mary Seilern who advised me to write to Carlo, and they spoke of him themselves. Apart from him, I've asked nobody for anything, believing that in such cases the initiative is with those who know the precarious situation. To compel people to go begging is in any case hardly charitable.

If it were not for my great love for Ida and the unbearable pain of seeing her overwhelmed by indignities even more than by every kind of worry, I would never have taken a step which at least is the greatest proof of my love for her.

I have been in the same depths of misery as afflicted Ida 's whole youth and I would say that her marriage and the rest of her life are the direct consequences of this. Never have I asked anything of the Seilern family, and yet when one becomes a member of a family it is surely up to them to protect and help you.

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* Footnote. Sarolta (nee Grafin von Wenckheim) Born 21/5/1860 married Franz Seilern 29/1/1885, died 6/3/1946. She was the twin sister of Ilona, Franz's first wife who died at Leschna on 20/12/1883.

Mary (née Gräfin von Hohenwart) married Max Seilern, Hugo's youngest brother (1845- 1889) on 14/5/1878. Mary was born in 1858 and died in 1939.

To turn to Carlo was the obvious thing to do, because he could have atoned for his father's injustices. Most assuredly in buying back the properties of his brothers* he did not act illegally but as Uncle Charles says: There are laws inscribed on the conscience and the heart of man more real than written laws for those who have no moral sense. Carlo gave a large sum to a Jewess to stop the newspapers from compromising Jules and he bought back the worthless cheques of his cousin Cappy (? A woman in any case, since she is la cousine) and he therefore showed that he had a feeling for the honour and solidarity of the family. Even though the reason that he gave Mary was perfectly understandable, I was all the same wounded because he did not think fit to offer even modest help. He said that his generosity had been abused and that he had sworn not to give way to their next demand. Unfortunately, the next was me and I said nothing to Ida, Carlo having always professed much affection for his (feminine) cousin. As to making reproaches or even the least allusion to the affair, that is absolutely impossible and inadmissible. You can simply ignore it and I'm glad that I owe nothing to anyone. I have just had a card from Sarolta to thanking me for Frcs.40. I see that you have been only too generous, and I thank you with all my heart. I look upon this little amount as a nice New Year's gift. Mine is a book which has helped me to be patient during hours of depression; It opens horizons of poetry and hope, and charming thoughts neither full of doctrines nor dogmas but with a poetic hope which does one good to believe you have the great good fortune to have the time to devote to your children** to develop their minds and feelings, whereas schoolmasters hardly cultivate anything except the memory, often to the detriment of all else. In ending by finding the calm like these questions disturb

(Letter incomplete.)

* Footnote. What does this refer to?

** C. Z's nephews and nieces? Or to whom was this letter addressed? Not to Carlo?

POSTSCRIPT

(Judging by the ink and note paper this could be a P.S. to the letter above.)

There is so much gossip surrounding the Z (?) inheritance that one doesn't not know what to believe from the first, the family launched a suit against an officer in the Preobrajenski regiment (Wandahorski), (?) Who jumped in at once to try to prove a will that left all to him, which he said that he had etc. dictated by my cousin Bogdan. The Petersburg tribunal attacked that decision of the Wilno tribunal (which found?) for the family, saying that in Russia you cannot dispose of the fortunes of the father and mother in favour of a distant relation... (but this officer?? Three words illegible) who probably took advantage of the uncle's mental state, is absolutely no relation, not even a distant one. The only danger is that he is Russian and the Czar is very cowardly and is capable of signing the acceptance of the Will. Now three others have turned up, according to a newspaper which says that Prince Radzivil has just come in. As for Potocki, he was the first to denounce the Wandahorski (spelling?) will as a fraud, it is quite possible that his example will be followed. I say this from a sense of justice, because he acted very badly towards Uncle Charles who on his account quitted his post of .. (word illegible) which is perhaps fortunate after all. Qui vivra verra but one must never anticipate the future.

(Unsigned.)

IDA SEILERN TO CARLO SEILERN.

Written on mourning notepaper.

Nice, 20/4/1910.

Venetia, Ave Bellevue, St. Barthelemy.

