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October 1 1990.

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Dear Lawrence,

Thank you for sending the two Letters of Intent. The Alberta Foundation gives its verdict in mid November, the Canada Council in the Spring.

I am enclosing my 'original,' typos included, transcript of excerpts from the tour director's letters to his wife relating to the Maud Allan Cherniavsky trio tour of India/Australia. It strikes me (and I have discussed this with Joanne Kellock) that perhaps this entire account (edited lightly but accurately) should be included in DID SHE DANCE, in a separate appendix, as it were, because it records as much as we will ever know of the tour. Of course, this would mean removing my commentary from the present text, but that presents no serious problem.

One reason I suggest this is that some time ago I was told that an account ( in the form of a diary) of a more modern troupe's (was it not the Ted Shawn/~~St. Deans~~ company?) tour of the Far East attracted fair attention within the dance community. I have read that account but, not being a dance historian, found it uninteresting as compared with the enclosed. I may well be prejudiced, so ask your opinion. If you want it, I will retype it, of course, with footnotes. The tour director's son copied out this material on condition his father not be identified by name - and then, having burnt the originals, promptly died. A great pity because of course there must have been lots of juicy details re. the Cherniavsky trio.

Some of the material is in The Salome Dancer, of course, but not enough to make make reproduction of the complete text tedious. I apologise for the single spacing etc, but you will understand that I have no great desire to retype it double spaced unless for good reason. This would take me some time, so please give me your reaction in the weeks, rather than months ahead.

You remarked( or was it Tiro Tembeck?) on the phone that perhaps there was room for more, rather than less, critical



material. I have been going through my binders, and would agree. However, I have no idea what would be of the most relevance, so await your further comments on that aspect, too. Perhaps you would like me to send you photocopies of selected material, so that you could select further material for me to prepare? And don't forget I have a number of illustrations of Maud "in action," as it were.

Finally, although this is in the far future, would your organisation have any interest and, more to the point, any means of actively promoting, a travelling exhibition on Maud Allan and her Art - and her brother? - to include an itinerary in the U.S., I would insist. I assure you I have all the raw material, including a Salome costume, shoes included..

*(eventually) approach? Such projects take years of materialise which is why I raise it now*

*John Q*



Was the Arabia  
a P.O. letter?  
Some readers might  
like a note on the ship  
in your publications

Friday 17th -19th October 1913

S.S. Arabia On board is my old barrister friend Sir Alfred Hopkinson and he may prove useful if we need legal help, he is to stay with one of the judges in Bombay. He thinks like everyone else that it is a pity M.A. is visiting India but that it is too bad the Authorities are not being definite one way or the other, and he does not think they can stop her now. The Trio is behaving very well and treat me with great respect. I had a long talk with Leo today about Australia, and he had rather a shock when I told him I had arranged to open there at Easter and must end the India tour short.

I listened to a long and interesting conversation last night between Leo and Ramsay Macdonald, who is on board, on the subject of the jews in Russia. R.M. is one of the Commission the Governemnt is sending out to enquire into matter they don't understand in India.

Wednesday October 22 1913

S.S. Arabia I don't think we shall go to Japan if we are allowed to play India. I am sharing a cabin with Sir Charles Cleveland, who is head of the India Secret Service. We have long talks in the morning before we get up, over tea and cigarettes. His H.Q. is with the Viceroy at Delhi mostly, so he will be useful to know as he goes straight to the Viceroy. I told him all about M.A. and showed him her photos.

October 27 1913

S.S. Arabia Lord Islington is just saying he has seen M.A. and likes her and that she is not to be stopped in India. He took the chair at the Cherniavsky concert last night, which was a great success, each one played a solo besides two Trios. There is to be another concert tonight, and Lord Islington announced, at Cleveland's suggestion, that we should have a collection for the Seamen. This I helped arrange, and we got nearly £40, the biggest hand the charity has had for some time.

November 1 1913

Bombay

Arrived 4 A.M. yesterday and ashore at 8a.m.



Tuesday 4th November 1913

Bombay I was greatly surprised with the O.H. Theatre, it is very fine and large. A Parsee called Kazaha owns it, he is enormously rich and runs it as a hobby. He dined with me and said we should open to £500 and play to £3,000 but of course we shan't, but I think business will be good. The Editor of the Bombay Chronicle also dined with us.

I saw Edwardes to-day officially and he said the Government felt it could not condemn M.A. without seeing her show and that if she did nothing objectionable on the first night or subsequently, all should go well. He said some people think she wears nothing at all. I think we shall win through, and have hopes we shall appear before the Viceroy yet. We go next to Madras, Bangalore, Rangoon, Calcutta and then across the North of India to Lahore where are due January 25. The box office opened today, 3 weeks ahead and there was a big rush, but I was sorry to see that they were mostly Parsees booking. It may be that the Anglo-Indians think there is plenty of time, but I hope they don't stand aloof.

Thursday November 6 1913

Bombay We took £5,000 (£333) the first day at the box office, and if we can keep this up we should be sold out before we open.

You ask me about the situation out here. I think it is briefly this: The real objection to M.A.'s appearance is a racial one; very broadly speaking, there are three elements in social India (A) the old fashioned Anglo Indian who is ultra conservative, who hates any alteration in the lot and status of the natives and who would like to see them remain as they always were in the days of John Company (he is the objector who counts). (B) the modern Anglo Indian with few prejudices and little experience of the country, whose policy toward the Natives is a liberal one. He is for educating the Indian native and for giving him a larger share in the government of the country and (C) the native himself who is becoming more educated and westernised and, according to (A) spoilt every day. Now (A) objects to such an unheard of thing as an English lady dancing before an Indian public of mixed races, he feels the effect will be to lessen the distance, however slightly, he wishes to maintain between balack and white. (B) says this is absurd - the world will not cease to progress because (A) cries halt, and (C) asks why he should be first educated by us then treated as if he were a barbarian with no understanding or discrimination. Of course the issue is complicated by the puritan party, who sides with (A) and further by the absurd ideas many people have of what M.A. is really going to do. I have seen Edwardes the Bombay Police Commissioner and he tells me the Government will not interfere if there is nothing in M.A.'s first and subsequent appearances to which any exception can be taken and that the Police and Government will attend the opening performance and form their own opinion on that point. On his advice I am not putting out the Buechel (Spring Song) posters here, and it will behove M.A. to be very careful about her costumes while in Bombay. I don't anticipate any further trouble professionally in this direction - socially I think things may be awkward.

*spelled  
Edwardes  
above*



Saturday November 8 1913

Bombay I have got a Rover car for a Pound a day so will take M.A. about a bit. The Hotel charges her and Miss Lonnon £3 a day for their Suite and Pension which is cheap I think as I was able to arrange magnificent rooms looking over the Bay. I really think I shall get the Boys for Australia.

*is this the true*

Tuesday November 11 1913

Bombay I am not satisfied with the booking, it is very disappointing after the first big rush. I'm not sure whether the Europeans are standing aloof on principle or because of the high prices. It may be some are waiting for The Times of India notice but I think the prices of the stalls ( 10/4 -Rs10) is keeping lots away and of course no Europeans of position here will go to any but the best seats as they are such snobs here, no matter how poor they are. M.A. arrives Friday. My servant Nizam Khan is a Paythan from somewhere near Peshawar

Friday November 14 1913

Bombay Went to the dock to meet M.A. who came ashore at 8 a.m. She looks very well and quite excited to be here. Drove her to her hotel after running a gauntlet of photographers.

