“My Dear Davey and Chester…”

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Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain
1915 Pandharpur–2011 London
Illustrated note, 1980
Ink on paper

Bombay
Barod-Ahmadabad^-Madras-
Calcutta
4-30 p.m.
Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain
1915 Pandharpur–2011 London
Illustrated note, 1980
Ink on paper

New Delhi
6 • II • 80

I am still dangling in Delhi!

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Tonight I might loose and go back to Bombay.

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Missed the morning coffee!
Maqbool Fida (M.F.) Husain
1915 Pandharpur–2011 London

**Note, 1984**
Ink on paper

12 jan ’84
4 p.m.

I am downstairs
in the lobby.
This room must be
changed as it stinks.
Taking up the matter
with the manager (politely!)
Husain
THE ELEGANT GATES OF THE BARKAT VILLA WERE STILL OPEN DURING THOSE NEXT WEEKS OF JAN 84 AFTER YOU DAVEY & CHESTER HAD LEFT HYDERABAD LEAVING BEHIND THOSE INSPIRING MOMENTS...
continued

THE SPYRAL-STAIRCASE TO MY LIVING-STUDIO [strikethrough text] HAS LED ARTISTS AND FRIENDS. HUSAIN CAME UP WITH HIS TWO FRIENDS ANNU– SAJNI. HE HAD SHOWN ME HIS DOINGS IN CALCUTTA SO I HAD MINE WHAT I DID AFTER YOU HAD LEFT, BOTH OF US WERE THRILLED WITH EACH OTHERS WORK. HE HAS ASKED ME TO PACK UP THREE OF MY NEW PENCILS
Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud
Born 1940, Nizampur

**Illustration of Chester Herwitz with note, 1981**
Ink on paper
MSS 871, box 15, folder 2

DRAWING IS DRAWN FROM LIVING
SO YOU NEED TO RESEMBLE MY
DRAWING. I WAS A BIT LONELY
FOR SOME TIME TIME AFTER I
CAME BACK FROM MADRAS. MAYBE
IT WAS NEEDED. AFTER TWO DAYS OF
MY RELAXATION ONCE AGAIN
I STARTED SCRIBBLING WITH
MY PEN. MADE A VERY —
LARGE NUMBER OF DRAWINGS
I WANT TO SHIFT THIS MOOD IN TO MY ETCHINGS SOON
I HAVE ALREADY STARTED SETTING THINGS READY IN
MY STUDIO FOR PRINTMAKING. I AN SURE A VERY
POSITIVE TURN WILL TAKE IN PLACE IN MY WORK.
NO, OF COURSE IT’S DIFFICULT TO PREDICT ANY SUCH
MOVE IN LIFE. SOMETHOW INSTITUTIONS WORK OUT A FEELING FOR ME. WHICH IS ALWAYS A BEAUTIFUL FEELING.

I WANT TO RETAIN SUCH FEELINGS SO, WHAT I ALLWAYS DO IS . . . . JUST WORK AND WORK WITHOUT LOOKING BACK FOR REASONING AND LOGIC IT'S LIKE [MATURED PREGNANCY-] TIME. SHE [DELIVERS] BECAUSE IT'S [INEVITABLE] . . . . . . .

THERE IS NO POINT IN WRITING ALL THIS TO YOU. WHEN YOU COME NEXT (TO MY STUDIO IN HYDERABAD) YOU WILL SEE WHAT AND HOW I DO. I LIKE WRITING LETTERS. I ALSO LOVE RECEIVING SOME LINES FRIENDS. WILL YOU BOTH PLEASE WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE DOING SO . . . ?
continued

MY WIFE AND CHILDREN [JOIN] ME IN SENDING YOU OUR LOVE.

