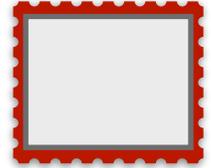

Sending for Help | Letter 8



This letter was posted eight years after the Nazis come to power
... three years after Kristallnacht
... nine months before the United States enters the war

Dear Sister Min:

I am enclosing the letters you mailed me and also the translated letters. The German man in my place wrote the letters. I am quite sure if you will take time off to read his handwriting you will gather all the contents. The main point in both letters: they can come to America as soon as they get their passports and tickets. They cannot get their visa before they show their ticket to travel on the boat. They say that you should buy the tickets in America and send them same as soon as they receive same they can get the visa and go to Lisbon then America.

If they received the visa now, it is only good for about four months and then if they can not get the tickets after that time, the visa will be void and they will have to wait, in line, till their turn comes again to receive another visa.

So now, what are we going to do. I inquired from various people who have brought relations over at this time and the rates are very high. Someone told me \$350 a person and another said \$450 a person. I am sure it can't be done less than \$1000.

She said in her letter that this is her only chance and you should not let her down. am willing to do my part, but I think all the relations should help a little. I certainly will not ask Dave so you better write him. Soon you begin asking for money you become an enemy. (I know)

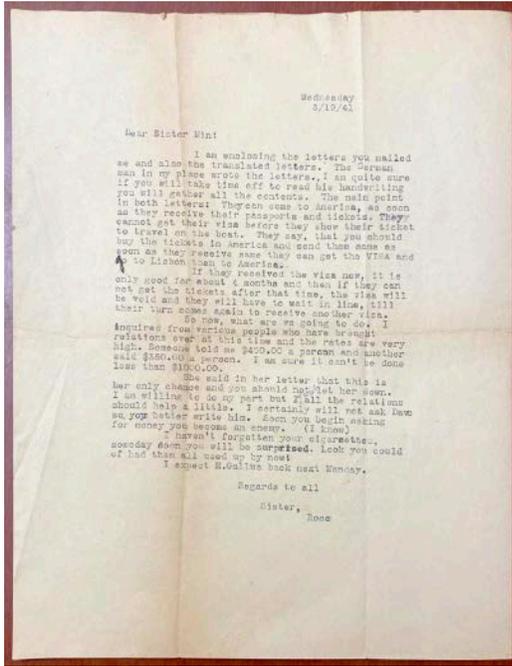
[...]

Regards to all,
Sister Rose



The Baum's Synagogue. Camden, S.C.

Discussing the Letter



Rose's letter to Minnie, dated
March 19, 1941

In this letter, Minnie's sister Rose writes to discuss possible travel arrangements for the Landsmanns. Rose, like her sister, has been contacting various officials and agencies on behalf of her cousins. Through this correspondence, she has determined that the best way to get the Landsmanns to the United States is to purchase travel tickets, after which they can secure a visa—valid for four months only. According to Rose, this would cost the Baums and their American family members somewhere around \$1000, not including passport fees or the obstacles to securing exit permits for the family.

Although the Baums themselves might be able to live comfortably, they are unable to be the sole bearers of the immense cost of sponsoring their cousins. Because of this, Rose advises Minnie to contact their other relatives and begin fundraising.

Key Themes:

*Family, Relationships, Transportation Costs, Visas,
Burden of Cost, Translation, Urgency*



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Discussion Questions:

1. How much would these costs be today?
2. Does this letter address who will pay for these costs?
3. Why are they planning to travel via Lisbon? Why does this make sense, or why might it be a necessity?
4. What has to happen first, second, and third (etc.) to get the Landsmanns out? Can you make sense of the order of bureaucracy here?
5. If a letter takes six weeks at the fastest to reach its destination, what kind of time remains to accomplish all of these tasks? Think on and layout a timeline of what's needed.

Production credit — Grace Shaffer and Chad Gibbs