

**U DX166**

**Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")**

**1945-1946**

**Accession number:** 1983/14

**Biographical Background:** Victor Weisz was born in Berlin, Germany in 1913 of Hungarian Jewish parents and studied at the Berlin School of Art.

At the age of fifteen he was producing caricatures and his work began to appear in German newspapers. Weisz adopted a strong anti-Nazi position and for this reason came to Britain in 1935, becoming a British citizen in 1947.

He worked on a number of newspapers and built a reputation as an incisive commentator on political events. He became a cartoonist at the News Chronicle in 1941 and subsequently at the Daily Mirror, Evening Standard and New Statesman. By the 1940s he adopted the pseudonym "Vicky" and became the chief political cartoonist at the Daily Mirror in 1954. He famously portrayed Harold Macmillan as "Supermac"; although intended as a slur it actually helped Macmillan increase his majority in the 1959 general election.

Weisz was married four times and had no children. Lucielle Gray was his second wife; they were married in Marylebone, London, in 1947 and divorced several years later. He suffered from depression and insomnia and died by suicide in February 1966.

**Custodial history:** Donated by Mme Lucie Mondange, formerly Lucielle Gray, Salernes, France, 18 October 1984.

**Description:** The collection contains over 150 handwritten letters, many containing illustrations, from Victor Weisz to his girlfriend at the time (later his second wife), Lucielle Gray, an actress who was on an ENSA tour of Germany. The letters are generally personal in nature and contain notes on Weisz's visits to and news about family and friends, his excursions to the theatre and other leisure activities, his health, some discussion of his work at the News Chronicle and questions about her tour. The illustrations are mainly cartoons of himself. The "Pem" frequently referred to in the letters may be Paul Markus, the German journalist who became a British citizen.

The last 105 letters are numbered. Numbers 5, 72, 99 and 101-105 are missing. There are two numbered 19; three numbered 46, 46A and 46B; and two numbered 62 and 62A. 173 pages are illustrated.

**Extent:** 152 items

**Related material:** Other papers are at U DX165 and U DP172

**Access conditions:** Access will be granted to any accredited reader

**Copyright:** Copyright holder unknown

**Language:** English

- U DX166/1 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor offers his sympathies for Lucielle's journey and then mentions that he is working on a cartoon for the News Chronicle. He then asks if she received his other letter accompanied by books and newspapers. He refers to the long postage times and states his relief upon receiving her previous letter. Victor has drawn a small illustration of Lucielle marching in a green military uniform with bright red hair and lipstick.  
1 item
- U DX166/2 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor describes his various visits to Mac, Mama and Oscar and how he left feeling depressed. He states he is sending her the Sunday newspapers and highlights an article in the Observer about the sculptor Jacob Epstein. He describes Epstein's Lucifer sculpture and critiques the work as a "new and fascinating conception of the Fallen Angel". Victor then continues to inform Lucielle of the details in a letter from Lizzy regarding work and mutual friend. He then reflects on his own life, stating "nothing happens to me" and how he "somehow can't bear to be with people". He updates Lucielle that he has signed a contract for the book Aftermath, however expresses his disappointment that Gollancz will not be writing the foreword. On the fourth page, Victor has drawn a small colour illustration of himself with a large stomach labelled "All your fudge and biscuits and tarts and cakes. All your fault".  
1 item
- U DX166/3 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor begins by complaining about the slow postal service. He then describes his thoughts about Lucielle whilst listening to BBC radio shows, mentioning the Michael Howard Show and the Brains Trust. He mentions other names, such as Robby and Pem, the actor Albert Bassermann, the journalist and writer Axel Eggebrecht and Sybille Schmitz. Victor recalls a situation told by Nicolas about a fan and their artistic interpretation of Vicky's studio. He then continues to describe his pastime activities, such as listening to Albert Sandler and the Palm Court Orchestra. He informs Lucielle of the Home Secretary's announcement that naturalisations will now be sentenced. At the bottom of page three, Victor refers to Shakespeare's Hamlet in a coloured

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

illustration of himself imitating the "Alas, poor Yorick!" scene.

1 item

- U DX166/4 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor updates Lucielle on his feelings of loneliness in London, and that he attended a bachelor's dinner with Robby. He mentions it is a busy time at the News Chronicle but that people are being considerate of him. He informs Lucielle of the items he has posted to her. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a coloured illustration of himself lying alone in a large double bed.  
1 item
- U DX166/5 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor describes his visit to see the Cicely Courtneidge Show and updates Lucielle on his latest drawing of Sonia Dresdel in Somerset Maugham's "The Sacred Flame". He continues to describe his weekend plans, the Dynamo Football match and his Friday afternoon at the News Chronicle. On page two Victor has drawn himself wearing a suit and scratching the top of his head as though in thought.  
1 item
- U DX166/6 Letter to Lucielle Gray [1945]  
Victor informs Lucielle that he is awaiting the Editor to approve his latest cartoons. He expresses his anger at not knowing that the Film Society now happens on Mondays and says that he will now try to become a member of the [Freud] Club. Victor mentions that he is about to meet Barry but then, as it is happening, he informs Lucielle that Barry is on his way but has ran out of petrol in his car. He continues his letter by mentioning Dita [Paulo] and how "she's up for trial in France for being a Nazi spy". Victor then brings up the subject that [Denis], one of Lucielle's "guy-friends", called asking for her and comments "And all this behind my back - how lucky you are that I am not a jealous creature". He continues to mention best wishes from her family until writing that "Barry's arrived" so he has to leave his letter. He returns back to writing his letter after his meeting with Barry to say his cartoons have been approved. At the bottom of his letter Victor has drawn himself twice.  
1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

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|------------|--|-------------|
| U DX166/7  | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle saying he has had a Sunday without work and went to the Windmill with Robby. He reflects on his and Lucielle's relationship talking about being apart. Victor then moves on to mention that London is currently in a gas strike with the street lamps being turned off, but he would like to show her London in the future. He then talks about his outings with friends to see "Our Vines gave Tender Grapes" and then for dinner. He says that he is aware that her "birthday is coming" and he wants to send her "something" but the Post Office refused to send a registered item.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 25 Nov 1945 |
| U DX166/8  | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle offering support with her feelings about the success of her work. He talks about the "grumbles" that occurred during his week regarding the gas strike and Labour Government. Victor mentions the current election status and the reaction to his recent Indian cartoon. At the bottom of his letter Victor has drawn an illustration of Lucielle wearing a black suit, top hat and holding a walking cane. Her hair, lips, flower and nail varnish are coloured bright red.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 26 Nov 1945 |
| U DX166/9  | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle to tell her about his visit to the Players and the Embassy First Night. He asks Lucielle about her health and reflects on his own. At the bottom of the last page is a large, colourful illustration showing Victor walking through a Soho street at night time. He walks with his arms in his coat pockets as he walks past a man leaning against a wall, and a blonde woman wrapped in a large pink coat.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 28 Nov 1945 |
| U DX166/10 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle talking about the postal service and how it is her birthday soon. He thanks her for her gift of "suspendors" [sic] and asks her how her performances in Antwerp are going. He mentions politics and a speech by Winston Churchill to a Tory party conference. At the bottom of his letter, Victor has drawn himself in colour with a broad smile wearing his "new glasses", and reveals his bare knee in his "new suspendors".</p>   | 29 Nov 1945 |

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

1 item

- U DX166/11 Letter to Lucielle Gray 30 Nov 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle telling her about a possible performance opportunity with Henry Sherek when she arrives back in London, hoping that their futures will be "profitable". He mentions films, music and critiques the performance of the actress Celia Johnson. Victor reassures Lucielle about her performances and how her audiences only dislike the play, not her acting. He reflects on their long-distance relationship. At the bottom of the last letter Victor has drawn a large colour illustration of himself and Henry Sherek. Sherek has exaggerated facial features and is drawn significantly larger than Vicky as they walk side by side, both wearing black coats. Sherek wears a hat and carries a walking cane underneath his arm.  
1 item
- U DX166/12 Letter to Lucielle Gray 1 Dec 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle telling her about his visit to the Academy where they were showing a Spanish film "Days of Hope". He also comments on the Nuremberg Trials and describes and recommends a book by John Brophy called "The Human Face" referring to its content and illustrations. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a side profile, colour illustration of his face labelling parts such as his "satanic eyes" and "predatory nose" asking "is this a human face?"  
1 item
- U DX166/13 Letter to Lucielle Gray 2 Dec [1946]  
Victor writes to Lucielle complaining about the News Chronicle's letter header design for their Centenary Year. He mentions that Norman Clark is trying to get in touch with her, and talks about Robby. He talks about feeling tired most of the time. At the bottom of the letter, Victor has drawn himself in colour with a long white beard, stood hunched over a walking stick. He wears a black suit and his legs are drawn tall and crooked.  
1 item
- U DX166/14 Letter to Lucielle Gray 3 Dec 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle and begins by teasing her about a "lovely letter with pictures" she sent to Robby, accusing her of "secrets - and all this behind my back". He then changes the topic and talks about how he has a guest ticket for "The

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

"Birth of a Nation" at the Film Society and thanks her for the gifts she posted to him. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn two large illustrations of Lucielle's face, emphasised by her bright red hair and lips. Each drawing features a different facial expression, one captioned "Did you eat today?" and the second captioned "Of course I didn't!"  
1 item

U DX166/15

Letter to Lucielle Gray and cartoon cut out from the News Chronicle

4 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle updating her on his visit to the Film Society to see "Birth of a Nation" directed by D W Griffith. He praises the film for its technical achievements but describes his anger at length about the "violent racial prejudices" within the story. He states to Lucielle that his anger about the film has "not subsided since yesterday". He tells her that he plans to visit the Embassy to see the first night of a new play called "Worm's Eye View". At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a small illustration of himself lying on his back with his eyes closed. Accompanied with his letter, Victor has inserted a cut out of his monochrome cartoon from the News Chronicle dated 4 Dec 1945. In the cartoon Victor is stood outside the "Nuremberg Palace of Justice" holding a board saying "News Chronicle Munich Betrayal". He stands next to a large door looking towards a man preaching from a stall accompanied by books entitled "Why not trust the Tories", "Guilty Men" and "Trial of Mussolini".  
2 items

U DX166/16

Letter to Lucielle Gray

5 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle on a large sheet of paper accompanied by four colour illustrations which run vertically down the left hand side. Each drawing corresponds to the topics in his letter. He writes to "my birthday child" and states how he will celebrate her day by "withdraw[ing] to a quiet corner" to drink. His first illustration depicts himself raising his glass in his left hand, and holding a bottle of wine in his right hand. His eyes, ears and nose are coloured red, along with patches on his jacket. He asks Lucielle if she is going to Germany as a warning has been announced that "British troops should be careful of an attack by Nazis and that service girls will be accompanied by an armed guard". Victor's second illustration depicts Lucielle being accompanied by two armed men, all dressed in military uniform. Lucielle is illustrated

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

with her bright red hair and lips. Victor continues to write about the books he has posted to her and mentions his visits to the Embassy and the Hammersmith.  
1 item

U DX166/17

Letter to Lucielle Gray

6 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle about the "Pre-Christmas" cigarette shortage and discrepancies within the postal services. He mentions that he has bought her a twelve issue subscription for Vogue and how he celebrated her birthday by drinking and dinner with Alec. He also highlights that there is no cartoon again in the papers due to a big debate at the House of Commons. He informs Lucielle that he is going to visit a "real" Picasso and Matisse exhibition at the Modern Art Gallery. Victor has drawn a small illustration of himself stood waiting at the number 53 bus stop with a red nose and large coat.  
1 item

U DX166/18

Letter to Lucielle Gray

8 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle wondering if she is receiving his letters and states that she complains about his lack of questions. He reassures her on their long distance relationship. Victor tells her about his visit to see George Emlyn Williams' play "Spring 1600" and critiques the performances of Andrew Cruikshank and Jessica Spencer. He also suggests plays for Lucielle and talks about the difficulties of finding a hat that fits his head. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a large, comical illustration to represent his hat-size situation. He has drawn his head three times each with a different sized hat and captioned "Not too little... Not too much... But just right!"  
1 item

U DX166/19

Letter to Lucielle Gray

9 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle telling her of the cold winter weather and the difficulties of drawing his latest "out of the ordinary" cartoon. He talks about the Christmas spirit, including the expected tone of his cartoons, gifts and fairs, and also mentions that he saw "that idiot Rudi driving in the most fantastic car". He lists a series of plays which Lucielle could potentially perform to "do something really worth while". Victor continues by reflecting on the "destruction" in France and its people due to the War. At the end of his letter, Victor has drawn a large, colour illustration of himself

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

alluding to William Hogarth's series of paintings "The Rake's Progress". He has drawn himself as a gentlemanly Tom Rakewell-like character dressed in a yellow coat and smoking a long cigarette. Alongside his drawing he has illustrated a side profile of Rudi driving his car. Rudi has bright orange hair and his car is coloured gold.  
1 item

U DX166/20

Letter to Lucielle Gray and an article from the Sunday Times

10 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle complaining about the postal service, however then writes that a new letter has arrived from her and she should "wait, please, while I read it." He asks her about her health, tells her about his visit to the fair at Mayfair and his opinions of his latest painting. Victor has enclosed a cut out of an article from the Sunday Times, No 6400 entitled "Reclame and Recall" by James Agate. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself sat at his desk staring into a blank canvas, captioned "Vicky draws a blank".  
2 items

U DX166/21

Letter to Lucielle Gray

11 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle updating her on his cartoon situation and how he has drawn a piece relating to the latest Caesar and Cleopatra film. He talks about his visit to the Players, referencing a quote about an "ugly duckling". On the third page, Victor has drawn himself as an overweight man dressed in a suit and top hat, sat on top of a money bag labelled "£10000". He has his arms and legs crossed as he smokes a large cigar.  
1 item

U DX166/22

Letter to Lucielle Gray

13 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle saying how he feels sorry for her and her travelling issues. He talks about his new book by Steinbeck and how he is looking forward to the pantomimes. He continues to talk about a conversation with Peter Noble and how Alliance Press have sent him some proofs to look through. Victor has glued a small newspaper cutting of Ian Mackay's column called "My hat!" which is a piece about "my droll friend Vicky". Victor comments "isn't awful?" He mentions that his new coat is ready for collection and has drawn himself with exaggerated, pointed shoulders wearing his blue coat.  
1 item



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

- U DX166/23 Letter to Lucielle Gray 14 Dec 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle revisiting the topic of the film Caesar and Cleopatra and how Dick's "still shouting about full of wrath for 'that film'". He reports some positive feedback from Rodney [Ackland] about one of Lucielle's performances and then describes in depth a "spot of bother" between Barry and Rudi regarding the purchase of a print. He wishes Lucielle a "very merry Christmas although I don't believe in it". At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a large illustration of himself posting a letter to "Lucielle Gray E.N.S.A". He stands on his toes to post his letter in a large red post box, labelled "Post early this Christmas" and captioned by Vicky as "Sno use, anyway..."  
1 item
- U DX166/24 Letter to Lucielle Gray 15 Dec 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle saying he went to see "The Rake's Progress" at the cinema and how "Oscar seems to have found some girl". He asks Lucielle if she is "loving that 'beautiful Peter'?" and changes the subject to the weather and how he has bought whisky for Robby's Christmas party. He talks about the "masses of people" shopping for Christmas. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a colour illustration of himself posed in a drunk-like manner holding a glass and bottle of alcohol.  
1 item
- U DX166/25 Letter to Lucielle Gray 16 Dec 1945  
Victor writes to Lucielle telling her how he is now becoming a "letter writer" but feels inept as all he can report is "idle gossip". He asks her about her "dreadful secret" with Robby but thinks it's best he does not find out. He talks about how she has improved in her performances and how the difficulties will make her a more experienced actress. He claims that the London theatre scene for Christmas "seems dead" apart from the "Old Vic". He explains how his "No-hat drama" has brought him to the point where he needs to "do something drastic" as he has been offered a bowler hat but he is still responding to Ian Mackay's column piece. Victor then explains the recent events at work, his pay and how he needs to go Christmas shopping. On the second page, Victor has drawn a large colour illustration of Lucielle as an overweight woman, captioned "Stop eating now - you've had enough!" On page three,

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Victor has drawn himself parading down a road in front of smiling crowds holding a sign saying "unfair to Vicky, no hat".

1 item

U DX166/26

Letter to Lucielle Gray

17 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle stating that "Fascism... is raising its ugly head again in this country" and he describes a meeting with [Oswald] Mosley that included "Nazi salutes" and how Lenin's bust has been vandalised. He mentions he has now drawn a cartoon on the subject. Victor then describes how he is proof-reading an article and how he is "in quite good company" with "Shaw, Priestley, Epstein... Laurence Olivier". He describes his dinner with Robby who showed him "the 'filthy' postcards you sent him... they're wonderful". He later writes about marriage and their relationship. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself being overlooked by a large green and red snake covered in swastika symbols. Victor's expression is one of fear.