Thursday November 27 1913

Bombay We got through our first night with flying colors and the Times of India notice is perfectly magnificent, just what we wanted. We lived in the Theatre all day Sunday and Monday, and on the Monday night M.A., in her first dance, broke a fibre of the calf muscle. She was in agony all the evening, but never gave it away, and at the end of the evening she could not put her ankle to the ground. I got the best surgeon out of bed at 2 a.m. and he ordered absolute rest for two days. Then it became evident she could not dance for a week, so we had to cancel the Bombay season. Then we were implored by the Manager here to re-open on December 9 for 5 nights. That meant re-arranging all the first part of the tour, so we stay here till December 15, doing nothing. Madras is postponed till December 17/8, and Bangalore and Ceylon cancelled. There is still uncertainty that she will be fit for December 9. On top of all this the Australian negotiations are coming in and the Far East to be booked. All India is saying she has been stopped by the Government, letters and telegrams pour in daily from all quarters of the globe. She is really a most beautiful and



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charming dancer, & I don't know how

charming dancer, and when anyone could be so filthy minded to see any indecency - it is the acme of purity and grace, and her understanding of music must be extraordinarily deep. She is doing wonders for the Boys, who have got into careless ways and when they play for her, it's got to be perfect. She hasn't the personality of Pavlova, and of course her dancing is totally different and requires a great understanding of the music. I am even now negotiating with the Nizam of Hyderabad for a private performance for the ladies of his Harem and those of two relatives, and on Tuesday I have got for her a big reception at the Yacht Club - already public feeling is swinging toward her. Also I hope to get the Governor to give a command, or at any rate to come privately. He is a sport and has just arrived.

Wednesday December 10 1913

Bombay All my time has been given up this week trying to arrange with the Boys for Australia. On Monday they came to terms and I prepared a contract and on Tuesday they gave this concert and afterwards threw up the idea altogether as they wanted to do Australia on their own. However Edie, who is their Manager and joint Manager for India, wants to stay with M.A. so the Boys can't very well go to Australia without her. I've told M.A. she won't get the Boys on any terms. M.A. is still far from well. Three concerts here, concerts next week for the Boys at Madras and Bangalore. M.A. and I go on Tuesday to Calcutta, the Boys go on Monday to Madras.

Went -  
Edie  
quite  
important  
should  
then be  
note  
on  
his  
He is  
a Machi.

Monday, December 15 1913

Bombay The Boys signed their contract for Australia to-day, and they get £100 a week but nothing if M.A. is a non starter. I've also settled Edie for advance man in Australia and he goes on in a fortnight. Today, the Boys go with Edie at 9.30 to Madras, M.A. and I with staff to Calcutta tomorrow Tuesday and due there Thursday. Her leg is much better. We sail Feb. 1 for the Far East - If we don't get good dates in Australia, we may now do Japan and China, but otherwise we sail from Manila (probably) about 14th March, due Sydney or Melbourne April 4.

China

Wednesday December 17 1913

Bombay Still here in Bombay. Yesterday I went up to M.A.'s room and found them not dressed or packed. Chief trouble was the money she cabled for had not arrived, so we go tomorrow, arriving Calcutta Saturday. I have written to Harker for the Salome scene for Australia, he has done a wonderful sketch.

a note! please  
my step father's  
name was  
Harker

Saturday December 19 1913 on a train?

Half way between Bombay and Calcutta M.A. and Miss Lonnon have a carriage to themselves. I am next door sharing with Austen Low ( of Grindlay's Bank) and the 'Three little savages' as M.A. calls them are on their own.

people might  
think it's a  
horse carriage

what fun!



Sunday December 21 1913

Calcutta M.A. had decided to go on directly from here, where we have just arrived, to Darjeeling.

Tuesday December 23 1913

Calcutta We got here on Saturday, having left Bombay on Thursday. M.A. has gone to Darjeeling, 22 hours away, and we don't open here till January 1. She is cured and is now getting back her leg strength. We have lost six weeks time out of the twelve in India we had planned, and have had to abandon many interesting places. All that remain are Allahabad, Cawnpore, Agra, Belhi, Lucknow and Lahore. We leave here for these towns on January 11, return to Calcutta and sailing on February 1 for the Far East. We stay for two nights at Rangoon on the way. We intend being in the Straits, China, Manila till the beginning of March, sailing for Australia there, as we are due to open Sydney or Melbourne April 11. We have not much time now to make much mney here, but in Australia I hope to, as I have got the Trio and Edie on salaries there, so M.A. and I are the only shareholders.

Sunday December 27 1913

Calcutta M.A. arrived this morning and said she still has a stiffness in the leg and feels rather nervous about Thursday. At breakfast with Sir Charles Cleveland he said he and Lady C. hoped to offer some hospitality to M.A. in Delhi, and said the Viceroy won't be there when we are there, which would be just as well as now everyone will go to see us.

I have today mapped out our ten day tour through the Punjab. We are away from Calcutta for two weeks from January 11 to 25th, when we sail for Rangoon. We visit Allahabad, Delhi, Lucknow, Lahore, Cawnpore.

Xmas Day 1913

Calcutta. Was watching polo today when I ran into Sir Charles Cleveland who asked me to breakfast at the Bengal Club tomorrow. He is here with the Viceroy. The Boys met Mrs. Besant at Bangalore and she gave them many books which they have passed on to me. M.A. wired last night that she is remaining in Darjeeling till Sunday, December 27

Tuesday December 29

Calcutta I accompanied M.A. to an interview she was giving to the Editor of The Statesman. Most interesting. He took view about the physical interpretation of music and the -gument was good. I think M.A. had the best of it - I had no idea she was so accomplished a musician.

Our booking is quite good, better than Bombay

*word missing?*



6

Sunday January 4 1914

Calcutta We had a most triumphal opening on Thursday, and M.A. is quite fit again. We had a packed house and a more representative one than at Bombay and business since is good but not tremendous, about £200 a night. M.A. had some charming flowers, a lovely bouquet from Cleveland - he's been a real brick and Lady Cleveland very nice too.

Saturday January 10 1914

Calcutta The hours are so late here, the theatre starting at 9.45 p.m. We had a big house tonight, the last, and a great crush of friends and people with flowers etc.

Monday 12 January 1914

on train We left Calcutta at 6 last night and are on way to Allahabad. We are very comfortable, have a four compartment coach, I by myself with bath. We keep the coach and truck right through to Lahore and back to Calcutta - 2500 mil

*unusual use of word?*

Saturday January 17 1914

Delhi Left Calcutta on Sunday, arrived Allahabad on Monday. Tuesday we gave a concert to a good house. Good business also at Lucknow on Wednesday. Left by train at 6.30 a.m. and arrived Agra 6 p.m., gave concert and at 4 a.m. left for Delhi.

