

ANNO 1894

GUNDEL

December 14, 1992

Dr. Otto von Habsburg
Hindenburgstrasse 15
D-8134 Pöcking
Germany

My dear Otto von Habsburg!

I have great difficulty choosing the right way to address you because you seem to have the best qualities of a king as well as a brilliant intellectual.

I was very pleased that by a wonderful coincidence my Cuisine of Hungary was published in Hungarian the very same day that your daughter Walburga's wedding took place in the Queen Elizabeth Ballroom of our beloved Gundel restaurant and I was able to show you that I did not forget your kindness of the late 60s when you gave me valuable information in connection with the cuisine and gastronomy of the Austro-Hungarian empire.

Under separate cover I am sending you a book which I hope you will enjoy (the German edition is coming out in a couple of months).

I hope you will come to New York soon where our Café des Artistes is the kind of venerable restaurant (celebrating its 75th anniversary this year) which you certainly would enjoy.

When my partner and friend Ronald Lauder and I purchased Gundel just last year one of the English newspapers asked me why I would purchase a restaurant for so much money when I could do the same in any Western European city as well. My answer was that I am hoping to have either a coronation luncheon or a Habsburg wedding — as a kind of a symbol of Hungary's complete rebirth and resurrection. Well, one of them fortunately happened last week and I am grateful to the good Lord for it.

Again, I would like to offer you my very best wishes and I hope I will see you soon in New York or Budapest.

With warm regards,



George Lang

GL/em

5 January 1992

My dear Mr. Lang,

Warmest thanks for your letter of December 14th. I can only assure you that Gundel's was sensational and that everybody enjoyed themselves very much, indeed.

I was duly impressed by your prophecy even a year ago. Who knows what will happen next?

Unfortunately, I shall not be in the United States in the foreseeable future, because there is too much to be done here in Europe. But maybe we shall meet in Budapest.

Wishing you everything best in the year 1993, with warmest regards,

Yours very sincerely

OTTO VON HABSBURG