1 item

U DX166/27

Letter to Lucielle Gray

18 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle describing his travelling difficulties during the busy Christmas period. He asks Lucielle about her travels in the "industrial district" and if her performances are going well with the different audiences. He talks about his cartoon quota and how he has "written an article (me!) on art criticism". He mentions that the daughter of William Holman Hunt "one of the Pre-Raphaelites" led an "anti-Picasso demonstration". Victor continues to describe the latest books he is reading and that he is going to view the dress rehearsal of Aladdin. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a colourful tie referencing Ian Mackay's "most fantastic tie I've ever seen". Underneath he has illustrated himself dressed as Santa Claus with the red and white outfit, black boots, white beard and sack, captioned "Do you believe in Santa Claus?"

1 item

U DX166/28

Letter to Lucielle Gray

19 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle talking about the "awful pre-Xmas atmosphere" and how the "controversy about Picasso is really taking on gigantic proportions". He talks about his invitations to Christmas parties, the cards he has received and his Christmas bonus. At the end of the letter Victor

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

has drawn himself sat on a high stool at a bar. As he reaches out to a drink on the counter he is watched by two large, suited men smoking cigars.  
1 item

U DX166/29

Letter to Lucielle Gray

20 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle saying her describing the destruction in Germany gives him a "queer feeling" and he describes his view on the "artificial barriers of nationalism". He talks about Christmas gift giving and how it is "heartbreaking to see people buy the most utter rubbish at absolutely fantastic prices just to buy something". He asks questions about Lucielle's performances and health, then describes his "painful" visit to see the Aladdin pantomime. He mentions that his Picasso article has appeared and how he has received comments. On page three, Victor has drawn himself sitting at a desk writing. The sign on his desk says "Vicky author" and he is overlooked by a red-faced bearded man, watching him write.  
1 item

U DX166/30

Letter to Lucielle Gray

21 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle talking about the "Xmas spirit" and how he "always was a gloomy sort of chap". He describes his visit to the Embassy and other plans, and he agrees with Lucielle regarding the "state of the theatre" not being the fault of the actors. He shows his enthusiasm for a French film based on a ballet school which he has at the studio, describing the feelings the film brings like a "painting by Degas". At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a large colour illustration of himself standing carol singing to Lucielle who leans out of a window wearing a startled facial expression. He stands in the snow underneath a starry night and bare tree. He wears an olive coloured coat and yellow scarf, while Lucielle has her signature red hair and lipstick. The illustration is captioned "I sing of a maiden..."  
1 item

U DX166/31

Letter to Lucielle Gray

22 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle telling her of his visit to see the Russian film "Children of the Soviet Arctic" and he describes the storyline in detail. He continues to talk about the gifts he has received and bought. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a small colour illustration of himself sat on the floor playing ball with Winkie, a small brown dog.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

1 item

U DX166/32

Letter to Lucielle Gray

23 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle telling her of his difficulties producing cartoons. He thanks her for her surprise cake gift and tells her of Robby's issues and the latest book he is reading called "Cannery Row" by John Steinbeck. He informs her that he will be going to see the Cinderella pantomime, mentions the Arts Theatre auditions, and hopes that his letter will be delivered to her "in time for the New Year". He wishes her a happy new year. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself twice, first as an old man struggling to stand with a crutch and holding a sign saying "1945" and secondly as a small, plump and smiling Bacchus-like man holding an empty wine glass. He is partially dressed in a cloth labelled "1946".

1 item

U DX166/33

Letter to Lucielle Gray

23 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle "as a postscript" to his previous letter written on the same day to update her on further events regarding the Arts Theatre auditions. Alec had mentioned that it "is a pity that you're away just when they have these auditions" and that he would like to cast her. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself sat at his desk writing a letter which says "TWO letters in one day".

1 item

U DX166/34

Letter to Lucielle Gray

25 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle describing his Christmas day activities, such as walking the dog Winkie and cooking himself dinner. He mentions he has finished reading "Cannery Row" and describes his forgetfulness when leaving home, "the man is nuts, I tell you!". His mother is appreciative of her cake gift and Christmas card, and he tells her about Oscar's "new girl". He informs Lucielle that he is about to leave to Robby's party and he will send a letter about it tomorrow. On the first page Victor has illustrated himself cooking his "Christmas dinner", a tin of Heinz baked beans in a pan, dressed in a chef's hat and apron. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself with his head bowed and a sad facial expression, stood underneath a branch of mistletoe.

1 item

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

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|------------|---|-------------|
| U DX166/35 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle telling her of how he did not stay very long at Robby's Christmas party as he fell ill. He mentions how he is uncertain about work, "whether they want me or not", and how he is still feeling ill. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself lying alone in his bed facing the ceiling. He lies underneath a green quilt with a thermometer in his mouth.</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 26 Dec 1945 |
| U DX166/36 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle expressing his frustration and upset that some of his letters have not been delivered to her. He mentions that he is feeling slightly better but he is not looking forward to giving his lecture later in the evening. He blames the flu and how he "tried to drown mine last night in whisky". He ends his letter with "I love you so much and I'm very unhappy". At the end of his letter Victor has drawn himself crying. He stands next to a growing puddle of tears.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 27 Dec 1945 |
| U DX166/37 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle to tell her he is still upset by not receiving any letters, however his lecture "went quite well" and he describes how it went. He says he has been invited to Olive and Pete's house however he is not sure whether to attend due to ill health. He then asks Lucielle if the theatre in Dusseldorf is "any better" and hopes she is healthy. He ends his letter by saying E.N.S.A will now be "wound up by the summer of next year" and that he has received a telegram from his sister asking for money. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself in a funerary outfit, smiling above the gravestone of "Here lies E.N.S.A" as he places a note saying "no flowers" on the grave.</p> <p>1 item</p> | 28 Dec 1945 |
| U DX166/38 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle thanking her for the books and tie she sent. He describes in detail his admiration for the quality of the colour reproductions and many of the artist's works, including those by Toulouse-Lautrec. He informs her that he took his mother to see "Wonder Man" and tells her that he decided not to visit Olive and Pete due to feeling "rather ill". He continues to talk about how "we're publishing as a serial" the "last</p>   | 29 Dec 1945 |

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

days of Adolf". He then describes a nightmare. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a large illustration called "Gallup Poll". He has drawn himself twice, one questioning and writing notes and the other being surveyed. Victor captions the illustration "A Gallup Poll survey by Vicky to discover if the public would rather be alive or dead". He lists the results.

1 item

U DX166/39

Letter to Lucielle Gray

30 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle expressing his concerns about the lack of work he is receiving and the postal service. He mentions that Robby suggested they should telephone each other and that it may "be worth enquiring". At the end of the letter Victor has illustrated himself in a blue outfit and hat running with a large sack across his back. The sack is labelled "G.P.O". He captions the image "perhaps I shall have to change my profession?"

1 item

U DX166/40

Letter to Lucielle Gray

31 Dec 1945

Victor writes to Lucielle saying he will "move heaven and earth" because none of his letters are being delivered to her. He mentions that the current letter is being sent via Norman Clark who is acting as a "courier of love" and how he went to see the Welfare Officer at Drury Lane who informed him some letters may be "lost". He says he will be spending New Year's Eve at the Arts who are having a party. He is unsure whether to go due to ill health. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself as a Cupid-like figure with wings, wearing a small cloth and standing with one leg on a plinth. He is about to fire his bow and arrow labelled "By special courier".

1 item

U DX166/41

Letter to Lucielle Gray

1 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle saying how it is "funny but all of the 'parties' I was invited to didn't come off for me". He says he did not go to the New Year party at the Arts due to ill health and went to sleep at 8.30 pm. He feels sorry for Lucielle as he offers sympathies for her party experiences and mentions how he writes to her "instead of drawing cartoons". He talks about the Honours list and how Edith Evans has become a Dame and Benno Moiseiwitsch has been awarded a CBE. Victor expresses his opinion that artists are never honoured for their art alone. At the end of the

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

letter Victor has illustrated himself dressed in the red royal robes and crown, captioned "Not in the Honours list".

1 item

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| U DX166/42 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle complaining about the postal service and also how they are also having issues delivering telegrams. He responds to Lucielle telling him about "that trial" being a "nightmarish experience" then reflects on the wider destruction across Europe. Victor informs her that he visited Dr Nicholls about his flu and back pain, who tells him his back is in a "rheumatic condition". He writes about the death of Eleanor Rathbone and his high opinions of her. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn his face coughing and sneezing, captioned "Cough and sneezes spread diseases".</p> <p>1 item</p> | 3 Jan 1946 |
| U DX166/43 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle saying he did not write to her yesterday as he "landed in bed" from illness but reassures her that it is "nothing serious". He is now using the diary she sent him and complains about the postal service making his letters "horribly out of date". At the end of the letter Victor draws a small illustration of his face captioned "See, I've done it - but not in colours - just pale face" after stating at the beginning of the letter that there will not be a drawing.</p> <p>1 item</p>   | 5 Jan 1946 |
| U DX166/44 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes a brief letter to Lucielle saying that Dr Nicholls "put me on M&amp;B yesterday" [possibly referring to the drug Sulfapyridine], "that's why I did not write to you yesterday". He says that his mother stayed overnight and that the Spotlight envelope was delivered. At the end of the letter Victor draws a small pen illustration of himself peering over a wall captioned "Wot - no drawing".</p> <p>1 item</p>  | 7 Jan 1946 |
| U DX166/45 | <p>Letter to Lucielle Gray</p> <p>Victor writes to Lucielle saying "what a wonderful surprise your phone call was" and how he told Dr Nicholls that his health will improve because of the phone call, not the medication. He reminisces about their visits to Hoylake and Chester, and updates her on Robby's wisdom tooth pains. At</p>  | 8 Jan 1946 |

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself unshaven, standing underneath a sign saying "Reserved for Vicky" and captioned "I haven't shaved for nearly a week".

1 item

U DX166/46

Letter to Lucielle Gray

10 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle updating her about a new book he is reading called "All Trivia" [Logan Pearsall Smith], and also a visit by Mac. He says Lucielle's timetable about his daily routine "was fairly correct", and how he has stopped taking his M&B medication. His doctor "confessed" that Victor had a "slight touch of pneumonia". Victor informs her that there has been a "burglary in Grove Hall Court". At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself sitting up in bed writing a letter. He is unshaven and his hair is bedraggled.

1 item

U DX166/47

Letter to Lucielle Gray

12 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle informing her of his health recovery however he now has toothache and Dr [Engel] is coming to see him. He begins a numbering system for his letters which continues from henceforth. Victor thanks Lucielle for her phone call and mentions how much he has missed from his social life from being ill. He considers going to see Pamela Brown at the Lyric Hammersmith and mentions the gifts he will send Lucielle, such as coffee and Horlicks. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself newly shaven and sat at his desk writing.

1 item

U DX166/48

Letter to Lucielle Gray

14 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle informing her about his health and the weather. He tells her of an upcoming x-ray at Middlesex Hospital and how he will post this letter in the box on the corner of Abbey Road. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn himself "learning to walk again!... gorgeous technicolor". He is illustrated crawling on his hands and knees in a child-like manner, and he wears white underwear.

1 item

U DX166/49

Letter to Lucielle Gray

15 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle telling her of his visit to the News Chronicle and how "Mac told me he had dozens of cartoonists asking for jobs". He also mentions how Norman Clark "our correspondent



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

in Nuremberg" has not been able to contact her. He questions if Lucielle is writing less or if the post is being slow, and mentions that he is going to send her the papers where Sir Walter Layton claims that "things have actually improved... instead of getting worse" in Germany. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself in colour walking down Fleet Street. A man dressed in a brown coat and hat stares in awe at Victor as he walks in full health down the street, captioned "A strange character was seen hanging around in the neighbourhood".

1 item

U DX166/50

Letter to Lucielle Gray

16 Jan 1946

Victor writes to Lucielle to tell her about his "strenuous" day visiting the News Chronicle and Middlesex Hospital for his x-ray. He talks about meeting Sybilla, not having a cigarette for two weeks and how Dr Nicholls has given him Benzindine [sic] tablets, with which "the whole world will look rosy". He missed Pamela Brown's first night at the Lyric Hammersmith and talks about the "Soviet Ballet" book by Iris Morley. At the end of the letter Victor has drawn a sarcastic, colour illustration of "Dr Nicholls looking extremely cheerful". He has drawn Dr Nicholls' head with exaggerated features and a neutral facial expression.

1 item

U DX166/51

Letter to Lucielle Gray

18 Jan [1946]

Victor writes to Lucielle to inform her he has just done his first 'Fantasia' for three weeks, which he took to the News Chronicle. He tells her he is now waiting for the result of his recent x-ray scan at Middlesex Hospital. He speaks of the opening night of 'Players' and says it seems to have been a success. Victor tells Lucielle he will be tuning into a BBC broadcast about the history of the Chronicle from 21 January 1846 as the Daily News "till to-day". He describes the wintry weather and says he longs for summer. Victor mentions Alec is unwell, possibly with bronchitis, and 'Hamlet' has been cancelled for a month. He tells Lucielle that Robby is taking Winky to the vet today but he doesn't know what is wrong with her. Victor signs off by apologising for not writing a "bright letter". At the end of the letter, Victor draws two versions of himself, one green-faced and unwell. The healthy Victor is telling the unwell Victor "Come on, old boy, be funny! Ha, ha."

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

1 item

U DX166/52

Letter to Lucielle Gray

19 Jan [1946]

Victor writes to Lucielle with good news about the result of his x-ray. Nicholls has told him his chest has completely cleared with "nothing left behind". Victor says he still needs to recover from weakness after being unwell and that he is considering treatment for the muscular rheumatism in his back and chest. He says he thinks he would have been in bed for weeks if not for the M&B, which he calls a miracle.

Victor assures Lucielle that he wants to hear about the "silly things" going on in her life and says he will soon send her some Horlicks and some coffee. Victor mentions he is numbering his letters now that he knows Lucielle did not receive some of them.

He has seen his illustrations in the News Chronicle again and feels he has flattered Pamela Brown. Victor mentions he is going out to the cinema in the evening with Mama.

At the end of the letter, he draws himself sitting in an armchair using brown ink, and uses the pun "still browned off" because he has no black ink to write with.

1 item

U DX166/53

Letter to Lucielle Gray

21 Jan [1946]

Victor writes to Lucielle telling her he is back at the News Chronicle and is feeling like a lost sheep. He expresses anger on hearing that her play has been withdrawn and replaced with another "infinitely worse". Victor advises Lucielle on what she should do and expresses concern about the strain she must be under.

Victor tells her about the News Chronicle's centenary birthday dinner at the Dorchester that night and says there will be many famous guests, including Representatives of the Government.

Victor mentions the resignation of De Gaulle and says he has lost one of his favourite subjects.

Drawn alongside is a caricature of De Gaulle with a very long neck. He informs Lucielle that Eleanor Rathbone MP has died and that Violet Bonham Carter will speak at the News Chronicle dinner.

Victor tells Lucielle he is missing her and ends the letter with a drawing of himself walking through dark smog, which he has captioned "What you need is fresh air." - Dr Nicholls to Vicky".

1 item

U DX166/54

Letter to Lucielle Gray

22 Jan [1946]

Victor tells Lucielle he has finally done his first cartoon in over a month. He has thought over Lucielle's situation, and he thinks she would be better off resigning from the play than playing a maid and coming home to London. He is worrying about her while she is in Flensburg where Doenitz set up his government following Hitler's suicide, saying it must "feel queer" to be in the place where "all sorts of Nazi officials fled". Victor speaks of the News Chronicle birthday dinner and how only "EVERYBODY who's anything" and the "big shots" from the newspaper attended. He says he has had a terrific breakfast of fried eggs and bacon, and that he nearly used all his butter ration for the week. At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself observing Winston Churchill, who is painting at an easel, with the caption "Perhaps he'll give me some lessons".

1 item

U DX166/55

Letter to Lucielle Gray

23 Jan [1946]

Victor writes to Lucielle saying he has not received a letter from her today. He has sent her a parcel containing the Horlicks and coffee he bought for her, and has tried his best to wrap it well but is worried about the condition it will arrive in.

He mentions Mama is unwell and Dr Nicholls is treating her now. Victor is taking Sybilla to Westminster Theatre next Tuesday to see Clifford Bax's 'Golden Eagle', starring his "girlfriend" Claire Luce, who he looks forward to drawing for the News Chronicle.

Victor is worrying about Lucielle because he has not heard from her since the news about her play but he stands by the advice he gave her. He says he is still feeling weak after his illness but is slowly getting back to normal.

At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself holding a sign that reads "Basil Dean unfair to Vicky".