Wednesday January 21 1914

On train The Punjab tour is now over and we are on our way back to Delhi, en route for Calcutta and Rangoon, having left Lahore at 8.30 p.m. We arrive at Delhi tomorrow at 10 A.M. and leave again at 10 p.m. Good business throughout. Lunched with the Clevelands on Saturday in Delhi, a family party, very enjoyable.

Saturday January 24 1914

Calcutta Tomorrow we shall be at sea for Rangoon. We have begun to make a little money, M.A. about £200 per week.



"ROUGH TRANSLATION" of Review from BASUMATI  
(Bengalee Language newspaper)  
10 Jan 1914

I think myself very fortunate to be able to see the dancing of the nude lady, which is appreciated by the Western communities, but it was a hard task for me when I was asked to give a perfect report of the performance. I entered the stage and found it dark on all sides. It was not like a Bengalee stage and I thought perhaps Bioscope Pictures would be shown, but to my surprise I found a very beautiful lady was standing there in thin clothing. She moved her hands and feet in a peculiar manner which we could not appreciate. It may be a good sort of dancing but to an Indian her art is not so good or attractive. [Here the writer quotes a song describing the appearance of the stage as like a scene on a moonlit river where a lady is taking her bath half naked) Miss Allan then came on in another dress, and now the stage was lighted. She began to dance in a different mood, and it was not like other English dances. It was something new and I believe it was appreciated by the Europeans, but we Indians had no taste for it. Then she began to express various moods and gestures which again we could not appreciate, because we are used to hearing such emotions in our theatres in songs. I was given to understand that she would appear in the nude but very fortunately she was requested by the European people not to come in that state and so, though she had a very thin dress on, ~~yet~~ yet the feats of her different limbs were perfectly seen.

I also found some Bengalese ladies and gentlemen present but they seemed to sit still and not appreciate the dancing and they appeared to ~~be~~ me like so many crows amongst peacocks. Also the tunes played by the famous musicians [the Cherniavsky Trio] could not be appreciated by us.



THE CHERNIAVSKY TRIO

(AN INTERVIEW) by Annie Besant

LEO, Jan and Mischel Cherniavsky have already made themselves famous in four continents—in Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia. It only remains for them to see and conquer America, and this it is proposed they shall do next year. Readers of the *Commonweal* will doubtless be interested to hear a few particulars about these remarkable young men, who have achieved a world-wide reputation while scarcely out of their teens. First then a word as to their history. Like so many illustrious musicians they are Jews by birth, though, as Russian subjects, they love Russia with all the warmth of the true patriot. Already they have played twice before the Czar.

There are seven of these remarkable Cherniavsky children. The youngest, a little girl of five years old, already plays the violin and remembers the names of violin pieces. Doubtless she will also speedily develop into an artist. All three brothers in the Trio have an indefinable something—call it charm—call it personal magnetism—call it what you will—that attracts you instantly. Perhaps this is one secret of their wide popularity that, while the musical expert is marvelling at their magnificent technique, the mere man in the street, be he never so jaded and world-weary, cannot fail to respond to their youth, their freshness, their zest of life. Although they are real, live celebrities and have been such for many years, they are so natural and friendly, they seem so brimming over with good-fellowship and good-will, that they take the Public by storm wherever they go. But they prefer a Russian audience to any other.

"In Russia," said Mr. Mischel, "when they are pleased they throw hats at us, handkerchiefs!—anything. . . . after the Russians then we like the Spanish and the Italians but the Englishman—he is reserved. . . he locks it all up in his heart—like his love for his wife." "If there is one bored face in a row," said Mr. Leo, "we know it, and for us it spoils it." It must remain a mystery where Mr. Leo saw that bored face! Of course it must have been at somebody else's concert; nobody could possibly maintain the brow of boredom before the breeziness of the Cherniavsky Trio.

Their father is a remarkable musician; as director of an orchestra he is acquainted with no less than sixty instruments. Their mother comes of a long line of business ancestors, and is of a practical temperament: "In these days," remarked Mr. Leo, "it is necessary for a man to be practical."

Like all Russians, the foreign tongue has no terrors for them. All three converse fluently in

self too young to have decided views. Mr. Jan was all enthusiasm when he spoke of his beloved piano as being *the* instrument. All music, he explained to us, had to be written for the piano in the first instance. On no other instrument could you have such full harmony, ten notes sounding at once. He believed the evolution of the piano was not yet complete and that we should see it develop more in the direction of the sustained harmony of the organ.

"Who is your favourite composer?" we asked him.

"Chopin," he replied with that subtle inflexion that special intonation, that we keep for the names of the masters we revere. Chopin was his favourite, but if we wanted to know the greatest musician—why then Beethoven, for Beethoven was not merely a genius he was a prophet. With his prophetic insight he had foreseen the piano as we now have it, whereas he himself had only the little keyboard of Mozart's era. "There could never be another Beethoven," Mr. Mischel declared. There had been *one* and like Shakespere "he was not for an age but for all time." Russia had her great men—Tolstoy, for example we suggested.

"Tolstoy, yes," thought Mr. Mischel, "but then Tolstoy was against Society—against everybody, against everybody, and what was the good of that?" To him, evidently, the Athanasian attitude *per se* did not appeal. "What is the good of it?" he repeated, for never had youthful genius a firmer foothold on the solid ground of practical utility. "Napoleon was not such a great man as Zola," maintained Mr. Mischel, and in this we believe he had the table with him to a man. "Napoleon! what did he do? He killed, destroyed thousands of people, but Zola—Ah, he was a clever man—a great man. . ." and so the talk went on. "Ragtime?" said Mr. Mischel. "Ragtime is the spirit of this age. . . how then could we expect Beethoven to be born amongst us?"

The most noticeable feature about these young men is their relation to each other. Anyone who has the least doubt of the existence of telepathy à trois has but to witness a performance of the Cherniavsky Trio. They never arrange beforehand whether they will repeat certain passages, because each always knows a bar beforehand what he is to do. It almost seems as though they shared a group-soul, and yet each has a distinct and vivid personality; they are three people, but they play as one man. It is not a unison, it is perfect harmony.

All the brothers have a happy knack of making pretty speeches. In them the artist, speaking the plain truth that he perceives, can throw the courtier into the shade: "Please give us your photograph," they begged at the conclusion of a recent visit to an illustrious lady; "You see we collect photographs," explained Mr. Jan—"the photographs of great people—really great people."

This we feel sure is only the beginning of a great career for the Trio. Looking forward, we predict with confidence a well-deserved and increasing popularity. We do not envy the public of the future, however far after all they will be



Sunday, January 25 1914

S.S. Aranhola en route Calcutta to Rangoon M.A. has discarded her two Ayahs and the Cherniavsky's their boy so now the only natives are my faithful Nizam, my clerk and another native called Gunner, a stage hand. I have a single cabin next M.A., and Nizam sleeps in the passage between on guard. Miss Lonnon is next door with Mrs. Collie, a Bombay doctor's wife who has joined us, then come the three C's and St Leger, and then the Drexell party (American millionaire). I wonder if the London press will publish the telegrams between the Viceroy and M.A. I published them today in The Statesman, and I expect there will be a row. The Viceroy denies that he has ever officially asked people not to attend the concerts, but I am sure he has, or it has been done in his name. It will be fun to watch developments. Thank goodness we are at last out of India. We are due in Rangoon on Tuesday, give two concerts and on Thursday sail for Penang, arriving there February 2 ( a Monday)

Saturday January 31 1914

S.S. Ellenga in the Straits of Malacca, nearing Penang We arrive Singapore Wednesday February 4. We give only one concert at Penang on Monday February 2, three at Singapore, Wed- Friday, sail for Hong Kong on Saturday and arrive there a week later.

