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July 22, 2001.

Dear Roman,

Heartiest, intensest, lovingest congratulations!  
And not only BECAUSE you have done it, ~~but~~ HOW!!!

How can I forget the actual date when, 45 years ago -  
you were half your present age and I was one-third -  
on that day, we embarked on our first trip to England,  
Holland, Switzerland, and Italy.

There was a little music between laughter, both every enjoyable.

Indelible in MY memory is our departure from Zurich by  
train. As I was standing in the corridor of the wagon,  
I overheard a conversation between a departing passenger  
and a visitor on the platform. The visitor was so tall  
that he had to bend down to speak into the open train window.  
- He quoted Rilke and was altogether very poetic.  
I stormed into our compartment: "Look, quick, there  
is a man who looks like Klemperer and talks like Bruno Walter!"  
You, Roman, barely looking up, not moving a muscle, and  
senza espressione: "It IS Klemperer." And the train  
pulled out. As it turned out, it WAS Klemperer.  
Melanie's infectious laugh, all the way to Milan, is still  
in my ear.

Dear Roman: keep up that wonderful spirit. You are an  
inspiration to us all!

Love

Lilian + Claude