K. LAXMA GOUD
MY DEAR HERWITZ AND DAYANA, YOU DO NOT KNOW HOW HAPPY I WAS WHEN I SAW YOU BOTH ON THE FLOOR LOOKING AT MY WORK IN YOUR MADRAS ROOM. I AM SURE I WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE SEVERAL MORE DRAWINGS ON THIS "MAN & WOMAN" I KNOW IT’S NOT A VERY GOOD ONE OF ME BUT I HOPE TO DO SOME NICE ONES TONIGHT. IT WAS OF COURSE TOO SHORT A TIME
continued

I COULD SPEND WITH YOU. BUT THIS LITTLE TIME ALSO MEANS A LOT TO ME IN LIFE. I THANK YOU ONCE AGAIN FOR THAT EFFECTION YOU HAVE TOWARDS MY DRAWINGS.

REMEMBER ME TO SHAMSHAD-SAHBA.

K. Laxma Goud. 24 JAN 1981
Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud
Born 1940, Nizampur
Illustrated letter, 1990
Pencil on paper
MSS 871, box 4, folder 2

MY DEAR DAVEY, CHESTER.
HYDERABAD, AT LAST HAS COME BACK TO ITS NORMAL LIFE, AFTER A MONTHLONG [DISTURBANCES] POLITICS HAVE [DESTROYED] THE PROFILE OF THIS CITY KNOWN FOR ITS [HARMONIOUS] LIVING

AFTER 1947 ONE HAD NEVER SEEN SUCH SITUATION, INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE KILLED. I DO NOT KNOW WHAT’S HAPPENING WITH US. HOPE 91 BRINGS US LOVE . . . . PLEASE SEND ME A TELEGRAMME OR SPEAK TO SURESH OF YOUR ARRIVAL
continued

DATES AND TIME. RAMA, KIDS
JOIN ME IN SENDING ALL OF
BEST WISHES FOR A
HAPPY NEW YEAR . .
MY DEAR DAVEY, CHESTER, THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THOSE LOVING LETTERS. AND THE CHEQUE, RECEIVED TWO WEEKS AGO. I AM HAPPY IN MY NEW HOUSE FULLY SETTLED WITH MY BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTERS AND RAMA. SURESH, MEERA AWAIT FOR YOUR VISIT AT BARKAT VILLA. AS USUAL I HAVE BEEN [BUSY] WITH MY WORK. IN THE STUDIO AND THE SCHOOL WHERE I HOLD A TEACHING JOB. HOPEFULLY YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SEE SOME YOUNGER ARTISTS IN HYDERABAD THIS TIME
Kalal (K.) Laxma Goud  
Born 1940, Nizampur  
Illustrated letter, 1988  
Opaque watercolor and ink on paper  
MSS 871, box 4, folder 2  

[recto]  

MY DEAR DAVEY,  

I GOT TWO OF YOUR KIND LETTERS  
ONE IS IN MAY AND THE OTHER OF  
AUGUST. AS I WAS PRE-OCCUPIED  
WITH SEVERAL THINGS COULD NOT  
WRITE YOU. ME AND CHILDREN ARE  
DOING WELL. SURESH, MEERA  
OFTEN THINK OF YOU EVERY NOW  
AND THEN.  
HOW WAS HUSAIN SHOW AT HUNTER ART-MUSEUM OF  
WHICH YOU MENTIONED IN YOUR LAST LETTER. THE SHOW
WHICH I PLANNED OF GANESH-PYNE AT OUR MAX-MUELLER IS CANCELLED. BECAUSE MOST OF HIS WORK FROM CITRAKOOT COLLECTION IS GOING FOR A SHOW IN PARIS IT SEEMS. I WAS QUITE DISAPPOINTED WITH MR. PRAKASH KEYERIWAY SO I HAD ALSO CANCELLED MY SHOW WITH THEM IN CALCUTTA THIS YEAR.

I WAS ABOUT TO POST THIS FOR YOU. I GOT YOUR LETTER YESTERDAY. SO, SEE YOU ON YOUR ARRIVAL. WITH LOVE ONCE AGAIN . . .

IT’S NEEDLESS TO SAY ALL MY FRIENDS WAIT FOR YOU TO HAVE THAT “DINNER TRADITIONAL” AT BARKAT VILLA STUDIO. SEVERAL THINGS ARE HAPPENING AROUND ME. I AM A LITTLE SLOW WITH WORK THIS YEAR. IT MUST HAVE BEEN A THRILLING [strikethrough text] EXPERIENCE FOR YOU BOTH TO TRAVEL EUROPE AND SEE ALL THOSE EXHIBITIONS OF
continued

MODERN MASTERS. HOW LUCKY YOU ARE. HOPE ONE DAY ALL SUCH SHOWS COME TO INDIA, TOO, BUT I DON’T THINK SO . . .