1 item

U DX166/56

Letter to Lucielle Gray

24 Jan [1946]

Victor has finally received letters from Lucielle but describes the post as "funny" because he received one in the morning and two more in the afternoon. He comments on how she is also numbering her letters to him. Lucielle is rehearsing for the new play but Victor asks her not to forget his suggestion of resigning. He worries

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

that the people in Flensburg are "still arrogant and full of Nazi ideas" because they have not experienced bombing or invasion during the war. Victor tells Lucielle he hasn't seen a play or a film for 4 weeks and has been in bed every day by 8 o'clock. He describes his routine and says he is getting stronger but it makes for boring letters. At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself consulting a map of Flensburg and Hamburg, with the caption "Of course, darling, I'm watching every step of you, always".

1 item

U DX166/57

Letter to Lucielle Gray

25 Jan [1946]

Victor tells Lucielle about some upcoming films, including the Swiss film 'The Last Chance'. He has sent Lucielle a book titled 'All Trivia' and has bought himself a copy of 'The Selected Letters of Rainer Maria Rilke', which he looks forward to reading.

Victor mentions the flu is going around at the News Chronicle and the people who work there are "going down one by one". He tells Lucielle he is going to Simpson's on Saturday to have his hair cut as he has been wearing it in a bun lately. He plans to go to the cinema afterwards, then to visit Mama and to Victoria's party if he feels like it.

Victor has enclosed a photo print of his Ralph Richardson caricature, which he has had made because many readers asked for it.

At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself with a large bun at the back of his head. It is captioned "Self portrait after not having been to Simpson's for 6 weeks".

1 item

U DX166/58

Letter to Lucielle Gray

27 Jan [1946]

Victor is still worrying about Lucielle because he can feel she is sad and depressed about her play. He still hopes she might resign and come home from Germany.

Victor went to Victoria's party, which he says she arranged beautifully, and met a young woman also named Lucie. A woman drove Victor home from the party at 10 o'clock and in the morning he saw a Sinatra film at the Ritz, which he did not enjoy.

He tells Lucielle he has been reading his Rilke book and is enjoying it. He compliments Rilke, calling him "a poet in the true sense of the word, sensitive and somehow not of this world".

Victor has been to the Foreign Office to enquire

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

about his sister coming to England and feels he has made some progress. He has drawn Pamela Brown in an article for Alan Dent at his personal request. Victor says it "seems ages" since he has seen Lucielle's face but he has no trouble imagining her in his head.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn a portrait of Lucielle with wild, curly red hair and red lipstick.

1 item

U DX166/59

Letter to Lucielle Gray

28 Jan [1946]

Lucielle has been worrying about Victor's health. He assures her he is much better and that he only seems unwell because of the time lag between his sending his letters and her receiving them.

Victor says Robby rang Drury Lane to try and get an official statement about why Lucielle's play was cancelled but was unable to get one after being directed to different departments, all of whom claimed they couldn't give a statement. Victor thinks Drury Lane is now worried Robby will write a story without waiting for a statement from them and tells Lucielle he will inform her of how this situation develops. He says she must have hiccups all the time because he is thinking about her so much ("a Continental notion that if you have hiccups somebody dear is thinking of you"). Victor ends the letter saying he needs to send a cartoon and jokes that he will not give Pem a kiss from Lucielle as he is jealous. At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself as a tortoise with the caption "Vicky's progress is satisfactory - Official", alluding to his slow but steady return to health.

1 item

U DX166/60

Letter to Lucielle Gray

29 Jan [1946]

Victor has been to the Players but only stayed for one interval, due to being disappointed in the place itself. He tells Lucielle the atmosphere is cold and it has lost all its intimacy, and that he doesn't think he will go there often.

Lucielle has written to Leonard Sachs to ask that he refrains from being cruel to Victor, which Victor's thinks is sweet and protective of her. He mentions the News Chronicle's editor "roared with laughter" about his new cartoon and is flattered because "usually he hates my stuff when he's away". Victor is so pleased he has enclosed the cartoon for Lucielle to see.

Victor mentions he is going to see 'Claire Luce' with Sybilla tonight at Westminster and she has "promised that she'll look glamorous", so he will

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

wear his coat with tails and a top hat. He has no news about Robby and mentions Dr Nicholls is now ill. He speaks of the National Theatre Committee and the Old Vic uniting, a step towards "a real National Theatre".

Victor then shares the news that he has been elected today as the representative of the Federated House Chapel, which makes him a Trade Union Official. He says it is awful he will have to attend meetings on Sundays because of it.

At the end of his letter, he draws himself in a tailed coat and top hat, with the caption "The Trade Union Boss".

1 item

U DX166/61

Letter to Lucielle Gray

31 Jan [1946]

Victor has stuck a newspaper clipping to the first page of his letter, an article titled "Capt. Jones attacks News Chronicle" in which Capt. Aubrey Jones, a Conservative candidate in Heywood and Radcliffe, says he considers there is "no more scurrilous or baser newspaper in the whole country than the News Chronicle". Victor begins his letter by sarcastically saying he has just recovered from this "violent attack". He jokingly calls himself a "vicious chap" and says he doesn't know why he is working for the Tories, who are "such nice people really".

Victor changes the subject, saying he did not enjoy the 'Claire Luce'. Robby has written his article and has had a statement from E.N.S.A about the play. Victor thinks it will be published in next week's Leader.

He has been to the dentist and has to have two wisdom teeth removed, but he needs to gain some more strength before the procedure. He asks Lucielle how her rehearsals are going and tells her he is still sticking to the same routine. The Evening Review has published an "awful review" of Rilke's book, but Victor is still enjoying it.

At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself as a strongman with the caption "Vicky getting strong again - or quite mad?". He has also enclosed a newspaper cutting, dated 29 January 1946, of his cartoon from the News Chronicle.

1 item

U DX166/62

Letter to Lucielle Gray

1 Feb [1946]

Victor hasn't been receiving Lucielle's letters daily and worries that she is still feeling unwell. He asks her to please look after herself. He tells her he has

been going to the Quality Inn where "good old Winnie is stuffing me with food". He says she makes him food without asking if he wants it and he has to eat it without arguing. He jokes that this is awful treatment.

Victor apologises for not sending coffee "and things" to Lucielle more often, and says he will try to do better. He is taking Mama to see 'The Last Chance' at the Empire tomorrow and hopes she will like it. He talks about the weather, which continues to be windy, rainy and cold. He jokes this is why Britain founded the Empire - if Britain had nicer weather, "nobody would have bothered or felt compelled to go out into the world to 'collect' new lands either in sunny Africa or in far away India etc." He claims this theory is right as it began to hailstone as he was writing it.

He says he has finished his "frightfully funny" Fantasia and he is now being vicious to Claire Luce. At the end of his letter, Victor draws himself reading a newspaper with a worried expression. The article he is reading is titled 'Thousands of doctors released from forces', and the drawing is captioned "It'll be nice to be ill again".

1 item

U DX166/63

Letter to Lucielle Gray

3 Feb [1946]

Victor is enjoying Lucielle's long letters, although they are still arriving delayed and out of order. He frets that she might be getting ill because she still isn't feeling well. He has sent her a parcel containing coffee and an issue of Vogue magazine.

Victor enjoyed the film 'The Last Chance'. He ate dinner at Mama's afterwards and Oscar's girlfriend was there. Alongside this, Victor draws a portrait of Oscar looking melancholy and describes him as "frightfully nervous and so utterly sad". Victor tells Lucielle he still hasn't seen her play. He still disagrees with her having to play a maid, but assures her that she must do as she feels in regards to resigning. He discusses the actress Sarah Leander, whom Lucielle seems to like, and says she apparently "turned violently Nazi" and turned down several offers to be in Hollywood films.

Victor mentions Blackie has gotten married to "an awful young man" named John Stone and it was Beecher who gave her away. Victor is still reading reviews of Rilke, who has been described by the Observer as a "great poet". At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself with his back to the

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

viewer, wearing a blue raincoat and hat while rain pours down on him. It is captioned "Vicky to-day" in reference to the pouring rain.

1 item

U DX166/64

Letter to Lucielle Gray

4 Feb [1946]

Victor has received two letters in a day from Lucielle, and he reasons that the post from Flensburg is quicker. His parcel seems to have reached Lucielle in poor condition, as he says he will wrap them up more carefully from now on. He has sent her some more cigarettes and her lighter, which he had meant to send to her sooner.

Victor has been to check Lucielle's bank account and says he thinks the £20 in there is correct after paying her tailor, Spotlight and £10 to "Vicky - your bad girl". He is writing his letter in a hurry; he has a lot to tell Lucielle but not enough time to do it. He is behind time with his latest cartoon and he is going to a Gala performance at the Windmill with Robby for its 14th anniversary. Victor has news from Robby, who says E.N.S.A didn't tell him Lucielle's play, 'Strange Orchestra' would only run for 10 weeks and Rodney didn't know anything about it either. Victor says Robby thinks Lucielle ought to have come home instead of starring in the other play.

At the end of his letter, Victor draws himself wide-eyed and watching a stage from the front row while a topless woman performs.

1 item

U DX166/65

Letter to Lucielle Gray

5 Feb [1946]

Victor is disappointed because he has received no post today so there is no letter from Lucielle. He did not enjoy his evening at the Windmill, describing it as crowded and "even duller than usual". He is taking Sybilla to the Embassy tonight to see Anthony Hawtley and Jean Forbes-Robertson in a thriller. Victor wonders if Lucielle has received his parcel yet and worries it will be torn and all the things will have fallen out, even though he wrapped it "with care and all my heart". Lucielle is now in Lübeck and Victor hopes she will like it better there than Flensburg. He recommends the Marienkirche, a Gothic church, and the Lübeck cathedral which has some beautiful old paintings. He says he has never been there but has seen pictures.

Victor talks about the "dried Egg business" involving Lord Woolton, the Minister for Food during the Second World War. Victor tells Lucielle



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

the News Chronicle is receiving many letters from "angry housewives [sic]". He says the Dollar Shortage and the World Food Shortage seems to be becoming serious. Ben Smith announced "No more dried Eggs", which has led to the many egg references.

At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself as an egg and it is captioned "His Eggcellenty (the worst pun of the year!)".

1 item

U DX166/66

Letter to Lucielle Gray

6 Feb [1946]

Victor has been to the Quality Inn where he found Oscar waiting for him. His wife Hedi has asked for a divorce and Victor feels this is the best for him, but tells Lucielle Oscar was so sad he "looked like a St. Bernards dog". He has sent Lucielle some paper just in case she doesn't have any to write letters on, as he hasn't received one from her today.

Victor didn't enjoy the thriller he went to see with Sybilla but had dinner at her flat afterwards, which he did enjoy. He informs Lucielle that Julius Gellner is starting his own theatre with Bernard Miles called 'Theatre 1946' and it is opening in March with three new plays, one of which will be at the Scala. Victor dislikes Gellner "very much" and is not looking forward to this new venture. Victor tells Lucielle that Timothy Shy is "really dangerously ill" after an attack of relapsed bronchitis and that the doctors have given up hope of his recovery. Victor says it will be a sad loss as he is a "charming and brilliant man". Ian Mackay is still away from News Chronicle due to illness and Victor is missing him and his column. Ben Smith has made a speech about the World Food Shortage and Victor says the people are blaming the Labour Government. He tells Lucielle he has been trying to "do some more serious stuff" for the News Chronicle. but it isn't working out because he seems to play the part of a court jester. Victor ends the letter by telling Lucielle the thought of her working and building her career makes him very happy, even though she is so far away from him.

At the end of the letter, he draws himself dressed as a court jester in reference to his role at the News Chronicle.

1 item

U DX166/67

Letter to Lucielle Gray

7 Feb [1946]

Victor has received two letters from Lucielle and is

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

glad his parcel got to her safely. He has enclosed Robby's piece and addresses the fact her photograph is not included, explaining that they weren't able to get one of her quick enough. Victor has drawn a cartoon about 'Films or Food' and has invented the slogan 'Hams or Eggs' in reference to ham actors. He tells Lucielle he thinks it was a really good cartoon but the assistant editor did not find it funny.

He mentions he has been invited to a cocktail party at the Savoy on Monday to inaugurate the 'Theatre 1946' venture and that Mama is ill. Lucielle's stomach is better but Victor is still worried.

At the end of the letter, he asks Lucielle how long she will be in Hamburg and says Tasi thinks she is in Hamborn. He has drawn a cartoon of Tasi wearing a suit with the caption "Is this a ham or Laughton".

1 item

U DX166/68

Letter to Lucielle Gray

8 Feb [1946]

Victor has finished Fantasia and his theatre drawing. He chose not to draw Anthony Hawfrey because he thinks he is a bad actor, so he has drawn Jean Forbes-Robertson and Irene Handel instead. He has enclosed a prospectus for Theatre 1946 in his letter and asks Lucielle if she will write to Gellner so that he might think of her for future plays and give her the chance to act in London again. Victor tells Lucielle about the actors she could work with there and says he has a feeling this is the ideal company for her. He goes on to ask about her stomach and how her rehearsals are going.

Victor has managed to get some medicine for his sister. He has almost finished reading Rilke and will send it to Lucielle when he has finished. He suggests she sends him the books she has finished so that she doesn't have to carry them with her. Victor tells Lucielle he has been invited to a "servant's ball" on the 23rd, which is a dinner dance for the staff of the News Chronicle.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself approaching a door with a sign that reads "Servants Entrance". He is dressed in a colourful suit and the caption reads "Dress optional".

1 item

U DX166/69

Letter to Lucielle Gray

9 Feb [1946]

Victor hardly slept last night because of "terrific storms or rather gales" and says it is still very

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

windy as he's writing the letter. He went to see the film 'Two Years before the Mast' with Robby in the evening and did not enjoy it. He says Hollywood films are getting worse and worse. Robby has a new girlfriend called Frances Finlay, who is a singer. Victor tells Lucielle he asked if he could hear wedding bells and Robby only blushed. Lucielle is still in Hamburg and Victor calls it a wonderful place, saying it is the only city in Germany the Nazi's could never "capture". He mentions Sybille [Schmitz] is touring Western Germany with a cabaret show. He ends the letter because he is going out with Dick to the Vega. He tells Lucielle that London looks different [since she left] and there are "hardly any Yanks". At the end of the letter, he has drawn the top of his head, nose and eyes, and is wearing large glasses. The caption reads "I got me new glasses - looking like an intellectual".

1 item

U DX166/70

Letter to Lucielle Gray

10 Feb [1946]

It is a grey and wet Sunday and Victor has received Lucielle's letter written on Tuesday. He tells her he went to the cinema the previous evening to see the Françoise Rosay film 'A Woman Disappeared' and found it slow and dull with a "stupid story". He talks about the opening night of 'The Time of Your Life' which will show at the Lyric Hammersmith. Victor says the London Theatre finally seems to be coming to life. He talks about Saturday afternoons spent with his family and how they depress him more and more because everyone seems to be sad, which makes the atmosphere "stifling". Oscar seems to have lost interest in everything and Victor feels sorry for him. He asks Lucielle how her clothes are now that Mama can't alter them for her, and mentions that the servicemen now have to pay for their E.N.S.A "entertainment", which he says must be a punishment for winning the war. He mentions the world food shortage and says the Tories are "making political capital out of it". Victor thinks Ben Smith has handled it badly and suspects he is on his way out of parliament. He talks about the famine in India and how people in England are getting "quite hysterical" about it. He thinks they expected there would be plenty of food once the war was over, but the reality is much different with Europe's food production "down to more than half of its pre-war output". He apologises to Lucielle for being so political in his

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

letter but writing to her is one of the only things that makes him happy now, so he asks her to bear with him.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in the nude, sitting under a palm tree on a small island surrounded by the sea while the sun shines on him brightly.

1 item

U DX166/71

Letter to Lucielle Gray

11 Feb [1946]

Today is Lucielle's first night performing her play after the rehearsals and Victor is thinking of her. He wanted to send her a telegram but didn't think it would reach her on time. He went to bed early the previous evening and read some more Rilke. He is going to the cocktail party at the Savoy in the evening but says he doesn't think he'll go to the Players afterwards because he "can't face it" and would rather go home. He tells Lucielle she won't recognise London when she returns because everyone is depressed. He jokes that his own gloomy expression no longer stands out because everyone looks like "sad little Vickys", so he will have to start smiling just to be different. He is looking forward to a Greek art exhibition at the Royal Academy, which will feature 600-700 exhibits such as paintings, sculptures and vases, and is excited to visit it. He ends the letter asking Lucielle to look after her stomach, which he is still worrying about. He has drawn Lucielle on stage holding a bouquet of flowers with a label reading "From Vicky" attached.

