

**Jonathan Keith Esser Collection, 1899-1920**  
**(Correspondence Series)**  
**J. Keith Esser Letter, 12 February 1911**

**Transcription**

[Transcription of a letter Jonathan Keith Esser (1893-1963) wrote to his mother, Isabelle Simpson Esser, while he was a Biltmore Forest School student on a class field trip to Europe in 1911. The original spelling and formatting of the letter has been maintained in the transcription without any editorial correction. Digital scans (150 dpi; maximum pixel limitation of 600 pixels) of each page of the letter are included at the end of this document. The letter is part of the [Jonathan Keith Esser Collection](#) held by the Library and Archives of the Forest History Society in Durham, North Carolina.]

Sunday Feb. 12, 1911

Dear Mother    Rec'd your letters from Atlantic City of Jan. 29 & 31<sup>st</sup>.

Am awfully sorry to hear of your impending operation and am endeavoring not to think of it seriously. Judging from your own optimism and hope ere this reaches you, the thing will be over with and successful and feeling fine when I reach home about 26 or 27<sup>th</sup> of March.

Already the time is flying and with ~~the~~ our work mapped out & several Sunday excursions planned it will go only too fast for me.

We get a day off around the 28<sup>th</sup> this month so two other students & myself are going to take our trip to Switzerland missing a Sat morning & Monday from school. It will be worth while.

Am sending by mail another phaesant feather. I do hope Millard came around in good shape from his cold.

Read your letters with much interest of Atlantic at this time & your surroundings.

Speaking of hobble skirts – "it is to laugh" to see the homely, clumsy fat German ladies endeavor to accommodate themselves to the style. They have about as much style as Mrs. Schlegel.

I've seen all I want of the German people – they're the most smug self complacent narrow minded of all the Continentals.

I note what you say regarding a trunk.

Have fixed up money account all right.

Will endeavor to get to Wiesbaden Sat Feb 17<sup>th</sup> where I can get some good photos taken.

Glad to hear Millard likes his cap.

Suppose you all felt much benefitted by your Atlantic City trip.

Attended the opera this evening – one of Wagner's.

Lots of love to all  
Keith

## Digital Scans

  
Hotel-Restaurant  
„Darmstädter Hof“  
Rudolf Doll  
Friedrichstr. No. 222.

Darmstadt, Sunday, Feb 12, 1911  
Sinfenstrasse 22.

Dear Mother, Rec'd your letter from Atlantic City of Jan 29 & 31st.  
Am awfully sorry to hear of your impending operation and am endeavoring not to think of it seriously. Judging from your own optimism and hope ere this reaches you, the thing will be over with and successful and fairly fine when I reach home about 26 or 27<sup>th</sup> of March.  
Already the time is flying and wish the our work mapped out & done Sunday, in current planned it will go only too fast for me.  
Went a day off from the 20<sup>th</sup> this month. So too other students & myself are going to take our trip to Switzerland missing a Sat morning & Monday, from school. It will be worth while.  
Am sending by mail another pheasant feather.  
I do hope Mellard came around in good shape from his cold.  
Read your letter with much interest of Atlantic at this time & your surroundings.  
Speaking of Kettle skirts - it is to laugh to see the homely, clumsy fat German ladies succeed to accommodate

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Have fixed up money account all right.  
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Glad to hear Mellard likes his cap.  
Suppose you all felt much benefited by your Atlantic City trip.  
Attended the opera <sup>the</sup> last evening One of Wagner's  
Lots of love to all  
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