

March 26, 1937.

Dear John:

I am once more back in New York. After visiting Bickel in Sarasota, Florida, I went to Washington to meet Harper and to see Moulton and Clark.

You no doubt received my cable of March 15th which read:

Sarasota Florida been visiting Bickel stop urge
fourth year and state examinations if permission
obtainable stop quite willing modify or even
waive restriction will write soon greetings.

So far as the fourth year and the state examinations are concerned, every one I have consulted, including Harper and Oumansky, gives hearty endorsement. There is no need, I take it, to set forth the reasons for they are known to you. But I do want to say that the more I go about talking with people the greater significance I find in what you are doing. Go ahead; you have a real opportunity and a vital contribution to make. It would be most unfortunate if you did not carry on.

Oumansky spoke very highly of you and volunteered to write Moscow to urge that both your requests be granted. If any question arises in the solution of which you think he can be helpful, just cable and I will go to see him.

As to thesecond half of my message, when I wrote it I must have been in a legalistic mood to have inserted the "modify". At the time I imposed the restriction I did not know you well and was anxious to impress upon you the arduous nature of the work you were to undertake. Furthermore I wanted you to be free to have an experience such as you went through in the way of living during your first two years in Moscow. You know - in any event I want you to know - that I and my associates have come to feel confidence in your judgment - even in so critical and personal a thing as marriage - and to believe that you have gotten hold not only of the subject matter you are studying but of the bases of Russian life.

The trans-Siberian trip (which you must get in some time) and what you should do after your fourthseason in Moscow are subjects we can discuss next summer when you are here. But I can assure you that we are all disposed to do everything that will further your career.

This leads up to the perpetual student issue. Never mind what people say. You are on the way to making a transition from student to productive scholar and consultant. My only suggestion is that you devote yourself as much as possible to the preparation of legal articles and monographs.

Enclosed is a letter from Kenneth May and a letter about him from his principal professor. I expect to recommend him to the trustees at a meeting to be held mid-April.

Harper and I went over the contents of your letter of November 15th with Oumansky and I told him about May. He agreed to write Moscow to see if the opportunity still existed and if May would be accepted, tentatively.

No doubt you have heard from John Crane that he and his father plan to visit Russia this spring. Visas have been asked for. I have asked John to keep you informed. Antonius is due here soon and I may be wandering about the country with him.

Cordial greetings.

MICHAEL H. CARDOZO *sk*
15 WILLIAM STREET
NEW YORK CITY

March 29, 1937

Mr. Walter S. Rogers,
Institute of Current World Affairs,
522 Fifth Ave., N.Y.C.

Dear Sir:

Last month I wrote to you in your absence inquiring if I could be put on the list of those receiving the mimeographed copies of letters from John N. Hazard. Mr. Brodie of your office wrote me that my letter would be held for you until you returned. I am now writing to see if you could consider my request at this time.

One of the librarians of the Bar Association of the City of New York asked me if I knew anyone who could obtain a copy of a law periodical printed in Russian in Moscow. I said that I had ^{met} Mr. Hazard and would write to him if I could obtain his address. Can you let me know how he can be reached?

Very truly yours,

Michael H. Cardozo *sk*

March 31st, 1937

Mr. Michael H. Cardoza, IV
15 William Street,
New York, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Upon my return here I find your letters asking for Mr. John N. Hazard's address and for copies of his letters. His address is in care of the American Embassy, Moscow.

The school year ends towards the latter part of May. He may then start for here or he may remain in Moscow for two or three weeks, which course he will pursue has not been decided as yet, so far as I know.

We have a contract for the duplication of his letters by a photostatic process. For some time now the requests for them have exceeded the number of copies contracted for. We hope in due time to arrange for a larger number of copies. There is little likelihood that Mr. Hazard will send in many more letters this academic year, as from now on he will be fully occupied with preparation for his examinations.

Very truly yours,

WSR/fc

Director.

Moscow, USSR.,
April 2, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

"Music matches the state structure and changes along with it." Pravda credits that to Plato. Seizing upon this phrase editorial writers philosophize on today's biggest news story.

