

Rua de São João da Mata, 119, 1^a
Lisboa, Portugal
31 Dezembro 1947

Dearest Olive,

At last your brother is writing a letter to you. My neglect is not the intentional kind. But so often I write to Mother and say, "Well, Olive can read this, and think of it as being to her, too." Of course sometimes, many times as a matter of fact, we do write this way, but you deserve to have many more letters than I have sent. Betty prods me. You know how it is.

Now let me tell you something about the stamps that are coming on the letter to Mother, the one which has handkerchiefs in it. There are four types of stamps in various denominations. There are two of the 1945 series - Castelos de Portugal (Castles of Portugal). The red one at the top of the letter, value here 1 escudo, is worth 4 cents. The blue one just below " Hillier " , value here 1 escudo and 75 centavos, is worth 7 cents. The two stamps in the lower left hand corner are of the Costumes de Portugal No. II Series, showing costumes of two of the provinces of this country. You can make out the values from what I have told you of the other stamps. In the upper right hand corner the brown stamp is one of the stamps commemorating the taking of Lisbon from the Moors in 1147. Called the VIII Centenário da Tomada de Lisboa aos Mouros. (VIII Century of the Taking of Lisbon from the Moors.) This one has a value of 2 escudos and a half here, 10 cents in America. On the back of the letter the blue stamp of 1\$75 value is of the same series, worth 7 cents. The red one is of the Padroeira Series of 1946. So you have there a few of the stamps of 1945, 1946, 1947. Next time I shall try to send different ones. Also on the envelope in which your letter will arrive. A \$20 (value about 1 cent) of the VIII Centenário Series of 1947. A \$30 (value a little more than 1 cent) of the Castelos de Portugal Series of 1945. A \$10 (value about one-half cent) of Costumes de Portugal- II Series, and also a \$30 one. Two \$05 (value about one-quarter of a cent) of VIII Centenário Series. One 1\$75 of the Padroeira Series. Another \$35 (value a little more than a cent and a half) of the Costumes de Portugal - II Series. And one \$30 of Presidente Carmona, 1945.

I think I've named over all the stamps which I have stuck on the envelope in which I shall put your letter. Hope the post office clerk will accept the letter. but think that she will, for Hal Steed sends many letters in this way. Total value of stamps on your letters - 14\$25 - or about, 57 cents. On Mother's letter - 10\$75. On yours - 3\$50, the amount necessary for an air mail letter of 5 grams weight.

We are now in the New Year's season of celebration. We have not found out yet much about the observance of the New Year here. Don't even know whether it's observed by people taking a holiday or not. Guess there will be lots of noise tonight. We understand that some people plan to throw out some old things and replenish stock with new, but don't know how general this is.

Oh, we have forgotten again to include something in Mother's letter which we said we had put in. So it is included in yours. It is a silver decoration which Kenneth made (with a little help) for our pinheiro (Christmas tree). Wait! I've made a mistake ! Pinheiro is pine tree. Arvore de Natal is Christmas Tree. The Portuguese use pine for Christmas trees, although once in a while someone will show up with a fir or spruce. But Portugal has many