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Zitiervorschlag:

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Eleanor Marx (stellvertretend für Marx) an Wilhelm Liebknecht in Leipzig. London, Freitag, 29. Dezember 1871

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Lura, Caroline (Bearbeitung)

Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften (BBAW) Marx-Engels-Gesamtausgabe

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Handschriftenbeschreibung:

Soweit aus der Fotokopie zu ersehen ist, besteht der Brief aus einem Bogen und einem Blatt grauweißem Papier. Eleanor Marx hat fünf Seiten vollständig beschrieben, die letzte Seite blieb leer. Schreibmaterial: braune Tinte.

Archivvermerke auf den beschriebenen Seiten des Briefbogens mit Rotstift: „Mb11“ bis „Mb15“. Auf der ersten Seite Nummerierung: „21.“

Der Briefumschlag ist überliefert; darauf handschriftliche Adressierung: „William Liebknecht Esq. / 11 Braustrasse / Leipzig / Germany“ (die Briefmarken wurden vermutlich herausgeschnitten) und ein Poststempel: „LONDON. N.W / DE 29 / 71“. Archivvermerk mit Rotstift: „Mb11a“; mit Bleistift: „zu 4“. Auf der Rückseite Poststempel: „Ausgabe / IX% / 31 12“.

Darüber hinaus liegt dem Brief ein einzelnes Blatt aus gelblichem Papier mit Wasserzeichen bei. Notizen auf der Vorderseite von unbekannter Hand (mit Bleistift), möglicherweise vom Archiv oder in Vorbereitung des Druckes: „(lag in Brief Oct 29 91[]) / „(29.12.71)“ (unten); „ME 11 (B[rie]f Tussys an[?] [xxxx] vom 29.12.71 mit Schilderung d. V[er]h[a]ftung an der span. frz. Grenze u. des Flüchtlingselends“) (oben).

Die Schreibweise wurde nicht berichtigt.

RGASPI f. 8 op. 1 d. 13

Liebknecht Bw (1963). S. 413–415.

Absender: Eleanor Marx

Schreibort: London

Schreibdatum: 1871-12-29

Empfänger: Wilhelm Liebknecht

Empfangsort: Leipzig

| 1, Maitland Park Road,
Dec^{ber} 29th/71.

My dear old Library,

I suppose you'll be astonished at receiving a letter from me, but **Papa**^a is so busy that he has ordered his secretary to answer for him. Before speaking to you then of anything else I must give you his message. Mohr says he has been so busy that he could not answer your questions

before—and that as regards **Biedermann**^{cb}, you had only to compare your translation in the **Volksstaat**^{ed} of resolution n° IX. “Political Action of the Working Class”, with what he says to see that his was nothing but a police edition of them. Moreover no second Conference has been held.—

Now that business is attended to let us return to ourselves.— | No doubt you think that after all these years I have forgotten you. I can assure I have done nothing of the kind. I remember both you & **Alice**^g perfectly—at least I remember Alice as she was, now of course she must be quite changed. You should know anywhere though I’m sure you’d never recognize me. People that saw me only two or three years ago hardly know me again. I should so like to see Alice, & you too. We quite expected to see you at the Conference, & I was much dissatisfied when you did n’t come.

