

Bruxelles 15. 12. 1968

Dear Mrs Broad, Geoffrey and family,

I am pleased that Christmas is nearing for it affords me the pleasure of sending you a few lines. I don't forget you and shall not as long as the Lord allows me to live. The months I lived with you are some of the happiest ones of my life. I still think of your kindness towards me. I do hope you are still Mrs Broades, all in good health. I am glad that you have given up the baking for it is a strenuous work and, of course, there are such a lot of other things to do in a shop like yours. My father was also a baker and he had 5 sons, but no one wanted to become a baker. I wonder if the unfortunate farmers have already been able to renew their lost stock. I hope so. I feel so sorry that England, I love so much, is suffering so much. Of course, nothing is going well in any country, and Germany who is the cause of all the world troubles of the last 54 years, is actually the country who is ready to lend money to the countries which have beaten them twice. If they let them rearm, it would not be long before they would attack us again. I believe in the O.T.A.N. At any rate, you are far away if any war broke out again, we in Brussels would be in the Orchestra stalls. But I really believe that nothing will happen as long as Russia keeps quiet. I have written as every year, to my old friend Bill. Peers. I hope that your children are doing well at school. Perhaps some of them are already.

established. one of our grandsons ~~is~~ <sup>is studying</sup> at the University of Sorvain (2-year). A granddaughter is studying for nurse (first year). Three more grandsons 12, 14 & 15 are at school doing fairly well.

Our health is not too bad but seeing our age we begin to feel very old now and again. Still we must not complain. Some are worse off than we are.

Ello is 70 years old now. I am 78½ old.

This is rather a long letter but do not worry about writing a long one to me. You are too busy for that.

So I sent to every one of the family my heart-felt wishes for a very happy Christmas and good health and the best of luck for the coming New Year.

I am and shall always remain,

Your thankful and faithful friend,

Rina

A E Maes  
6, R. Desire Desmet  
Bruxelles 3

February 17<sup>th</sup> 1937

Dear Bill

In looking through the Christmas cards that I received from England, I found the one that you so kindly sent me and I did not remember having answered it.

I am very sorry indeed, although this is due to the fact that being at the Post Office I am so very busy at Christmas time.

Well. I wish you every luck during the present year and the same for your little family.

I think very often, almost every day, of the Holyland and of you. I spent there some of the happiest days of my life. Then I was young and able and jumped upon the table as you used to say, now I am getting old and have a family to work for so there is more work than play. I would love to come back for a few days, maybe I will sometime although it is rather a costly journey and I cannot always get the necessary leave.

I suppose a good many of the people I knew have died since I stayed in Threapwood but said as it is such is life isn't it?

I often wonder how your parents are and especially your good old mother, I often made her laugh and she was very kind to me.

I did so grieve over the death of Mr Broad, he was just like a father to me and if he was still alive I feel that I could not wait any longer to come and see him.

And how are your brother and sister Bill? I suppose at the head of a big family. And Nellie from the Bank farm is she also married? I often live all the bygone days back in my thoughts and it makes me happy.

As for the last twenty years I have written but seldom in English, I am getting very bad at it but I hope that you will still understand my letter.

I wish Bill you would convey my kindest regards to Mrs Broad and to Geoffrey, two people I shall never, never forget.

With my best thanks in anticipation and also kindest regards to your parents and family.

I remain  
your very sincere friend

Aimée