HOW IS DANNY. HOPE HE STILL LIKES MY SKETCHBOOK. TELL HIM HE WILL GET ANOTHER IF HE VISITS HYDERABAD AGAIN.

NOT MUCH TO SAY TILL WE MEET.

WITH LOVE,
K. LAXMA GOUD

31st Oct. ’88
My dear Davey,

How wonderful it is to receive your charming letter. The date you have mentioned above your letter was 4.1.’83. It took five months to travel from your place to that of mine! Surely it is a matter of great consolation [strikethrough text] on my part to know about something that moves slower than I do.
You have presented a very beautiful view of Jaisalmer. Your quick continued description is loaded with rich colours. So far I know, this part of India once inspired Amrita [Sher-Gil] to paint in an exquisite style. She was very much moved by the pictorial elements moved the place perhaps in the say way for you [illegible] been. Thank you for informing me about Chet’s lecture at Delhi College of Art. Can you give me a sort of synopsis of his talk? The subject on which he spoke was novel indeed. Mr. and Mrs. Kuman told me about your liking for the paintings they have
continued

convey my best wishes to Chet. I am looking forward to meet you again. With love and regards.

Yours sincerely

Ganesh
Jogen Chowdhury
Born 1939, Faridpur

Letter with illustrated inventory of paintings, 1980
Ink on paper
MSS 871, box 3, folder 7

8 Title: Portrait of P.C.
Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper
(Lacquered)
Size: 38 1/2 × 37 1/2 cm.
Year: 1977

9 Title: Portrait of a Musician
Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper
(Lacquered)
Year: 1979
Title: Ganapati the Lord
Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper
(Lacquered)
Size: 51 × 51 cm.
Year: 1977

Title: Waiting for his lover
Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper (Lacquered)
Size: 56 × 56 cm
Year: 1979

Title: “Man. A”
Medium: Ink & Pastel on Paper (Lacquered)
Size: 37 1/2 × 36 1/2 cm.
Year: 1979

Title: “Reminiscences of a Dream 10”
Medium: Mixed techniques (Lacquered)
Size: 47 × 62 cm.
Year: 1969
continued

14 Coloured

15 Drawings
My dear Chester + Davey, Our letters crossed. It’s good to write to each other about the same time. Hope you will get the “SATPURA” print + the ECTA of the black painting very soon. I am busy on another large brown canvas, so instead of words, this sketch of “GENESE,” my form-repertory. Fond love to you both. Raza, Paris, 18th March 1985.
Vasundhara Tewari
Born 1955, Kolkata

**Illustrated note, 1991**
Watercolor and ink on paper
MSS 871, box 8, folder 7

Dear Davey and Chester,

For you are
amongst my
favourite people

Love,
Vasundhara '91
Dear Mrs. Herwitz,

Wish you both a very Happy New Year. Looking forward to meeting you on Jan 15, 1983. A twin bedded cottage has been reserved at the tourist lodge (govt.) at Bolpur in your name. If I know your time of arrival, I shall be at the lodge to meet you. I shall convey your message to Mrs. Baiz. Subramanyan has received your letter. He will be here during your visit.

With warmest greetings and regards— Somnath

18.11.82
Dear Davey

This gives me pleasure to hear from you. I really feel fine to know that my paintings are according your appreciation and are a source of delight to you. I think, one of the incentives behind an artist’s creative impulses, is always a genuine recognition of one’s talent. I was away from Chandigarh, on an all India tour, accompanying our college students for one month. After coming back, I got your
continued

letter, this being the season for a late reply.
I have become aware of your programme and will see both of you in Delhi on Feb 2nd, 83. In case there happens to be any change in your schedule please inform me accordingly.
With love I am sending you my warm feelings. Convey my love & regards to Mr. Chester. My wife and daughter wish both of you all the good.

With love

Yours

Viren