



CAFÉ DE PARIS

AIX-LES-BAINS

J. RUBAUD

R. C. 771

AIX-les-BAINS, le 9: 3: 28 192

My dear old Gospodeen, Tovarish Doctor  
 I accept your rebuke & will  
 acknowledge that the cultured meaning  
 of ink on fair white paper is a  
 noble means of realizing a friend-  
 ship of 28 years: radio and tel-  
 evision will make a swift passage  
 for certain senses and the lazy  
 will benefit thereby but I doubt  
 me if the heart will have  
 expression across space other than  
 by the rapture of letting the hand  
 wander to its dictated guided by  
 the mind.

Your "utase" my Tovarish,  
 is in substance: "let the pen  
 ramble". If, therefore, I ramble,  
 don't mark my letter "D.H." or  
 in RED INK!

Well where shall I stand?  
 Yes; a word in advance. If this  
 reaches you in the midst of  
 labours or social chatter, read  
 no further for I can assure you



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that I play no "soul of air" in it, that I must tell you that recently I acquired a "gravure originale, l'ère ancienne" that relates to an episode in Canadian history & dates the 18th century. It was given to me for a small service I was (happily) able to perform for a French Comrade who found himself in a position that required a reliable pair of fists. These I furnished. Hence the picture. Now, I should like you to determine whether it will look better in your library at Victoria Road, or in your library at Dalhousie. In any event I wish you to have it. Let me know that it arrives safely for it goes under separate cover by current post.

You accuse me of using the phrase that "we have no mutual interests" & you suggest that we



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my own savings & thoughts would  
 be of interest to you. Well, I  
 must again say "thanks" for to  
 have read of Dick & Jean & Gene  
 & Polly & Blossom. You gave me  
 a delight that was truly genuine  
 & extraordinary not only in  
 that it mentioned the North Ave  
 & Victoria Road & Lug's  
 & to see but it made me  
 think of your pretty girls fro-  
 licking about with my sisters  
 and and little pal so many  
 years ago.

Do not forget that today as you know  
 him Queen is a lot of an  
 exile in this world & has had  
 to renounce ambitions & hopes  
 that at one time seemed to be  
 full of prospect. You must remember  
 too, my good friend that Queen  
 has just had, speak it not in  
 Gath (thereby meaning '88 Lug's Si')



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his 28<sup>th</sup> operation, and, in all  
 humility, the last three without  
 anaesthetic in that that is  
 dangerous to my lung condition  
 & a "local" is on hand as  
 a last of case. Despite this  
 flourish & managed to reach  
 cold feet at 70 m.p.h. when an  
 other "Bob" stuck in my path.  
 Four rods & a ruptured stomach  
 but, what would you? There  
 were ladies present on the  
 other Bob! I would be Kipling-  
 esque but when it was about  
 to happen I remembered certain  
 lines you taught me from  
 Tausi. "Think that that's the way  
 seen the case of "I  
 so much, then, for your  
 Tausi Capitaine - and no  
 complaints.  
 Tell me who is in the Café



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 when you sit. I will.  
 The man who is crowding me,  
 & occasionally barging my elbow,  
 is a "maître" whose practice  
 has diminished somewhat because he  
 has headaches due to a 5.9 that  
 landed on his snout in 1914.  
 Next to him is a dead inside old  
 fellow wearing the Legion of Honour  
 & his snout's Croix de Guerre. He  
 smiles over his Chamberlain  
 but his <sup>(only)</sup> son is somewhere near  
 Verdun & his wife is in an  
 insane asylum nearby. Shall I  
 continue? Yes. On my left  
 an Italian - French group are  
 discussing the Southern Tyrol &  
 Hungary. There is a German  
 over in the corner trying to  
 be amiable & not far from me  
 is a group of Lacognards & Lacognards.  
 "Regardez le Sal Roche la bar."  
 As your tables cards are being  
 played & a few couples are



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shaking dice. The total stakes will amount to about 4 francs or 16 Cents. Each has his own little tippie - a glass of red or white wine "du pays" & some "water" if they drink "Vais Favourite", Vichy, Source des Deux Reines, & so on. All are happy & enjoying "l'heure d'appétit". There are some 40 in all in the Café including a good sprinkling of wives who laugh & chat loud. On the walls are shields representing the Cities of Paris, Grenoble, Dauphiné's Geneva, Mâcon, Verbun etc etc. Almost everyone knows exactly what each shield means.

I am being continuously interrupted with "Pauquis, vous, écrivez comme ça, mon Capitaine. C'est l'heure d'appétit. Le travail est fini jusqu'à demain." It is



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not a "travail", my good Товарищ  
but it is an answer to my  
original statement that these  
"aint" so big in this regard.  
And I, too, will reply

Sincerely  
Yours

Queen