

3080 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
January 22, 1990

Dr. Golda Werman

1 Nachalat Zaddok
Jerusalem 94548
Israel

Dear Golda,

I've just returned from Kiev where I taught Yiddish literature at a two-week long seminar. Very depressing to witness the end of a civilization and very uplifting to see that these Jews are voting with their feet. I wonder if Israelis can appreciate the calibre of the people who are coming from there and how hungry they are for spiritual succor.

Walter Dubler hand delivered your package of goodies. The translation is by far the best ever done, as I'm sure you know. Here and there I might make it a bit more colloquial, with an eye toward living actors actually delivering these lines on a living stage, but I will not allow a single cut. Our responsibility is to the text as is, not to the text as it should be. "Mendel Turk" also reads exceptionally well and I am hard pressed to know where you would want to tighten it. Parts of the dialogue are very funny, indeed.

I'm sorry you're finding Ansky's folkloristic essay such a bore. Maybe it reads better in the original Russian. I can tell you that it came as a complete revelation to my students in Kiev.

My next priority is to wiesel a contract out of Schocken. I think we come by it honestly.

As for I. B. Singer's "Oyf der elter," his prize-winning story of 1925, so far as I know there has never been a translation. It was also reprinted in the Forverts in 1935. Even though it probably is not protected by copyright, as a courtesy you ought to contact his private secretary Devora Menashe at 900 West Avenue, New York NY 10025.

No one I know has Bitnet. Faxing is the best I can offer.

Yours,