Sunday, Febraury 1 1914

Penang Arrived here 5 a.m.; the whole feeling is different here, the government launch to meet us and a warm welcome at the hotel. Every seat is booked.

Thursday February 5 1914

Singapore We are doing very fair business here, but not as good as I had hoped. I think our cheap prices (\$2 =4/4 for the gallery) are too high as things are down in the rubber trade. At last a good theatre, well run.

11 February 1914

P & O. S.N.Co. S.S. Assaye This is our third day out since leaving Singapore.

Monday February 16 1914

Hong Kong We sail on Thursday by the Empress of India for Shanghai. We get to Shanghai on Sunday February 22 and leave on Saturday the 28th, arriving at Manila on Thursday March 5, and sailing for Sydney on Saturday March 14th where we arrive on Monday March 30.



Thursday 19 February 1914

Empress of Asia

of him?  
is  
herself?  
M.A. is cracked about Leo and hates his brothers because they dislike her for making such a fool of her. She is always trying to get him away from them, but the three boys are absolutely one - their affection for each other is very beautiful as is their perfect harmony. Leo is too shrewd to go too far with her. On this ship she invited two strangers to take the places of Mischel and St. Leger at our table with the result that Jan and Leo joined their brother and left two vacant places at her table.

February 22 1914

Shanghai

We got here yesterday morning. We are doing well here, £200 nightly. Leo told me an extraordinary story thing last night - about a very sensational murder case in America - a young man called Durrant loved a girl who did not care for him and one day he choked her with his bare hands to death and hid the body. Some days later another girl whom he did not care for but who loved him told him she knew he had done it and would tell if he didn't marry her, and he treated her the same way. The trial lasted two years, and the Freemasons put up a huge sum of money to defend the boy but he was eventually convicted and executed. Leo says he was told the boy was the only brother of M.A., and the fact is well known in America.

She is a curious and unhappy woman as all selfish people are bound to be, with very good points but wilful and warped, and lives only for excitement and applause. I think she is already beginning to feel she is losing her grip on the public, and living on her past reputation -- it is extraordinary how little fuss is made of her socially out here. No one calls or seems to want to meet her, and no crowds wait about the stage door.

Leo also told me it was Edie who started the anti M.A. campaign in India - he found it was absolutely essential to get hold of something to stir up interest as the Europeans had all seen her in London and the natives had never heard of her. So he conspired with the Editors of two Bombay papers and they started writing letters of protest and answering them. It certainly came off, but she would never forgive Edie if she knew.

There are strained relations between Jan and Mischel and MA, they have never forgiven her for taking advantage of them over the partnership contract and she is frantically jealous of them in the theatre, they go much better with the public than often she does. She says they let her down but they say, as she won't rehearse they don't know what she wants. She says she won't rehearse until they practice the music, and so they go on.

I've had a very serious talk with them today about practicing and rehearsing all her numbers ( they are very lazy and extraordinarily gifted) and they've promised to amend their ways. She is largely to blame as she never praises them, and often abuses them, and they say they are just as great artists as she is and that it was only a fluke and no clothes that made her name. (Mischel told her this!!!!!!!!!!)

great stuff!



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March 3 1914

S.S. Deerflinger

We left Shanghai on Saturday morning, get to Hong Kong on Monday after noon. We are due in Manila on Thursday and open on Saturday for 4 or 5 concerts. We sail for Australia by the Kumano Mara on 14th, due Brisbane on 27th, and Sydney 30 March. We did our best business in Manila, over £200

Friday-- March 6 1914

Manila

We give only four concerts tomorrow, Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday. The opera house is just another filthy converted circus run by a Turk with a native staff, and we are plunged at once into all our old Indian troubles, chiefly due to the Orinetals' total indifference to one's requirements. I don't know what business will be like - we are booked out for the first night, but after that, nothing! I think socially we shall have a good time. The Admiral (U.S.Navy) has called, and much fun is mooted for next week. M.A. gets on well with the Americans, being or claiming to be an American. She was born in Canada of Canadian parents, and later her father became an American citizen, but she never took out her passport.

The comedy between M.A. and Leo progresses. A fortnight ago there was a chance of him falling seriously in love with her, and she was encouraging him with the notion of marriage. It would be a disaster for him if he did. I helped him round that corner by pointing out her real character. She has good points

and innocent but dangerous blue eyes, like a child's, but she is mean and selfish, a grab all and give nothing, not over honest, a harlot at heart and a humbug because she is always posing as a paragon of virtue and talks most beautifully on moral subjects, but really she doesn't care much what she does so long as she is not found out. She has never been contradicted in her life, and so Leo has recently taken to telling her all her faults, hypocrasies, and mean and selfish ways. They have had the most awful rows, but to the astonishment of everyone, she always gives in. I can't quite make out what she is playing at, I can't believe she is in love with Leo though I think he is going the right way to make her so, and it seems to me that as he falls out of love she falls in; still, she is a clever woman who calculates her every move and I am pretty sure she is playing for something - but what? I think she is anxious to be on good terms in Australia where she has all the responsibility, and she knows Jan and Mischel hate her like poison for doing Leo over the Indian contract. He has shown me the original contract, signed by both parties, which in effect is quite different from the one Butt drew up for her, and Leo signed believing what she told him - that it was only the wording that was altered.



Source ?

The Cherniavsky Trio in Manila <sup>Gov.?</sup> - anf off the record.

This morning we went to hear the Phillipine Band of 80 performers/ They first played the Liszt Rhapsodie No.2, the most striking feature of their playing was the first few bars, very big and a beautiful quality but I think they played with a little too much rubato, but still very effectively. The ensemble and their crescendos shewed great musical taste - so rare with orchestras. The next item was Tschaikovsky's Violin concerto (1st. movement) Leo being the soloist and Jan the conductor. Considering they had had no rehearsal and that the orchestra had never before played an accompniment it was marvellous how they brought out the important phrases of the concerto - occasionally the wind instruments were out of tune and by reading the music by sight they sometimes lost their good tone. You know how difficult the piece is, especially for the soloist who requires temperament and all the other qualities - and Leo was a bit off his mark and Jan and the Band hardly understood each other. It was Jan's first experience at conducting.

Next they played the Saint Saens Cello concerto op33, Mischel being the soloist and St. Leger the conductor. This concerto wants a musician and artist combined to interpret it - it is so French - I thought the middle part the most interesting movement played under sardines which gives you an impression of coming from miles away and gradually came in with a crescendo leading to the climax - it wants knowing to be really appreciated. The Band could not play any of their instruments five years ago and now they are a first rate orchestra - the conductor who has taught them all and even selected what instruments they should learn is a bit of a genius - and an American Negro at that. It is a government band and they are not allowed to play for money. The Govt. Hiris [?] party were present but otherwise it was all private. By the time I get home you will find me a competent music critic, so mind you practice!



