

Friday
Feb 6

Dear David,

Some things are simply irreversible.
 The tape came out beautifully; the voice was clear,
 and the story, of course, incomparable. A/tw I tell
 you I returned to my friend's place, packed my
 stuff and took the subway to Penn Station to catch
 an Express Train to Boston. I was mugged in
 the under-passage between the 7th Ave subway
 and Penn Station. Fortunately no physical harm done —
 but my briefcase is gone. I was walking on the right
 side of the tunnel, my briefcase dangling on a strap
 over my left shoulder and carrying my overnight case
 in my right hand. Some yank came sneaking up
 on me from behind, and ripped the briefcase
 from my shoulder and took off. The area was quite
 deserted; about five people around. I was very upset.
 Fortunately I lost no documents (credit card, etc), be-
 cause I always carry them on my person. But I lost
 the interview tape with you; and two interview tapes
 with Berzovitch, one already transcribed (at least
 that I have). I was totally shaken. It was just

always something that happens to others - but not to me. Anyway, after all our efforts, the tape is gone. When I arrived in Boston my spirits were really shattered and I still haven't recovered from the loss of what was so hard to obtain. I will write out today what I remember (which is a lot, and so the notes will be endless) but it will not be good enough in the end.

Right now, I am too devastated to make new plans. We've only lost one interview so far, the one with Jerry Langer. And I was upset about that for a long time.

But I enjoyed my time with you; and I think that your story is quite extraordinary. If we work on it again (this time not just the summaries) it will take a whole morning or afternoon; and we would have to take breaks. Perhaps when your semester is over.

I was thinking about your projects. I think Rayner really also needs his life written up. And there's nothing readable out there on Sholem Aleichem - and then there are all the Yiddishists you have known. To have so much work cut out for you must be quite a burden.

Warm Greetings (with gratitude)

2/11/6