No one can fail to be surprised that in the two International contests held during the winter, young Soviet pianists and violinists have walked off with the honors. At Warsaw were pianists and at Brussels violinists, and real International groups they were. Representatives came from all over Europe and the juries comprised famous names--Joseph Hoffman, Alfred Cortot, and Europe's fiddlers.

Playing required compositions of Chopin, the two Soviet pianists placed first and second at Warsaw, and the third received honorable mention. Today comes the telegram from Brussels that the Soviet violinists have captured the first, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth places out of some 120 contestants. All Soviet fiddlers crowded in as winners at the top, making room for one Austrian in second place, while below them followed a Rumanian, a Swede, a Hungarian, a Cuban, an Italian, and a Frenchman. Of all the Germans who competed, not one even passed the qualifying round.

"The great general interest in the contest was called forth first of all by the struggle of two musical schools, of two cultures--Soviet and capitalist. People trying to explain this interest only by the fact that exceptionally able people took part must recognize on the other hand that in fact on the stage of the Brussels conservatory there were meeting two cultures and not just talented people," writes Professor Yampolsky, who represented the Soviet Union on the jury.

Noting the fact that no Germans and only one Italian appeared in the finals, Pravda asks why this has happened when the German and Italian people have given the world in the past Scarlatti and Paganini, and Talberg and Joachim. Pravda ridicules any explanation on the basis of rotation of talent among peoples, and quotes in answer the statement of one of the other contestants who declared he could spare only two hours from his work for practice each day.

Pravda contrasts the lot of the Soviet contestants, each of whom has been given a real Stradivarius as well as a completely free education and expense money during his period of study. In this encouragement and of even more importance, in the feeling of representing one's country Pravda finds the answer to success.

Of note is the fact that two of the three winners at Warsaw were Jews and four of the five winners at Brussels were also Jews, having had their preliminary education with Professor Stolyarsky of the Odessa Conservatory. The odd girl in each case in the violin and piano contests was a Russian. Pravda asks, where are the Ukrainians, who are historically the most musical people of the Union? They suggest the answer in the laxness of the Commissariat of Education in the Ukraine in failing to start music early enough in the schools.

Those who have poked into the history of the artists to see whether heredity plays a part discover that two of the fiddlers come from families where a musical note was never heard. One comes from a family of a Professor of music in the Conservatory. The record is not clear for either school of explainers.

People at home used to suggest that the secret of success in music lay in being a mystic and idealist. But here are youngsters, all but one being born since the Revolution and in consequence being subjected to a wholly materialistic training. The idealism of Scriabin is not favored among Soviet musicians today, and it seems hardly possible that much of this could be in these boys and girls. Their victory is attributed to their simplicity of style and confidence in their ability. Here are qualities which the materialist says are especially strong in his adherents.

Russians are pointing to these cases to show that materialism and socialism are not stifling genius as writers abroad have suggested (cf. Artists in Uniform). To complete their proof they must point to a composer other than Prokofev or Shestakovitch both of whom were mature before the Revolution. Perhaps not enough time has passed to create a composer in the new generation. Until one does appear the proponents of the idealist school will not face proof that they are wrong.

