

May 31, 1991

Dear Rutasikl,

The problem with family get-togethers is that you forget all the pressing business you have with your sister. So let me fill you in on the lunch I had with Bonnie Fetterman when I submitted the Ansky MS.

She complained about the lack of momentum from volume to volume and felt that it was hard to sell the concept of a series when so many years elapse in between. She complained that Dan had not yet submitted so much as a Table of Contents. Until he did so there could be no talk of going into contract. She was not really sure of where we were going but insisted -- emphatically -- that each volume had to stand on its own merit. That was her only guarantee that the editors would do their very best by the chosen author(s). She suggested that we think about thematic volumes, along the lines of American Yiddish Prose or Ashes Out of Hope.

Has Sacvan made any progress on his volume? And what about our idea to ask Janet to do the Manger volume? She's agreed to participate in my Manger symposium at the AJS, so maybe we could light a fire under her?

As I have already passed the midpoint of my life (86 seems stretching things for a male member of the Roskies family), I think a lot about vos vet blaybn. This series is likely to be our most important legacy to a Yiddishless future. And even if it isn't, we ought to give it all we've got.

The issue of Yungvald is courtesy of Michael Krutikov who reviewed A Little Love in Big Manhattan. Incidentally, he just found the original (lost) Yiddish-Russian manuscript of Khurbn Galitsye in a Moscow archive!