March 11 1914

Manila We sail Saturday and arrive Sydney on the 30th. Remain in Sydney till April 4 and then start for Wellington arriving Dunedin 9th or 10th, and opening 11th. Will tour there for 8 weeks, go to Melbourne, in June for 3 weeks, tour again for three weeks and do Sydney in July for 3 weeks, at the Palace Theatre.

M.A. tells Leo she wants to marry him and take him away from his brothers, give him a year's tuition and make a famous violinist of him, and then tour with him. Leo replies 'No, my wife will not be on the stage but at home, having babies. He assures me he won't get trapped into marrying her. There is no doubt that while her name attracts the advance booking, the Boys' skill and popularity are enormous assets in keeping up the business, and she will never get such support again. Individually they are each first class and as a Trio probably the best in the world, in complete sympathy and without the slightest jealousy of each other. One never tries to surpass the other, and if one is a bit off color, or makes a mistake, the other two cover up. Leo has made the hit here ( in different towns it is sometimes the one, sometimes the other). He played two encores but I told him this was a mistake and she should send home the audience hungry for more. Tonight he played one encore and the audience shouted and yelled for him till M.A. came from her room and insisted he play again to stop the noise. She never gets this kind of enthusiasm, and has difficulty getting one encore per night. The Trio help her all they can by their playing and by applauding her from their seats in the orchestra, which she hardly acknowledges from the stage. So different from Pavlova.

March 17 1914

S.S. Kumano Nipponyusen Kaisha M.A.'s profit works out to about £1300 and the Boys about £300, which is a beastly shame. Out of that they paid their fares from Yokohama to London and spent three months in London preparing, on the understanding that they were to share the profits at the rate of 60% for them and 40% for M.A.. It now works out at 75% to 25% and of course they have lost while she has made and they've had three hotel bills every week to her one - so the amalgamation up to this point has been disastrous for the Boys. She and Leo had an awful row two nights ago, he would not speak to her for two days because she went out with a man of doubtful reputation. She came to me and said she was sure the Boys meant to desert her in Australia, that Jan and Mischel hated her (which is true) and were burning for revenge, and that Leo was insulting her like this, they thought she did not mean to advertise them. She would not admit that the quarrel was on private grounds. I told her not to worry, that her notions were all wrong, that if she would leave things entirely to me there would be no trouble at all, but that if she gave herself managerial airs and tried to boss and belittle the Boys there would be serious trouble. She tried to tell me about the Indian contract and how Butt had drawn it up and how she offered it back to the Trio when they realised what they had signed. That night she went to Leo who told her again that she was not straight and was, moreover, a fool as she was calculating having the whiphand over them in Australia when really they held the key to the situation, that he meant to have his contract carried out to the last letter, that they did not mean to leave her in the lurch or to play any

Word missing?





11  
she  
tricks if they tried to boss them they would give her a hell of a time, and that if their names were not properly put before the public they would arbitrate and refuse to play until the reward was made.

Afterwards, they made friends and started flirting again but Leo, who by this time is very much in love suspects that she is only playing with him and wished to bring her to the test, so he told her that if she would agree to put their surnames nearly as large as hers in the newspapers, they would allow the posters to stand. She flatly refused (though during the partnership they have been equally starred). A conference was called in my cabin, and Leo said that if, after all her promises to help him all she could, she would not do this, he would take advantage of the wording of the contract and insist that their three names and surnames appear in each advertisement. She referred to the original India contract, and Leo produced the memorandum he had sent her from Shanghai and her cabled acceptance. She hated my seeing this, and my manner became very severe when I had read it. She spoke of the Brothers as being little rats and said she would do nothing for them because they insulted her by their looks and bearing. At this stage I told Leo he had better go, and she then began talking about her original arrangement with the Boys for India and about how Butt and her solicitors had advised her that she could not be bound by her cable of acceptance (which I don't believe) and that anyway she had offered them the contract back. I said 'Can you wonder at the Boys being sore - how would you feel if I induced you to travel to Australia with a promise of a salary of £700 a week and if upon your arrival I said there was nothing to bind me, and I will give you £200 or nothing ( a week).' I then did my best to get her to accept the compromise but finally she flatly refused and said they could arbitrate. I have told the Boys who are delighted because they think they will win, but Leo is awfully sick as she feels she does not really care for him. He wrote her a very bitter 'all is over between us' letter and has not spoken since to her. Yesterday at lunch she was nearly crying and left the table, and could not face us at dinner. The two boys are very nice to her - she is very sad - because they think Leo is safe. It is a tragi comedy and I shall be very very sorry if Leo finally gets entangled with her. Today she came to lunch, very sad, and after she had paced the deck alone and Leo ditto - both dying for the other to speak first but neither willing to break the ice. Is it not foolish?

March 17 (Tuesday) 1914)

Off Celebes

This is a jolly little boat (5000 tons) very steady, nice cabin, good food. We touch land only at Thursday Island and at Brisbane,



note?

March 23 1914

S.S. Kumano Maru & Nippon Kaisha We arrived at Thursday Island yesterday and visited the little church. The vicar told us that Mme. Nordica was still in hospital and we went to see her, but the Nurse would not allow us in as she had a temperature. We went to her hotel and looked up her accompanist and manager, who said she was determined to leave the Island by next week's whip. She had ordered a special deck cabin and was taking a doctor and two nurses. She is suffering from nerves.

March 24 1914

S.S. Kumano Maru Nipponvusen Kaisha We are due at Townsville at 2 a.m. tomorrow.

Sunday April 5 1914

S.S. Meerahi [?sp] As Leo means business about the advertising, I gave him Derry's address as I knew he understand theatrical matters. So Derry wrote to M.A., suggesting arbitration. She was furious that Leo had gone to a solicitor and wrote back a long rigmarole, and refused to arbitrate until we arrived at Dunedin. Derry replied that her letter was not to the point, gave her final notice that until the points were settled, the Trio would not appear at the first or any subsequent concert. She nearly had a fit of rage and wounded vanity, and at last I got her to say she would be content with any settlement I might make. So I went to see Derry and fixed

everything up as it should have been fixed on the boat. In the evening at the theatre she asked me what I had done, and I told her and also that a little explanation, an agreement, would have to be signed by the parties. She blazed forth again and said she would sign nothing. Next day the agreement came - there was a scene- she wept and said she would give up the tour rather than sign a paper that Leo could show to prove he had won a victory. I said I would get Leo to write her a letter. Instead, so I sent for Leo and they met for the first time in days. It really was a comedy- these lovers- I explained to them the matter in a cold judicial manner when suddenly she blazed forth at Leo about the lowdown ways of his race, and he blazed back that he was proud of his race and didn't do the dirty tricks she had resorted to. At this point Derry was announced, so I took Leo away and on hearing that a letter would be as binding as an agreement, Leo consented to write one. Derry sketched it out, I put in all the nice kind words and turn of expressions ('Why should I?' said Leo, 'Don't be a fool' said I) and finally it was written out and sent to her. Later, when I went to see her after giving her time to digest it, she said " You wrote that letter, you are a dear" - and kissed me!!!!



