

September 10, 1993

Dear David,

I have not written to you for a long time except the short letter we sent from Jerusalem. But, of course, I often think about you; a year has already passed since your visit to Poland in August. I wonder when we shall see each other again and whether you and Shana are willing to come again.

The trip to Jerusalem was an incredible experience but it was so wonderful, intense and so short that now I cannot believe I really was there. It was hard to find a compromise between attending the Congress and sightseeing but it seems we have not wasted a single minute. Professor Shmeruk was very hospitable and he made our stay in Jerusalem even more interesting. I was happy to be in one session with Delphine Bechtel whom I had not seen since the New York days. The most pleasant man I met in Jerusalem was Professor Altbauer. You probably know him. So gentle and with a subtle sense of humour, speaking beautiful Polish in spite of living outside of Poland for more than sixty years. He reminded me of my late grandfather.

After we had come back home we had some guests from Canada and the US, and then, in the middle of July, we left for a lake not far from Lublin where we spent a whole month. Marcinek and Jacek enjoyed their stay enormously because they had lots of company and spent all their time outdoors. We made a bonfire almost every night. Then, in the second part of August, my parents took Marcinek to Slovakia for ten days and we stayed with Jacek and my grandmother.

Now when Marcinek is back at school we are able to do more of our work. Chris has written a large part of his doctorate and I have almost completed the first version of my book on Singer. We are quite well organized but I wish our lives were not so hectic. Maybe we should go to Moscow like you did to have more spare time and enjoy our lives more. In October I am going back to work and that is why I would like to have this first version ready by that time because I realize that later I will have to focus mainly on teaching. The great news is that I can watch your video cassette on my equipment. In the past I assumed that I could not use it and made lots of futile effort to have it retaped. Now we discovered by chance that we could watch it without any problem. I am looking forward to showing the two films to my students this fall. By the way, I have found your shtetl book very helpful in writing my book.

Singer's Old Love in my translation came out in June and it is selling very well. It helped us to cover our trip to Jerusalem. Grace Paley's stories, on the other hand, do not sell that well. I would be very happy to read whatever you have published or written recently. Our department is becoming quite modern these days. We have received more than twenty computers, fax machine, etc., and we have access to electronic mail. I shall send you the numbers in my next letter. Maybe we shall correspond in a very modern way soon although my favourite way of receiving letters is still the traditional mail.

I am thinking of you more than ever this month with the Rosh Hashana coming soon. Have a wonderful time together and lots of happiness in the coming year. Please, write soon.

*Elvira*