

Stroehen 4 Feb 1923

Dear Brother & Wife

Your dear letter of 8 January we have on 26 January with full contents received. We have much joy and Mother has herself also joy and says also our best thanks. My wife was equal to the other day to go to Rahden and got Mother a warm woolen skirt and a (mere?) pound of coffee. It is expensive for everything, the prices are over what they were since Sophie went away. It rose since then to 4-5 levels. The coffee cost here now 20000 M. per pound. If one here wants to buy, a full money bag isn't enough, one must have a cloth bag full or have a rucksack full. The corn for the fattened pigs now costs over 100.000 M (?per pig?). So far we have still food to eat if it does not become still worse. The French are nearby and as long as there is not war, here we can yet be well distributed. Dear Brother, Sophie is pleased to be there in America. We approach a bad time, dearest would we all be in America, before 10 years goes by before things are better. If you feel it is for good that Fr. and Mina there come, I have nothing against it.

We have this winter bad weather with rainy days that is not good for lung patient. I have also already 3 weeks ill rested. Mother has also been somewhat ill, now strong already again, she is today to Langhorst. What has Herman said to you if he also still wants to visit us, he has not written of it.

Cordial greetings of all and Mother and Family Fr. Struempler

(Fritz Strümpfer, younger brother of William Struempler)

(Wm. Struempler's son, Theodor, died in Aug. 1923 after an extended hospital stay in Grand Island, Nebraska, and his wife Johanna died in June 1924. Sophie apparently did not live with Wm. and his family for too long, but moved to eastern Nebraska and lived with her Uncle Hermann Strumpler and members of his family.)