

*Riga, June 2010*

*Dear Wellendorff Family,*

*This is a story about what happened to the Wellendorff jewellery I was given as a present.*

*Every object in life has its own meaning and a special value because it is connected with how it came into our possession and how it has become anchored in our memories.*

*I associate my beautiful piece of Wellendorff jewellery with some very fond memories. When I received this piece I felt that someone wanted to make me really happy. Most particularly, when my partner gave me this present I had the impression that it gave him as much joy as it did me. I wanted to add a cross to the collier, but as I had not been baptized at the time, I decided on an angel, which would be a kind of guardian angel for me. When my partner gave me the angel he said that I would have to behave like an angel from then on. I answered that I would try. He said I wouldn't have to try that hard.*

*Unfortunately there was a terrible fire in our house at the end of February 2010. As everything happened so quickly, we first set about rescuing the documents, paintings and clothing. My jewellery was in a wooden box. When I was about to go into the room to get the box there was so much smoke that I realized I must not go any further. The smoke had spread throughout the house within 10 minutes.*

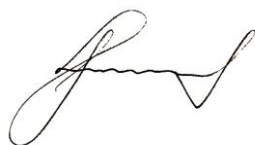
*The next day the entire set of jewellery was found except for one of the silk knot earrings. The rest of the set had miraculously retained its unique charm, although it had been caught in the fire that burned for more than 12 hours before it was fully extinguished.*

*After this experience the jewellery has taken on a completely different meaning for me, because it proves that miracles do happen. I had not believed that I would ever see any of it again, and of all the precious objects I used to have, only the Wellendorff collier with the little angel survived the fire. The day after the fire we realized that we must see it as a lesson. We are grateful that we escaped unharmed and that we have enough energy to renew everything.*

*During these difficult times I really admired my partner for being so manly and strong-willed. He wouldn't give up and took charge of everything in such a way that at his side I never despaired or felt deeply vulnerable. He gave me a wonderful sense of security.*

*I should like to thank the Wellendorff family very much for their support and the restoration of the jewellery. I dedicate this personal story to the Wellendorff family, whom I greatly admire and respect.*

*Yours sincerely*



*Inga Lasmane from Latvia*