

From: Roth	To: Jacob Sternberger	date: February 17, 1852
Content: Roth talks about his desire to immigrate to the U. S. and the reasons holding him back. He also sends news of Jacob's other friends in Kaaden.		

*Kaden*, February 17, 1852

Dear friend,

I was delighted when your Marie brought me your note, and since right now is the best opportunity to write you something about us, I won't lose any time. What Klenert told you about my ideas about emigrating is certainly my serious intention; I'll be happy when I'm finally out of the miserable conditions in Europe that destroy every noble sentiment. But despite my serious and firm decision, it isn't possible for me in my current situation, because I first have to overcome two obstacles. First, my sister *Lena* still does not have her marriage license. If it's denied to her a third time, I am absolutely determined to supplement the *deposit* with a *pro forma gift*, which of course will prevent me from carrying out my *plans* for a little while. Second, my health isn't strong enough at the moment to permit me to undertake such a long trip; in fact I have already been in Kaaden for 8 weeks in order to recover from the painful aftermath of a major bout of pleurisy and pneumonia.

When *Prinzl* and *Klenert* emigrated last year, I was absolutely determined to follow their example in the course of this year, and you can be sure that I will carry out my decision as soon as I can and enlarge your little settlement.

It was fortunate for me that I made your acquaintance, since without it I would most certainly be strolling around to the beat of a drum by now. The idea of emigrating became active not only in me, but in several other students as well. But unfortunately they have been prevented from *carrying it out* by their parents themselves or by an overly strong attachment to them, or by lack of money. I think that it would be rather interesting for you and also for the others to hear something about each individual, so I'll start with *Natz*. He's in Burgstadtl at the moment working as a steward. He comes to *Kaaden* every Saturday and talks a lot about America and emigrating, but I don't think he's serious, since he isn't exactly eager to become familiar with the conditions in America by reading about it. *Mocka* and *Grimmich* are still in *Prague* and would emigrate immediately if they only knew how to get hold of some money. *Müller* is in *Caaden* and is managing his farm. In his case it isn't possible for him to leave, since his mother is mourning the loss of 2 sons. But I can guarantee that he's actively interested in everything that is connected to the good cause. *Paul Prinzl* is still too young and impulsive to have a firm idea about anything. *Rothberger*, *Peinl*, *Goll* are stay-at-homes like they have always been, and I won't say anything about the young Mr. *Toihtmann* except that he's still in prison.\* *Eibicht* is living the life of a quiet gentleman in *Caaden* and doesn't worry about anything in the whole world. When he left *Prague*, he said, "My career as a carefree young fellow was very brief; I have to become a *philistine*." He wasn't lying. I also hope that you'll use my address soon to write all of us more material details about the way you live, since in recent times we don't find out anything at all about you. This is because from almost every quarter people are very secretive about letters from America.

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Greetings to everyone from me and from *Rücker*. My sister *Luise* and *Victor* send their affectionate greetings.

I'm expecting that you will definitely write me a letter with the necessary instructions regarding emigration with a passport for Germany only.

Fondest greetings,  
Your faithful friend,  
*Roth*

[on the outside]  
to  
*Jacob Sternberger*

\*The meaning of this word is not clear to me; the verb "verschliessen" can mean "to lock up" and that fact, together with the context, causes me to choose the word "prison". But I cannot be sure that's what he means.

Translated March and April 2010 by Victoria Hill of Madison WI.