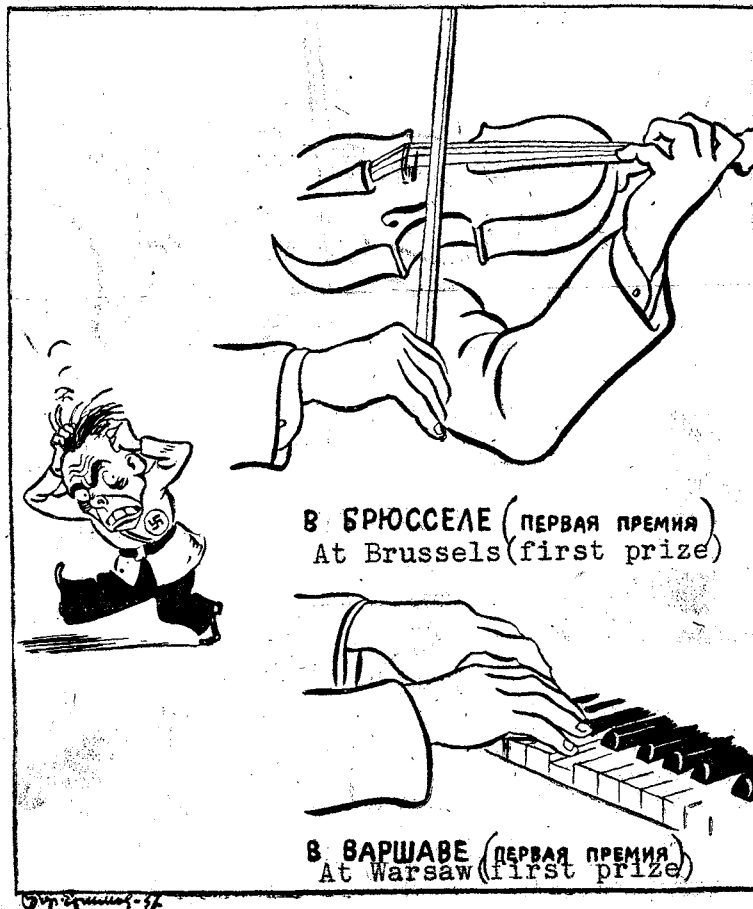
Greetings to you all,

JNH

NEW INTRIGUES OF THE BOLSHEVIKS
OR
ONCE AGAIN "THE HAND OF MOSCOW".....

*Новые козни большевиков
или
опять „Рука Москвы“...*

Рис. Бор. Ефимова.



from Izvestiya, April 3, 1937

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April 2, 1937

JOHN HAZARD
AMEMBASSY
MOSCOW (USSR)

LETTERS FINE STOP RECEIVED TWO CARBONS LAW STUDIES WHAT DISTRIBUTION
HAVE YOU IN MIND GREETINGS

ROGERS

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JNH...WSR...92 (Personal)

Moscow, USSR.,
April 6, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Your cable came as news that you were back in New York. Unfortunately I did not drop in for mail on Saturday and so I did not pick it up until yesterday. Feeling that my remarks were too long for a cable, I am writing.

Apparently you have received the report on the Soviet Judicial organs as well as the shorter report on Correcting Misconceptions of Soviet Law. As to the latter, if you think it worth while, I should suggest that it be sent out to about everybody who received copies of my Columbia Law Review article, since it corrects conceptions in that which are traceable to Pashukanis and the theories for which he was responsible in the law school. It is the greatest turn-over in the history of Soviet Law and as a result we are left almost without authentic textbooks and the professors are put to it to reform their lectures in keeping with the new ideas which are not sufficiently worked out to be a guide. The change means that when I later rewrite an explanation of the Marxian conception of law, much of what I first said must be rephrased and even changed in principle. This memorandum will point out as much as is clear at the present time.

As to the longer article. You have asked for an article on Soviet Criminal Procedure. That is now being prepared. But the other half of the problem involving jurisdiction and organization of courts and other organs is too large a problem for such a paper. I have made a separate paper for that subject, and you have the result. Perhaps it should only be filed, as it will eventually be Chap. III of the final report on Soviet Law. I am trying to prepare these Chapters as fast as possible and will send them off as they are done, so that you will have them in the office where I can later work them over with you and make changes you suggest. You have a carbon since I sent the original to Columbia. They said they had published already enough on foreign law this year, but would tell me if they happened to run into any one else who would like it. I think the subject too technical to be of general interest, and I doubt whether they have any luck, so it will best be kept until usable as a Chap. in the whole story.

The A.B.A. Journal writes that they will be glad to print the shortened story on the Law Institute in an "early" issue. We can only wait and see what they mean by early. I shan't believe that it will appear until it does. You also asked for a memorandum on the Law Institute. I was under the impression that the longer form of the article which we submitted to them and which you mimeographed in the Fall and sent out amounted to just such a memorandum. Is there something else you want? If so, I shall be glad to prepare another paper, but I thought that this last one was about as detailed as the profession would want.

It is still a bit cool but for six days we have had sunlight and today (free day) I walked all over the country. It begins to feel like spring, and in this climate you know how mad that drives us. It is harder to work every day, but June is ominous with those exams.

Greetings to you all,

JNH

A correction should be made in the long report on Judicial Organs. On page 6 line 8 the last word has been left off. It should be remanding and follow the word "without".