I suppose you have heard of **Jenny**ⁱ’s & my adventures in France^h, about our being arrested, & cross examined by M. le Prefet **Keratry**^j, & M. le Procureur général **Delpech**^k.—Jenny & I on returning from Bosost a small village in Spain (whither we had accompanied **Laura**^l & her **little boy**^m who went to stay a few days with **Lafargue**ⁿ who had gone there to prevent being arrested) were arrested on the French frontier, & conducted by 24 gendarmes | right across the Pyrenees—from Poo to Luchon, where we were staying. Arrived there we were driven to the door of M. de Keratry’s house, kept waiting in front of it, in an open carriage with two gendarmes opposite us, & goodness knows how many around us, for three quarters of an hour, & then taken to our own house. It was Sunday night & everybody out in the street. At our house we found the police who had in the morning searched the house from top to bottom, & had treated our poor landlady & our servant who were alone in the house very badly. Keratry had already cross-examined them, & we were informed that he would presently arrive to do the same for us. At last he came, for he would n’t leave the park till the band stopped playing. Our room was already full of gendarmes, mouchards, & agents of every description when the Préfet Keratry, arrived accompanied by Delpech, procureur général, a juge de paix, a juge d’instruction, the procureur de la république etc. I was sent with the Commissaire de | Toulouse, & a Gendarme^o, into a side room & Jenny’s examination began, it being then about 10 o’clock. They examined her over two hours but to no use for they heard nothing from her. Then came my turn. Keratry told me most shameful lies. He got one or two answers from me by pointing to Jenny’s declaration, & telling me she had said such & such a thing.—Fearing to contradict her I said “Yes, it is so”. It was a dirty trick was n’t it. However he heard precious little with all that. The next day when they came again we refused to take the oath. Two days after Keratry came & said he should in the evening send orders for our liberation (we were guarded, by police). Instead of that we were taken off to a “gendarmerie”, & there we passed the night. The next day we were, however let off. Though we could not really move a step without being watched, besides we could n’t get back our English passport. At last we got everything, & arrived at last in | London. Laura went through much the same adventures at Bosost, though not quite so bad as we, for she was in Spain. It appears that Keratry after the first evening did everything he could to get us free but **Thiers**^p wished us to be imprisoned. What was very amusing were the blunders Keratry & the police made—for instance they looked in the mattresses for bombs, & thought that the lamp in which we had warmed the milk for the poor little **baby**^q who died, was full of “petrole”! And all that because Lafargue is **Mohr**^r’s son-in-law, for Lafargue had done nothing at all.—

There are a great many members of the Commune here, & the poor refugees suffer frightfully—they have none of them any money, & you cant think how difficult it is for them to get work. I wish they’d taken some of the millions they’re accused of having stolen.

Now my dear old friend good-bye—Kiss all at home for me, especially **Alice**^s, & receive all our best wishes for the New Year. I must apologize for my dreadful writing, but I’ve such a wretched pen & almost no ink.

Once more “A Happy New Year”
& Believe me to be

Your affectionate
Tussy.

|([Umschlag]) William Liebknecht Esq.
11 Braustrasse
Leipzig.
Germany.

Erläuterungen

- a) Marx, Karl (1818-1883)
- b) Siehe Liebknecht an Engels, 23.12.1871.
- c) Biedermann, Friedrich Karl (1812-1901)
- d) **Beschlüsse der Delegiertenkonferenz der Internationalen Arbeiterassoziation, abgehalten zu London vom 17. bis 23. September 1871. In: Der Volksstaat. Leipzig. Nr. 92, 15. November 1871. S. 2, Sp. 1–3^f..**
- e) Der Volksstaat
- f) [Zotero Link für: Beschlüsse der Delegiertenkonferenz der Internationalen Arbeiterassoziation, abgehalten zu London vom 17. bis 23. September 1871. In: Der Volksstaat. Leipzig. Nr. 92, 15. November 1871. S. 2, Sp. 1–3](#)
- g) Liebknecht, Alice (1857-1933)
- h) Jenny und Eleanor Marx besuchten Laura Lafargue in Frankreich und hielten sich von Mai bis Juli 1871 zunächst in Bordeaux, dann im Pyrenäenbad Bagnères-de-Luchon auf. Anfang August musste Paul Lafargue, der die Pariser Kommune unterstützte, nach Spanien fliehen, um der Verhaftung durch die Versailler Regierung zu entgehen. Jenny und Eleanor Marx wurden kurzzeitig in Luchon verhaftet und mussten dann Frankreich verlassen. Siehe J. Marx (Tochter) an Marx, 11.8.1871.
- i) Marx (Tochter), Jenny (1844-1883)
- j) Kératry, Emile de (1832-1904)
- k) Delpech, (-)
- l) Lafargue, Laura (1845-1911)
- m) Lafargue, Charles Étienne (31.12.1868-1872)
- n) Lafargue, Paul (1842-1911)
- o) Im Ms. „Gendarmes“.
- p) Thiers, Adolphe (1797-1877)
- q) Lafargue, Marc-Laurent (1871-1871)
- r) Marx, Karl (1818-1883)
- s) Liebknecht, Alice (1857-1933)

Kritischer Apparat