[Letter, August Hilpert to Gotthold Lenkroth, brother-in-law. Translated by Werner Hahne, August 1978.]

Brühl, the 16th December [18]49

Lieber Freund Lenkroth!

You will not be angry that I felt offended over your letter with the dollar [Thaler]. That should not concern you, but only my mother and sister who believed that I had lied to them. But this is not the case because in the other letter my situation up to date is outlined. For this reason I do not have to write to you once more separately, but I will write to you about something else.

First, you wrote to me about Davit [David], that he had worked in Königshütte. I believe Davit is angry at me, perhaps because I sent him an unstamped letter on Easter to Aldisleben. I cannot believe that because the letter was worth 10 Groschen [a small coin]. It was full of news and songs. But he did not answer it. Therefore, I would like to ask you, next time you write to him, to tell him that I am longing for him and when he should come to the Rhine, he should go to Köln [Cologne] and to Mr. Gaa, Witschgasse No. 37. [There] he could obtain the [names of the] city and the meister [employer] where I am, and he would get the fare to get to me. When [if?] the times do not change until May, I would [will] be firmly resolved to travel

[marginal notes] Witschgasse No. 37, see below.

Also I must let you know that the Thaler was a Sächsischer Eisenbahn Thaler [Saxon Railroad dollar] which has a value here on the Rhine of just under 28 silvergroschen.

[page 2] first to Holland and then to America, because there is nothing else left for me, where I have to give notice to my sister at least 2 months in advance because of the money. But if it is not the case that I have to leave, what I hope, then everything remains as before, and the half acre which has been seized by the police until I report, I have to forfeit. But I hope that everything will turn out differently and, better enough, you can give many greetings from me to Davit and [tell] how things are with me.

Also, you write that you would like to talk to me. I believe you, me too! I wish that I could stay at home once more, as long as last year. I would make better use of my time and would have more fun.

Also I have to ask you if brother Friedrich is really married and if he is doing well. Give him many greetings and if the times change, perhaps by spring, you can be sure that I will be back with you all by Johannis [June 21], hopefully better than last time, and to continue my

trip. And I will bring again many new songs, as I am sending you one herewith [poem on next page?], and ask that you do not forget me in happy hours, just as I always think of you. I have but one wish: to be free, thus I have to stay alone as if I were in prison.

[marginal note] Other than for mother and siblings, do not let these two letters get into the hands of strangers.

[page 3]

"The Silent Love of a Young Man"
by August Hilpert

[A six-verse poem, untranslated]

[page 4; continuation of page 2]

Dear friend, time urges me to close. I wish before all, to you all, good health and a good Christmas. Last week I was not well. I had a cold, but am well again, remain well, [and] am your friend, August Hilpert

[postscript] I will give you my address, but tell no one else other than my siblings and mother. [And?] to Wilhelm Meyer, but not my name; this is because of the police.

[marginal notes] I have to remark, should you have the occasion, give greetings to my brother Ernst, but do not forget /auf Meise[?].

Also I would like to ask for an answer within 14 days and very much * * * [?].

Also to Wilhelm Meyer at the master cobbler, Mr. Hoffman, in Brühl, County Köln.

[in the centerfold of page 4]

Herrn

Lenkroth

- - - [word lost where seal pulled off]

- - - [uncertain noun or name]