Tuesday April 7 1914

S.S. Keerahi I've had a rather rotten time on board as M.A. wanted to sit at a table by herself, with me and Alice Lonnon, but the latter has asthma and has not left her cabin so I've had M.A. all to myself which bores me to tears as I have nothing to say to her. I can't talk to people I'm not in sympathy with. She looks very ill and broken, is very thin and takes no exercise, says she only wants to go home and doesn't care what happens. I'm afraid of a repetition of the Bombay breakdown as she will have had no exercise for a month. I told Leo yesterday he must try to help the situation, so he went and sat with her all evening. She wept and wept, and said her heart was broken. She has sent a very loving cable to Butt so I don't think what she calls her heart is much affected. Leo wants to found a Conservatorium of Music in Sydney and I am helping him work out a scheme.

Sunday April 12 1914

Dunedin (Easter Sunday) We met up with Edie in Wellington - his work has been splendid - one of his dodges has been to set up all the schoolchildren throughout Australasia writing essays on classical dancing for prizes of books. We spent a day there and I had a lot to discuss with him. We went on board the Wyhiora [?] at Wellington at 8 p.m. and arrived at Littleton at 7 a.m., then we went to Dunedin by train, arriving at 4 p.m.

We opened last night (Saturday) to L181, very good, and twice what Genee opened to, but the forward booking is very poor. We gave them a splendid concert, the best we've given I think. Mischel played wonderfully on his big new 'cello which has a glorious rich tone, and Leo captured the house with the Vieuxtemps concerto - he played like an angel. The Trio also accompanied M.A. magnificently, but I don't think she got home with either the Chopin Preludes or the Funeral March - they cheered more politely than enthusiastically. She has made it up with Leo and she is being quite a different person, polite and considerate, and doing all she can for the Boys. As regards M.A.'s health, I'm afraid it is serious and she won't hear of an operation. We go to Invercargill on Monday, give two concerts, leave at 6 a.m. Wednesday, and arrive at Timara at 4 p.m., give one concert, then Ashburton and Samara & then Wellington for 1 week.

Wednesday April 15 1914

Dunedin Another break-down. M.A. got through Monday evening, heavy program all right but she told me at lunch yesterday she had a slight pain in the old place. I told her she must knock off till Saturday, and sent for a masseur and Doctor. He hopes she will be well by Saturday. It's largely her own fault - she's lazy, wouldn't exercise on the ship and sat in the hotel in Sydney for five days. The sudden strain was too much for the weak leg. We had to cancel four nights.



116  
Saturday May 9 1914

Wellington, N.Z. [Macleod fell ill in Wellington, and stayed there while M.A. and the Trio went on tour of small towns] Tonight I cross at 11 p.m., arriving tomorrow at about 10 a.m.; the company are due on Saturday next. They are doing very well on tour and we shall make about £300 this week.

The Boys say M.A. was a dismal failure in the U.S., except in San Francisco, and a dire failure in South Africa, except in Johannesburg. She gave only two concerts in Capetown, and had only a very poor pianist and Miss Lonnon reciting. I heard yesterday from my advance that she and Leo are not staying in Napier where they are playing, but some miles away at Hastings. They are motoring into the concerts and back at night. Did you see that poor Nordica died in Java?

May 13[8?] 1914

Christchurch A cable from Edie today, imploring us not to play at 10/6 prices at Melbourne as these prices had killed Ellen Terry and had hurt Harry Lauder,, but M.A. won't give in as she thinks it is infra dig to play for less than others.

Thursday May 29

Auckland Ellen Terry arrives on Sunday to rest 10 days before she lectures. The poor old thing is very ill, utterly prostrated by the heat of the sea voyage and can't get right again. She had four big receptions in Melbourne but could only attend one for a few minutes. Thousands met the ship but she would not get off till all had gone. She can't see a soul but lies in her room all day. I hope I shall see her for a minute, dear soul.

The N.Z. public don't care for M.A., some are furious with her, they say she can't dance at all and call her 'fraud Allan'. She is on the stage for about an hour out of two, and people get bored with her, but even so she gives as many encores as she can snatch. Business is quite fair but not as good here as in the Far East, but I think Salome will be a big draw if only this threat of appendicitis will keep off. I'm frightened it will break off before we have finished Melbourne and Sydney.



The great actress Ellen Terry attends a concert in Auckland,  
New Zealand.

FROM THE TOUR DIRECTOR'S LETTER FROM AUCKLAND,  
NEW ZEALAND, HIS WIFE IN LONDON.

JUNE 15, 1914

S.S. Riverina I told you in my last letter of Ellen Terry's arrival and how ill she was. Well, on Tuesday night when I got back from the theatre, I received a message to say that I was to go to her at once, so I went up to her flat and found her in bed, looking much better than I expected, but still very old. She was delighted to see me, said the rest was doing her good but she longed to be home again but would fight on to the last as she could not bear to think that the people who had brought her out would lose money. She said she quite thought she would die in the Red Sea. I advised her to go home by the Cape - she is not a bad sailor - but hates the confinement on board. How wonderful she is, her brain as quick as ever, talking on a dozen subjects in five minutes, keenly interested in life, merry and cheerful and chock full of humour and charm. 'I hate my body' she said - and that is just it. You feel that Ellen will never die, that her spirit will simply take flight to another sphere. I told her I first saw her as Lady Macbeth. 'I'm sorry for that' she said - 'it seems like a dream - that this old hulk could have been Beatrice.'

On Friday night she came to the theatre. She was much relaxed and got out of bed and came down and sat in the stage box. She was enormously excited afterwards and I took her round to the stage and introduced her to M.A. and the Trio. 'Wonderful, wonderful boys' she exclaimed 'you have dragged the soul's soul out of me. I wish I were the mother of you all, I must kiss you each' (and does so) 'And you, Maudie, Queen Maud, how you've improved, but then none ever had such music to dance to as you've got. I could have danced myself, none could help it' (imagine M.A.'s fury!) And you are Jan, the pianist, your touch is like falling petals and Leo, why now you are laughing - but when you play you look as if you had the sorrows of all the world on your shoulders, but perhaps it was the accompanist, he had not quite caught your temperament. Well, good-bye, good-bye, I must come again tomorrow though I shan't sleep tonight. I haven't been so moved for years.'

Well, she did come on Saturday evening, and I sat with her and watched her face. You may imagine how the Boys played for her, and she just sat there with all sorts of expressions flittering across her face, every now and then a little laugh (like a child) at some beautiful passage, and then at something tender and sad, the tears would rain and out would come the handkerchief. 'Oh, I can't bear it, I can't bear it' she would say. It was an experience that showed me clearly more than anything else the secret of her power to move an audience to laughter and tears. I saw her only once again, just before we sailed. I took Leo round to say goodbye. She gave us each a photo, and to me her book of her life with the portrait of Beatrice, inscribed 'In remembrance of Ellen Terry'. She asked us all to see her in London, and to stay with her in Kent, but, she said, she had a feeling she would see me again but never 'those dear, dear boys'.



16

Thursday ~~12~~ June 1914 (14)

We should arrive at Sydney at 6 a.m. and catch the 8 p.m. to Melbourne which gets there at noon Saturday. We play the same night, provided we catch the train. We had a capital week at Auckland - £600 profit - so we are now more than clear of all preliminary expenses.