My dear Charles,

Your undated letter gave me much pleasure as much for its affectionate contents as for the box with which you replied to my letter of the 12th, so I hasten to reply. At the same time, I should have liked to know if my postcard, which had preceded the picture postcards, for your three sons and the book of Lord Lubbock have arrived safely?? I think I can give you pretty good news of my health. I have made great progress these last few days and my spirits have risen because the symptoms which threatened me

with a disease of the veins (like Uncle Michel) have almost disappeared. My liver also seems to have become normal. But my tendency to gout remains and my intestines are very weak and subject to neurosis*. I need much peace and quiet, have vegetarian regime with only a little white meat, and light farinaceous foods. The great anaemia, which made me shiver when I was 16 or 17, and the congestion of the tips of the lungs make the least cold a serious danger.

However, looking on the bright side and having still 4 to 6 weeks in hand, I no longer give up the idea of the journey, even to A----- (illegible) where I'll certainly find all I need for body and mind. In about a fortnight's time I'll be able to tell you something definite I will perhaps go first near M-----(? Illegible), where I will rest from this first stage, and where we can make our plans. If I was not getting on well enough for a longer journey, you could easily come to see me. I don't know yet how a link up with Ida, who thought that I might go to England this year. I have not seen her for three years. If I feel well enough I could at the end of August on my return from A----- (illegible) take the road for the North and give Ida a rendez-vous not too far from London, because travelling tires her too much. It was really touching of you to send her Frs.600 to come to see me and I bless you for it as I bless you for having helped me so much.

Mille tendresses.

* Footnote. Sic!

IDA SEILERN - PROBABLY TO CARLO.

Part of an incomplete letter, undated, but like the previous one on mourning notepaper and possibly
Written about the same date.

... of the dear Uncle, who has the kindness to write often to me and who returns a small cheque that I wanted him to accept in part payment of my debt, because for the first time for 46 years he was overdrawn at his bank, which upset him greatly. He has the enormous expenses of the lawsuit and the Jozios don't repay him even the least percentage of the huge sums which Uncle has spent to help Iwonicz, so it is not for these

few hundred francs but to console Uncle for the ingratitude of his family (that I sent him my cheque), but he writes me that a brother exists to help his sisters and that I have enough worries on Ida 's account. But I fear, my dear Charles, that you will once more read between these lines hence to you I shall never allow myself to" criticise severely," as you write to me, a state of feeling and I can tell you, on the contrary, that I understand yours perfectly and that long before you tell me I absolutely feel the effects of what you suffer and I reproach you with nothing, even if sometimes circumstance make it necessary to speak of these things which wound your kind and generous heart.

One must be all the more prudent in business because lack of means leads to the complete disruption of personal relations and deprives you of the ability of being able to go to the aid of those whom one loves. For my part I can only thank you for the punctuality with which I received my allowance, which is what I wrote to Uncle to explain my cheque. * I think I will a good... (? illegible) which will allow me to enjoy the rest of my winter as you wish me too so warmly.

Don't fret yourself with self-reproach. You are young enough to mend many fences, and you have the foundation for it. A wife would complete your life. Mille tendresses and send me a nice card soon.

P.S. I thought that the little boy (unspecified - le petit) would put his mother's picture in the frame. I have not at this moment my (3 words illegible) hardly multiply (1 word illegible). I do not ever succeed (?)

* Footnote. The words underlined are underlined in red pencil in the original, whether by sender or recipient cannot be known.

CHARLES ZALUSKI TO IDA SEILERN.

Grand Hotel, Naples. Jan. 5, 1913.

Very dear Ida,

Thank you, thank you from my heart for your card of December 31 and your good letter of January 2. I returned the two enclosures of your letter and keep Charles's long epistle until further notice. Some days ago, I wrote to Madame W. (Woerishoffer?) To

thank her for her letter and I took the occasion to mention the difficult situation in which you find yourself, i.e., of being unable to explain the delay in the repayment of a debt to her without attribution the delay to the carelessness of your son, a situation which makes relations embarrassing for both you and her, and worried you all the time to the detriment of your health, already undermined by illnesses. I begged Madam W. to comfort you by reassuring you that there was no hurry to pay off the debt. You will understand, dear Ida, why I did not ask for more, which does not prevent me from being glad that a letter from Maitre Baumohl tells me that Madam W, as you yourself said, has the gracious intention of considering the affair closed. My intervention then can only hasten the solution and smooth the family's relationships.

