

Rec'd
June 18/12

Hosierwitz b. Dresden June 2. 1912.

Dear Mr. Deane,

At last I could spare a rest on purpose to write a line to you, as I was anxious to do since two weeks, with warmest thanks to you and Mrs. Deane for your kind and welcome letters of May 5th. We all were so very glad to learn of your celebration in the Shakespeare Club and we congratulate you sincerely and cordially. What an excellent spirited scientist you are, not only devoting to investigation in Natural Science, also in artistic literature. Though the study of Shakespeare's ingenious plays must have given you a constant source of noble enjoyment, thirty years secretaryship, I think, must have been a sacrifice, and such a service is really unpayable. The splendid ovation however has shown you the depth of devotion and admiration by all the members, and you must have been touched to see that you are the general favorite. Please accept my renewed sincere

congratulations. I should have been delighted to be present at your celebration, to present every good wish to you, and on your birthday wishing you many happy returns. This day will remain a delight for all your life. It is always an anxious time in such a high age as Mrs. Deane's venerable parents are, and we can understand how apprehensive you both are at the indisposition of health of Mrs. Deane's good mother. We hope and wish sincerely her health will improve in the coming fair season. My mother was well all the time, but it seems that the recurrence of her old suffering, Phlebitis, is approaching again so she has to be very careful. My wife and I, the younger people, are in comfortable state, only time is too scarce for us to enjoy the fair spring. After the warm days in March we had got awfully chilly weather here, just as you reported of America, just now it is getting a little more summer-like. Much building was done this spring in

our house, and a part of it got quite changed by various reasons. Only this week we shall get rid of the workmen entirely, at which we all are very glad. I shall be cordially pleased to renew sometime our personal acquaintance here in my house and my mother and my wife will be delighted to get acquainted in person with Mrs. Deane and yourself. We shall be very glad indeed and we are sure you will give us the pleasure sometime. Have you made studies in German language and uses, or otherwise I could not explain why you got in your letter from the New England Botanical Club to the German Restaurant of Wirth & Co in Boston and its mottoes? Well, these old-German mottoes are copied from the Tankards and glasses used by the guilds and corporations of hundreds of years ago for beer and wine on their meetings. On these old drinking vessels we find beside rich ornaments various mottoes, Humoristica and serious ones, sometimes of Shakespeare-like depth. The first and the third

one you mentioned, are humorous.

1., Ein fluger Lecher steckt sich fein den Schlüssel zum Hause schon morgens ein; means: ,An expert drinker is putting the key of his house into his pocket already at morning! That is to say, he otherwise could sit at evening too long in the wine- or beer-Tavern, and when returning, find the door of his house already shut up. The third one,

„Was keinem Tropf auf der Welt gelingt, ein guter Tropfen zugebe bringt“ is a play with the terms, Tropf and Tropfen seemingly similar and of very different meaning. A Tropf means a flat, a block-head, a stupid fool, Tropfen otherwise to translate drop means in German slang a drink, a draught, so the proverb means: ,What a stupid fellow never can do in the world, a good draught is able to do.‘ This is probably of old academic origin, praising the animating effect of a good draught, an effect, that a stupid man never is able to produce. The second motto you asked me about

is worth of being preached, even in the alcohol-temples: 'Wahrer Mund und treue Hand wandern durch alle Städt' und Land' =, Truth of speech and faithfulness (honesty) of hand help a man through all towns and land:'. A good many people of the 20th century would call this a proverb of the 'good old times'; for, the young generations will say sometime, that the smoothest eel and the smartest liar and rogue is getting easier through the world than a truthful man. I had some experience in this direction this year when meeting a series of disgusting characters such as I never knew before. Cheats have been at all times, this is proved by the old German proverb: 'Trau, schau, wem!' =, 'If confiding to somebody, look first, whom!'. Nowadays it is quite awful. A man cannot be distrustful enough and suspicious against people whom he doesn't know thoroughly. I hope you find my

explaining of the motto satisfactory, otherwise I am not expert in beer-house-matters. I like a good beer as a great many of Germans and Austrians do, but I am not fond of 'Kneipen' as the German slang expression calls the boozing in Restaurants.

I must finish my letter as it is getting almost night at 6 o'clock p.m. We have got a heavy thunderstorm with cloud-burst and hail. We all unite in warm love to Mrs. Deane and you,

very sincerely yours

Rudolph Blaschka



Blaschka, Rudolf. 1912. "Blaschka, Rudolf Jun. 2, 1912." *Rudolf Blaschka letters to Walter Deane*

View This Item Online: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/item/158899>

Permalink: <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org/partpdf/298560>

Holding Institution

Harvard University Botany Libraries

Sponsored by

IMLS

Copyright & Reuse

Copyright Status: Public domain. The Library considers that this work is no longer under copyright protection

Rights: [Harvard University Botany Libraries](#)

This document was created from content at the **Biodiversity Heritage Library**, the world's largest open access digital library for biodiversity literature and archives. Visit BHL at <https://www.biodiversitylibrary.org>.