

From: Kajetan	To: his brother [Jakob]	date: April 15, 1856
Content: Kajetan is unable to give Jakob the money he requested. He is concerned about his son, Ferdinand, who is in America with Jakob and is willing to pay for his son's needs.		

Prague, April 15, 1856

Dear Brother,

Although I tried as hard as I could, it was not possible to get money advanced; I exposed myself to humiliation, I begged, but without success, since nobody will make a loan here without a mortgage. Mother's money, as I already wrote you, absolutely cannot be made available, since *Wiedemann* himself is in a very tight spot due to his unfortunate court case. Under these circumstances I have no choice except to think of the future of my poor child, since I can't help you with the best will in the world.

You wrote me that without the 400 francs your farm will have to be sold; therefore I request that you place the boy in a local school, and let me know as soon as you have received this letter how much I will need to pay each quarter or semester. I will then send this *amount* immediately. As depressing and unsettling as these facts are to me, thank God my conscience is clear that this outcome was unavoidable; it was not my fault and happened despite my best intentions and actions. As God is my witness, if I had ever suspected that your situation was as I now realize it is, then I would not have dreamed of linking the fate of my poor child to yours.

In your letters, you talked about prosperity, or at least about the lack of even the slightest worries about food or survival. At the time, you wrote that a person could live as well (financially speaking) with a small farm there as a farmer could do here with 100-*Strich* field*; in a word, for a long time I was completely unclear about the conditions there.

My heart bleeds whenever I think about my child; if I could help, nobody would be happier than I, for I know nothing more blessed in this miserable world than giving, more blessed yet giving to one's own brother.

I'm tied to my desk here all year long for a salary of a miserable 500 francs; I live in straitened circumstances with wife and children here in the expensive capital, am glad to support our mother, as I said, since it's within the realm of possibility. Now I may appear to you to be an egotist because I am not able to help you despite my sincere efforts.

Of course you don't see it at the moment; perhaps the time will come when you can be fair to me; God knows my heart! At the time when I promised you the money, Julie had it, and I would have signed over my maternal inheritance to her to get it, as I already wrote you. Now, while *Wiedemann's* court case is causing greater havoc than ever in his *finances*, she isn't able to, at least not right away.

So I beg you, don't think anything bad about me, because I'm not a bad person; take the whole situation into account before you pass judgment; may God grant that I find myself in a position to help you; you will not find anyone more willing than I am.

Please write to me immediately where you find a place for *Ferdinand* and how much I need to pay and to whom I should *send* it.

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Farewell; I kiss my dear *Ferdinand* 1000 times, and remain always

Your sincere brother,
Kajetan

*I have not been able to discover exactly what a *100 Strich Feld* – literally “a 100-strip field” – means exactly.