On page 3 line 1, the last word has been omitted. It should be "foreseeable" and follow the word "those".

Moscow, USSR.,
April 15, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Lights begin to fade; eyes turn toward the government box; 1871 and 1917 stand out on the huge silk curtain as the footlights come up; there is a burst of applause as the conductor in full dress takes his place, and another first night is on.

Postponed from the February Pushkin festival, Glinka's most famous opera, *Ruslan and Ludmilla*, once again appeared last night on the stage of the Bolshoi Opera House. To *Izvestiya* it marks a real "celebration in Soviet art". Here was the best of today's talent working upon a theme described as the "hardest opera in the field of musical literature". For the Russian it is as basic as Pushkin, whose story it enacts.

Taking the weird story of witches and mystery, or romance and battle which the father of all Russian poetry composed some hundred years ago, this father of true Russian music created an opera which for sheer beauty of theme makes a music lover gasp. Writing among musicians influenced by French, Italian, and German schools back there a hundred years ago, Glinka broke away from tradition and startled St. Petersburg with the first opera to be based on old Russian folk themes. His audience at that premiere of 1842 were not pleased. To them it was a slip back to the primitive and crude Russia which they were trying to veneer. Glinka's apparent failure was to open the door for a new school of composers finding their inspiration solely in Russian themes. Those who came after the master, Rimsky-Korsakov, Chaikovsky, and Moussorgsky were to prove to the world that the Slav had music second to none.

Critics hail the Bolshoi's return to the fountain-head of Russian music as a return to the path of true Russian creative genius. Even a foreigner can catch the inner link with the past as unknown aria after aria float up like old favorites because of their similarity to all music of this new Russia which is on the lips of every school boy today.

Sitting way up in the higher tiers of boxes and looking down upon a stage constantly surprising us with lavish settings, I could not help but marvel at the technique which the Soviet producers have finally achieved. Magic carpet wafting through space with stars above and meteors flying by, *Ruslan's* fight with the mammoth stage-high head speaking in the massive crashing

voice made possible by radio amplification, ballet girls floating through the air, playing of massed fountains whose splashing nearly drowned out the orchestra--there was plenty of stunt staging which would not have to bow to the Metropolitan.

Perhaps most satisfying of all was the fourth act ballet as Semenova rose and dipped to the deep swinging melody of the cellos and the rippling solo of a violin. But that was only one of many moments making one wonder why Glinka is almost never played abroad.

The entre-act, and a saunter among the attractively dressed first-nighters:--women in evening dress, silks and lace, Red Army Commanders in field uniforms, artists and world-famous theater directors in business suits, and here and there a popular ballerina who was to dance next time with the alternate troupe who soon start their cycle. First nights may be more resplendent in Paris, Milan, or London, but here is already a great advance over three years ago.

One cannot help but place the event in all that is going on about us. We read that Alexei Tolstoy, who since Gorki's death holds the highest place in Soviet literature, spoke not long ago in Russian in London. He is quite familiar with English. We hear that this popular author of Peter the First, now best-loved Soviet novel, is adding his bit to show that Russian is one of the great languages of the world, of which one should be proud.

The Moscow Art Theater will go to Paris for the month of August to play Anna Karenina and Boris Goodenov during the International Exposition. Russian literature and the Russian language are again being placed before the world as the equal of any other. Teutons may belittle their Eastern neighbors as savage and uncultured, but the case is being placed before the jury of Europe.

Added to these signs of the times must now be placed the revival of Glinka, and one may be safe in suggesting that this is only the beginning of a rebirth of Russian culture.

Greetings to you all,

JNH

April 22nd, 1937.

Mr. John N. Hazard,
c/o American Embassy,
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

Dear John:

I now have your Nos. 91 and 92. The former is being prepared for distribution to our regular customers.

The report on Correcting Misconceptions of Soviet Law is being multigraphed and will be distributed as you suggest. The corrections have been made.

At a meeting of the Trustees held Tuesday evening my recommendations of May and Wiedemann were approved. I will now talk with the young men to see if an understanding can be worked out. After the formal business meeting Mr. Antonius, who had arrived a few days before, discussed his book that is now virtually ready for publication and the question of what he should next turn to in view of the unusual conditions existing in his part of the world. No decision was reached, the meeting adjourned with the understanding that he should formulate his ideas for presentation at a special meeting to be held some time during May.