1 item

U DX166/72

Letter to Lucielle Gray

12 Feb [1946]

Victor says he received two of Lucielle's letters today. One of them had a letter for Pem enclosed, which Victor will give to him that evening when he sees him and Tasi. He says he was thinking of Lucielle and the opening night of her play while he was at the cocktail party at the Savoy. He spoke with Gellner who seemed disappointed to learn Victor is a cartoonist and not a film critic or journalist. They talked about Lucielle and Gellner seemed interested in her work. Victor reminds her he thinks joining Theatre 1946 would be good for her. He has sent her some soap and comments on his improving parcel-wrapping skills.

Victor mentions the Editor of the News Chronicle was away in Germany last week so he was able to have a cartoon in the newspaper every day, but now that he is back there won't be a cartoon that

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

day. Victor's sister has written to him and is worried she won't get an exit permit from Hungary even if the Home Office approve her visa. Victor says she is destitute but he has no way of getting food or money to her.

Ian Mackay has finally returned to work after his illness and has written "a delicious piece on the Art of being ill". Victor has enclosed it for Lucielle to read. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself holding his arms out asking "Where's that wailing wall?". He has given himself long hair and an arrow points to it saying "grown again".

1 item

U DX166/73

Letter to Lucielle Gray

14 Feb [1946]

Victor didn't write to Lucielle yesterday because there was trouble at work. He says there is "a big movement going on, high up, very high" because some think he is getting too much space for his cartoons in the newspaper. Victor says it was "real high comedy" that lasted two hours, and after working all day and drawing two cartoons, he went to see Othello.

He tells Lucielle he is about to go to the Foreign Office to see if he can send some money to his sister. He has had an injection from Dr Nicholls that morning and afterwards went with him to walk his dog in Regents Park. Nicholls wants Victor to do this every morning as he thinks it will be good for his health. Victor likes the idea and tells Lucielle they have been sharing "all sorts of Jewish stories". Lucielle is back in Flemsburg and has received the cigarettes and coffee Victor sent her.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a large red love heart lined with lace, which reads "I'm at the Thames - You're on the Rhine - All the same be my sweet, my Valentine". Next to it, he has drawn himself looking dizzy and lovestruck and has captioned it "Really, the man's gone mad - or sumfin".

1 item

U DX166/74

Letter to Lucielle Gray

15 Feb [1946]

Now that Lucielle is back in Flemsburg, Victor is not receiving her letters again. He went to see another play at the Lyric Hammersmith the previous evening and did not enjoy it, describing it as "torture" and "never-ending". He says Mary Stone thought it was the best play and the best acting she has ever seen. He talks about upcoming plays such as 'The Guinea Pig' and

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

'Stage Door' and says he wishes he could go see them with Lucielle. Victor says the "funniest thing" happened with his cartoon that morning. In the afternoon, Low came out with "nearly the same cartoon - the same caption" and Victor has enclosed both for Lucielle to see. Victor is flattered by this and feels proud. He says he is taking Mama and Tasi to the cinema the following day. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself out on a walk taking very large steps. The caption reads "morning walk", suggesting he has been for another walk that morning as suggested by Nicholls.

1 item

U DX166/75

Letter to Lucielle Gray

16 Feb [1946]

Victor has been invited to another dinner dance for the News Chronicle centenary celebration. His invite was addressed to "Vicky & Lady" so he jokes that he will have to be "a lone wolf in wolf's clothing" since he cannot take Lucielle with him. Victor asks Lucielle to tell him about Ti, Bee and her father because she never talks about them in her letters. Dick is with Victor as he is writing the letter. Victor says he is cursing because he has 3000 words to write for the BBC within the next hour and only has 700 so far. Lucielle has asked Victor where he usually reads her letters, so he tells her he reads them at the office every morning before the morning papers. He humorously describes himself bathing, shaving and washing in the mornings and rushing out to catch the 53 bus so that he can get to the office early to read her letters. The News Chronicle have decided Victor should only do two column cartoons. He says he will "most certainly launch a most vigorous protest" but has to wait until Barry comes back to work. Underneath this he has drawn a tiny version of himself with the caption "The feller's too big!", suggesting he is too small to protest without the help of Barry. He ends the letter because he is going out to meet Mama and Tasi. He has drawn himself wearing a sheep costume with the caption "- or is it a sheep in sheep's clothing?" referring back to his comment about going to the dinner dance in wolf's clothing.

1 item

U DX166/76

Letter to Lucielle Gray

17 Feb [1946]

Victor has received two letters from Lucielle and is relieved to hear she is doing well, although her rehearsals haven't been going well. Victor is

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

writing his letter at 6:30 in the evening after working since 10 o'clock in the morning. He says all the things he did in this time were "too savage" and he can't find anything funny to draw. He is concerned about the cartoon he submitted because it will be printed "rather small". Victor took Mama and Tasi to see the musical 'Dolly Sisters' and afterwards he saw Robby and Frances. He tells Lucielle he is exhausted so he will write more tomorrow. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself as a savage wielding a paintbrush instead of a spear, reflecting his mood. The caption underneath reads "Vicky - Savage".  
1 item

U DX166/77

Letter to Lucielle Gray

18 Feb [1946]

Victor says he is going through a bad patch and has been rushing his letters to Lucielle as a result. He is unable to work properly because of the new space restrictions for his cartoons and he feels that his cartoons are suffering because of it. He worries about Lucielle because she sounds depressed and sad in her letters. He informs her that Timothy Shy is recovering from his bronchitis and Alec is better after his illness too. He also mentions Jack Bilbo has been in bed for 4 weeks with a stomach ulcer but is still managing to draw. Victor wishes he was near to Lucielle so they could help each other feel better. He has been on another long walk with Nicholls, who thinks the morning walks will do Victor more good than the injections. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself staring at a blank brick wall with the caption "Wot? No chad? (Poor Vicky no ideas - no Lucielle, no chad- No Nothing!)"  
1 item

U DX166/78

Letter to Lucielle Gray

19 Feb [1946]

Victor has had a nightmare about Lucielle. He wants to forget about it so he doesn't tell her what happened, but he says she was "a bad girl annoying the Army authorities". He went to the Players the previous evening to see Joan Gates in her last performance before going to America, but he "could only stick it for two intervals" before going home. Victor says he has been put on most press lists now to automatically get seats when he goes to see plays, but says it is a waste of a second seat as he cannot go with Lucielle. He is pleased with the cartoon he has drawn today and the book Aftermath is due to be released at the end of the week a month late. He is going to the

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Arts that evening to drink Scotch. He mentions he has had his hair cut and shampooed, and ends the letter asking Lucielle not to be "nasty" to the Army and not to give him another nightmare. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself sitting in the audience at a theatre with an empty seat next to him, which has a sign reading "Reserved for Lucielle" on it.

1 item

U DX166/79

Letter to Lucielle Gray

20 Feb [1946]

Victor had dinner at the Arts the previous evening as planned. There was another storm during the night that caused windows and milk bottles to "fall all over the place". Victor says he didn't sleep very well but he did not have another nightmare about Lucielle. He has been to the Quality Inn that morning and saw Oscar there, who looked more depressed than usual. Hedi has written to him, asking again for a divorce, and his affair with his girlfriend has ended. Victor has also had another letter from his sister. He has enclosed today's cartoon for Lucielle because he thinks it is particularly funny. He mentions Olive was in a religious play and that he is taking Pem to the Criterion later. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself as a Greek statue with the caption "Greek Sculpture. I'm going to see the exhibition to-morrow".

1 item

U DX166/80

Letter to Lucielle Gray

21 Feb [1946]

Victor is receiving Lucielle's letters in the wrong order but he is pleased because it means she is still writing to him. He has enclosed a letter for her from Pem and one for Eggebracht, which he asks Lucielle to forward. Victor says he went to see 'The Guinea Pig' with Pem and thinks it was quite a good play, and is the first play to deal with "a post-war problem in a progressive way". He says his health is progressing too slowly for his liking and the bad weather lately isn't helping. After a few days of spring weather it is back to icy wind and gales. Victor has drawn a cartoon to celebrate the 200th performance of ITMA and will not draw any more this week because he has drawn his cartoons too large for the new quota. He jokes that the more money he is paid, the less work is expected of him. Victor thinks he is coming down with the flu and says he will try to "drown it" in Scotch. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in his coat being blown by the storm. An



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

arrow points to his hat, which he says is too big for him. The caption of the cartoon reads "Orphan in the storm".

1 item

U DX166/81

Letter to Lucielle Gray

22 Feb [1946]

Victor has circled the number of his letter [35] and says Lucielle is not catching up, hinting he would like to receive more letters from her because he has just received her letters numbered 15, 16 and 18. Victor is glad she is back in Hamburg because she seems to be feeling better than she did in Flensburg. Victor says he has a theory that a person's character is governed by the environment they live in. He was unsuccessful in drowning his flu with Scotch the previous evening and jokes it is a good excuse to "try again tonight". He asks Lucielle not to worry about him because he is sure he'll be better by the time she reads his letter. Victor tells Lucielle there is a film coming out called 'Scarlett Sheet', which was banned in New York for being corrupt and immoral. He mentions he didn't go to the Greek exhibition and says he will not go out tonight. He has drawn himself lying down on his back with the caption "Not out - just taking it easy". In post-script, he says that 'Lucie Gray' "put her foot in" with her letter regarding the Nazis, and readers want to know who she is. Victor says some are calling her self-righteous but others want to congratulate her for standing up to the Nazis.

1 item

U DX166/82

Letter to Lucielle Gray

23 Feb [1946]

Victor has been at home all day because the weather outside is too stormy. He had planned to go to the Greek exhibition but decided against it, but he is still going to the Servants Ball at the Dorchester that evening. He says today isn't a "real Saturday" and that he hasn't had one since November 10th, and that they won't be normal again until May 5th. Victor tells Lucielle there is a first night every night next week for plays including J. M. Barrie's 'Mary Rose', Sean O'Casey's 'Red Roses for Me' featuring an all-Irish cast, 'Dear Ruth', 'Romeo & Juliet' and 'Mary Queen of Scots'. He mentions private telephones are being installed in Grove Hall Court where he lives and says Robby already has his. Victor thinks he has been mistakenly registered as Miss Vicky Weiss but says he won't correct it so that people will be confused when they look up his phone number.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

He tells Lucielle that Capt. Aubrey Jones, the Conservative candidate for Heywood, has lost his bye-election and comments that the food shortage hasn't helped the Tories in gaining votes. Victor ends the letter by saying he is going to make himself some food, and has drawn himself in a chef's hat and apron carrying a plate of sausages. It is captioned "Lovely grub - lovely grub!" In post-script, Victor adds that the engineers have just installed his phone and gives Lucielle his number (Cunningham 7527) so she can ring him.

1 item

U DX166/83

Letter to Lucielle Gray

24 Feb [1946]

Victor talks about the bad weather. He thinks it is worse this year than ever before and he longs for sun and warmth. He notes that Lucielle sounded sad in her letter dated 19th February and hopes it is because there is bad weather where she is too. Victor says it is bitterly cold and he can't get rid of the pain in his chest and back.

He went to the Dorchester the previous evening and was asked to sit at Sir Walter's table. Victor doesn't know why he was given this honour. He sat in between Lady Layton and Mrs Gabbertas, the assistant editor's wife. They talked about statistics, Miners and about Lady Layton's three daughters, Olive, Jean and Margaret. Victor enjoyed Lady Layton's company but wishes Lucielle had been sitting beside him instead. He ate chicken and ice cream with chocolate sauce for dessert, and there was an "embarrassing" cabaret show starring Arthur and Daphne Barker, who Victor thinks were "too naughty" for the gathering.

Victor insists it was Lucielle's soap ration he sent to her, not his own. He jokingly asks her if she thought he had stopped washing himself.

Victor says Lucielle will be on her way to Lübeck now and he hopes she has the opportunity to look around. He comments on the fact her play is a commercial show now and says if the troops like it, E.N.S.A. will have been right and everyone else wrong. Victor thinks E.N.S.A. have never given the troops a good play and says 'Stage Door' was a "terrific flop".

He ends the letter with a cartoon of himself looking unkempt and dirty. It is captioned "Soapless Vicky - as seen by Lucielle".

1 item

U DX166/84

Letter to Lucielle Gray

25 Feb [1946]

Victor is writing from the News Chronicle office, where he says there is a Monday feeling and nearly everyone seems to be suffering from a hangover. He has not received a letter from Lucielle and hopes it is just the bad weather delaying their delivery.

He has been to see Mama and Oscar and is worried about Oscar's condition. Victor says he looks like an old man and behaves "like a boy of sixteen whose first love has ended". He is afraid Oscar will have a nervous breakdown because he isn't eating or sleeping, and sits in a chair all day "moaning and groaning". Victor doesn't know how to help him.

He is writing the letter in a rush and doesn't have much to say. He asks Lucielle if she can have a photograph taken of herself and send it to him, as he wants to see what she looks like playing the part of Peggy in her show. Lucielle appears to have had some of her possessions stolen because Victor remarks that it is awful and gives him a nasty feeling.

Victor talks about the bad weather and he has heard in the news that parts of the Continent have had heavy snowfall, particularly Denmark. Lucielle is close to Denmark so Victor wonders if she is struggling with thick snow. He comments that the snow in the Continent is at least "crisp and dry and healthy", unlike the slushy snow in England. Victor ends the letter with a cartoon of himself sitting on a chair, staring at a calendar on the wall with today's date.

1 item

U DX166/85

Letter to Lucielle Gray

26 Feb [1946]

The weather is still bad and it has started to snow in London. Victor hasn't received a letter from Lucielle again and worries that she is ill.

Victor talks about the food shortage. He says the situation in the British zone in Germany seems to be becoming desperate and they are having to cut their rations again. Victor says the Manchester Guardian has published a long article on it today and they say if the rations are cut by two-thirds, people will have to live on "two slices of bread and one potato a day".

Lucielle's letter on Furtwangler has been effective because he and his music are now banned in Austria and Berlin. Victor thinks this is right because he was in an "exposed position". Victor mentions Margaret Leighton and Sybil

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Thorndike are appearing in Gilbert Murray's version of 'The Trojan Women', which will be shown on the BBC on Monday evening. He thinks it will be interesting to watch.

It is still snowing when Victor ends his letter. He playfully says he wishes he was at home by the fire and that "some Redhead with a funny hat would bring my dinner (which she's spoilt, as usual)". He ends the letter with a cartoon of an x-ray depicting his own skeleton and a red heart, which is captioned "Vicky's x-ray portrait - anything wrong with him?"

1 item

U DX166/86

Letter to Lucielle Gray

27 Feb [1946]

Victor has received three letters from Lucielle in perfect order. He is feeling better today after days of bad weather and says the sun is finally shining. He has been to see a play that he thoroughly enjoyed, 'Red Roses for Me' by Sean O'Casey. Victor describes the play as "overflowing with poetry, beautiful language, tender humanity and atmosphere". He tells Lucielle the play is about the hopelessness of poor people in Dublin while the Catholics and Protestants are feuding, and how they overcome their hardships. Victor says it felt more like a Greek tragedy than a modern play, and says Sean O'Casey "towers high above every living playwright". He went to see the play alone and is glad because Lucielle is the only person he would've wanted to see it with. Victor says he is starting to enjoy watching plays alone because it makes him feel close to her.

Victor asks Lucielle to stop worrying about the things he has been sending to her (chocolate and soap). He assures her he wants her to have them and that she isn't robbing him of anything.

Victor has received a letter from a famous Spanish doctor based in London, Dr Trueta, who is "one of the greatest surgeons in this country". He has written to Victor to thank him for his [Franco] cartoon in the previous day's News Chronicle. Victor has found this very moving and says it helps give him confidence that he's doing a worthwhile job.

Victor ends the letter by saying he is glad Lucielle is making a success of her part in her play. He has drawn a cartoon of himself as a baby with a dummy in his mouth. It is captioned "How on earth will these grown-ups occupy themselves now there's no war on?"

1 item

U DX166/87

Letter to Lucielle Gray

28 Feb [1946]

Victor is perplexed because Lucielle has failed to receive one of his letters for the first time. He tells her he always posts them with that day's News Chronicle and says doing so is like his daily bread. He has sent her some more cigarettes and coffee, which he gets from "a little man in Fleet Street". The play Victor saw the previous evening was "bad" despite Flora Robson and Basil Sydney giving good performances. Victor hopes he and Lucielle can see 'Red Roses for Me' together one day.

Victor has had a hard time convincing the editor that his 4 column cartoon doesn't take up more room than his usual 2 column ones but got his way in the end. He mentions the weather is freezing but there is a beautiful red and purple sunset as he is writing. His chest and back pain is a little better for the first time since Christmas. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself in hunting gear and carrying a shooting rifle. A Spaniel walks beside him while he smokes a pipe. Victor asks Lucielle if he is "a man" for her even though he isn't the shooting, hunting or fishing type.

1 item

U DX166/88

Letter to Lucielle Gray

1 Mar [1946]

Victor has just finished his Fantasia and a caricature of Flora Robson. He hasn't received a letter from Lucielle but suspects the post is slow coming from Lübeck.

