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Manuel Espinoza Orellana
Fresia 14
Villa Alemana
Chile

Toronto, 25 de abril, 1992.

Querido Amigo:

Ante todo tengo que agradecerle su buena voluntad para que no me olviden nuestros paisanos. Vivir en el extranjero, es de alguna manera haber muerto para los comentaristas en Santiago y provincias. Más de una vez le han llegado condolencias, incluso, a mi mujer, y uno tiene que tener bastante buen ánimo para enfrentar esta realidad.

Me interesó mucho su artículo y lamento que no se haya podido publicar en Chile. En todo caso yo veré de que pueda incluirse en revistas en México o Colombia donde tengo un grupo de buenos amigos. Le adjunto el catálogo de mi exposición en la Feria Internacional del Libro de Guadalajara. Tiene muchos documentos, fotografías y un par de poemas que le van a interesar.

En cuanto pueda le escribiré más largamente. Reciba un abrazo cariñoso de mi parte.

Provençal minstrel

who had joined him during his visit to Sicily and his personal guard of Khazars, who obeyed only his orders and whom he had

recruited in Bulgaria. His elegant attire gradually gave way to simple military dress to which he added the blessed eagle of the Stratioti on review days. Always by his side in his military tent were certain books (Horace, infallibly), the Cretan funerary mask given him by his brother and a small statue of Hermes Trismegistus, a souvenir from a Maltese woman friend, owner of a pleasure-house in Cyprus. His closest friends became accustomed to his long silences, his strange distractions and the severe melancholy that showed on his countenance at sundown.

It was evident that the Illyrian's lifestyle greatly contrasted with that of the other Strategists of the Empire. They lived in sumptuous palaces and had people address them as "Sword of the Apostles", "Guardian of the Divine Theodahad", "Favourite of Christ". They displayed their power ostentatiously and lived in scandalous squandering and luxury and shared with the Emperor that hieratic distance, that arrogant pomposity that could awaken in their subjects a veneration and respect one could easily compare with religious submissiveness. The case of Alar the Illyrian was indeed a unique one for the times, and his example was later followed by the wise Emperors of the Comneni dynasty with plenty of good political results. Alar lived with his soldiers. Escorted only by his Khazars and a regiment of Macedonian knights, he traveled constantly to inspect the frontier posts of his Theme which bordered the domains of the tireless and avid Ahmid Kabil, a little Syrian king who sustained himself through ill-gotten booty from his incursions into the villages of the Empire. He sometimes allied himself with the Turks against Byzantium, but they would occasionally abandon him in

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