

[1/1] My Beloved!

VIII.1.39

[1/2] A moment ago, after a very long interval, I got the [1/3] card from Mother Dearest dated 13.VII. I've [1/4] had terribly little information from you guys of late. Granted, I understand that you [1/5] don't have much to write about. Nusia's case continues to [1/6] hang in the air, and for however long it is not taken care of, [1/7] so long everything else matters little. The story about a [1/8] change in immigration laws<sup>1</sup> is total bunk.<sup>2</sup> [1/9] The matter of getting the parents over here will [1/10] be up for consideration only when the kids will know what is going on with [1/11] their lives.<sup>3</sup> Ulam's son<sup>4</sup> is on a scholarship and can lecture. His scholarship is very [1/12] generous but he still does not have a post. [1/13] You are right, I really should get a picture of myself. I've ignored [1/14] this preoccupation for far too long. Everything is well here—a moment ago I got back [1/15] from the beach. A week ago I was invited to a [1/16] church where my professor of English is a [1/17] pastor and I lectured on "the freedom of [1/18] speech in Europe". You can imagine that I [1/19] didn't spare our western neighbors.<sup>5</sup> I love you all.<sup>6</sup>

Most Honorable  
Ignacy Birnbaum  
Lwow  
St. Anne 1  
Poland Europe

BY S/S NORMANDIE  
A I R M A I L

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<sup>1</sup> It is not clear whether this was deliberate misinformation by the American Consulate, or whether it was a rumor that was floating around Lwow.

<sup>2</sup> The original is an idiom that cannot be literally translated. It can be literally translated as follows: "it is made up, from A to Z."

<sup>3</sup> In all probability this refers to the people mentioned in the next sentence, that is, Ulam's kids. Professor Birnbaum was mainly interested in getting his sister out of Poland before the war, and the thought of getting his parents out did not cross his mind until the Second World War broke out.

<sup>4</sup> This might be Stanislaw Ulam, (1909-1984), student of Banach, who solved the problem of how to initiate fusion in the hydrogen bomb. He also devised the 'Monte-Carlo method' widely used in solving mathematical problems using statistical sampling.

<sup>5</sup> The comment refers to the Germans, because Lwow was, at that point, still part of Poland. It is important to note that it was written just a month before the Blitzkrieg.

<sup>6</sup> The original reads, "I kiss all of your hands", which is an expression of love and respect.