

**April 1, 1922**

Dear Ma and Pa,

Harold has forwarded me your letter of March 15<sup>th</sup> with the very unexpected news of the new arrival in the family. Congratulate Josephine and Lou for me a thousand times and may they have many more. Only one thing worries me. What is the baby's name?! X [sic].

I was very tickled to hear that being out of the store agrees with you so well. And I was quite astounded to hear you asking my advice as to a trip to Europe. I am sure you understand it is very difficult for me to say whether you should come or not, because many of the things here which interest me immensely would not concern you at all. If you are deciding to either go to Texas and California or Europe, I most certainly would advise Texas, where you know many people and the language. Travelling for two or three months in Europe is an extremely tiresome affair, not to mention the expense which would be considerable since you would always have to travel first class. If you were coming to live for six months or a year it would be an entirely different matter. In any case, you ought really go to Texas and California first, as you have so long planned doing. I have a faint suspicion that the idea of coming to Europe would not have entered your head if I had not been here. But as much as I should like to see you, I do not think it a sufficient reason for so long a trip.

Well, I've been in Rome for two days now. I am settled in a very nice pension (a hotel where you must take the three meals), where they don't speak English. Luckily everyone knows French, so I am very well off. The price for room and board is 45 lire but after you get done adding tips and the millions of government taxes it amounts to about 55 lire (\$2.75) a day. Rome is simply packed to the gills with tourists just now. Mademoiselle Boulanger, before I left, gave me letters to the most influential musicians in Rome. Already I have met two young American musicians who are sent here on a scholarship for three years. Who knows, perhaps someday I may live here that way myself. Rome really needs more than two weeks in which to see things. You must understand that the old Roman Empire was flourishing here even before the year [AD] 1, so that the city is a most peculiar mixture of modern business firms, squalid tenement houses, and wonderful old Roman ruins. Today I went to visit the Colosseum, the theatre of the Romans, thousands of years old but still standing in ruins. Tomorrow I intend to see the Pope's quarters, the Vatican, and St. Peter's, the biggest Catholic church in the world. And so on and so on. Tomorrow also I am to hear my first concert in Rome and you can imagine how interested I am.

I expect to be back in Paris by the 16<sup>th</sup>, but as Harold is leaving for Berlin on the 8<sup>th</sup>, our apartment will be empty for one week. He will return the last of April which gives us about four weeks together before he sails for home. He has sent me the page from *Musical America* with the paragraph of unsolicited advertising, which I send on to you. This particular page appears in the magazine every week and is very widely read all over America.

Of course about April 12<sup>th</sup> I shall go to Florence for a few days, partly to see the city and partly to break the very long trip on the train from Rome to Paris. If things keep up this way my journey will turn out beautifully.

And now, I must close in order to have my supper and out to a show of some kind. Tell Lil I can eat spaghetti now like a real wop. Love to all.

Aaron