Victor tells Lucielle they are cutting the food rations in the British zones in Germany, effective from the coming Monday. He says there is talk of pooling resources from all four zones to equalise the rations.

He has finally been to the Greek Art Exhibition that he mentioned in previous letters. He enjoyed looking at the sculptures and recognises that Epstein and Picasso looked back to the ancient Greeks "to find simple and beautiful forms". He mentions there was a "fascinating and vivid" El Greco which hadn't been shown in England before.

Victor tells Lucielle the men at the News Chronicle are "pulling his leg" because of how much time he spends writing letters to her. He thinks they are jealous and says "let 'em pull". He has drawn a cartoon of himself sitting on a chair while a large hand pulls on his leg.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

1 item

U DX166/89

Letter to Lucielle Gray

2 Mar [1946]

Victor has been to the Curzon. He enjoys going there because of the comfortable seats but he didn't enjoy the film he saw. Next week the Curzon is showing a film about the life of Berlioz, which Victor is looking forward to seeing. Monday is the opening night of Theatre 1946. Victor says he will report on it "as impartially as possible". He has tried to find Sean O'Casey's play to send to Lucielle but it appears to be out of print.

He ends the letter because he is meeting Mama. He has drawn a cartoon of himself as a Greek gladiator with big wings on his helmet. The caption reads "Vicky idyll".

1 item

U DX166/90

Letter to Lucielle Gray

3 Mar [1946]

Victor says there has been a blizzard in the Channel that has made it bitterly cold in England. It is snowing again and the Continent still has snow too.

He went to see the Edward G. Robinson film 'Scarlet Sheet' with Mama. It was produced by Fritz Lang who made 'Woman at the Window' and Victor feels the two films were very similar.

Sybilla rang him in the morning and sends her love to Lucielle. Victor is taking her to the opening night at Theatre 1946 but expects it will be awful simply because he dislikes Gellner.

Victor mentions the death of Logan Pearsall Smith at the age of eighty. He includes a quote from a recent piece of writing Smith produced for the New Statesman competition. Victor is full of praise for Smith and says he is sure he was a great man. Victor is pleased with two drawings Lucielle has done for him. He particularly likes one that depicts a scene in Lübeck. Lucielle has also sent him some books, as he suggested in a previous letter, and assures her he will soon send her the Rilke book as he has almost finished reading it.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn Lucielle painting at an easel with a paint palette in her hand. Victor is beside her asking if he can wash her brushes for her. A caption reads "Hey, [poaching] on my preserves, what?!"

1 item

U DX166/91

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 4 [1946]

Victor had dinner the previous evening with Robby, Beatrice, Rolf and Robby's girlfriend Frances. He saw Dr Nicholls that morning but didn't go for a morning walk with him. He mentions Nicholls has given up his practice in Devonshire Place, and is now seeing patients at his home. Victor talks about his battle for more space in the News Chronicle for his cartoons. Barry is returning in about a week and until then Victor's cartoons have to be "very small".

Oscar is getting worse. Victor suspects his pride is hurt after splitting from his wife, Hedi, and then rowing with his new girlfriend. Victor tells Lucielle Oscar is the only one who can help himself and it is worrying him "where it'll all end".

Victor apologises for not having much to write about and at the end of the letter, draws two versions of himself, one sitting on a chair with his head opened like a lid, while the second Victor stands on a chair looking inside it. The caption reads "Hm, empty".

1 item

U DX166/92

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 5 [1946]

Victor begins the letter by observing that it seems as though he doesn't receive a letter from Lucielle whenever the weather is gloomy. It has been raining since the previous morning and Victor comments that the weather always manages to get worse.

He went to see the play 'Century for George' the previous evening with Robby and Sybilla. It was about the history of the Amalgamated Engineering Union but Victor tells Lucielle it was more like a family history with a "very silly" love story. He did not enjoy the play or the acting and wanted to leave halfway with Robby, but chose to stay until the end with Sybilla. He had tea and supper at Sybilla's house afterwards and tells Lucielle she is thinking about moving to America to restart her career there, due to her not getting much work at the BBC.

Victor begins to break up his letter with drawings of himself. There are three on the last page that get increasingly smaller; Victor is making a joke about the trouble he is having at the News Chronicle with the size of his cartoons. The first two are captioned "That's much too big" and "Still too big", while the third, smallest Victor at the bottom of the page is captioned "That's just right!" Victor mentions the News Chronicle will be

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

printing a 5 column drawing of Exeter so he doesn't think they will want a cartoon from him today.

1 item

U DX166/93

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 5 [1946]

Victor writes a second letter to Lucielle, which he says is a post script to the one he sent off to her in the morning. He is writing again to say he has received two letters from her and thought he should let her know.

He apologises for telling Lucielle in an earlier letter that he'd had a nightmare about her; she seems to have been fretting about it because he didn't tell her what it was about. Victor explains he dreamt that she was imprisoned in a "military Glasshouse" and was executed the next morning. Victor tried to stop the execution but couldn't and was forced to watch. He assures Lucielle he doesn't believe in dreams but light-heartedly tells her to behave herself in future, just in case. He says the News Chronicle have not decided if the Exeter drawing will be printed or one of Churchill, who is delivering a speech that evening in America.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself sitting at his desk in front of a blank canvas, with the postman running towards him holding Lucielle's two letters.

1 item

U DX166/94

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 5 [1946]

Victor writes his third letter to Lucielle in one day. It is now evening and he has received another letter from Lucielle, meaning he has now had three in one day. He only posted his second letter to her half an hour ago.

He says he has not yet had time to read the B.o.B she sent him in one of her letters but he has skimmed it. The News Chronicle has decided Churchill will go on the page instead of the drawing of Exeter and Victor is pleased with this decision.

Victor ends the letter with a drawing of himself flying through the sky carrying a large sack labelled "3 letters G.P.O".

1 item

U DX166/95

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 6 [1946]

Victor has finally finished reading Rilke and has sent it to Lucielle for her to read, as he promised in an earlier letter. He has also sent her some



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

coffee.

He has read the B.o.B she sent him and he says her play is just as bad as she said it was, and worse than he expected. Victor thinks Lucielle's role in the play is the best part of it and says he imagines she is very good in it.

He had dinner at the Arts the previous evening with Beecher and has been invited to a house warming party being thrown by Ian Mackay's girlfriend, Margaret Stewart, who works at the Economist.

Victor tells Lucielle that 'Aftermath' has been sent to the reviewers, but the publisher has told him that advance orders of the book have been "very bad" because it is too "gloomy and provocative". Victor supposes it will flop like 'The Children of the Empire' did.

Lucielle is now in Cuxhaven. Victor asks if she likes it there and says the weather is still bad in England. He wishes he could cuddle Lucielle and keep her warm. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in a bathing suit, standing on a map of Germany. Swinemünde. He has labelled Flensburg and Lübeck where Lucielle has been staying in black ink, as well as Cuxhaven, Berlin and Münster; these are places in Germany he has not been to. He has labelled Swinemünde and Kolberg in red, meaning he has been to those places.

1 item

U DX166/96

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 7 [1946]

Victor has sent Lucielle a copy of 'Aftermath' now that it is finished. He says he will wait impatiently to see what she thinks of it. He is pleased it is out at last but wishes it could have been a bit bigger, and admits the production of it "isn't very good". He attended Margaret Stewart's house warming party the previous evening and had a good time. Ian Mackay told Scotch stories and sang Scotch songs, and Victor says they were "a lot of earnest Party members" there.

Barry, the editor of the News Chronicle, is expected back today from his 3 month trip. A poster has been put up notifying the staff that he will be taking a tour of the N.C. upon his return. Victor is glad he is back because he has been away for so long, and notes that it is almost as long as Lucielle has been gone. He says it seems like years and comments that she will be gone for another 2 months yet.

Victor apologises for always asking Lucielle

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

questions about her health and how she is, particularly her stomach since she mentioned she was having problems with it. He says he is taking Pem to the Strand Theatre in the evening to see "a new farce" called 'Fifty-Fifty' with an American comedian named Harry Green. Victor hopes it will make him laugh but expects he will only sit there and frown.

Victor comments that he talks about the weather in every letter. He says it is getting colder still and he feels tired and cold. He has done a cartoon of Churchill that has been approved for printing but he suspects "something will happen to it" before it goes in the paper.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself wearing a suit. It is captioned "Saddest joke of the week: It's a pre-war suit - I bought it to-day".

1 item

U DX166/97

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 8 [1946]

Victor is alone in the office at the News Chronicle and is using the time to write to Lucielle. He says he never imagined he would write letters so regularly, but it isn't becoming a habit because it is only taking the place of talking to Lucielle in person. Victor tells her there are many things he wants to say to her that he can't get down on paper.

He talks about the London County Council Elections which happened the previous day. He says it was very quiet and there is an apathy about it because it is the third election within a few months. Victor predicts it will be another Labour victory as people don't seem to want the Tories anymore.

He did not enjoy the 'Fifty-Fifty' play but liked Harry Green, the Jewish-American comedian.

Victor says it is a pity because he deserved "better material than this unfunny farce". He describes Theatre 1946 as a "terrific flop" and says the press have been "savage".

Victor talks about the upcoming plays, mentioning Henrik Ibsen's 'The Lady from the Sea' starring Isolde Denham and 'Tomorrow's Child' at the Lyric Hammersmith.

Barry has returned from his trip but Victor has not seen him at the office yet. His Churchill cartoon made it into the paper and he is pleased about it. On the last page of the letter, Victor has drawn a very tall version of himself the length of the page, and it is captioned "1 column Vicky".

1 item

U DX166/98

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 9 [1946]

Victor thanks Lucielle for the latest books she has sent him. As usual he is sending her today's New Statesman and tells her there is a "fine appreciation" of Logan Pearsall Smith inside. He is also sending Lucielle some Horlicks. Victor says he puts on his "sick dog expression" in order to ensure "the little man downstairs" always lets him have it.

He comments on the weather, saying it is still cold but it has finally stopped raining and there is a little bit of sun. More snow is forecast but he hopes it will stay dry because "this is the first day that my little feet are dry".

Victor is going to the National Gallery (Tate) to see an exhibition of paintings by the Belgian artist James Ensor. He is going to the cinema afterwards but hasn't decide which film he will see. He mentions the film 'Lost Weekend' was voted Best Film of the Year and Ray [Milland] received an Oscar for Best Performance, while Billy Wilder received one for Best Director.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself holding a commemorative wreath featuring the number 50, which is the number of the letter; it is his 50th letter to Lucielle since he started numbering them. He has also drawn Lucielle in a black dress and hat.

1 item

U DX166/99

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 10 [1946]

Victor expresses concern for Lucielle after she described the "awful conditions" she is currently living in Cuxhaven. He is at least reassured by the fact she will have moved on to somewhere new and hopefully better by the time his letter reaches her.

Barry has written about the food situation and Germany, which Victor describes as "powerful". He is waiting to find out if a cartoon he has done on the same theme will be approved for print. Victor has sent Lucielle that day's Observer which contains a profile of Sean O'Casey, and the Sunday Times which contains an obituary for Logan Pearsall Smith written by Desmond McCarthy. He mentions he has been to visit Mama and Oscar seems worse every time he sees him. His wife Hedi has asked for a divorce twice more. Victor tells Lucielle he doesn't know how to help Oscar and says it is difficult spending time with him.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself saying "I'm on the next page to-day". He has also included a clipping of a rejected Fantasia cartoon. A man is on one knee pleading with a woman who is seated on a sofa. The caption reads "Will you consider an honourable proposal to take part in a joint production drive?" Below where Victor has glued the clipping, he has re-drawn the cartoon but the woman is now Lucielle and the man is himself. Victor jokingly asks if this new version will be rejected too.

1 item

U DX166/100

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 11 [1946]

Victor talks about the book he is currently reading, *The Unquiet Grave*, which Lucielle sent him. He finds the book absorbing and is enjoying it, but he says it is difficult to read. He says he wants to digest one page before he reads further, and asks Lucielle if she felt the same.

Victor tells Lucielle the postscript after the 9 o'clock news didn't take place due to a "technical hitch". The *News Chronicle* asked the BBC why this was, but they said they couldn't share the reason. Victor is wondering what happened. His cartoon about Germany and the food situation was printed today, along with Barry's article on the same topic. Victor says the situation in Germany seems to be getting worse. He tells Lucielle he doesn't know what to draw anymore unless it is "something grim", hinting that times are troubled. Victor says the Lindsay Theatre in Notting Hill Gate has been purchased by "a group of young, progressive people" and will be turning into a new avant-garde theatre. One of these people is Peter Coate, who rang Victor that morning to ask him to design a trademark for the theatre. Victor expresses confidence that there will be exciting opportunities for Lucielle when she returns to London.

The circulation department at the *News Chronicle* has drawn up a report and Victor has been told that "nobody likes him [Vicky]" when his cartoons are gloomy, but he goes down well when he is funny. Victor says he will have to be funny again. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself taking a bath. Purple steam is rising from the water. The drawing is captioned "Look what you're missing (how cruel of me, ha?)"

1 item

U DX166/101

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 12 [1946]

Victor has not received a letter from Lucielle for three days now and he is wondering what has happened to the post. He is rushing to write his letter because he is going out to the Lyric Hammersmith to see 'Tomorrow's Child'. He did not enjoy the play he saw at Theatre 1946 the previous evening and thinks the theatre is doomed. He remarks that not even critics are bothering to see the plays Gellner is putting on. Victor also went to the Scala to see a play and describes the theatre as "the coldest and most uncomfortable theatre in London". Sitting in the cold at the Scala made Victor think of Lucielle and how cold the places she is living and working in must be.

He apologises for writing a "short and stupid letter" and ends it with a cartoon of himself dashing off to the theatre at high speed.

1 item

U DX166/102

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 13 [1946]

Victor has finally received three letters from Lucielle. He feels guilty for complaining that he hadn't received a letter from her for a few days when she was without a letter from him for a whole week. He asks her if she always checks the number of his letters and worries she hasn't received them all. Lucielle sounded sad in her letters and Victor thinks it must be Cuxhaven making her feel low. Her next destination will be Berlin.

Victor continues his letter later in the afternoon and says the post boy has just brought two more letters from Lucielle. He is happy to receive so many in one day.

The play he saw at the Lyric Hammersmith was a comedy about life in 1965. Victor says it was a reactionist play in which everything was standardised and state controlled. Victor didn't think much to the play but he enjoyed the performance of the leading man, an actor called Nigel Patrick. After the play, Robby took Victor to the 66 Club in Grosvenor Street where he ate steak with a fried egg on top.

Victor is going to see Sybilla on Saturday night. Tonight he is going to the Arts to see the first night of Ibsen's 'Lady from the Sea'. He mentions Beecher is jealous of Victor being on the Arts Press List because it means he doesn't have to pay for tickets.

At the end of the letter, Victor informs Lucielle that

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Nelson's Column has been cleaned after she asked about it in one of her letters. He tells her nobody knows when the Shaftesbury Memorial Fountain (Eros) will be back and draws a cartoon of himself as Eros, saying Lucielle will "just have to take that one for the time being".

1 item

U DX166/103

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 14 [1946]

Victor hasn't received a letter from Lucielle but he is not surprised after "yesterday's avalanche of five". He tells her he has been out to the theatre every night this week and has had no time to read *The Unquiet Grave*. He says he is too tired to read by the time he gets home and mentions Dr Nicholls is giving him liver injections to try and help him feel less tired all the time. Victor also mentions his blood pressure is too low.

Victor did not enjoy the Ibsen play 'Lady from the Sea' because the acting was bad. He wishes there were some new translations of Ibsen's plays.

Victor thanks Lucielle for a photograph of herself that she sent him in one of her letters. He tells her she looks lovely in it but also sad in the way she was looking out of a window.

There won't be room for one of his cartoons in the *News Chronicle* today because a large chart is going in. Victor says he is glad of this because he doesn't know what he could draw that isn't too gloomy. He sarcastically says "the world situation is certainly getting 'funnier' every day it's positively side splitting now" and mentions Winston Churchill is delivering a speech in response to Stalin on Saturday.

Victor tells Lucielle he received a razor blade from a *News Chronicle* reader because they felt he always looks unshaven in his cartoons. Victor remarks that he already has 100 Gillettes but he still looks unshaven. At the end of the letter, he has drawn a portrait of himself with a bright green beard captioned "Just to be different".

1 item

U DX166/104

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 15 [1946]

Victor has sprained his ankle on the way to the office. He tells Lucielle he was running for the number 9 bus when suddenly he tripped. This is something that happens to him often and Lucielle thinks he does it to be funny. Victor says he managed to catch the bus but his left ankle started to swell, so he got off at Charing Cross and went

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

to the hospital. He waited four hours to be seen and given an x-ray. His ankle is not fractured, only badly sprained, and he has been bandaged up and given a large shoe to wear that he describes as being "made for a giant". He tells Lucielle not to worry and says he is only annoyed that he will have to stay at home for a few days.