June 18 1914

Melbourne We opened on Saturday last to big business and terrific success. I have never seen a more enthusiastic first night. Do read the enclosed Argus notice, but alas Monday receipts were only £80 and Tuesday's £117 - most extraordinary. I think this week they are fed up with music - Mischa Elman, Harold Bauer, Leonard Borurch all here, only Elman doing business. We did a rotten week up to Friday, then last night produced Salome to a packed house. (£372) The scene is beautiful, so is the dance and so is the music, but I feel sure it won't draw out here. She creates a feeling of disappointment every time, except to the few. They say she doesn't dance. There was very little applause at the end which was all the more noticeable as the Boys had had terrific applause for their solos. Jan played the Liszt Hungarian Fantasie with orchestra and the people simply roared for him, then Leo played the Paganini Concerto which went over enormously. The band has improved wonderfully during the week.

There is a chance of Alice Lonnon going home almost immediately as she has an offer from Arthur Bouchier. I hope she does. M.A. has been quite different since I spoke so forcibly to her on the ship, seems really to have taken the lesson to heart and speaks nicely to everyone - it is much more pleasant. She and Leo are great pals again.

We go to Sydney next, and open Saturday July 5

Friday, July 10 1914

Sydney M.A. has broken down again - this time she put out the cartilage of her right knee on Tuesday night and we have had to close. We were going strong here, just catching on and had a matinee arranged for Wednesday for which booking was very big. Now we've closed till tomorrow, Saturday and arrive Melbourne tomorrow.. We left delightful Blue Mountain on Thursday and put up for two nights in Sydney. At present we are on our way to Perth. M.A. still feels a click in her knee and is very nervous about it. She had an X ray on Friday but it showed nothing wrong. We get to Melbourne on Sunday and sail Wednesday for Adelaide, arrive Thursday and sail Friday for Freemantle, to arrive there Wednesday or Thursday. We give our first concert in 10 weeks on Saturday September 26.

Anderson persists in his action though we can't see how he has any case at all. It may just be a black mailing action - Anderson hopes M.A. will pay something to settle it, which she won't. Sir Alexander MacCormack is our principal witness but as he is off to Belgium the evidence will have to be taken before he goes.

note needed?



17

Sunday August 25 1911

Wentworth Falls We came up here on Saturday. We are a large party - M.A., myself the Boys and Mr/s Edie and we are the only guests in the hotel as it is yet rather early in the season. There is a beautiful drawing room with a fair piano, and every day after tea Leo and Jan play us Beethoven Sonatas. Every day, from 10 - 1, the Trio practice, the three instruments all going together. M.A. loves it as it reminds her of her student days in Berlin. After lunch Jan and Mischel play tennis on the good hard court; Leo and I walk. Leo was very pleased with what you said about him in your last letter and he is now writing to you, he is also smoking Jan's pipe named after you. Jan is smoking a fat one, 'Rosa' (after his mother). I think we shall stay here about two weeks and then go to Melbourne for a week, and then

to Perth and the goldfields for about two weeks. M.A.'s illness has cost her nearly £1000 loss since Melbourne and she hasn't much left to lose and doesn't know if she can get any more during the War; if she returns from Perth she wants me to take her back by America. The Boys will stay here, either touring on their own, or teaching in Sydney, or resting and practising on a farm, waiting for better times.

Leo has just me his letter to you. I think it is jolly good for a Russian who has never been educated in English. Yes, you will like him, he is true and honest with good brown eyes full of thought and pathos, and yet he is merry and thoughtful and full of energy and determination - and so good to everyone, unselfish and kindhearted - a dear affectionate fellow who would be thrown away on M.A. Ofcourse the Far East is now out of the question and there will be no season in Egypt. Pavlova has refused my offer but she will never get better terms for Australia.

Saturday 29 August 1914

Wentworth Falls We remain here till the 12th and then sail for Freemantle. I have a very good contract there and if there is any business to be done at all we shall start making money again - that is, if the leg holds out. M.A. has just recovered from her illness but she can't walk much yet and complains that the muscles around the knee are weak but she does not feel pain in the joint itself, so it may be alright but naturally we are very nervous about her. If she breaks down we shall come home, if she remains well and business is good we are planning a long tour through the smalls (after playing Adelaide, Brisbane, Sydney) lasting till March, but I don't think it will come off. Inverell is on the list. I don't think there is any chance now of an Eastern tour - in the first place all the N.A.L. ships seem to be captured or sunk. What a fiasco the Java Exhibition will be. All the artists seem to be fleeing from here to America. There is a monster War Fund at H.M.T. Sydney on Thursday - the Boys are taking part in it and we all go down for the day. It means six hours on the train. We spend our days very quietly here - the 4.30 - 6.30 music is an enormous treat - now we are going through a course of Grieg. Yesterday Leo played the Max Sch Concerto which I heard Elman play at Sydney. This has been



the most glorious day and we are all getting very sunburnt and are in riotous health. We go to Perth in about ten days-goodness knows what will happen there If M.A.'s blessed legs keep strong I suppose we shall tour here but if she breaks down again we shall finish, but of course if she keeps right we are almost bound to make money. She has not heard from her mother for almost four weeks, not even on her birthday, and Alice Lonnon, who returned via San Francisco was to spend one night with her and promised to cable her health but she neither cabled nor wrote, though she did cable from London on M.A.'s birthday. M.A. thinks her mother is dead and they are keeping the news from her, but I can hardly think that. She is very depressed about it. I think she thinks her dancing days are over.

September 17 1914

Between Melbourne and Adelaide I took M.A. to a very clever doctor in Melbourne, a Dr. Strong, who told her her leg would never be safe again until she had the cartilage removed; on the other hand the operation might leave her leg stiff. I don't think she can dance much longer, she is quite out of condition as she will take no exercise, is very fat ( weighs nearly 12 stone I.e. 168lbs) and the knee is still very painful.

September 27 1914

Perth We got through last night to a fair house and fair appreciation but the program was rather weak as M.A. was rather afraid to do the Salome or any of her big numbers. She felt no pain in her leg. We play here till Friday and then do Freemantle on Saturday. On Sunday we travel to Kalgoolie, give concerts there Tuesday and Wednesday, Northarm on Thursday and so back to Freemantle to catch the boat on Saturday October 10, to Sydney.

Saturday October 3 1914

Freemantle One night, fair business.

October 6/7 1914

Kalgoolie Good second night, but no miners. The newspaper, 'The Miner' described the Mendlessohn Trio in three movements as two encores, and in its advertisement said M.A. will dance 'The Peer and the Gipsye' from Peer Gynt Suite. The tour drags on longer than I expected. I never thought M.A. of sitting down and losing £2,000 and then starting again to pick it up. It really looks like judgement on her, after her nastiness over the motor in New Zealand, how she can't afford cabs and walks to the station and theatre and after cheating the Boys out of their Indian profit they are now making £100 a week to her £50. She refused their offer to share equally and just now they are making twice as much as she and running ' no risks'.

word missing



Sunday October 11 1914

G.T.S.S. Warilda (at sea) On our way to Sydney, having sailed from Freemantle yesterday. Open at Royal Theatre, Sydney, on October 24, for one or two weeks. Anderson's action is down for hearing on Monday and I was told he has gone a com-lete smash and has been sold up. It is just M.A.'s luck as now she will have to pay her own costs.

hearing

Complete

Sunday October 11 1914

Perth M.A.'s leg has held out this week ( 8 shows)but business not good as times are bad owing to drought. Have booked Sydney for two weeks, from October 24 , and Brisbane for one week from Saturday November 21. Then propose the smalls of N.S.W. and Queensland. Owing to splendid contract I made, M.A. should clear £100 a week for next 10 -12 weeks. I'e had a great fight with M.A. about Salome on tour. She knows quite well it is her trump card and that business goes up every time she gives it 40%, but she hates to be called the "Salome Dancer" and prefers to give Chopin Preludes which bore people to tears. Anderson's action is due to be heard on the 19th. I wonder if he will go on with it. Long chat with Leo about Russian Band scheme which he is going to tour through South Africa, Australia and India, after the war.

