

Heidelberg, July 19. 1988

Herrn
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Hello Robert,

I just read in the newspaper that there are huge forest fires raging in Alaska. That means you must also have summer temperatures as well, otherwise there couldn't be fires? It is hard to imagine when you think about how far north Alaska lays and how endless the ice blanket seems to be.

Hopefully you and your family are doing well after your trip to Europe. I often think about the present from whale ivory that you gave to me, which has a special place in my museum. I also always keep in my memory the photo with Mt. Mc Kinley in the background. I am sure that you received the information on Asbestos Cleaning and that it was most useful to you.

Life has also gone on here. We are approaching a successful first half of the year. This means we couldn't set aside time for vacation like we originally had intended. We have to catch up in quieter times. Wanderlust hasn't overtaken us yet. I wonder why not? When you get a little older, everything slows down. It is supposed to be that way.

I have not forgotten to photograph the old locomotives that my father and your grandfather once moved. I am still looking for some old pictures that have been missing until now. Instead I am sending you photos of antique flying machines with which my brothers were involved in World War I. It is hard to believe that 70 years ago there were already giant airplanes with 4 engines, however, with open, motorized gondolas. A Daimler engine to propel pull in the front and a Daimler engine with tandem function in the back to propel pressure. The mechanic sat in between with an oil can and had to oversee the whole operation, accompanied by the scenario of this "open air concert". At that point in history (1914-1918) I was still a little boy and couldn't truly imagine what was happening. Instead I had to make up for it between 1939-1945, during World War II. But that is written on another page. I have to suppress those memories like a bad experience.

Instead I enjoy what is left of our beautiful nature today regardless of the growing urbanization which we are exposed to.