He went to see a play the previous evening and as usual didn't enjoy it. He took a friend of Betty Frank's, an Australian dancer and actress, to see a play at the Arts and had dinner with her afterwards. He describes the girl as "rather nice, quiet and pretty" but he didn't enjoy the food.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself holding a walking stick and his left shoe is significantly bigger than the other. He has also glued a clipping of Robert Lynd's positive review of his book of cartoons 'Aftermath' to the bottom of the page.

1 item

U DX166/105

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 17 [1946]

Victor is writing from his bed because Dr Nicholls has ordered two days of rest and a cold compress for his ankle, which is doing much better. Victor jokes he will be "up and kicking" tomorrow with his uninjured right foot. He didn't write to Lucielle the previous day (March 16 1946) because he was in "such an awkward position", presumably because of his ankle. Mama is with him and is nursing him and Oscar has been to visit too. Victor says he looked so "jealous and sad" that Nicholls gave him Victor's benzedrine tables.

Sybilla visited him the previous evening because Victor was unable to go to her as planned. Victor tells Lucielle she brought him a red rose and has had two wisdom teeth removed. He says his "wretched leg" means he can finally read *The Unquiet Grave*, which he is enjoying "more and more". He says it is a book he will want to read again and again, and that some of his innermost thoughts are expressed in it.

Victor ends the letter with a drawing of his sprained ankle. He has drawn his leg very skinny and his ankle swollen up. He says he is going to put another cold bandage on it.

1 item

U DX166/106

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 18 [1946]

Victor is writing from the office at the News Chronicle again. His ankle is getting better and he says he is able to limp "nicely". He says he feels

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

like pinning a poster to it because everyone keeps asking him what he has done to it.

He talks about his difficulty in expressing his thoughts and feelings in his letters. Lucielle is having the same trouble. He finished reading *The Unquiet Grave* and is very impressed with it. Victor is doing a cartoon of Greece and is just about to finish it by the time he is ending the letter. The *News Chronicle* has published an article by Dr Trueta on Spain. The others at the office are telling Victor he should go to Oxford to see this doctor about his leg. Victor jokes they are pulling his leg as usual, referencing one of his past letters.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself walking with his stick and large shoe, and has a poster pinned to himself that reads "Yes, I've sprained it".

1 item

U DX166/107

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 19 [1946]

Lucielle has received the copy of 'Aftermath' that Victor sent her. He has had a letter from her that morning and thanks her for sending it.

Victor talks about the weather. He says it is a lovely spring day and he has seen the first crocuses of the season. He says he can't enjoy the weather much because of his leg and general health, but assures Lucielle he will be recovered "in a day or two". With his stick and limp, he has noticed how many people walk normally and unhindered.

Victor asks Lucielle if she will be going to Berlin. He wants to write to her about the places she might like to see there, including his birth place. He tells her the address of the house where he was born is 14 Regensburger Strasse, and jokingly requests that she places a plaque on the house. He has drawn the plaque with a little portrait of himself and the words "Vicky was born here".

Victor ends the letter because he is waiting for a taxi to take him home from the office. He says he will make some more cold compresses when he gets home and then he will go to bed. He mentions his wireless radio has "gone wrong again" and is making "awful noises". He has drawn a cartoon of it with eyes and a mouth, and it is angrily shouting at him.

1 item



U DX166/108

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 20 [1946]

Victor writes in the evening after having his dinner at home. He says he will go to bed afterwards but thinks he has slept too much. The previous night he woke up around midnight and was unable to go back to sleep, so he made himself some tea. He says he would usually find a redhead [Lucielle] reading by the fire but of course she was not there, so he sat alone feeling sorry for himself. Victor calls himself "an expert parcel-wrapper-upper and expert leg-bandager" now that he has to change the bandages on his ankle. He took a taxi to the office that morning with Ian Mikardo MP who also lives in Grove Hall Court and then he did a cheerful spring cartoon. He comments that people seem brighter now that the weather is improving. Victor himself is also feeling cheerful and positive. He assures Lucielle his health will improve soon, unless he can "find some new and interesting disease to surprise Nicholls" with. Victor mentions "all Harley Street" is in an uproar about Aneurin Bevan MP's new health bill. He has enclosed a newspaper clipping of another review of his book 'Aftermath' and at the end of the letter, he has drawn himself hopping on the spring grass with a lamb. He is still drawing himself holding his walking stick and wearing his big shoe.

2 items

U DX166/109

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 21 [1946]

Victor's leg is continuing to improve but he is still taking it easy. Lucielle has asked about Barry and how he feels about Germany. Victor has not spoken to him about it lately but tells Lucielle that Barry has written an article about it that make his views clear. Barry has not yet done anything about Victor's limit to two column-sized cartoons but Victor has not seen him much since he returned from his trip. There will be no cartoon in the News Chronicle today because he has "overdrawn" his quota. Instead he is working on some illustrations for Aneurin Bevan MP's Health Plan which will be published that day. Victor ends the letter by saying he has just had a phone call from the Tribune. They want to write a "big" review of 'Aftermath' so Victor has arranged to meet someone tomorrow for an interview. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in his underwear using a pair of crutches. His foot is bandaged. The caption reads "Vicky, well known for his anti-Nazi views is touring St John's Wood".

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

The caption points to a note Victor has written telling Lucielle he has included a picture that has "a gem of a caption".

1 item

U DX166/110

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 22 [1946]

It is the third day since Victor received a letter from Lucielle and he comments that it is an awful day, in part because it is raining. Oscar visited him the previous evening and Victor attempted to cheer him up but didn't succeed. Victor has lent him 'The Unquiet Grave' to read and hopes Lucielle doesn't mind since the book belongs to her.

Victor doesn't have anything new to tell Lucielle. He mentions his sister, saying no progress has been made in bringing her to London and he doesn't think it looks very hopeful. Pem is trying to find a theatre for German actor Albert Bassermann to play in London for a week, either in the middle of May or the beginning of June. Victor thinks this is a good idea, especially since Lucielle will be back home by then and they would be able to go together.

Victor says all of the upcoming films seem to be bad again. He mentions Bing Crosby, saying he is "following up his 'clerical career' by another piece of Catholic propaganda", 'The Bells of St. Mary', and Bette Davis who is starring in the film 'The Corn is Green'.

Victor vows to send Lucielle some parcels next week; he has only been sending her coffee because he has not been very mobile. He mentions his rheumatism is back again but his leg is getting better.

He ends the letter by telling Lucielle he is going to the Arts in the afternoon before meeting the man from the Tribune, and after that he will go home. He has drawn himself gleefully throwing his walking stick away and wearing normal shoes. The caption reads "Away!"

1 item

U DX166/111

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 22 [1946]

Victor writes a second letter to Lucielle in one day on News Chronicle headed paper. He says it is a quick note to tell her he has just received four of her letters as he was leaving the office; he wants to let her know because in the first letter, he was complaining about the absence of any mail from her. He doesn't have time to read them because a taxi is waiting to take him to the Arts.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself jumping for joy with Lucielle's four letters in his hand. He is wearing his big shoe again.

1 item

U DX166/112

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 24 [1946]

Victor didn't write to Lucielle yesterday because he couldn't find the time and went to bed early because he could feel himself coming down with a cold. He is writing from the office at the News Chronicle now and says he is sneezing and coughing. He jokes that because his ankle is almost healed, something else must go wrong with him.

Stella has been in a taxi accident, resulting in concussion and seven stitches on her forehead.

Victor has been to see her with William Wordsworth. He says Stella will need a "plastic operation" because her face is "quite disfigured". Seeing her made Victor realise he is lucky to only have sprained his ankle.

Lucielle is in Berlin, or may have left by the time she receives Victor's letter, and he wonders how she is enjoying it. He says he would love to show her around all the places he knows well in Berlin. Victor has been to see Bette Davis in 'The Corn is Green' and despite critics giving it good reviews, he didn't enjoy it much. He says Davis is "giving the same sort of performance as usual".

Victor shares the news that Mac's wife gave birth to a baby girl on Friday. He says the baby was a week late.

Mama and Oscar visited him yesterday and tonight he will see Robby. He ends the letter by asking Lucielle to look after herself in Berlin. He has drawn a portrait of himself coughing into a handkerchief. His face is coloured green while his ears and nose are pink. It is captioned "I haven't had a cold for a long time".

1 item

U DX166/113

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 25 [1946]

Victor has been for a walk down the Embankment because it is a lovely sunny day. He hopes it is going to last and speaks of his need for the sun, saying it makes him feel better. He says it is "queer" that he did not used to like it.

Lucie has been to visit and took Mama to see 'Othello', which she enjoyed. Lucie brought Victor six eggs again. He mentions there is a protest about the planned demolition of some Nash houses in Regent's Park Terraces, even though

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

some of them have not been damaged in the war. Victor mentions some well-known writers are protesting, including H. G. Wells and Cyril Connolly. He has drawn a cartoon for the News Chronicle as his own way of protesting and has enclosed it for Lucielle to see. The cartoon depicts a demolition squad dressed like barbarians with top hats, ready to pull down the houses with their weapons. The caption reads "Come on boys, here's another one that Hitler missed".

Victor receives a letter from Lucielle as he is writing and comments on the fact she also spoke of the weather in Berlin. He tells her he had a "strange" feeling when he visited Liverpool and the town of Hoylake with her because he knew it was where she grew up. He wonders if she is feeling the same about Berlin, his hometown. Victor ends the letter by commenting on Lucielle's plans to go to a boxing match, and draws himself in blue boxer's shorts and red boxing gloves.

2 items

U DX166/114

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 26 [1946]

It is another beautiful day and Victor has been for another walk. He says he really appreciates being able to walk well now that he has recovered from his sprained ankle and is in good health. He mentions he has seen Dr Nicholls that morning and then Engel who filled a tooth for him. Victor tells Lucielle he joked that he would see Engel again in 1948 because by then they will have the National Health Service and he won't have to pay. Victor says he doesn't think Engels liked the joke. Victor has plans to go to the Embassy that evening to see a new play by Patrick Hamilton who wrote 'Gaslight'. He talks about a poetry recital Sybilla is giving the next evening, a private affair in Chelsea that she has invited "a lot of snobs" to. Victor isn't able to go because it is at the same time as the opening night of Gellner's third play 'The Face of Coal'. Victor says it is a pity he cannot go to Sybilla's recital because he thinks it is a good venture for her, and has hope it will bring her new career opportunities.

Victor ends the letter by saying he wishes he was in Berlin with Lucielle and that he is eager to receive his first letter from her from "the Reich capital". He has drawn a cartoon of himself and Lucielle sight-seeing in Berlin.

1 item

U DX166/115

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 27 [1946]

Victor has been for a walk in the sunshine again, this time to the post office where he posted some cigarettes and a new book to Lucielle. In his letter, he talks about plans to introduce "non-talker" compartments in trains so that passengers can travel in peace. He has drawn a cartoon for the News Chronicle depicting Winston Churchill requesting a "non-smoking-non-talker" compartment to Westminster, with the Labour Government fainting behind him. Victor says it is funny because smoking and talking are "two things which he obviously couldn't do without", and says Barry roared with laughter upon seeing it.

Victor enjoyed the play he saw at the Embassy with Betty's girl-friend, Marys Dickens. He does not mention the name but describes it as a melodrama set in a Victorian household about a governess who abducts a baby, starring an actress named Gillian Lind. Victor says he had to starve because the restaurant at Grove Hall Court was closed after the play. He talks about how most people bore him to tears nowadays, and he longs for Lucielle's company. He mentions there are only a few more weeks until she comes home. Stella is getting better and has plans to go to Switzerland for a rest in three weeks' time. Victor also mentions Oscar has a new girlfriend, a dentist's assistant, and comments that Oscar can't seem to get away from the medical profession. Victor says he is still very sad despite his new relationship.

Victor talks about the beautiful weather, telling Lucielle the sun is currently shining through the window "on my bald head and I do love it". At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself writing a letter at his desk, with a shining, smiling sun and a red mark on the bald spot on his head.

1 item

U DX166/116

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 28 [1946]

Victor has finally received letters from Lucielle now she is in Berlin. He is surprised to hear she is staying in Charlottenburg where he lived for "many years on the Olivaer Platz". He describes the area to Lucielle so she will know where he lived and spent his time. He tells her he often walked along the Kant Strasse close to where Lucielle is. He says all the German place names sound "funny" to him now after not having seen them for twelve years.

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Victor mentions Forrest who Lucielle had hoped to meet with in Berlin, but he is on leave in London. Victor suggests she could meet up with Denis Weaver instead, whom he describes as "quite nice, though not as nice as Forrest".

Speaking about Berlin again, Victor muses that it is always the big cities that suffer the most during war and afterwards. He expects it is "grim" in Berlin but says he loved Lucielle's letter because it gave him "a feeling of the place".

Victor says Gellner's final play was the worst of them all, despite liking the idea behind it; it was about the struggle of miners, written by Jack Lindsay, but Victor found it very dreary. He criticises the fact that actor Bernard Miles played a character who died in the second act, only to return later in the play as a different character.

Victor thinks Gellner has been "doing us a great disservice" with his Theatre 1946 venture, and mentions the company has lost £6,000.

Victor has sent a copy of the Tribune to Lucielle, as well as enclosing the published piece they wrote about him. He is pleased with how it turned out.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself as a huge strongman in reference to a comment he made about the sun making him strong. He has a large chest and has covered himself in hair. The caption reads "Vicky getting strong again (disgusting drawing!)"

1 item

U DX166/117

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 29 [1946]

Victor is in a good mood because the weather in London is still sunny and warm with clear skies. Victor comments that people's faces have changed since the bad weather at the beginning of the month, and says March came in like a lion and is going out like a lamb.

Victor has had a call from Dr Jeger who is back from a tour of Austria. He has written a pamphlet debunking Anti-Soviet stories and has asked Victor to illustrate the front cover. Victor has received permission to do this from Barry.

Victor reminisces about walks he and Lucielle used to take in Regent's Park. He says they didn't walk as much as they should have, and tells her to be prepared for some "brisk hiking" when she returns home. He says he will wake her up at 5 o'clock in the morning and take her to the Quality Inn.

He is going to see Sybilla tomorrow evening. She

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

has asked Victor to listen to a broadcast with her that she has recorded because she cannot face listening to it alone. Victor tells Lucielle it will be a regular Saturday aside from that, as he is taking Mama out to see a film as usual. He mentions he has done a drawing of Gillian Lind but has had to cut it down because the page is too crowded. Victor also mentions Rudi is getting married on June 12th.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in a leotard with "Prince Charming" written on it, performing ballet. The caption reads "I'm going to the Covent Garden Ballet with Robby to-night".

1 item

U DX166/118

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 30 [1946]

Victor begins his letter by describing the weather. He says it has gotten chilly but looks like it will brighten up during the day. He has had a letter from Lucielle and is glad she has met with someone she knows in Berlin.

He enjoyed the ballet he saw with Robby the previous evening but says the show was stolen by the theatre itself. Victor really enjoyed the atmosphere and describes the theatre as "beautiful". He tells Lucielle it was the first time 19-year-old Moira Shearer has taken Margot Fonteyn's role as Princess Aurora in the ballet. He says Shearer is very beautiful and a good dancer, and is high up on Robby's "priority list", so she might become the "reigning Queen". Victor met her backstage after the show and has enclosed a photograph of her for Lucielle to see. Victor then mentions Wolfit, who will play Iago in 'Othello' on Tuesday. He has apparently threatened critics by saying he won't come back to London again "if they aren't careful".

Victor ends the letter with a drawing of himself as a little angel. Below the drawing, he has cut out a gold heart with large angel wings and glued it to the page.

1 item

U DX166/119

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Mar 31 [1946]

Victor frets about Lucielle, who sounded "so sad and depressed" in the last letter he received from her. He talks at length about the Russians and the things Dr [Jeger] has told him since returning from Austria. Victor mentions poor living conditions for the Austrian people, describing them as worse than the conditions in Germany. Victor also mentions a statue of a Red Army soldier in

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Vienna, which is known to the British troops there as 'The Unknown Raper', due to allegations of rape by Russian soldiers. Victor fears for the future, saying it doesn't seem like it is going to be bright.

Victor took Mama to the Indian Ballet instead of the cinema the previous evening, and he found it exciting and fascinating. He then visited Sybilla to listen to her broadcast, 'The Barretts of Wimpole Street', in which she played the character Elisabeth. Frederick Valk played her father but Victor wasn't impressed by his performance. He tells Lucielle that Sybilla's voice "came across beautifully".