Mr. Charles R. Crane is now in Richmond, Virginia, and is expected here early next week.

Glad to know that Spring has come to Moscow. Here the weather continues to do the unexpected. Today it is raining and cool.

Cordial greetings,

NSR/fc

P.S. In my reference to the Trustees meeting I might have added that investments were discussed but the only conclusion reached was that anyone's guess was as good as any one else's.

PPs. I have neglected to make myself clear in regard to the memorandum on the Law Institute or rather, what is nearer the truth, my idea has changed. Finding officials of law schools throughout the country working on plans for reorganization and in consequence interested in the novel aspects of the Institute, I now think it might be worthwhile to prepare a memo. for their consumption. But it can wait until we have had a chance to discuss the subject this summer.

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April 27th, 1937

LCO

JOHN HAZARD
AMCONSULATE
MOSCOW (USSR)

EIGHTY-SIX WAS DISTRIBUTED STOP NINETY-THREE VERY INTERESTING
GREETINGS

ROGERS

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Moscow, USSR.,
April 27, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Press and people watch the progress of the first boat through the Moscow-Volga Canal. On May 2nd it will reach Moscow to cap the holidays by completing the first passage from the Volga to the capital.

Five years have been needed to complete this, the largest of the canals of the Union, and few know how many have worked during its construction. Criminologists see in this far more than a canal for it has served as a proving ground for the principle of "rehabilitation through toil! Many a criminal has found his opportunity to win a commutation of sentence, just as was done on the White Sea Canal.

Ninety miles in length, it runs north from Moscow across a rather high hill and several lakes to reach the Volga. Locks remind us natives of New York of the stairways of the Erie running from Rome to Watertown. Nine in all these locks are prepared to lift three-decked passenger ships and large barges up to the capital city. For most the lift is twenty four feet, but one pair raises a ship a total of fifty-nine feet.

Water supply was one of the most serious problems. Moscow could not permit water from the Moscow River to be used as a supply. On the contrary the Moscow River is not sufficient to supply the needs of the capital alone. One of the reasons for the canal was to bring the water from the Volga uphill to this huge city.

To perform the task of pushing large quantities of water uphill it was necessary to develop new types of pumps on a larger scale than ever before used. The greatest Professors were put on the task, and they report that the new pumping stations are equipped for the most serious strain. Were I an engineer I could give you some figures, but you will have to get them from the cable accounts. Artificially created lakes in the middle of the canal will serve as reservoirs during dry months, and the newly named Moscow Sea at the entrance of the canal will assure water even in late summer by storing 1,120,000 cubic meters in its area of 327 square meters.

No resident of Moscow has failed to come in contact with some part of the construction. Banks on the Moscow River have been raised to allow for the rise in the level of the water. Old bridges are being replaced by handsome suspension types to allow for the passage of steamers through the center of town. In walks through the country we often wandered across the area where digging was going on and watched the hordes at work. A drive along the main post road to Leningrad led one through operations needed to raise the turnpike so that the newly flooded reservoir ~~are~~ might not inundate the highway. Whole villages were moved to other areas to make room for the new reservoirs.

As a result of this work Moscow will be brought 685 miles nearer to Leningrad by water. There will have been provided a good water route from the Baltic to the Caspian. Only the task of connecting the Don with the Volga now remains to open the road to the Black Sea as well. Already the White Sea canal links the Arctic to Leningrad. No longer will the Soviet Union be dependent upon the whims of Mediterranean forces to move goods by water from the Arctic to the Black Sea.

Greetings to you all,

JNH

The more I read of the boys you have chosen, the more I think you have found paragons. I am so anxious to have them join me, for it sounds as if you were going to provide me not only with companions who are first rate specialists, but also have the nature to be first-class friends. To be sure the field of their work is so completely unknown to me that I do not even know what the courses named could be about, but perhaps they would be stumped at some of the legal fields I enjoy. I do hope that you will finally decide to send them along, and that we shall all be coming back next year. But do not let them get the idea that work over here is easy or fun at all times. They must be talked into discouragement rather than startled by dazzling promises, for otherwise they are going to be terribly disappointed.

