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Dr. Hildebrand Gurlitt Aschbach, Oberfranken, 22 October 47

Bamberg District (13a)

Dear Mr. Lenthal,

When I came home about 12 days ago, I found your letter, and now your second one has also come. I would like to write you how much I have rejoiced that you have escaped hell. The main thing is surely first of all to be alive, and you will surely like it better in Paris than in Auschwitz.

It is incomprehensible to me that you could have any difficulties. I wrote the desired certification and sent it to Munich for confirmation. It should have arrived back again long ago by now, but the authorities here unfortunately work at the same speed that they probably also do where you are. I will issue a reminder today.

I too did not have it easy for a long time, since it was difficult for me to counter all kinds of denunciations, etc. However, my situation is now entirely clear.

Having lost my furniture and much more, I live an infinitely primitive life in the country, far from all railways and civilization, something that has many advantages but also very many disadvantages. I still do not know in what form I will insert myself back into public life, but all kinds of plans are in the air. I was offered a position as ministerial counselor [*Ministerialrat*] in Dresden, in charge of the art section in the Saxon ministry, but I was unable to make up my mind to take it, however much I

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am attached to my native place. My 89-year-old mother is still alive, although after having also lost everything, in Dresden. How is your mother, then?

Please greet everyone favorably inclined, especially also the gentleman whose greetings (so cheering to me) you sent me, and report that, from a very retired position, I share the life of the Germans, a life that is really not an easy one. Very likely there are also difficulties enough where you are. If you would report to me now and then about how things are going over there and what is going on in the art world and the art market, I would be very glad.

With the most pleasant of wishes,

Ever your,

To Mr.

Jan Lenthal

38 rue de long champ

Neuilly

near Paris.