Victor talks about the weather, which is warm and sunny after the previous morning's fog, and speaks of how "the girls" are wearing summer frocks without stockings. He wonders what they will wear in summer when it is warmer if this is what they are wearing now. He tells Lucielle he is still wearing his winter coat himself, and mentions checking one of her fur coats for "unwelcome visitors" (i.e. moths), but didn't find any.

Victor tells Lucielle that Robby has gone to Bournemouth for the weekend, where he will hopefully find time to think over his "affairs" with the three women he is involved with. Victor ends the letter with a drawing of himself sunbathing on a beach, wearing nothing but black pants and a bandage on his ankle. The caption reads "This is what I feel like to-day".

1 item

U DX166/120

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 1 [1946]

Victor has received a few of Lucielle's letters and is touched by the effort she is making to see his birthplace in Berlin. He refers back to a previous letter, in which he wrote down some addresses for her to visit, and hopes she will go to them. Lucielle has met with Bianca's brother and Victor says it is strange that he was rude to her. He mentions her meeting "that handsome Colonel" and jokes that he always knew she'd fall for a uniform one day. Victor was surprised to receive a compliment from Barry, who never usually compliments him, after he read the article about him in the Tribune. He mentions he has been invited to the Players by Beecher that evening but he doesn't think he will go. He also mentions Jeger likes the drawing he has done for the cover of his pamphlet, and in return he will x-ray Victor's leg to make sure it has healed. He says his cold has gone and jokingly



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

asks what will be next because Dr Nicholls is now telling him he has "duck feet".

Victor shares some bad news with Lucielle about Maurice Webb MP, who is having his leg amputated that week. Victor says he had a "slight accident" but a cancerous growth formed and an operation to remove it was unsuccessful. Victor says it is very sad because Webb is "quite young still".

At the end of the letter, Victor apologises for not having more to report, blaming the heat for deadening his brain. He has drawn himself looking nervous, with the caption "April Fool" underneath it.

1 item

U DX166/121

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 4 [1946]

[Letter is wrongly dated Mar 4]

Victor begins the letter by apologising to Lucielle for not writing the day before. He says it is because he was "kept on his toes" at the News Chronicle until very late and was too tired to write by the time he left.

Victor declares it is the hottest April in 100 years. He seems to be tiring of the warmer temperatures after initially enjoying it. He says a wind is coming up and wonders if it means the "glorious spell" is ending.

Victor tells Lucielle he saw Valk's 'Othello' on Tuesday and says Wolfit as Iago was remarkable. He says there was a standing ovation at the end of the play and it was overall an exciting evening. He mentions he sat next to Claire Luce who asked him for the original drawing he did of her as Mary Queen of Scots.

After 'Othello', Victor got a lift home from a couple who live near Grove Hall Court. They invited him to stay for dinner and he met the famous German singer Eleanor Gerhardt there. Victor describes her as "one of the greatest singers in the world" and says she told him wonderful stories about "all the great musical personalities".

Victor had dinner at the Arts with Alec and Beecher the previous evening. Alec is going to the Continent in August to play Iago in a production of 'Othello' and will be gone for about six months. Victor mentions he is "devoid of any ideas" for his cartoons and blames the heat. He tells Lucielle he suddenly fell out of his chair yesterday, and it was very funny but nobody laughed. He says they all thought he'd collapsed but it was only the chair losing its balance. Victor says he fell on his leg but

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

it is "all right now". At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself falling backwards off a chair.

1 item

U DX166/122

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 5 [1946]

Victor begins the letter by saying he has a strange feeling, in part because the weather has suddenly changed to pouring rain and cold temperatures. He says it is also because he hasn't received a letter from Lucielle and he is worrying about her well-being. Victor also blames the general feeling in England for his depressed mood, describing how everyone seems to be trying to avoid "all this misery in the world" by focusing on the Grand National and the Lincoln, and the papers are full of "faces of horses and greyhounds and 'escapist' stuff". Victor says he is trying to be funny with his cartoons but he understands people don't want to see anything political.

He tells Lucielle there is no news about his sister, and her case has been passed from the British Consul back to the Home Office. Victor says he and Mama have not heard from her in weeks, and Mama cries about it every day. He has almost given up hope of his sister coming to England but has given the matter over to Jeger.

Victor ends the letter quite abruptly after talking about his Fantasia drawing. At the end of the letter, Victor draws himself as a jockey riding a racehorse. The caption reads "I think I missed my vocation".

1 item

U DX166/123

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 6 [1946]

Victor still hasn't had any letters from Lucielle and is beginning to worry something may have happened to her. He assures himself that he will just have to wait for a letter and talks about the weather, which has brightened up after the previous day's rain and wind. He says it is quiet at the office today.

That evening Victor plans to go to the cinema alone because Mama doesn't want to go out, but he will join her and Oscar for dinner in the evening. He says Oscar has finally accepted that Hedi wants a divorce, which has taken him three months, and Victor predicts he will start to get over it over time.

Victor returns to talking about the lack of letters from Lucielle, and says these last few weeks until her return are the worst. He says she will probably get a sense of his mood from his letters,

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

describing them as being "full of moans and groans".

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself standing beneath a raincloud. Instead of rain, he is being showered with letters from Lucielle. The caption reads "No April showers" in reference to the absence of her letters.

1 item

U DX166/124

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 7 [1946]

Victor has received two letters from Lucielle. He thanks her for writing a long letter to Mama who was really happy to receive it. Victor mentions they have finally heard from his sister via letter and telegram. He has had a letter himself from Greta Douglas who wants him to help a woman cartoonist who is just starting out. Victor says he doesn't like her. He mentions the public reception of his book 'Aftermath' and says he "didn't expect anything different" so he can't be disappointed. Victor talks about the upcoming week at the theatre, mentioning a French ballet he might go see and 'Here Come the Boys' starring Jack Hulbert and Bobby Howes, who Victor jokes must have 120 years between them so can't be called boys. He tells Lucielle the Players have announced their first play, produced by Leonard and starring Daphne Anderson "and all the other crowd".

Victor says he will "trot off home", referencing Lucielle having taken up horse riding. He jokes that it will be hunting, shooting and fishing that she tries next. At the end of the letter, he has drawn Lucielle riding a horse in a smart riding outfit.

1 item

U DX166/125

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 8 [1946]

Victor has had two more letters from Lucielle and is pleased that she sounds happy. He talks about her horse riding, seeming to be surprised that she chose to try it and is enjoying it. He is happy for her but asks her to be careful.

Victor talks about ballet and says he might go see a Champs-Elysees ballet tomorrow. He mentions a new ballet by Robert Helpmann that has a scene set in Belsen. Victor thinks this is bad taste considering the recent events of the war.

Victor has seen Dr Nicholls that morning and has had another injection. Nicholls has laryngitis and "couldn't speak at all".

He ends the letter by talking about horse riding again, saying every time he sees a horse now he

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

imagines Lucielle sitting on it. He has drawn a cartoon of a horse baring its teeth at Lucielle and has captioned it "Horse laugh".

1 item

U DX166/126

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 9 [1946]

Victor begins his letter by saying he thinks Lucielle sounds so happy in her letters lately because of her new horse riding hobby. He thinks she should continue riding once she is back home in London and jokes that he will buy a pony instead of the Rolls Royce he wanted to buy.

He has been for a walk on the Embankment as the weather is sunny and warm again. The previous evening, he went to the Victoria Palace to see a variety show that he describes as "very third rate". He then went to a club in Kensington called 'The Renaissance' with Betty's friend, which he says had candles on the tables, paintings on the walls and a pianist playing, giving it an atmosphere of the continent. Victor mentions the New Lindsay Theatre starts on Monday with 'The Long Mirror' by Priestley but he hasn't heard of anyone in the cast.

He has been to see Dr Engel and had his teeth cleaned. He says they are brilliantly white now and has drawn a small portrait of himself showing off his big white teeth. He jokes that they will be "yellow and dirty brown" again by the time Lucielle comes home. He briefly mentions Rudi is getting married to a girl named Thelma.

Today is Budget Day and Victor is waiting for Dalton's speech before he draws his daily cartoon. He says he is hoping for some tax relief. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself wearing a barrel and still has a bandage on his sprained ankle.

1 item

U DX166/127

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 10 [1946]

Victor talks about the weather being sunny but bitterly cold. He has been for a walk on the Embankment, which he says is one of his favourite parts of London. He describes the River Thames flowing quietly with "all sorts of ships passing by and all the warehouses". He hasn't had a letter from Lucielle and assumes she must have moved on to her next destination.

Victor went to the French ballet the previous evening. He describes it as an exciting evening and praises the dancers' performances. He took Mama with him and she enjoyed it too. He

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

mentions she used to be a dancer herself. They then had dinner at the Arts and sat with Orlando, who Victor says was "quite drunk and very sweet". He also saw Alan Dent who enquired after Lucielle, making Victor think she must've made a good impression on him.

Lucielle seems to have said in a letter that she thinks the last few weeks until her return are easier than the previous weeks, but Victor disagrees because he is still missing her terribly. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself in horse riding gear but is without a horse to ride. The caption reads "O.K. darling - I'm waiting for you".

1 item

U DX166/128

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 11 [1946]

Victor has had a letter from Lucielle, who is now in Dusseldorf. She seems not to have a horse to ride there so Victor hopes she will be able to ride at the next place she goes to.

He has been for a walk around London with Mac and describes the area around St. Paul's. He talks about the play at Walham Green that he went to see, describing it as interesting but not very good after the first act. The play starred Lucielle's friend Philo Hauser, Peter Illing and Mary Horn. Tonight Victor is going to see 'Here Come the Boys', which he mentioned in a previous letter.

Victor asks if Lucielle is doing her daily exercises, saying she must be too tired to do them every day. He says he is so tired at night that he just sinks into bed and sleeps until around six o'clock in the morning.

He ends the letter just before he leaves for the theatre and has drawn a cartoon of Lucielle peering over the top of a brick wall. The caption reads "Wot! No horse".

1 item

U DX166/129

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 12 [1946]

Victor talks about Lucielle's improved mood while she was in Bad Salzuflen, the place she started horse riding, compared to her mood now she is in Dusseldorf. Victor thinks it is because Dusseldorf, in his opinion, is an ugly place and says a place can influence one's mood. He hopes she will go somewhere nicer next.

Victor says the first night of 'Here Come the Boys' was funny because "everything that could go wrong did go wrong". The curtains didn't go up and the sceneries didn't come down, so the

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

audience could see the 'scene-shifters' racing about. He has drawn a cartoon of Jack Hulbert trying to get the curtain up. Victor says the show itself was "vulgar" and received a terrific applause, so he thinks it will run for years.

Victor is taking Mama out tomorrow, resuming their Saturday tradition. He mentions Sybilla has gone away for a few days. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself holding two placards, one reading "Vicky's league for insanity in politics" and the other reading "Down with realism". He has captioned the drawing "My answer to the newly formed British League for Sanity in Art (anti-Picasso)".

1 item

U DX166/130

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 13 [1946]

Victor has been for another walk today and went to see Dr Nicholls. He had his injection but mentions Nicholls is "very ill". He then went to Fleet Street and now he is preparing to go and see Mama. He is going to take her to see 'Ziegfeld Follies' at the Empire, which he thinks she will enjoy.

Victor thinks Mama will write to Lucielle today but warns her it might take a while, as it takes Mama a while to compose a letter. He asks if Oscar has written to her yet and says he saw Robby, who is missing her cooking. Victor jokes that she must hurry up and come home so that Robby isn't let down.

Victor ends the short letter because he is going to meet Mama. He has drawn himself checking his watch while the sun shines down on him. The caption reads "British summertime begins tomorrow. Mustn't forget to put my watch forward!"

1 item

U DX166/131

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 14 [1946]

According to the newspapers, it is the sunniest April since 1911. Victor has drawn a palm tree and a bright yellow sun at the top of the page, and has written "Palm Sunday" above the date. He says has put on his light grey suit "for the first time" but says it is quite dirty because he didn't dare take it to the cleaners again, just in case they shrink it. Victor tells Lucielle that Oscar has "surrendered to the bottle" and is drinking a bottle of South African wine a day. He drank four glasses yesterday and Victor says it was the first time he's seen him laugh in months. Oscar bought Victor a bottle of Scotch and six bottles of wine and sherry for "the

others".

He took Mama to see the Ziegfeld Follies starring Fred Astaire. He says Astaire has "aged tremendously" but his dancing is still "a joy to watch". Judy Garland also starred in the film.

Victor mentions the food crisis for the first time in a while. He says the situation seems to be getting worse but [Truman] has insisted it will only last for 90 days. Victor also mentions it has been reported today that Kingsley Martin has been detained by Russian Military Police in Berlin because they thought he was a "suspicious character".

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself holding a large box that he has crossed out. It has an egg on it and reads "dried egg". Underneath it he has written "This is just to wish you a happy Easter - hope you'll get these good wishes in time."

1 item

U DX166/132

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 15 [1946]

Victor has had two letters from Lucielle, who is now on her way to Bad Godesberg from Dusseldorf. Victor says Godesberg is a nice place and hopes she will like it there. He says she is right in saying it is the place where Chamberlain was when he received Hitler's ultimatum about Czechoslovakia. Victor says Lucielle knows more about Germany than he does now, even though it is his home country.

He went for a three-hour walk in Regent's Park yesterday. He says there were so many people there but the only person he wanted to be there [Lucielle] was missing. He tells her all the places they walked to last year look the same but different somehow. He had some coffee on Baker Street and went to bed when he got home after having a bath.

Victor is going to see Priestley's 'The Long Mirror' at the New Lindsey Theatre that evening. He says there is only one other first night left this week, a play called 'Exercise Bowler' that is showing at the Arts.

He ends the letter because he needs to finish his daily cartoon. He mentions his rheumatism is back despite the lovely weather, and jokes the sun is no good for him after all. He has drawn himself walking through some flowers, whistling a tune with his hands behind his back.

1 item

U DX166/133

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 16 [1946]

Victor begins the letter by sharing his excitement at the possibility of going to Stratford on Avon for the opening of the Shakespeare Festival that Saturday. He is hoping to go for a day or two with Alan Dent and they plan to produce an illustrated article about it. Victor has high hopes because he has never been to Stratford and really wants to go. He says it is difficult to get accommodation but is sure the N.C. will organise it.

Victor hasn't yet received a letter from Lucielle now she is in Godesburg. He jokingly asks if she has seen the ghosts of Chamberlain and Hitler there, and asks if there are any horses to ride. He briefly mentions the Priestley play he saw the previous evening, saying it was disappointing. He is having a hard time deciding what to buy Oscar for his birthday. He says it will probably be another book, while Mama wants to buy him some slippers. He says he has been busier than ever at the N.C. despite Good Friday coming up, meaning there will be no newspaper that day. He says they have to work ahead for the following newspaper. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn a cartoon of the ghost of Neville Chamberlain. He is carrying a case and an umbrella, and is saying "How do you do?" to a shocked Lucielle.

1 item

U DX166/134

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 17 [1946]

Victor writes about the busy day he is having, starting with his mission to buy Oscar a pair of slippers for his birthday, which he describes as "a real Hunt the Slipper game". After finding some, he did some work before going to a meeting with the League for Sanity in Art. He then went back to the office, did some more work, and is now writing to Lucielle. He says he cannot rest yet because he has to go to "Oscar-Poscar" to have dinner with him for his birthday.

Victor thinks his visit to Stratford on Avon is going ahead and is very pleased. He says he is "aching" for Lucielle and disagrees with the notion that keeping busy will help one forget their troubles. He tells Lucielle he needs her more than ever, then apologises, blaming his exhausted mind for the things he is saying.

Victor has spoken to Sybilla who is back from her trip. She is going to be playing John Gielgud's mother in 'Crime and Punishment'. Victor thinks this is great news but hopes the role won't typecast her as an old woman from now on.



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself in a Picasso style and has captioned the drawing "Vicky at the League for Sanity in Art". In post-script, he says he has bought Oscar a book titled 'Medical Aspects of Growing Old', clearly as a joke.

1 item

U DX166/135

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 18 [1946]

Victor has a slight hangover after drinking too much Scotch at Oscar's birthday celebration the previous evening. He says Oscar had two of his girlfriends there and he enjoyed himself tremendously. The weather is bad again and Victor predicts it will be a wet Easter holiday. He tells Lucielle the trip to Stratford on Avon is going ahead, but he will only be gone for one night because the newspaper will need the article before Monday. He is disappointed that he will be rushed and won't get chance to see much while he is there.

Kingsley Martin has written a piece about Germany in the Statesman, in which he explains the episode with the Russian police that Victor mentioned in a previous letter. He says it was blown out of proportion, as are all anti-Soviet stories and rumours.

Victor is feeling lonely and empty because he hasn't had a letter from Lucielle for days now. He says he can't concentrate on anything because Dick is in the office dictating a piece that debunks Hollywood films. Victor mentions he has bought some canvas at last and is angry with himself for not having done any "worthwhile" art lately.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself looking unwell and has coloured his face green. The caption reads "The morning after" in reference to his hangover.