The copies of Simpson's book came along. I tried to get a review for him in the magazine which reviews foreign books. They were at first only too glad, or rather my contact thought it a real chance for them, but later he reversed his field on orders from the editor, since books about Mexico are not being reviewed at the moment. That country has slipped back into oblivion over here due to its harboring of exiles. But I myself have enjoyed the reading of the first part, and will pass around the other copies. What a fascinating style Simpson has. He can make even heavy reading a pleasure. I wish I might be able to do as much. He deserves every bit of the praise he is getting from American reviewers.

I think you had better prepare a formal letter asking the Commissariat of Foreign Affairs to permit me to continue my studies for another year. Formal letters mean a lot, and that will solve the problem. Or perhaps you have already deposited such a letter with Oumansky. If so nothing further need be done. The exams are apparently to be given me as a matter of course. I have not, in consequence, raised any questions about them. In a few days I shall forward to you a letter in Russian for your signature, addressed to the Passport Office of the Militia asking them to grant me a return visa and permission to extend my studies for a year. As you, no doubt, know the Militia is under the Commissariat of the Interior, and it is usually a great help to be certain that their files are equipped with letters in Russian about the whole matter. This avoids lots of later misunderstandings, as I have found out. Please sign it when you get it, and return it by return mail. I shall vouch for its contents.

I hear the Cranes come May 23rd. I wish you were to be along too, but it will be pleasant to see them all again. I shall be working for exams, and in consequence there will be not much free time to wander about with them.

Please have Ben inquire of the Carnegie Foundation for International Law how many volumes there are to the Set INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION by Manley O. Hudson. Then please have them send me all volumes after the third, as the first three are in the library here.

Will probably not get away from here before June 29th, and want a day or so at the Paris Exposition. Boats are bunched on July 7th, which is too late, but Emp. of Britain sails July 3rd, which is just right. Will probably take it and stop off with Mr. Parkin on the way to NY from Quebec if he is agreeable.

Pen

Will probably not get away from here before June 29th, and want a day or so at the Paris Exposition. Boats are bunched on July 7th, which is too late, but Emp. of Britain sails July 3rd, which is just right. Will probably take it and stop off with Mr. Parkin on the way to NY from Quebec if he is agreeable.

RESOLVED that the action of the Director in urging John N. Hazard to continue his study of Soviet Law at the Law Institute, Moscow, be approved.

Moscow, USSR.,
May 4, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers,

Your letter of April 22 came today bringing me good news of the Institute's decision to add the two new men to the staff. I am more than delighted to have them join me, and hope that I can help them get started.

The past few days have been in a way discouraging. After granting permission for me to take the State examinations, the Director now informs me that he has reexamined my record and finds that he should not have granted my request so quickly if he had been fully informed of the facts. His argument is shock proof, I am afraid and runs like this: The law creating the State Exams says that only students who pass every subject in the four-year course should be allowed to take the exams. That means that the exams are not just course exams, for those have already been passed by each student at the Institute. They are comprehensive exams to cap the complete work. My studies have been only over a two and a half year period, and while covering all subjects in which the state exams are to be given have nevertheless not covered the non-legal subjects, such as the History of the Communist Party, Dialectic Materialism, Political Economy, Economic Politics, Leninism, and Statistics.

It was physically impossible for me to cover these first and second year courses while taking the third and fourth year ones, the more so because of my slowness caused by the language barrier. I made up the deficiency to my own satisfaction by studying in the night course at the Club in the History of the Party and Leninism combined. This has given me a background which together with reading in Dialectic Materialism has made it possible for me to follow and interpret the laws. But to say that I know the whole field of philosophy and economics would be a gross exaggeration, and I know that I could not pass exams in these subjects, much less the others listed before the state exams begin. In fact it would mean a whole year's work just on these subjects alone, and that would really not be worth while. The Director is quite ready to give a certificate to the effect that I have passed the Institute exams, and he asks why I need to take the same subjects over again in State exams. just to get another certificate.

