

3080 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
May 15, 1989

Dear Michael:

I am delighted that David Fishman will be able to bring this manuscript to you in person. In addition, I have sent along a number of anthologies. While I appreciate your desire and your impatience to have the "real thing," that is to say, the original volumes of all the great works of modern Yiddish and Hebrew poetry, such a task is beyond our present means. David and I will begin assembling such a library, but it will take time and money. Meanwhile, these anthologies represent the best efforts of our postwar scholars to select and to interpret this vast body of writing. Yes, you are right that their selection is not necessarily yours, but if you were prepared to have me or Robert Alter write the poetry columns for your new journal, then you would certainly welcome such anthologies as an intermediate step.

As for your own essay on Hayyim Lensky, it is almost complete, except for (1) the translations of the three sonnets which I have commissioned from Zvia Ginor; (2) a missing phrase on the top of p. 13 and (3) the biographical section at the end. Please review the whole manuscript carefully to see whether I captured the sense of your thesis. I hope you can return it to David with your corrections. If you're wondering what happened to the footnotes, the answer is this: Since we missed the deadline for PROOFTEXTS for 1989, and since all of 1990 will be taken up with our special anniversary issue, I have decided to submit the essay to MIDSTREAM instead. That way it will reach a much wider audience, much sooner.

The Agnon Issue of PROOFTEXTS was mailed out to you again from Baltimore.

Enjoy the conference, and let's stay in close contact.

Yours truly,

David G. Roskies