1 item

U DX166/136

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 19 [1946]

Victor says he is having an awful day. He starts by saying he went to a Greek place for lunch with Alan Dent, who he is getting along with well, and that was the best part of the day. He says Dick was asked to do a joke drawing about films and holidays, and when he couldn't think of anything Victor gave him a "good idea", which he says Dick didn't deserve.

Victor has finally received a letter from Lucielle, which he is glad of. She seems to have fallen off a horse while riding but must be unharmed, as

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

Victor's only comment is that she shouldn't fall off horses.

He went to see a play at the Arts the previous evening. He says it had a strong first act but got weaker in the second and third acts. He claims the identity of the author of the play is a mystery because they are using the pen name T. Atkinson. Victor suspects it is Alec [Clunes] and Peter Powell because they were both very excited about the play. He took Mrs Nicholls with him and she enjoyed it. Afterwards they had dinner together. Victor is leaving for Stratford on Avon tomorrow around lunch time. He says he is taking Lucielle's "little bag" with him and says it is strange that she is travelling Europe with his suitcase while he travels with hers. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in a boy scout uniform with the caption "Have you done your good deed for today?" in reference to the good deed he did of helping Dick with his cartoon.

1 item

U DX166/137

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 20 [1946]

Victor writes a quick letter to Lucielle before he takes the coach to Stratford on Avon. He says he will feel closer to Lucielle when he is on it because he will know she has travelled in a similar way during the last few months. He has worked it out and he won't have any time to look around Stratford because they will arrive at 5:30pm, go to see 'The Tempest' at the theatre after having dinner, and then Victor will have to wake up at dawn to start his sketches before catching an 11:30am train home. He will arrive in London around 3 o'clock but before going home he will have to deliver Dent's article to the N.C. and complete his drawings in two hours. He ends the letter with a drawing of himself running, Lucielle's travel bag in hand.

1 item

U DX166/138

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 21 [1946]

Victor is back in London after his brief trip to Stratford on Avon. He tells Lucielle he got to London at 2:30pm and went straight to the N.C. with his drawings, which he says are some of the best he has done. The trip seems to have gone according to plan, which Victor had hoped for, but the plan has now gone out the window due to the death of John Maynard Keynes. Victor tells Lucielle his and Dent's article will be delayed until Tuesday and replaced on Monday with a piece

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

about Lord Keynes. Victor is pleased it has worked out like this because the piece will now be published on Shakespeare's birthday [23rd April] but it means he needn't have rushed back from Stratford on Avon and could have had a look around. He describes the place as "strange in its mixture of real beauty and some ugliness". On the next page of the letter, he has drawn a large picture of the theatre he went to there, which he has painted bright red to represent the red bricks it was built with. He tells Lucielle he woke up at 6 o'clock that morning and walked around Stratford sketching. He describes it as being full of Shakespeare's spirit, but he dislikes the commercial exploitation of 'Bill' for American tourists. Victor says he went to "His" [Shakespeare's] birthplace and Anne Hathaway's cottage.

Despite liking the place, Victor describes the play as badly done with bad acting. However he did like Julian Somers, one of Lucielle's friends, as Caliban. He mentions they stayed in the River Hotel on the Avon, which is where the actor Peter Brook was staying. At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself standing in front of a Tudor-style building in Stratford on Avon, sketching away on a drawing pad.

1 item

U DX166/139

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 22 [1946]

Victor has received a Leonardo da Vinci book from Lucielle and is delighted with it. He says he has been staring at Leonardo's drawings of the human body, which are so perfect that he has "again realised my own miserable limitations", and describes Leonardo as one of the greatest geniuses of all time.

He has also received two letters from Lucielle and some portraits of her. He says he prefers the full figure picture of her because "it is just you as I know and love you". He tells her Robby and the Arts boys received the Easter cards she sent them and were thrilled with them.

Victor's Stratford drawings will be published the next day and Barry is delighted with them. The only trouble was that one drawing of Shakespeare's birthplace was the size of three columns and Barry wanted it to be two. Victor managed to compromise and the drawing is now two and a half columns.

It seems Lucielle has had an encounter with a hedgehog because Victor comments that if he

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

was "that hedgehog" he would follow her everywhere. He then says it would be lovely to be a hedgehog, and draws one with his face at the end of the letter.

1 item

U DX166/140

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 23 [1946]

Victor begins the letter by assuring Lucielle she will find a job when she returns home to London and tells her not to be afraid of coming home. He assures her he has not changed in his feelings for her and that she will progress in her career.

Victor talks about his plans for the week. He is taking Oscar to the Embassy that evening and mentions he is excited to see Bea Lillie's first night tomorrow. On Thursday he says he will be celebrating his birthday with Mama. He ends the letter saying he is going out to the theatre with "meinem bruder Oscar" (my brother Oscar) and bids Lucielle farewell in German.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself in the style of a Leonardo da Vinci portrait. The caption reads "They call me Leonardo da Vicky now" in reference to the da Vinci book Lucielle sent him, which he is enjoying.

1 item

U DX166/141

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 25 [1946]

It is Victor's birthday and he started his morning by singing happy birthday to himself, as there was "no one to sing it to me". He jokes that his creaking bones were the accompaniment and calls it "quite a musical event". He tells Lucielle the nicest presents he received were two letters from her, especially since they were long and like "little essays". Victor compliments her on her writing and the way she describes her experiences as she travels through Europe.

Victor did not get chance to write a letter the previous day as he was too busy with work, then went to Bea Lillie's opening night at the theatre. He enjoyed the show and calls Bea Lillie an accomplished artist who is a joy to watch. On Tuesday he went to the Embassy to see 'National Velvet' but walked out after the second act because he was "so bored I couldn't help it".

Victor is celebrating his birthday with his family that evening at Mama's house. Pem and Oscar will be coming, along with Oscar's "two girls". He has received lots of telephone calls from people wishing him happy birthday, and mentions a telegram sent by Alan Dent that said "happy

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

birthday to my dear indespensable [sic] Vicky".  
At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself blowing out the candles on a very large birthday cake.  
1 item

U DX166/142

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 26 [1946]

Victor begins his letter by telling Lucielle his birthday party was a flop. Mama wasn't feeling well and neither was one of Oscar's girlfriends, who did not inform them she wasn't coming to the party which angered Oscar.

Victor talks about two new plays, 'Old Town' at The New, an American company, and 'The Dutch Family' at The Arts. Victor is looking forward to seeing 'Old Town' and says he wishes Lucielle could see it with him.

Victor talks about something funny that happened with Robby - he forgot about Victor's birthday for the first time and was upset about it. Victor found this amusing because it shows that Robby is "human after all and not merely a pedantic automaton". While talking about work, he then mentions his drawings seem to be getting smaller and smaller as the "scramble for space" continues, but says his two-column limit has been lifted thanks to Barry.

At the end of the letter, he has drawn himself removing the current date from a daily calendar. The caption reads "Vicky counting the days..." [until Lucielle's return home]

1 item

U DX166/143

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 27 [1946]

Victor has received two letters from Lucielle, in which she mentioned she was feeling unwell. Victor frets that she is still ill now that he has received them and hopes that it was "just a little chill". He says it would be awful for her to get ill at the end of her travels when she is so close to coming home, and draws a picture of himself touching wood (his own head) that she will continue to be in good health.

Victor is going to meet Sybilla's husband for the first time that evening now that he is back from Romania. He jokes that he thought her husband was a myth and "didn't exist at all". He mentions he went out for drinks the previous evening with "that blonde girl" and she introduced him to Lottie [Lotte] Berk, the principal dancer in the Indian Ballet, and also the sister of Hilde, one of Oscar's girlfriends. Victor says everyone has been saying

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

that Lottie sweeps every man off his feet, but remarks that he is still standing on his. Victor frets about Lucielle's well-being and whereabouts, and wonders when she will know the exact date of her return. He ends the letter saying he is going to the Academy to see a French Film starring Michele Simon, and then he plans to go see Mama who has an appointment with Dr Nicholls that day. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself with his back to the viewer, with the caption "Pardon my back".  
1 item

U DX166/144

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 28 [1946]

Victor has received another letter from Lucielle and is relieved to hear that she is well again. Mama is still ill however, and has been in bed since Victor's birthday on the 25th April. He says she is in a lot of pain and Dr Nicholls thinks it is an inflamed gall bladder, but he will visit her again today to make sure it is not something else. Victor met with Sybilla and her husband the previous evening and mentions Dr Plesch was there too. He says the evening flopped due to Sybilla having a migraine attack and his not getting along very well with her husband. Victor describes him as intelligent and dry, and "violently anti-Russian" as a result of his time in Romania. Victor went to see the 'French Film Fric-Frac' at the Academy the previous evening. He describes it as "very naughty and very charming", something he says only the French can do. He mentions there was a documentary called 'The Land of Promise' by Paul Rothe in the same programme. Victor asks Lucielle if she will be back by Mama's birthday on May 18th. He has spent the morning with her and is planning to go back once he has finished at the office, where he is writing his letter. At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself giving a thumbs down hand gesture. Underneath it he tells Lucielle it is 6 o'clock and he has had his cartoon turned down.  
1 item

U DX166/145

Letter to Lucielle Gray

Apr 30 [1946]

Victor apologises for not writing the previous day - he was kept busy at work, had three cartoons turned down and then rushed off to see Mama, who is now feeling slightly better after her brief illness. Victor says he had so much to tell Lucielle when he started writing the letter but his mind has

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

now gone blank. He mentions the weather, which is rainy but warm, and says the sudden increase in temperature has given him a headache.

Victor takes a break from the letter to finish his cartoon at work. He says it had to be a "jolly" cartoon because it is for May Day. He says he is going to see 'Our Town' that evening and mentions he spoke to Peter Brook, a twenty-year-old "child prodigee [sic]" producer, who asked after Lucielle.

Victor ends the letter because it is too noisy in the office for him to concentrate. He hopes he will be able to write a better letter tomorrow. The drawing at the end of the letter is of Victor putting his fingers in his ears to block out the noise in the office. Underneath it, he then asks Lucielle if her father is ill or if he has just retired and sends his love.

1 item

U DX166/146

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 1 [1946]

Victor says Mama had "a bad night" but is feeling better today, and the weather has improved too.

He is going to see Mama tomorrow as he is unable to that evening, since he is going to the first night of 'The Dutch Family' at The Arts. He tells Lucielle he enjoyed 'Our Town' and praises Marc Conelly, playing the stage manager.

Victor talks about an "attack" on Basil Dean in the House of Commons that occurred the previous day. A Labour member allegedly referred to him as "Lord Pooh-Bah of the Land of Bluff and Make Believe". Victor says he thinks there are "too few rows in public life nowadays" and that it would be a good thing to have some, as it would give him material to work with for his cartoons. He jokes that without any public rowing, he will just have to be "a tame cartoonist".

Victor ends the letter because he is heading off to The Arts. He has drawn himself as an actress in a flowing dress and a crown of flowers. The caption below it reads "Queen of the play".

1 item

U DX166/147

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 3 [1946]

Victor has had lunch with Greta Douglas and her friend Robert Marsden. He tells Lucielle that Greta is "hunting" for a theatre and a backer, and that she has asked after Lucielle. Victor says she was surprised to hear Lucielle has been away for six months and suggested she look her up when she returns home. As always he is on the look-out for

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

work for Lucielle.

Victor mentions he has bought another Harlitt book from Rudi called 'Criticisms on Art' and has read a chapter about Hogarth. He compliments the book, calling it art criticism as it should be, and says it is beautifully written.

He saw Mama the previous day and is visiting her again today. He tells Lucielle she is doing a bit better but now has a nurse, which he says is so that she doesn't need to go to the hospital. Victor says Mama confessed to him that when she was feeling better on Wednesday, she got out of bed and cleaned the windows, and asks Lucielle what he can do to stop her getting up like that.

Victor mentions a play he is looking forward to seeing next week called 'Sweetest and Lowest' with Hermione Gingold. He then states that this letter is his 100th letter (since he began numbering his letters to Lucielle) and says there are only a few left to write as she will soon be home. He has drawn himself wearing a top hat and a jacket with tails, holding a large wreath with a red bow and '100' in the centre. The caption reads "Vicky's centenary".

1 item

U DX166/148

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 9 [1946]

Victor has taken a look at the new issue of 'Spotlight' and has found Lucielle in it. He tells her it looks very nice but comments that her telephone number is wrong. He mentions there is also a picture of Sybilla and says he hasn't heard from her since the evening with her husband.

Mama has been on her feet again and has started to eat, so Victor is hopeful she is recovering but wishes she would "be more careful". He says he will go and see her that evening.

Victor wonders if he should stop writing letters to Lucielle now and says he wishes he could fly over to Calais to collect her. He reminds her that he mentioned he may become naturalised (as a UK citizen) months ago, and says it might not be for years yet, so he cannot travel. He says he is waiting impatiently to hear from her and ends the letter with a drawing of himself impatiently tapping his fingers.

1 item

U DX166/149

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 10 [1946]

Victor has received two of Lucielle's letters from Brussels. He comments that she seems to be receiving his letters fairly quickly, but she is



Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

missing his 100th 'centenary' letter. Victor says Mama had another bad night and is suffering "terrific pains" whenever she eats. She is seeing a doctor again and will have an x-ray as soon as possible. He is very worried about her and says Oscar isn't helping at all.

He mentions one of his recent cartoons, 'Noah's Ark', and is glad Lucielle talked about it in a letter because he was particularly proud of it and received around fifty letters from readers thanking him for it.

Victor has heard that 'Our Town' is "coming off" and says he is sad to hear this. He responds to Lucielle having asked if he remembers 'Brief Encounter', which he says he remembers but mostly because of Celia Johnson whose performance he praises. He mentions Mary Stone has had her first night that week, but otherwise it is a quiet week for the theatre.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself seated at a table staring at a bottle of whiskey. It is a bottle of Scotch that he has bought for Lucielle to drink when she returns, and he has assured her he will only look at it in the meantime.

1 item

U DX166/150

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 11 [1946]

Victor tells Lucielle it is suddenly cold and he has had to put on his winter coat. He says he hopes she will bring a continental summer with her when she returns from her travels. He hasn't had any letters from her that day and wonders where she is now. In a brief update about Mama's illness, Victor says he is much the same and he is going to visit her again later that afternoon. He says he might go to the cinema first but there isn't much showing that interests him, except for one film ['Le lour se leve'] but he wants to see it with Lucielle. Victor remarks that his letters are getting thinner and thinner because they are only really meant as a hello now that she is so close to coming home. At the end of the letter, he has drawn a comparison of Lucielle eating in Germany and in London. In the Germany image, she is eating a big plate of food and is a healthy weight, while in the London image she is refusing a pea and is very thin. Victor says he hopes she will continue to eat well once she is home.

1 item

U DX166/151

Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 12 [1946]

Victor begins the letter by musing that it is Sunday

Hull History Centre: Letters of Victor Weisz ("Vicky")

and Lucielle will be on her way to Calais now, her last stop before London. He has been to see Mama again and mentions she will be seeing a doctor tomorrow as she is still unwell. The doctor thinks she is suffering from exhaustion on top of her illness. Victor says that with Oscar having been so depressed about his girlfriends, and Mama currently ill, Lucielle will barely recognise them.

Victor has been to see the film 'Blue Dahlia' and had lunch at the Vega. He then mentions he did two cartoons and the N.C. took the one he liked the least because they thought it was funny. Victor says the other cartoon was a tribute to Arturo Toscanini, the Italian conductor, but it was "too highbrow" for the N.C.

He mentions he ran into Sybilla on his way home from visiting Mama, which amazed him because he was in the middle of thinking he must ring her and ask how she was getting on with rehearsals. She is starting her tour on May 20th, just when Lucielle comes back.

At the end of the letter, Victor has drawn himself standing on a ladder, putting up a welcome home decoration above the front door of his house.

1 item

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Letter to Lucielle Gray

May 13 [1946]

Victor begins his final letter to Lucielle by thanking her for three of her letters he has received that day. He mentions he never received a missing letter she sent him containing some negatives, and he is sad that it will now never reach him. He tells her this will be his last letter to her unless he hears that her departure has been postponed. Mama has seen her doctor again and an x-ray is being arranged. He talks about the theatre, mentioning the Lindsey Theatre is showing an American play called 'Pick-Up Girl' and John Clement's first night will be the following evening. Victor can hardly believe he will be able to take Lucielle to the theatre next week after six months of wishing he could. He says he is longing to see her and references a joke she made in a recent letter about how he would be disturbed upon seeing her again.

Victor ends the letter saying he hopes this "swan-song letter" will reach her before she arrives home. He has drawn himself throwing away his pen, and there is a big swan behind him. The caption reads "Farewell- my pen-"

1 item

