

dear little wife we'll diligently work on science together so we don't become old philistines, right? My sister seemed so crass to me. You'd better not get that way—it would be terrible. You must always be my witch and street urchin. I want to see you so badly. If I could only have you for a little while! Everyone but you seems foreign to me, as if they were separated from me by an invisible wall. You should hear Ehrat talking about marriage. It's so funny. He speaks of it as if it were a bitter medicine that has to be taken dutifully. His wife will find this attitude amusing! Just think of how differently people view something that is one and the same. It's very funny.

Tender kisses from your

Johnnie

49 *Einstein to Marić*



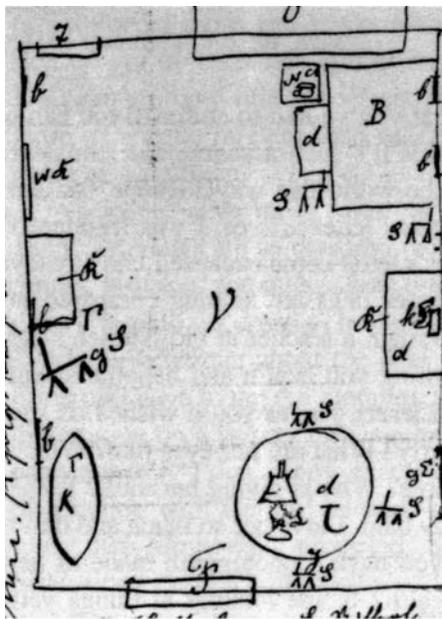
Bern, Tuesday [4 February 1902]¹

My dearest sweetheart,

Poor, dear sweetheart; what you've had to suffer if you can't even write me yourself anymore! It's such a shame that our dear Lieserl must be introduced to the world this way!² I hope you are bright and cheerful by the time my letter arrives. I was frightened out of my wits when your father's letter came because I had already sensed something wrong. All other fates are nothing compared to this. My first reaction was to remain a teacher at old Nüesch's for two more years³ if that could bring you health and happiness; but now you see that it really is a Lieserl, just as you'd wished. Is she healthy, and does she cry properly? What are her eyes like? Which one of us does she more resemble? Who is giving her milk? Is she hungry? She must be completely bald. I love her so much and don't even know her yet! Couldn't you have a photograph made of her when you've regained your health? Is she looking at things yet?

Now you can make observations. I'd like to make a Lieserl myself sometime—it must be fascinating! She's certainly able to cry already, but won't know how to laugh until much later. Therein lies a profound truth. When you feel a little better you'll have to draw a picture of her!

It's wonderful here in Bern. An ancient, thoroughly pleasant city in which one can live exactly as in Zurich. There are very old arcades stretching along both sides of the streets, so you can walk from one end of the city to the other in the worst rain without getting noticeably wet. The houses are exceptionally clean on the inside; I saw this everywhere yesterday when I was looking for a room. It's done me a world of good to have escaped from those unpleasant surroundings. I've already taken care of placing an advertisement in the local newspaper.⁴ I hope something comes of it. If I only had two lessons a day, I could save a little for you. I have a large, pleasant room with a very comfortable sofa. It only costs 23 francs. That's not too much. I also have six upholstered chairs and three cabinets; you could hold a meeting in this place. Here's the floor plan:



- B* – little bed
- b* – little picture
- d* – little table cloth
- gS* – giant armchair
- gΣ* – giant mirror
- J* – Johnnie
- K* – chest of drawers
- κ* – sofa
- kΣ* – small mirror
- N* – chamberpot and table
- F* – little window
- O* – oven
- S* – little chair
- T* – doors
- τ* – table
- v* – nothing
- U* – little clock
- Γ* – will you look at that!

But now I ask you as nicely as I can to get better soon! Best wishes to your mother too. But for you, tender kisses from your loving

Johnnie
Gerechtigkeitsgasse 32
Bern
(c/o Frau Sievers)⁵

50 *Einstein to Marić*



Bern, Saturday [8? February 1902]¹

My dear little sweetheart,

Guess where I was today! At a lecture on forensic pathology with a demonstration *ad oculos*.² Friend Frösch,³ who happens to be here, took me along. I was so fascinated by it that from now on I'm going to go every Saturday. They questioned a sixty-year old woman who attempted arson while senselessly drunk as well as a man accused of fraud who appears to suffer from megalomania (there are some quite interesting cases of pathological swindlers in Forel). Because of his great intelligence, Frösch enjoys the respect of the professor, who turns to him every time he notices something interesting. I then spent the rest of the afternoon with Frösch.

The private lessons aren't going badly at all. I've already found two gentlemen, an engineer and an architect, and I have a few more prospects. I'm going to teach them together, in a kind of private course, and will receive 2 francs per man per lesson. That's not doing badly. The lessons begin the day after tomorrow in the evening.

Right now I'm explaining to Habicht the paper I submitted to Kleiner. He's very enthusiastic about my good ideas and is pester-