Charles does indeed ask a lot! The polite welcome which his mother-in-law gives to Ilse does not satisfy him; he would have liked it to be affectionate. But affection cannot be commanded, and what claim could Ilse, on her first meeting with Madame W., have on her affection? One must hope that, naturally lovable, Charles's fiancé will, by showing her respect and affection, win Madam W's love in due course. As for Charles he should not forget the griefs that he has caused his mother-in-law - and that she has forgiven him - and he should not forget the misfortunes that have hard and rather than softened her heart. Charles's fear of being done out of his rights as a father and of losing the love of his sons is absolutely imaginary. I thought that I had convinced him of this and am painfully surprised to see him rake this up again.

Passing on to the condition that I've laid down for ceding my rights of inheritance in Lithuania, under which the most important is the payment of 20,000 roubles to my sister Ida, or to her daughter, Jozio is only obliged to observe it on taking possession of Retow (Retow? Relow?), which I hope, will be soon. I quite recently requested that this payment be made urgently and offered to make this easy by refusing to accept the offer of a part of what will come to him from the inheritance of the late Bogdan in Galicia, the other part being earmarked to complete the capital of a trust to preserve the tomb of our mother and of the adjoining chapel*.

(Letter signed with a cross for lack of space.)

* Footnote. The tomb and chapel referred to are (or were) in Ischia, Italy, where Amelie Zaluska (1803- 1858) was buried. The Chapel was destroyed in the earthquake of 1868. Was it rebuilt? Does our great grandmothers tomb survive?

NOTE BY JOSSLEYN HENNESSY: -

Charles Zaluski appears in these letters as the perfect raisonneur (guide, friend, philosopher) out of a play by Augier, Dumas fils, or Sardou. He always advises moderation in quietly persuasive tones. He was, in fact, as this letter shows, extremely generous to his family. About June 1914, when the holders of the mortgage on Ifield Park were threatening to foreclose, Charles Zaluski sold Austrian railway bonds to the value of £2,500 which he had left Ida Hennessy in his will, but which, in view of her difficulties, he decided to give her now. She thus paid off the mortgage. A few weeks later the 1914/ 18 war broke out. By the end of the war the Australian railway bonds were worthless and Ida would have inherited nothing had C.Z. not cashed them and given her the money in 1914.

Ida sold Ifield Park in 1921. Her Hennessy in-laws reproached her (a) for not making it her home and (b) for selling it. The expenses of maintaining so larger house were, however, entirely beyond her (unpredictable) allowance from Carlo. Repairs and maintenance were substantial, and gardeners were needed if the garden were not to become a wilderness. I had at that time finished my time at Charterhouse and my mother wanted to buy a sensibly small house in London with the proceeds of Ifield. She sold Ifield for £2,500 and when Philip asked for the money to be paid into his account at Lloyds Bank, saying that it would boost his prestige in the Bank, of which he was then one of the Assistant Managers in Paris, his dutiful wife handed it over without a second's hesitation. This suggests that Ida inherited from her father's example the sort of conjugal self-punishment that he inflicted on himself. Ida had the greatest difficulty there after an extracting £900 from Philip with which to buy the lease of a house in London. Of the remaining £1600 she never saw a penny. Philip speculated on the Stock Exchange and kept a racehorse with it. But he did use some of it constructively. It was out of this money that he paid out about £230 a year to keep me at Oxford for four years. I did not know this at the time but came to that conclusion after his death when I came to know something of his finances. I have never ceased to be profoundly grateful to him for sending me to Oxford, as also to my Uncle Carlo who generously made me an allowance of £2 a week in

term time during my last two years there, which made all the difference between counting every penny and enjoying modest comfort. By the end of 1925, when I left Oxford, there can have been nothing left of my mother's capital of £2,500.

Amelie Zaluska left each of her children 50,000 gulden, except that to Charles she left additional money with the request that he should use it to help his brothers and sisters when in need. This he faithfully did, and, if one traces one's inheritance far back enough, I owe my four years at Oxford to my great-grandmother Amelie via Charles Zaluski.