
 December 28, 1943
 Tuesday Evening
 JAN 8 REC'D
 L-258
 17 p 1 r
 Dear William and Philinda

 For your very lovely gifts
 my very sincerest thanks. — The flowered
 scarf and the exceedingly cute red mittens
 are marvelous for campus-wear in this
 penetratingly cold Ohio winter. — We
 wished only that you could have been
 with us on this wonderful celebration
 of the Birthday of Christ, but we can
 assure you that you were constantly
 with us in our hearts and minds. —
 Uncle Laurie thought of you especially
 one evening before the fire with candles
 lit upon the pine-covered mantle, and
 he offered up an extemporaneous and very
 beautiful prayer for you both — your

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
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well-being and your happiness in a world that is quite unpredictable. — (L-258 P1v)

Even Samba  came in on Christmas morning for the "Beschärung" (Wm. will know what that means.) She herself received a whole pound of Hamburger for Xmas! It is the first she has had in a long while & I long for a camera (with film!) to record her gleeful reaction to it all!! —

But we are so fortunate here in our America with its comparative peacefulness + prosperity. I feel intensely thankful + even a bit guilty when I think of the suffering humanity elsewhere, and pray for them as I would for blood brothers and sisters. — The greatest hope + paramount wish anyone may have for the New Year is, that it will bring Peace and with that Peace a successful international system of Reconstruction. May it bring both of you many blessings + much happiness together in whatever ports you go! — Your affectionate Melody 

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