

ASINELLI E GARISENDA

HÔTEL BRUN

GRAND HÔTEL BRUN
BOLOGNA
(SUCCURSALE BUFFET DE LA GARE)
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PRODUCTEUR ET EXPORTEUR DE VINS

LIFT - HYDRAULISCHER AUFZUG - ASCENSEUR
LUMIÈRE ÉLECTRIQUE - CHAUFFAGE CENTRAL À VAPEUR

SAN LUCA

LIT. SAUER E. BARIGAZZI BOLOGNA

*Hotel Mayer
Desenzano
Lake Benacus
May 18th 1905*

My dearest Brother
 I have had a most
 delightful day - & I have seen
 the Countess & have had a most
 interesting talk with her. I cannot
 remember if I told you that I
 wrote to the Countess Martinego-
 besaresco, who wrote that interesting

book "The Liberation of Italy", & also
"Lombard Studies" &c. I wrote to
ask her kindly to tell me the best
sources of information for the history
of the Risorgimento time in con-
-nection with Bologna. She ^{responded}
most kindly, & in her last letter
she kindly invited me to go to
see her house, even though she
thought she would hardly be
at home by the date I mentioned
as probable for my arrival on
L. Garda.

^{19th 5.45 P.M.}
(It came to be after midnight for
the correspondence I found on my
return at 8 P.M. last night necessitated 3 extra letters,
so I thought I had better get into bed & wake early to find
this letter & my packing, & get a look round Decaux's before
starting up the lake at 10.20 A.M.) (Sunrise on the lake
has been lovely.)

I had said about the 12th, & I am a little
later than that, you see. I wrote to the
secretary to say I was coming, as the
Countess had asked me to send in my
name, the house not being shown
without express instructions from them.
I thought it best to make sure that

some one able to admit me would
be in. I thought there was just the
chance that the Countess might
have returned; but they could not
tell me here. I arrived here in
rain, & there had been continuous
rain here for days. But yesterday
morning the grey clouds gradually
lifted & by 10. A.M. when I started, it
was perfectly lovely, & the voyage
by Sirmione & then up the lake
crosswise was delightful. I landed
at Sals at 11.30. A.M. & enquiring
for the Palazzo Martinengo-Besaresco
was informed that it was a "lucca
strada" & that I had better take a
carriage. I yielded to advice & made
a bargain for 16. 50.c. It was a longish
way, & the sun was hot. I rang the
bell at the great gate, & as I was
passed into the house I was glad
to hear that the "Contessa" had returned

She soon came to me & was most kind & friendly. The Count soon joined us. He is a most kindly old gentleman. After we had talked some time the two escorted me over the house & gardens, showing me interesting antiquities, portraits of ancestors, & the lemon grove & roses. It is a fine old Palazzo, but was much damaged by the French in 1797. When we got in from the garden I proposed to go away, but my kind hostess pressed me to come & sit down again in the pleasant room, & we had another interesting talk, & by the time I finally departed I found I had been an hour & a half in the house. The Countess was very kind in saying that she was glad to have been at home to see me & she said it as if she meant it. I was very fortunate in finding her, for they had only returned the previous

2.

day & they are off again today. They have been on the Riviera, at Athens for the Archaeological Conference there, & at Tunis for the Oriental Congress, going on into the desert. The Countess mentioned that she had told Mr. Hodgkin (author of the great work "Italy & her Invaders") that I was at work on Bologna, & that he was pleased to hear it. It is amusing not to say alarming to be getting famous "on trust."

After lunch I had time to look about Salo & see the five Duomos. Then I crossed back to Sirinione & had a very pleasant 2½ hours there. I have taken a series of photographs of the ruins of the Palace of Catullus for you & hope they will come out well. I wrote the card sitting on the top of some of the ruins at the farthest point of the promontory, with lake nearly all round me. It was

a glorious view in the beautiful soft
light of approaching sunset. There
is a nice clean hotel at Sirmione.
We will take Mary & the children
there & have nice rooms with balconies
to enjoy the view. There is a garden
down to the edge of the lake, where
the children could play under the
shade of vines & roses trained over
it in a beautiful canopy. We
can boat on the lake, & go steamer
trips, & transfer ourselves to any
other lovely points that may at-
tract us. A nice pension near to the
Palazzo Martinengo-Besaresco, ~~must~~
be one. And from there we could have
a day in Brescia & see the original
of your Boethius.

With much best love to all

Your loving sister

From
Grotto of Catullus
Sirmione

Edith E. C. James

I go up the lake to Riva today, & on to Inns-
bruck tomorrow. I hope to be home on Wednes-
-day 24th, travelling through from Innsbruck.