He is quite willing to have me continue next year in such work as I wish, and is in accord with my plan to also sit in on courts and be freed somewhat from Institute attendance so that I can work out some of the material in the form of a report. In consequence the future seems assured, but it looks as if the State exams would be impossible. As much as I should like to, I don't feel capable of ploughing through all those non-legal courses to qualify for legal exams, which would be wholly different when I got to them due to the fast moving changes in Soviet Law.

Influence would not get anywhere, as the refusal is not on any ground that I am a foreigner, but because I have not met the requirements. It seems useless to go to Oumansky or Neyman, as, if I am not prepared, I am not, and the faculty could easily put my questions into the sphere in which I am not prepared, and thus cause me to fail even though they be requested to give me the exams. Exams are oral and the emphasis may be switched as desired.

I personally do not feel that the loss is insurmountable. It is, of course, a disappointment, but my certificate from the Institute will in itself be sufficient evidence of my knowledge. I shall use the time before sailing home to work out my notes and write some monographs on the material which has been covered. I shall leave about June 15th, and be ready to get back here for the 1st of September as before, and this summer we can talk over just what the best program will be for next year. I should like your counsel today, but as no cable to you could give the whole picture, I am forced to rely on what I think you would say, and I hope that I have guessed right.

I enclose the letter to the Commissariat of the Interior for my visa and return visa. Will you be good enough to sign it and send it by return mail, as I must have it by June 1st? They always demand here a seal of some sort to show that the document is official. Has the Institute such a seal or rubber stamp? If not just your name will be sufficient. I include a translation for your files. This whole thing is not as foolish as it will seem to you over there. I must establish your responsibility for me in the eyes of the Comm. of the Interior which handles passports.

I shall be on the look-out for the Cranes the end of this month. Meanwhile greetings and regrets that I have failed you on this point. Your regret can be no greater than mine.

JNH

Moscow, USSR.,
May 5, 1937.

Dear Mr. Rogers;

Heat up to 180 degrees, perspiration pouring off in rivers, gasping for breath and every mouthful like a hot potato, sweet scented birch boughs beating across the back and chest:--all that goes to make up the hot room of the Russian public bath.

Every district has its baths, one for men and one for women with divisions for first and second class. Some have a swimming pool, but the one nearest me boasts the elegance of Moorish walls and comfortable over-stuffed couches on which to rest after the ordeal.

Procedure is simple. A cloakroom near the entrance guards heavy garments. Then one files up the winding marble staircase through the ornately decorated blue reception hall to the disrobing rooms. Wide couches stretch around the walls and across the central spaces of the vaulted Moorish rooms. Clothes are piled upon the couches and watched by white-coated attendants. On all sides are men and boys, young and old, fat and thin, fathers with sons ranging from tiny tots to ages where they can take care of themselves. One waits in line to get weighed while two brothers vie with each other to establish a larger weekly gain before the proud eyes of an overly fat father.

Step through the door into the shower room with its rows on rows of flat topped marble benches, crowded with men pouring water on their soapy heads from the little cast iron buckets, refilled from the brass spickets along the walls. Fathers lean over and scrub infant sons vigorously as soap suds run down along the marble tops onto the tiled floor. Across the room the pounding of the water from the ever-running showers drowns out light conversation.

A door to the right leads into the hot room. To open it is to feel like a pilgrim entering the gates of the mythical hell. Wooden steps lead up on one side to a wooden platform built over the hot pipes, but only the man who has been born to it could stand that position. Even to stand below and beat oneself with the wet birch boughs causes near suffocation. Scalding water when poured from one's tin bucket feels refreshing in such an atmosphere. When a moment longer would be unbearable one runs back to the shower room to finish off with

a cold one and then out to dress.

Pedicurists stand ready to dress up blisters and corns, and a barber shop is at one side to trim up a beard or head of hair. The room attendant drapes over your back the huge Russian towel, which might more appropriately be termed a sheet, and you sink into a daze on the couch. Clothed once again, an attractive club room seems inviting with its overstuffed chairs and tables laden with cakes and bottles of soda water and pop. One's system craves water after the terrific perspiring of the past few minutes.

Then with a feeling of complete relaxation one pulls oneself up to push out into the windy street. For the Russian the next may be in half a week, although it is more likely that he will wait until the next free-day eve.

Greetings to you all,

JNH