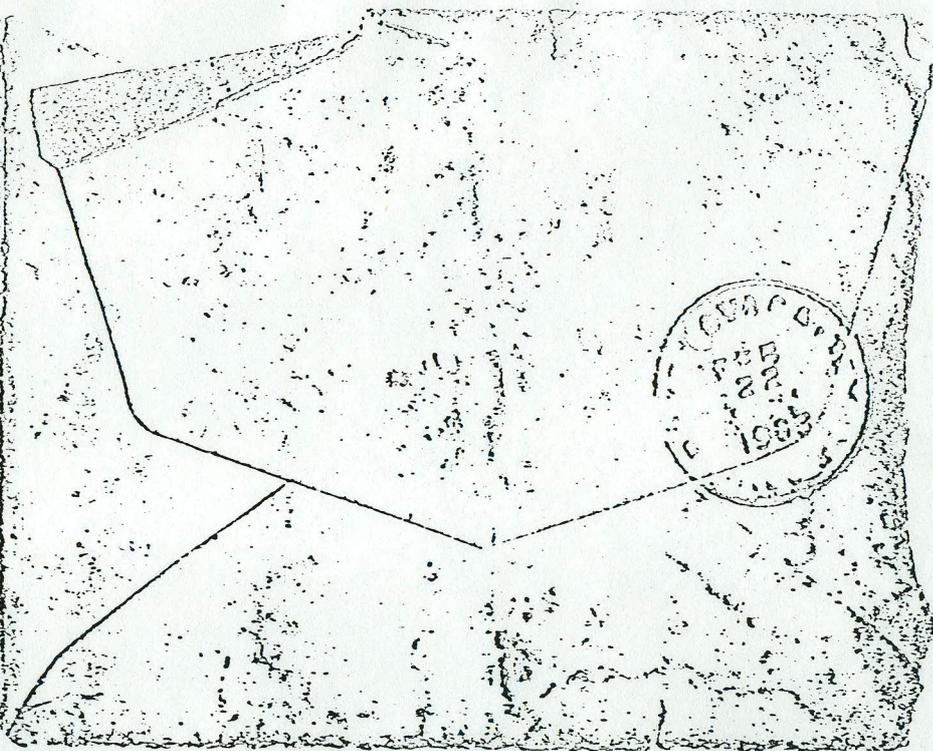


Manuscript
Mrs. Miss E. Smith }
Port Larnach }
Peru }



Only half an envelope.
but the letter is well
preserved - written in
German.

I don't know the significance
of this "postmark".

Translation of letter originating in Luebeck, Germany, date uncertain:

My dear niece Alice:

It is good and timely that I now answer your letter dated May 23, 1892. Hopefully you will forgive me for the long delay in writing when you hear that my headaches have caused me great suffering. It is a sad fact that no cure can be found and they must be endured with patience. At the time your letter reached me I was in a convalescent home, where I remained for a total of five months, and with excellent care and much rest slowly regained my health. And so the summer months passed most pleasant.

In October I had a bad fall and experienced severe back- and headaches once more until I was taken to the hospital where i spent 7 to 8 weeks, as I had also suffered slight brain damage. Since December I am living in the nursing home which is affiliated with the hospital and is under the direction of the Chief Surgeon, and if you read this letter with great care you will notice that my nerves are in a greatly improved condition. Of course, this place is very restful, few visitors come around, and often I am sad and homesick: I wish I could see my dear friends again!

My household has been dissolved and is with Heinrich Rahtgans and it saddens me to think that all my life I have worked with joy and love in my household, and now? As you said, it is not the ache in my head that makes me feel this way - for the pain you can take something - it is the ache in my heart. But, since my nerves have so much improved perhaps I can now live with the other pain.

All the foregoing was at fault for my delay in answering your dear letter, and now I will proceed in answering your questions: Heinrich Rahtgans has a large family, eleven healthy children, the 6th of whom will soon be confirmed, and is doing well, so far. He only has a small income, but is doing the best he can. His mother died a few years back, and his brother moved to Magdeburg. I have not heard any more of him. My nephews, the sons of my brother Wolf, have turned out to be never-do-well's, and I do not know where they live. My sister-in-law has done badly with her son, although my brother had left them enough to live on. For several years I have helped them financially, but since my illnesses, which were costly, I am no longer able.

cont,d page 2:

She still is in good health and must learn to help herself.

I am sorry about your weak lungs, dear Alice - you must try and take good care of yourself, rest and a lot of it, is essential. But, for a housewife and mother this is a very difficult, if not impossible thing to do. To speak of myself, I am stronger than you are, with healthy lungs and stomach but sad of mind, which is a lot harder to live with. I am now 74 years old, and only last winter did I start to long for my ,eternal rest,. I doubt that my love for life will return - only last year I was able to go on walks of about 2-hour duration - no more!

Now my dear, you know enough about me. I wish and hope that this letter will find you and you dear family in good health and spirits. The greetings I am conveying come from the heart. Oftentimes I think of your dear father, and why it was not to be that we should see each other.

I am closing, sending my true love
your Aunt Friederike

Written on margin of page 4:

Should you be able to again give me the pleasure of a letter from you, please send it to Muehlenstrasse No. 26.