

[1/1] My Dearest Willy!

[1/2] We are all healthy and we are [1/3] doing well. Also Auntie Berta is [1/4] with us, our address hasn't changed². [1/5] I kiss and hug you with [1/6] all of my heart, my dearest. Mom

[1/7] My Dear Willy

[1/8] We are all doing well and we impatiently [1/9] await news from you.³ [1/10] I send you warm hugs and kisses. Ignacy⁴

[1/11] We live in the same apartment my [1/12] Dear Willy!

[1/13] Don't worry about us, we are [1/14] well—I haven't yet seen [1/15] Zygmunt, but I [1/16] would like to see him and I will [1/17] search for him.

[1/18] Hearty kisses for you⁵

[1/19] Nusia

¹ Written in 1939, a couple of months after the outbreak of the Second World War.

² St. Anne's 1, in Lwow.

³ Hardly any of the letters from Seattle ever made it to Lwow. Mr. Birnbaum had more luck with cables, which sporadically got through to his family.

⁴ Ignacy was Dr. Birnbaum's father.

⁵ This is one of the very few letters that got through to Professor Birnbaum from his family in Lwow, in fact, it appears to be the first one that got through. This scarcity might have something to do with censors on both sides of the conflict and the general lack of efficiency that took hold in most Soviet occupied areas.