

L E T T E R I

TRANSLATION

Folio

1r (1) שִׁלָּת (=abbreviation of Ps. 16, 8 שוּתִי הָ לַנְּגִדִי תַמִּיד, I have set The Lord always before me) (2) My dearly beloved son Lizer, my own life: I have received your two letters (3) with much joy - beyond all expectation. (4) It is only you, my dear, who - as things now are - can bring your Mother (5) any joy. Lord, how great is thine aid, how swiftly (6) canst Thou bring gladness to man with but a single glance directed upon him! (7) I am still unhappy that you have no letters of recommendation (8) from anyone in Zülz,¹ but you have constantly tried to console me (9) with the assurance that with God's help you would see how to (10) get such things for yourself. Now God be eternally thanked for all his hesed (mercy)! (11) The Lord, blessed be He, has sworn not to abandon widows and orphans, and (12) He ever keeps his hand protectively over us. You always in- (13) tended to devote yourself to God's service - right from the time when you were very young: (14) and so, dear boy, God has helped you, as well as have those good friends (15) who have put themselves to trouble for your sake, and who indeed keep a loving watch over you. (16) You act accordingly, to be sure, and you certainly treat (17) your good friends as they deserve. You know by now how to get on with(?)² people, (18) one can certainly leave you to your own devices(?)³ And now, dear boy, what else can I (19) write to you about? If you were in Zülz and (20) really free⁴, what a lot of spoken languages there are amongst mankind - (21) English, Spanish - that don't know(?)⁵ what to do with themselves -⁽²²⁾ how to wear people out [in learning them?]: they might well ask me (23) how to get on with the job(?). Now - about that (24) letter that came here with Isaac (25) Friedländer - (1) the one he brought from Rothemburg - you can easily (2) picture to yourself how things turned out(?)⁶. Now, my dear boy, (3) may god grant that everything turns out well for us and give us long life - both your brother and sisters and your (5) poor old Mother, who is very much upset about dear Abraham.⁷ He writes (6) to me by post that he must leave his master,⁸ (7) because he was very [disappointed(?)]⁹ about the food - on (8) Yom Tov he refused to give him anything to eat. So he is going off, and writes to me (9) that he will go to Dresden, if he can find work - so he writes. (10) It would be too bad if he didn't give me any further indication. Now, dear boy, (11) you can appreciate how I feel, having still heard nothing (12) from him. Perhaps, my dear, you could establish(?)¹⁰ what progress [he is making(?)]¹¹ - (13) just be so good as to drop me a line, saying

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who knows where he will (14) go(-)....to what land. You will have received (15) the parcel that I sent you by post (16) the other day [for(?)] Yom Tov. Now, my dear boy, I look forward very much to a letter from you, (17) and to your [telling] me a lot about your journey (18) to F[rank]f[urt]¹²...will certainly bring me news of (19) you. Oh, my beloved son, my dear, how uneasy things are for us, how my heart pines (20) for you [to be here] again. I'm sure that it will irritate you that I (21) have to send you news about the (22) Rabbi of Rothenburg - his(?)¹³ so quickly turn into(?) (23) ill deeds; the rabbi's wife (24) will write to you more about it. (25) Your ever (26) true Mother.

¹Birthplace of L.Loewe, ²in Silesia, south east of Neisse (now called Biala, in Poland). ³zerzen(?). Could ⁴this be a derivative of Circe, zirzen, i.e. charm? ⁵sehen los. ⁶? i.e. free from academic commitments. ⁷wassten(?) ⁸zu gekommen. ⁹Abraham (Adolf) was L.Loewe's elder brother, who ultimately settled in Paris(?). He was a bookbinder, and what here follows appears to refer to an unsatisfactory apprenticeship arrangement, ¹⁰although he was probably rather older than normal for such training. ¹¹Meinster, ? error for Meister. ¹²inter(?unter)eriert(?) ¹³darten (? dar tun). ¹⁴was er voran. ¹⁵Presumably Frankfurt an der Oder. ¹⁶deine, ? read seine.