November 4 1914

Sydney Only played to £400, and M.A. is short of funds with back debts and forward expenses to pay. She said she wouldn't pay and had no money here except about £200 due from her accident insurance, and no money at home. I got wild and told her not to talk such nonsense. She said, "It's true, I have no money". "Then" I said, "Butt is a liar". It was like a blow between the eyes. She gasped "What do you mean"? and I told her that before I signed my contract I asked Butt if you euld be able to eet your obligations and he replied " She is not a rich woman, but she can write her cheque for £25,000". When St. Leger owed Mrs. Collie a few pounds, you used to read him a lecture about the indignity of not paying his debts; when the Boys were hard pressed in Bombay, owing to your accident, you refused to put up another penny till you saw the color of their money, and said that if they had not got it they must borrow it, but you never offered to lend them a penny. Now you are owing money all round (£150 to the Boys), saying you have no more because you don't like disturbing your investments'. Of course she burst into tears, and later went round to see Stephen and came back with a smiling face, so I suppose she worked on his sympathies. Claire came to lunch with me yesterday, Leo and M.A. also there. Claire thought M.A. a 'sweet' woman, ye Gods!! We give a concert at Narroby next week, off to Newcastle Friday.



November 10 1914

S[G?]unnedah We left Sydney on Friday and gave one concert on Saturday at Newcastle, results fair. Sunday we left for West Maitland and gave a concert to a wildly enthusiastic but small audience. Left at midnight and arrived here at 7 a.m. Tomorrow we leave for Nanabri, next day we leave for Moree and on Friday we play Inverell.

Friday November 13 1914

Moree Business so far proved very disappointing, only £21 at Gunnedah, but we did well at Moree. We have one more week to go before resting at Brisbane. M.A. is a great failure everywhere in this country.

November 20 1914

Langham Hotel, Warwick Business at Tamworth was good and at Armidale but Tenterfield was bad. Business is good here. Tomorrow we push on to Toowoomea and leave at 6 A.M. Saturday for Brisbane and play that night. We stay there a week to 28 November, then tour North for two weeks. The Boys and M.A. want to go to Tasmania and Adelaide together and four more concerts at Melbourne and a few more Australian towns. They are going to work the last bit in partnership and then the Boys will tour N.Z. on their own for 6 months.

November 25 1914

Brisbane The hot weather is keeping a lot of people away, but our season is proving quite successful.

Monday 14th December 1914

Sydney (again) We left Rockhampton Saturday at noon, arrived Brisbane Sunday at 6.30 a.m., left at 8 a.m., arrived Sydney 10.50 a.m. Monday (Today) M.A. and Leo have had another dispute and are not speaking to each other. He said he wished she would learn to speak the truth, and he gets mad at her deceit. I shall be very glad when the ocean is between them as he is very fond of her though I don't think he would be such a fool as to marry her. How Mischel and Jan hate her. She said the other day to Jan 'I suppose you are afraid that your brother will marry above his rank'. Jan replied 'None can be too good for my brother'. We stay here till Wednesday, then visit Woolongong, Souldburn, Cootramadia, Wagga, Albury and Wanganatta and so arrive at Melbourne on December 23 for Xmas.



December 8 1914

The company returned from Northern Rivers etc on Friday night in good spirits. We had a capital concert here on Saturday - a good house and very appreciative. We left here this morning for Marybro' [?] and Bundaberg. Hop to write again from Rockhampton where we spend two nights.

Tuesday December 19 1914

Cootramadra [?sp?] We are now half way to Melbourne for Sydney - yesterday we were at Goulbourn and the night before at Wollongong. Tonight we play at Walla, then Albany and Wangannatta, and so to Melbourne on Saturday 23rd.

December 27 1914

Melbourne Our concert last night was a great success - in the new Taiti Auditorium that seats 2000 and, they say here, the finest concert hall in the world. It was a gorgeous program. M.A. gave the Peer Gynt, Blue Danube, and Chopin, with Spring Song and Baccarolle for encores. The Boys played the Tschaikovsky Trio and received an ovation. Leo played the Max Bruch, Mischel, Souvenir de Spa, and Jan, Chopin. All were at their best. Melba was present and most complimentary, most enthusiastic. M.A. was to stay with her from Sunday to Wednesday, but she is bilious and cried off. All spent the day with her last week, her place is magnificent, about 30 miles from Melbourne at Lilyvale.

Sunday January 10 1915

Melbourne We have just returned from Tasmania. We give a concert at Geelong on Monday and at the auditorium here on Tuesday and twice on Wednesday. Then on Thursday we so to Adelaide and open there for six nights on Saturday Janu 16. We left Melbourne for Tasmania last Monday, took the train from Lancaster to Hobart, gave concert the same night and the next- both with excellent results. We left Hobart on Thursday for Lancaster, gave a concert there, and the next morning left for Devonport and gave a concert there the same Friday night.

Friday, January 29 1915

S.S. Mooltan We gave our last concert at Adelaide on Saturday the 23rd and on Tuesday the 26th the entire company dispersed. You can imagine how lonely I felt and so glad when Thursday came and I went on board. I have one of the first class cabins on board - on the deck and with a real bad, chest of drawers, wardrobe and bureau. I am very comfortable but it's so dull without anyone to speak to as my nice Mitchell (electrician) is 2nd. class. Leo was delighted with your letter, and gave me a beautiful alarm clock as a parting gift besides a whole heap of things for the voyage - socks, shaving cream, face cream, stationary, files, letter book, sealing wax and presents for the children. The trip will take 35 days, with calls at Colombo to fill up, and also Aden.



by Mr Mackay Junior?

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Personal recollections of material from letters since destroyed:

On the Arabia travelling to Bombay, my Father (Angus M. Sr.) said there were three groups = the army - the Civil servants - the merchants, none of which would mingle with the others and that after Suez none would recognise the Maharajah and his suite. He had a young cousin travelling second class with other young subalterns; they were generally much nicer than the 1st class passengers.

When the Trio and their Father arrived in London for the first time, they had only £5 in their pocket - but with good introductions to the Rothschilds etc. By the end of the first week they were making money.

The tour in India was a partnership between the Trio and M.A. Leo, while discussing Australian deal with Angus. M.A. remarked that one had to employ 'bluff' while negotiating and added 'Do you think M.A. would have agreed to the partnership if she had known we had only £700'.