

Copenhagen, 4 January [19]29

Dear Dr. Lasker:

Through a newspaper cutting sent to me I just found out that you returned from the USA. Had I known you were in Berlin I certainly would not have missed the opportunity to congratulate you on your birthday. I did not have your address in America therefore my belated heartfelt congratulations.

Your rich and distinguished ego carries its own rewards, i.e. intellectual pleasures. The average human as well as those with a neurasthenic disposition¹ often cannot tolerate their own company; you enjoy the great fortune to be a genius, combined with a total healthy disposition. For you to be alone is not a thankless dull inert life (as those with a herd mentality) or those that nervously move in a circle (like the neurasthenic¹), instead much more simple, you enjoy healthy, always productive inspirational thoughts. And further, the ones with the herd mentality do not bother or irritate you; they do not create a dislike for you since you can understand somehow to maneuver the world and illuminate their seemingly egotistical and elevated cosmical mind.

Around you everything blooms. I have the feeling as if you amble through a flowering garden (flowers = rows of thoughts whose aroma you breathe in and enjoy).

You are aware how sincerely I revere you. In my article in the *Wiener Schachzeitung*, even though of required short length, it distinctly and clearly indicates my high esteem for you. In addition, I will issue a small brochure, first in the Russian language, which should offer comments, biographical data and 25 games of yours. I would be extremely grateful if you could be of some help in the selection of the opponents. Specifically I would appreciate, if possible, to select the five best games with Steinitz, if this does not cause you too much of a problem. I would contemplate to publish a) classical style b) fantastic, respectively novelty, as for instance your game with Tartakower New York 1924 c) handicap.

Surely you have received our condolence telegraph that we sent at the occasion of the passing away of your Dr. Bertold L.² I was very saddened, counted Dr. Bertold as my friend, I have so few. Were you satisfied with your visit to the USA? I hope yes. Would like to wish you all the best for the New Year, health, cheerfulness, productive work, serene rest, recognition, success and once more – health!

¹ We should use Nimzowitsch's original wording here (Kurt Landsberger's translation was "with a lack of motivation"). [R.B.]

² One comment of mine – if he did not have the address to send birthday greetings how could he send a telegram about Dr. Bertold. [K.L.]

Should you have the time I would be very happy to receive your friendly answer very soon. I also would like to send my cordial greetings to your wife and transmit my best wishes for her birthday (also New Year's congratulations), and remain with best regards to you and your wife,
your devoted A. Nimzowitsch