



THE ZORYAN INSTITUTE



HÔTEL LAGO MAGGIORE
HÔTEL LIGURIA & PATRIA
FRATELLI BETTOJA
PROPRIETARI

Hotel Massimo d'Azeglio

Roma

VIS-A-VIS
ALLA STAZIONE CENTRALE
250 CAMERE
RISCALDAMENTO
CAMERE CON BAGNO
ASCENSORE

Via Cavour, 18.

Roma, li Aug. 17 1920

Dear Marion :-

This is the poorest Wop hotel I've struck yet, so I'm not going to stay long in this town. However, this is Rome, & quite some town. I arrived yesterday & have done so much sightseeing already that I'm almost ready to quit, in spite of our friend Baedeker who says one must take at least 10-14 days. The trouble with him is he seems to think a tourist wants to see every picture gallery & every church. Personally I just like to see the most interesting things, & don't like to put in so many small side trips that it ~~too~~ gets tiring. Yesterday I went to the Old Roman Forum & wandered around awhile, then over to the Colosseum & climbed around it for an hour or two. They are both interesting. I expected the ruins of the old temples to be more impressive, but now believe Baalbek in Syria is the greatest ruin in the world, as everyone says. Baalbek is enormous compared to the ruins here.

Today I visited St. Peter's and the Vatican Art Gallery. St. Peter's surely is the grandest place ever built. It equals St. Sophie & the great Mosques of Egypt & Turkey all put together. I never saw such wonderful materials for building - Baalbek



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colored marbles, alabaster, & all sorts of rare stones. In Cairo there is a whole mosque built of alabaster, but this is richer.

I didn't see anything of the Pope today, perhaps I'll see him tomorrow! I'm going to the Vatican again tomorrow to see the collections of sculpture, etc. Today I strolled around behind St. Peter's looking for the entrance to the museum, & strolled around a corner of the Vatican palace, when three guards stopped me. They looked as though they had been fitted up with uniforms in about the year 1. They wore striped baggy uniforms of about 12 colors & instead of guns carried spears about 10 ft long. They looked as ridiculous as the Colosseum.

In the art gallery I saw many of the most wonderful paintings of Raphael & the other great painters.

This P.M. I took a carriage & drove out to the on the Appian Way to the Catacombs & had an old priest escort me around the passages lined with bones on shelves. A terrible lot of people must have died sometime - there seemed to be millions of shelves. I'd hate to get lost in there! I drove in out the Via Appian, saw an old chariot race track, some ancient



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tombs & aqueducts, etc. Then returned. Had a walk this evening in Rome's "Fairmount Park" & now am almost ready for bed. I think I've seen almost all I want to here, & may go to Naples the day after tomorrow.

Venice was the most fascinating place I've seen in Italy. On Sunday every hour it seemed hundreds of bells rang all over the city. With the bells & the picturesque canals & gondolas the whole place was wonderful. My hotel was on the Grand Canal near St. Marks, & right across from the Opera House, so in the evening I could enjoy some fine music. During the day I visited St. Marks & rode up & down the canals several times, also over to the Lido (the bathing beach & park). I wanted to see Florence, but my train stopped there at 3 A.M. when I was sound asleep. When I woke we were half way to Rome. The country was quite interesting. Old forts & castles appearing now & then, & the train started the Tiber as it neared Rome.

You & the rest of the family must come over & see these places some time soon - as soon as I can make enough to bring you all over. You can sign up with the Near East Relief for a few years & lead the time of your life. Love to all - I hope to see you about a month from now, if I can get a berth on a ship, which won't be easy. Must close, go to bed. Love to all - I hope to see you about a month from now, if I can get a berth on a ship, which won't be easy. Love to all - I hope to see you about a month from now, if I can get a berth on a ship, which won't be easy.