

Rua de São João da Mata, 119, 12  
Lisboa, Portugal  
27 Outubro 1947

Dearest Mother,

We missed sending our letter to you last week. We were moving around again, this time from a pensão to a more private house. We are now situated on a second-floor apartment of four rooms, kitchen, bath and maid's room. It is quite ideal we think. And we are sharing with a Canadian family with two small girls. We'll have some pictures later to show you.

Of course change of house means change of address again. But this time we are lots closer to our work. We are within ten minute's walk of our class work, so we don't have to ride the trollies (carros electricos) any more. And we are close to a garden where the children may play, although we are not just a stone's throw away as we were over at Pensão Laranjo. Asee- Also we're in a more quiet section of Lisbon than we have been in before. We hope that we shall be able to stay here until the ship sails for Africa. How long that will be we cannot say, but hope we can remain here until next summer. We shall need all the amount of time that implies and more too for the completion of our study of language, history and customs in Portugal.

You have mentioned the increasingly cooler weather at home in Maine. We are getting some here, too, but not in quite the same way of course. We have not had frosts here yet, although I imagine that once in a while there is a frost here. We have not yet begun to get rains which come in winter. And the days are quite sunny and warm, so that as yet we have not found it necessary to put on the heavy coats which we shall put on later. I'm sure if we stay here during the winter.

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Yet there is a curious kind of thing goes on here now, at least curious to our New England eyes. We see flower beds being completely dug over. Flowers which were in bloom are now dead and have been removed from the beds where they were grown. Other flowers have been set out in the place of those now gone. And all through the winter we shall have flowers blossoming around us. It will seem a little strange, although I'm confident that we are all becoming accustomed to many things here.

Over the weekend we saw the sights and listened to the sounds of celebration commemorating the taking of Lisbon from the Moros, the Arabs, in 1147. I was sick so could not see the parade on Saturday morning, but did get out to see the lights on Saturday night and I heard much of the noise of the fireworks display on Sunday night. There are five American ships, destroyers and cruisers, here for one or two days more. Ships and sailors were a part of the celebration of eight hundred years of freedom from the Moors.

When we get together our collection of pictures which show something of the city we can tell you more about the Moorish conquest of the Iberian peninsula and its effect on Spain and Portugal, particularly Portugal. Evidences of it are still in existence in the language and customs and buildings of this land.

Well, I want to get this off to you this morning before I go to class. I have a few more minutes to write. Then I must go to the Centro, take some laundry out to be washed, and go on to class.

Oh, yes, I have word from Mr. Smith of the Treasury Department that arrangements have been made to take care of certain payments from our allowance. By now you will be receiving a little to help out at home I trust. It isn't